



Christian Questions

TALK RADIO WITH A PURPOSE

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13

Dear Ann,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked us two questions. First, you wanted to know why it is that we talk of "the glories of the kingdom" when it really seems as though the Millennial part of the kingdom will be just as it is right now with evil, sickness and death only more crowded. Secondly, you wanted to know if having the "light" gives a person responsibility and sinning "against the light" is punishable by proportionate "stripes," why would we want to enlighten our loved ones.

Question One: The subject of the two parts or phases of salvation is basic and crucial for understanding God's beautiful plan of the ransom for all. Although Jesus died for everyone, His blood was first applied for His Church (those who have chosen to follow Him and live a life of righteousness, while sacrificing their human wills in order to do the will of God). When these die, they will be with Jesus in heaven. After this Church class is completed and is reigning with Him in heaven, Jesus' blood will be applied for the vast majority of humanity during the Millennial age. Then the dead shall come forth from their graves to a period of judgment, or decision. The Scriptures are clear that during this time Satan will be bound. "He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years." (Revelation 20:2) Satan will not be allowed to influence people's minds or create havoc in the world during the Millennial age as he does today. (See Revelation 20:3.) It is true that people will return with their same mind-sets and will need to learn righteousness. However, they will have ample opportunity to do so (at least a hundred years -see Isaiah 65:20). While they are learning to perfect their characters they will not be allowed to harm another. "They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9) In fact, we are given several beautiful pictures of what the peaceable kingdom will be like. (See Isaiah 11:1-9; 32:1-5; 35:5-10 and 65:21-25.) God's Millennial kingdom will be nothing like our present evil world. "No longer will the fool be called noble nor the scoundrel be highly respected." (Isaiah 32:5) Not only will mankind be perfected, but the earth and the animal kingdom will too. "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom." (Isaiah 35:1) "The wolf and the Lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox." (Isaiah 65:25) Why would Jesus tell us to pray, "Thy kingdom come in earth as it is in heaven" if it were not to be so?





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You asked why we speak of the glories of the Kingdom. We do so because we believe the many scriptures that tell us just how glorious it will be.

Question Two: You wanted to know why we would want to enlighten our loved ones if having the "light" gives a person responsibility for that "light" and if "sinning against the light" is punishable by "stripes."

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more." (Luke 12:47-48)

The "light" to which you refer is the holy Spirit of knowledge. The servant in the above scripture had much knowledge of the Word of God through the holy Spirit. He made a choice to serve his Master and become a disciple. Therefore he was responsible for the knowledge he had as well as for the requirements it entailed. However, he did not prepare himself by sacrificing his will to do the will of God. Consequently, he committed some willful sins. That is why he deserved many stripes. If one is given much "light" by the Lord, much is required of him. Conversely, the other man had little "light" or knowledge and even though he did things deserving of punishment, he was not chastised severely because less was expected of him. It is important to note that no one forced the first man to become a servant of the Lord. Jesus tells us in a parable that there is a cost to being his disciple and that one should first count that cost. "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For it he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'" (Luke 14:27-30)

Obviously, the servant did not count the cost before he chose to become a disciple of the Lord. He did not realize that he would have to give up everything, including his old nature in order to follow Jesus. You wanted to know why, then, would we want to enlighten our loved ones if that enlightenment might lead to their receiving "stripes" (chastisement by the Lord). The answer is that we are not to question who God calls, nor are we to influence the choices others make. It is our duty as Christians to tell our loved ones the good news that the Lord is calling out a select few, a "little flock," to be his Bride to reign with Him in heaven. The opportunity to be part of the high calling is still available to those who are willing to





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completely give up their wills in sacrificial living in order to serve Jesus with all their hearts and minds. No one has the right to withhold information (knowledge or "light") so that loved ones may be spared "stripes" should they need chastisement on their journey as servants of the Lord. Furthermore, God only gives "stripes" for willful activities and only for the ultimate good of the recipient. God is not vengeful and does not punish for the sake of punishing. He is just and punishes for the sake of life. Therefore, it is definitely the Christian's responsibility to inform his loved ones of the high calling but also tell them to count the cost before they make their decision.

We hope we have answered your questions. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind at www.christianquestions.net. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,

Christian Questions Radio

