

Admission or Exclusion

This could well have been entitled 'Admitted into God's Presence, or Excluded from God's Presence'.

Who will be excluded?

"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven", Matthew 5:20.

Jesus had finished His teaching of the Beatitudes, and followed it up with the statement "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven".

Think of the people there, probably in their thousands. Jesus is publicly stating that they have to be righteous than the scribes and Pharisees – their local religious leaders.

At the time of Moses the Law did what God designed it to do. The people gave the Law respect. They – the people and the religious leadership – endeavoured to stay within it's guidelines and honour God.

Over the years the Law had been bent a bit here and there, and to make it easier the religious leadership managed to 'update' some words.

The people 'appreciated' what was being done. Satan encouraged the leadership to continue 'easing the burden', and to become more respected.

Thus, their righteousness became a showcase to promote themselves.

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein", Mark 10:15.

What is "Childlike Faith"?

It is the way YOU behave every day. Let us use a situation that takes place in nearly every bodies life.

You are away from your home, either for the day, or at work, and are about to eat in a public place.

Did you thank the person who took your order, and then checked it with you?

Did you thank the person who brought your food to you?

Did you take time to thank the Lord – without trying to hide behind your paper – and ask Him to bless those who had prepared the food?.. Those who served you? Those who cleared the dishes, and asked if there was anything else they could get you?

We spend ages teaching our children how to behave, but we do not always do the same ourselves.

Some might laugh if they saw us praying – little children could not care less!

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life“, Revelation 21:27.

No earthly Jerusalem would ever to be able to stand before this Heavenly Jerusalem.

Not one thought will be tarnished or polluted, for it cannot survive in the brightness this Jerusalem’s purity.

This Jerusalem is purer than the Garden of Eden, for in the Garden God only visited. In this New Jerusalem there is no Temple, and there is no further need during eternity for the temple.

The temple is not the building, but the very presence of God among His People, and the excluded will only know the darkness, the smoke, and the everlasting fire, and there will be no temple there for them.

Who will be admitted?

“Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully“, Psalm 24:3–4.

David himself asks the question ‘Who will be admitted?’ without actually using the words.

Psalms 22, 23, and 24 form a trilogy.

1. Psalm 22 relates to our Lord’s submission of His Father’s Will and death,
2. Psalm 23 opens up John 10:4, “And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice”.
Jesus has gone before, and made certain that we shall have a safe and pleasurable journey as we go to meet the Father.
3. Psalm 24 declares that the earth is the Lord’s, and by His sacrifice He has taken from Satan what Satan illegally took from Adam.

“I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture“, John 10:9.

A better understanding of the words ‘by me...’ would be ‘through me...’

when talking of the door.

There is only one way – through the door, and only ONE Person has taken on the responsibility of either permitting us to enter, – through the door – or not.

Jesus, in this verse, is using an analogy of what many shepherds did. Taking their sheep to the best open pasture they could find, at night, the shepherd would herd the sheep into an open pen at night, and sleep across the opening thereby using his body as a door for the sheep under his protection.

Thus Jesus, having left the comforts of Heaven, not only ensures that we are in the best pastures, but He uses His Body to safeguard the sheep as they progress through life.

There are three distinct functions of this door,

1. It keeps the undesirables out.
2. It is a proposal to each and everyone who comes near. The terms of entry are,
 - a. Come unto Me,
 - b. Repent, and let Me cleanse you,
 - c. You are ready, please enter.
3. It is the only way to enter eternity.