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JESUS CHRIST IS SUFFICIENT

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15.5)

Let the reader understand that JESUS alone is the vine, the source of every good thing that is needed to live this life on earth today! Understand further, that without JESUS - without the reality of JESUS – you can do absolutely nothing! You may believe in JESUS, you may in fact be saved, you may be a preacher, a Bible teacher or you may be involved in all kinds of good works. You may have the very best of intentions but I tell you that if you are not literally abiding in Him and He in you – then all of your efforts are just so much stubble and mean nothing. The meaning of the word “nothing” being: Not at all: in no degree, of no value or importance. One might say that without JESUS doing the work in and through you, that there is no “life” in what is done. If there is no life in what is done it is only temporal and therefore, means nothing. Your activity in the church, your good works outside the church, may make you feel good, they may make you look good, even spiritual and looked up to by others in the church. But if JESUS Himself was not doing the work in and through you, then your work was no more than a dead work of religion.

Many of us have been deceived by all sorts of religious spirits that say the right (Biblical) things, but the last thing they want is for JESUS CHRIST to get all the glory. These spirits are pleased to see you, your ministry, your church, your work lifted up in the eyes of man. These demonic spirits are so deceiving, so clever and so well disguised that today only those who are totally free and blessed with the gift of “discerning of spirits” can correctly identify this work of the enemy in the church. When the church takes her eyes off JESUS as the all-sufficient One, she quickly loses her humility, her brokenness, her reverence and her fear of GOD. Not only that, but she takes on a spiritual pride that in the end will incur the judgment of GOD, who will not tolerate such sin. This religious pride is obvious to anyone who will open their spiritual eyes and ears and watch and listen. On many occasions I have heard preachers say – “It is not about _____ church. (Naming their church) Then that same preacher will mention the name of their church over and over again. They do not realize it, but the odds are that a spirit of religious pride is at work.

JESUS, while He was here with us, never lifted Himself up to the people. He never promoted His ministry in a way that caused people to take their eyes off His Father. In fact, He told those who could hear Him that He could do nothing on His own. His sufficiency rested wholly in our FATHER. Listen –

“Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the FATHER do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.”
(John 5:19)

“I can of Myself do nothing.” (John 5:30)

“When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself;” (John 8:28)

“- - - The FATHER who dwells in Me does the works.” (John 14:10)

Clearly JESUS walked in the full revelation that every good and perfect gift comes from GOD alone. (See James 1:17) Our Lord never failed after He met the needs of the people, to then point them to FATHER. Oh how He wanted to glorify His FATHER and to honor Him, even above Himself, in every circumstance of life, of ministry and in His own death! JESUS loved FATHER with His whole being and demonstrated the fulfillment of the greatest commandment of all, to love GOD with our total being. (See Matthew 22:37). It must grieve the heart of GOD to see so much self promotion and ministry promotion in the church today, and all in the name of JESUS. May GOD have mercy on us.

This morning, I told my wife Judy that for the past several weeks I have been overwhelmed by the revelation of how helpless I really am. So much so that I have at times felt a sense of despair and true helplessness. For days at a time I would hear – “I am your sufficiency” - “I am your sufficiency” over and over and over again. I heard, ”I am your sufficiency.” I searched out the meaning of sufficient and sufficiency and found them to mean the following:

“Adequate to accomplish a purpose or meet a need. A sufficient quantity to meet one’s needs.”

This definition of sufficient defines the ability of JESUS to meet all of our needs. He alone is “adequate” to meet our needs. He alone is adequate to accomplish whatever purposes that He desires that we accomplish.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)

I am afraid that many of us read Philippians 4:13 and end up focusing on the “I can” rather than the “through Christ”. The result being “I failed” and JESUS once again not receiving the honor and glory that only He deserves. You see JESUS cannot – I repeat - JESUS cannot fail! I can fail, you can fail, we can fail – and we will fail when we turn away from JESUS and look to our own strength or to any other source other than JESUS Himself. You see, your friends will at some point fail you! Your spouse at some point will fail you, your children and your grandchildren will fail you! Your employer will fail you! Your physical body will fail you. Your doctor will fail you and your medicine or medical treatment will fail you! Your money, your influence and your stuff (things) are absolutely going to fail you! Even your church, that’s right, I said even your church will fail you! If your sufficiency is in anyone or anything other than JESUS, I must tell you that you are guaranteed failure! It is just that simple!

One of, if not the most tragic thing, occurring on earth today is the measure of spiritual failure taking place in what we call the church. You have heard it before, but I must remind you again. Inside the church, where we claim JESUS to be our Lord and our King – Inside the church where we claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit of GOD – inside the church where we claim to have “the answer” for the plight of the human race – Inside the church where we claim to be worshipers of GOD – Inside the church where we proudly declare that we alone have the very words of GOD – Inside, Inside, Inside the church with all of these blessings what do we show the world? Here is what we on the inside show those on the outside. A divorce rate equal with that on the outside. A love of pleasure that is equal with that on the outside. As much debt and financial ruin as that on the outside. As much ShowTime and entertainment as that on the outside. As much pride and self-confidence as that found on the outside. Our appetite for sports, movies

and secular books is just as great as that found outside. Our women dress just as seductively as those on the outside. We hang just as much gold on our bodies, wear just as fine apparel and drive just as fine automobiles as those on the outside. The only difference, for the most part, between those of us inside the church and those outside the church, is that we are doing what we do all in the name of JESUS. May GOD have mercy on us!

A Christian brother that I know and hold in high regard told me recently that at the Cracker Barrel restaurant, where he works, that the waiters and waitresses did not like to work on Sunday. When I asked why, he said the church crowd packs the restaurant on Sunday and that they were the most demanding, the rudest of people and that they were very poor tippers. The church crowd is us folks – you and me! May GOD have mercy – may GOD have mercy! Our behavior is bringing reproach on the true Body of Christ. We should know better than to allow such behavior on the “inside”. If we claim that JESUS is our sufficiency and we tell those on the outside that – “In Him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28) What do you think those on the outside will think, when they observe us as we really are? Well I can tell you, that for the most part those on the outside believe we are anything but who we say we are and they have little or no respect for us. I don’t blame them for their lack of respect. In fact, much of the world is more honest and forthright today than we inside the church are. It is so, so sad, but so, so true.

Well one must ask, how did we get to where we are today? How could we have been so blessed with so much revelation, so blessed with so much access to FATHER’S word, so blessed with so much freedom, so blessed with so much ease of lifestyle and wealth and so blessed with so many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit – and end up in such a pitiful and pathetic state that we now find ourselves in? How could this possibly happen? Here is the answer –

WE TOOK OUR EYES OFF THE SUFFICIENT ONE – JESUS CHRIST!

This has not happened overnight. In fact, it has taken many generations of very slow and such very slight deception that we became like the frog in water that is slowly brought to a boil and never realizes what happened until it was too late. As we turned away from JESUS as our sufficiency we began to rely on our own skills, our own talent and our own ability to “control”. We began to rely on our own money and when we ran short, we asked FATHER to send someone with the money that we needed. Our hope was in the money. If we just had enough money!! We began to rely on the institutional church as our hope for getting things done for JESUS, and we now know where that has gotten us. Then we relied on all sorts of gimmicks and worldly devices to lure outsiders to JESUS! In some cases it has been pure entertainment. Can you imagine JESUS putting on a little song and dance routine or performing as a stand up comic to introduce people to His FATHER? In other cases we have attempted to lure people on the outside to JESUS by telling them that we have a formula that will allow them to be a success in the financial world, while not telling them about the command to separate from the world, die to self and take up their cross. May GOD have mercy!

The good news today and it is good news indeed, is that FATHER, because of His love for us on the inside, is now waking us up. As He wakes us up there will be those who will realize how far we have gotten off the highway of holiness. There will be those who will see the religious rut that they are in. They will realize, many for the first time, that there is no hope in anything the world has to offer, that the church has to offer, or that any other human being has to offer! They will realize that only the reality of JESUS CHRIST offers them any hope whatsoever.

As these saints begin to cry out as little children for their Abba FATHER, their Daddy, He will hear from heaven and set them free from their religious bondage. They will be allowed to look into the “Perfect Law of Liberty” and walk in a measure of freedom that will prepare them to minister to those on the outside under the true anointing and in the full authority of the Holy Spirit. Then the world will begin to know that JESUS CHRIST is in fact Lord of Lords! These children of GOD who are set free and turn fully to JESUS and Him alone, will then become a most peculiar people and they will be ridiculed and persecuted by the world but not before they are ridiculed and persecuted by their own, inside the church. Much of that persecution will come from what we call the full gospel church as their empires are threatened with failure. But what a glorious time it will be, that even in the midst of so much judgement on the church our JESUS will once again be lifted up - lifted up above money - lifted up above works - lifted up above entertainment - lifted up above our fleshly heroes - lifted up above our spiritual visions of grandeur - lifted up above our big buildings and everything that we looked too. JESUS will once again in the church, the true church, receive all the praise, all the honor and all of the glory! The all sufficient One will then begin to once again manifest His glory - His visible glory (see Isaiah 60:1-3) We mortal men will then stop our foolishness of trying to entertain, trying to please, trying to be clever, cute or wise and will learn the value of holy silence. We will become as little children in the face of our helplessness. We will become poor in spirit, we will mourn, we will reflect meekness, we will hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be merciful, our hearts will be pure toward our Sufficiency, we will be peacemakers, we will be persecuted for righteousness sake - - - -and- - - -

WE WILL BE BLESSED!

My brothers and sisters this is not a fairy tale. This is reality. The reformation has begun and I beg you to turn to our FATHER and ask Him to forgive you for looking at anything but JESUS as your sufficiency. Ask FATHER to get you off your religious merry-go-round and to separate your mind, body and spirit to Him and to Him alone. Do not play games with our GOD. Do not ask if you do not mean it! I promise you - guarantee you that FATHER will set you free if your heart desires such freedom. What is holding you back? Why do you think it is so hard for you to break out of your religious prison? Is the noise of the church and the flesh so loud that you cannot hear our King. There is a war being waged over you right now and Lucifer desires that you continue just as you are now, after all you are on the inside, you are a believer. You can even point to all sorts of spiritual success and so you must be OK! Maybe Tom just missed it this time, he is becoming so radical for JESUS, so peculiar. Tell that voice to go back to the pit, turn to FATHER and He will turn to you. You will never regret it!

I close with a word from Oswald Chambers.

“The only way to get out of our smiling complacency about salvation and sanctification is to look at JESUS CHRIST for two minutes and then read Matthew 5:43-48 and see who He tells us we are to be like, GOD Almighty and every piece of smiling spiritual conceit will be knocked out of us forever, and the one dominant note of the life will be JESUS CHRIST first, JESUS CHRIST second, and JESUS CHRIST third, and our own whiteness nowhere. Never look to your own whiteness; look to JESUS and get power to live as He wants; look away for one second and all goes wrong.”

GOD BLESS

Tom

