

Vol 6, Day 10: Deliver the Love of God, Not Just Stuff

We have not been saved in order to provide food, clothing, shelter and other earthly necessities and comforts. We have been saved to be Christ incarnate right here, right now! We are not simply spiritual guides to other believers. We were saved to become spiritual messengers to others who are not yet believers. In a sense, every Christian is called to be an evangelist, not by vocation, but by occupation!

When we say that love is action, we actually reduce love to pity for the less fortunate socially. When in other countries we find poverty far greater than in our homeland. Simultaneously we see men and women who are so deeply enamored in their love for God that it makes us look like spiritual dwarfs! The gospel of Jesus Christ heals the soul even if it never affects the body.

When we substitute charitable activities for the love of Jesus, we reduce Jesus to a social equalizer. Our testimony cannot be 'social kindness.' Even atheists and those of other religions do the same 'socially loving' acts of human kindness!

When Jesus said, "when you have done these things to the least of these, you have done them to me," He was talking about genuine affection. In Matthew chapter 7 Jesus declares that many who have given to the poor will be banished to eternal punishment! What is that about?! It's about giving the genuine love of God to those in spiritual need of redemption. The social gospel is a contrivance of humans as their access to God!

The natural human heart is inclined to goodwill. It takes the heart broken by conviction of sin, and born the second time in the Spirit to be reshaped into the purpose of God. Redemption, in Jesus, takes us out of our own plans and purposes and we are "hammered into shape and use," for God's purposes. The indwelling Holy Spirit made the disciples the incarnation of what they preached. "Ye shall be witnesses unto Me." And what is this witness of Jesus as He told His disciples in John 13:34-35? "Love Like Jesus Loves!" The salvation of God comes only through the love of God received and dispensed through the human lives it transforms.

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan