

A Simple Thing

K.I.S.S.- Keep It Simple Saint

1Co 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the Gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand (*are established*); 2 By which also ye are saved, **if** ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you **first of all** (*what was most important- not that we can't have small talk but...*) that which I also received, how that Christ **died for our sins according to the scriptures** (*comparing spiritual things with spiritual- 1 Cor 2:13; Isa 53 being one of them*); 4 And that He **was buried**, and that He **rose again the third day according to the scriptures**: (*Emp. added*)

Death- "according to the scriptures"

Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide Him *a portion* with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath **poured out His soul unto death**: and **He was numbered with the transgressors**; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (*Emp. added*)

Mar 15:27 And with Him they crucify two thieves; the one on His right hand, and the other on His left. 28 And the **scripture was fulfilled**, which saith, And **He was numbered with the transgressors**. (*Emp. added*)

Burial- "according to the scriptures"

Isa 53:9 And He made his grave with the wicked, and **with the rich** in His death; because He had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in His mouth. (*Emp. added*)

Mat 27:57 When the even was come, there came a **rich man** of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And **laid it in his own new tomb**, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. (*Emp. added*)

Resurrection- "according to the scriptures"

Psa 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto Me, **Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee**. (*Emp. added*)

Act 13:33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath **raised up** Jesus again; as it is also **written in the second psalm, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee**. (*Emp. added*)

We simply follow His lead...

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized **into His death** (*His death was to save us!*)? 4 Therefore we are **buried** with Him by baptism **into death** (*We die to the world for the same reason, to save ourselves.*); that like as Christ was **raised up from the dead** by the glory of the Father, **even so we also** should walk in newness (*Gk.2583- renewal*) of life. (*Emp. added*)

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the **first resurrection**: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. *(Emp. added)*

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again (*Gk.509- from above, anew*), he cannot see (*Gk.1492- understand*) the kingdom of God. *(If people don't understand the church how can they enter it?- v.5)*

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world (**Eph 2:2*), but the spirit which is of God; that **we might know** the things that are freely **given to us of God**. 13 Which things also **we speak**, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing **spiritual things with spiritual** (*The Bible DOES NOT CONTRADICT itself*). 14 But the natural man (*this is the man who is governed by his passions, his morals are based on relativism, if it feels good do it attitude*) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are ****foolishness** unto him: neither can he know (*Gk.1097- understand*) them, because they are **spiritually discerned**. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth (*Gk.350- discerns*) [*with God's word*** we can discern good and evil*] all things, yet he himself is judged of no man (*no one outside of the body of Christ, who lives by completely different standards, can honestly know how to judge a Christian by the spiritual standard we live by, even though they throw out something [like pasta against a wall] that sounds like scripture to fool us*). 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord (*no one outside of Christ understands Christ*), that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ (*which He gives us through His word, the divine revelation*). *(Emp. added)*

**Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

***Psa 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. (Nothing good that a man does for others can save his own soul. Such "righteousnesses" are as "filthy rags".- Isa 64:6)*

****Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Emp. added)*

If we believe this, why do we so often cower to the accusations of the non-believers (*denominationalism, atheism, Gnosticism or any other "ism"!*)? It's time we stand up and claim what is rightfully ours!

Mat 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for **they shall inherit the earth**. *(Emp. added)*

"Meekness is patience in the reception of injuries. It is neither meanness nor a surrender of our rights, nor cowardice; but it is the opposite of sudden anger, of malice, of long-harbored vengeance." Albert Barnes

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall **reign with Him a thousand years**. *(Emp. added)*

1Pe 2:5 ... an holy priesthood... 9 ...a royal priesthood...

If you've already obeyed the gospel of Christ then you are presently reigning with Him.

2Co 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony (*Gk.3142- evidence*) of our conscience, that in simplicity (*Gk.572- sincerity*) and godly sincerity (*Gk.1505- purity*), not with fleshly (*Gk.4559- temporal*) wisdom*, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation (*we behaved ourselves*) in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward (*especially more earnestly in your presence above all others*).

*Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. (*Earthly wisdom is temporal.*)

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away (*things that are temporal- Heb 12:27*), but my words shall not pass away.

Why be ashamed of something that is eternal? God through His providence...

2Ti 1:8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony (*Gk.3142- evidence*)* **of our Lord**, nor of me His prisoner (*when brethren in public address to each other as such*): but be thou **partaker of the afflictions of the Gospel**** according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus **before the world began**, (*Emp. added*)

*Rom 1:20 For the invisible things **of Him** from the **creation of the world** are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even (these things prove...)* His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (*Emp. added*)

** 1Pe 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial which is to try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (*Emp. added*)

1Pe 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because **Christ also suffered** for us, **leaving us an example**, that ye should **follow His steps**: (*Emp. added*)

Rom 16:19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men (*How about us?*). I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you **wise unto that which is good**, and **simple** (*Gk.185- harmless*) **concerning evil**. (*Emp. added*)

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore **wise** as serpents, and **harmless** as doves. (*Emp. added*) (*"Wise" has to do with using the wisdom we have through our study of the word of God.*)

Concerning the wisdom of the unbeliever...

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, (*Just as a person who never studied medicine should never tell a nurse how to do their job, neither should someone who never studied scripture be able to tell us how to be obedient.*)

Psa 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God*. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, *there is none that doeth good*. 2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, *and seek God*. 3 They are all gone aside, they are *all* together become filthy: *there is none that doeth good*, no, not one. 4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who **eat up My people** as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD. (*Emp. added*)

Luk 14:1 And it came to pass, as he went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the Sabbath Day, that **they watched him**. (*Emp. added*) (*They were looking for something by which they could “eat Him up”. He questioned the Pharisees on their understanding of the Sabbath before he healed the one who was suffering from edema...*)

Luk 14:4 ... they held their peace. And He took *him*, and healed him, and let him go;

Luk 14:6 And they could not answer Him again to these things. (*They had no “come-back”.*)

These are the ungodly folks that point out the “faults” of godly people. By the supposed “inconsistencies” of the faithful they justify their unbelief, their lack of a moral standard. They have no right to compare “spiritual things with spiritual” because of the lack of understanding such! Christianity is considered a “fairy tale” to them just like Santa Clause, the Easter Bunny and the tooth fairy.

Psa 14:6 Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake.

There are people in this life who do nothing but put down religion. Out of the closet. They're getting away with it. So...

How do we present the Gospel in such a simple way where others will understand it?

Teach, preach, share, live.

Rom 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?...

- Practice what you preach?

1Pe 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts (*Gk.2588- thoughts [mind]*): and be ready (*Gk.2092- prepared*) always (*Gk.104- earnestly*) to give an answer (*Gk.627- account [we're going to give an account to God someday, it should be easy to give an account to someone who is searching for truth]*) to **every** man* that asketh (*Gk.154- require*) you a reason (*Gk.3056- motive [“Why are you a Christian? What's in it for you? This religion stuff can't be all that fun!]*) of the hope (*Gk.1680- confidence [even though beauty is in the eye of the beholder, confidence is what gets an ugly guy a good looking woman, and confidence is not being boastful]*) that is in you with meekness (*Gk.4240- mildness*) and fear (*with respect for dignity*): (*Emp. added*)

*Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ:

In the majority of cases, viewing our lifestyles alone will not cause anyone to be so curious enough to be converted.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see (*Gk.1492- **consider***) your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

God cannot be last, third or second on our minds. How much time do I spend in the word compared to the time I spend in the world? (Garbage in/garbage out.)

Pro 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ...

Joh 6:56 He that eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.

Joh 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray Him.

Joh 6:66 From that *time* many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. (*They weren't ready to "**consume**" Him. Do we consume Him on a regular basis in order to keep our spiritual health as healthy as we keep our physical bodies by eating physical food?*)

- We need to be prepared to give an account to anyone who requires it as Jesus did with the Pharisees.
- People are looking for our motives, good or bad. If good, they want to know how real your faith is because if they don't understand the Gospel how can they ever accept the idea of having to suffer for it.
- Confidence only comes through a lot of study. (*"I read through the Bible three times last year" won't cut the mustard if you don't understand what you've read!*)
- We are to be mild with a respect for dignity. We are not to get all up tight, anxious or nervous about our answer. The one who is in control is usually the one who leads the discussion.

Luk 21:19 In your patience (*Gk.5281- cheerful endurance*) possess ye your souls. (*Being patient might just cause the person you are trying to study with to get all bent out of shape. It should never be the other way around!*)

2Ti 2:15 Study (*Gk.4704- make effort [a long day at the office is no excuse for not making at least somewhat of an effort.*]*) to shew thyself approved (*Gk.1384- acceptable*) unto God (*not the Joneses*), a workman that needeth not to be ashamed (*embarrassed*), rightly dividing the word of truth (*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*). 16 But shun profane (*Gk.952- heathenish, wicked*) and vain babblings (*Gk.2757- fruitless discussions*): for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

*Heb 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Pro 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

You can tell a person's interest the moment you open your Bible. You'd think you pulled a skunk out of your hat. Some begin to make excuses and others almost literally run from you. We should ask those who oppose themselves (*2 Tim 2:25) "*If I show you, will it make a difference?*" It applies to everyone; friends, co-workers, neighbors and even family members, which can be the most difficult.

*2Ti 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

Mar 6:4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, **but in his own country**, and among **his own kin**, and **in his own house**. (*Emp. added*)

The Gospel, the good news of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ truly is a "simple thing" when we are established in it, when we consume it, when we live it and when we make the effort necessary to show the confidence we have in it.

Act 4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy word,

If you are not a Christian according to the teaching of sound doctrine, you can be. Simply follow the example that Jesus gave in His death, burial and resurrection by being baptized, immersed in water, for the forgiveness of your sins to be resurrected in that first present day resurrection, beginning a new life on earth, knowing when He returns you will be welcomed into His eternal home in Heaven. Won't you come?

If you've done all of that but feel you haven't been diligently serving the Lord with every extra ounce of your being...

1Jn 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** (*Don't you want to know?*) that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Charli Yana
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