

## You Cannot Please Everyone! Sunday 5.7.2020

As we read in Matthew 11:16-19, today, even Jesus himself, could not please everyone.

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the arrival of Jesus, dressed in animal skins and living the life of a recluse in the wilderness, so he attracted harsh criticism.

Jesus Christ went about preaching in the synagogue from the age of 12 years and eating and drinking with all/ any members of society so he attracted criticism that he both ate and drank too much and with sinners and tax collectors!

In verses 25/30, Jesus goes on to reinforce the Trinity of the Godhead by announcing that, "No one knows the Son of God, except the Father of God and no one knows the Father of God except the Son of God and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal himself"

And who might these privileged folk be? Why, little children!

Verse 25b says, "You have hidden these things from the wise and the learned and revealed them to little children!"

The untaught, not coached, child, is the most truthful being upon God's earth! (As parents we can laugh and reminisce on the fact of that.)

Not yet corrupted by the social mores of any particular society, that child speaks the absolute truth as he/ she sees it. Recall the example of that great old folk tale, "The Emperor's New Clothes", wherein the Emperor is swindled into believing that 2 tailors have just made for him, the finest suit of clothes ever created, only to be told the absolute truth by a tiny child, who declares that the king is wearing, "no clothes at all"!

Verse 28 is the promise of Jesus to rest the burdened and weary of this world. What a great blessing to all those engaged in hard physical labor, to earn their daily bread!

Although, working in any difficult environment, not necessarily involving hard physical work, can be emotionally and mentally draining and equally detrimental to health and wellbeing, as many of us can testify! This is such a welcome promise of Jesus, to which many of us have clung during our working lives. "His Yoke is Easy and His Burden is Light", as we sing in Handel's "Messiah" from Malachi 3:2.

Psalm 145:8-14 Tells us that God is a compassionate God, "slow to anger and rich in love". It tells us that He is loving and caring to all his creation, lifting those weighed down by care and work commitments. He honours all promises made to his people.

The gods of the heathen, carved in wood and stone, cannot compare. They neither offer nor deliver any care, protection or sustaining love!

Zechariah 9:9-12, shows us that the coming of Jesus, more than 2000 years ago was foretold by this prophet about 500 years before Jesus was born, while Judah was just a small part of the Medo-Persian empire. In his prophesy, Zechariah describes Jesus as, "Humble and riding on a donkey, he comes on the colt of a donkey."

On Palm Sunday, Jesus made his entry into Jerusalem in this manner, to fulfill this prophesy precisely.

He also promises restoration of Hope saying, "Return to your fortress, because today I will reward you with twice what you had." retribution indeed!

Romans 7:15-25a. Here the apostle Paul, despairs of the Human Condition. i.e. He knows and understands what is required of him by God's Law but the frailty of the human flesh, lets him down constantly.

So, by his own effort he cannot comply with the Law. What, then is he to do ?

Ask for the BIG rescue mission from the Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth, of course!

He alone, can rescue frail human beings from the degradation of sin and disregard for the laws of God, so that they, in his strength alone CAN comply with God's law!

For as Paul says, without asking for God's help, " My mind serves God's Law, but my human desires serve the laws of sin!

So, knowing that you cannot please everyone,

Choose you this day, whom you will serve

But as for me, I will serve the Lord!

Leone Fairweather