

THE CELESTIAL RAILROAD

February 17th, 2019 – The Celestial Railroad Part 6 – The Cross

Does the Cross of Jesus hold any special place in your life? The Celestial Railroad continues today on page 5 showing that this train is rushing by The Cross. [Please click here to read the script.](#) Here is the link to [Pilgrim's Progress](#) which we'll be referencing, if you'd like to read it.

We read the following by the rider on the train; *“Before our talk on this subject came to a conclusion, we were rushing by the place where Christian's burden fell from his shoulders at the sight of the cross. This served as a theme from Mr. Smooth-it-away, Mr. Live-for-the-world, Mr. Hide-sin-in-the-heart and Mr. Scaly-conscience, and a group of gentlemen from the town of Shun-repentance, to discourse upon the inestimable advantages resulting from the safety of our baggage.”*

As we've already commented, their baggage was stowed away safely, out of sight and mind. Truth be told, they really didn't have a burden, not like Christian had. Christian's burden was that of sin and himself being a sinner who needed to be saved. Those riding this train had no conviction of such a burden.

Those on The Celestial Railroad bypassed being born again, which disqualified them for fellowship with the Holy Spirit, and now they are so spiritually blind, that their burdens caused by sin are not a burden to fall off at the cross of Christ, simply because they have not been born again, and are quite content to safely store their burdens in the baggage compartment and continue living in sin with no burden to bear as a result.

In **Matthew 16:24-25**, Jesus says this convicting statement; *“24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*

The passengers on the train are saving their lives but, in the end, will lose it. Christian and his wife Christiana with their children, took up their crosses, lost their lives for Christ and in the end, gained eternal life in heaven. This includes all those on the straight and narrow road, from the time of the disciples to present day.

What Jesus did on the cross not only defeated the devils work in our lives, but as we submit our lives to Christ, we will have to carry our own cross, which may not result in a literal crucifixion, but none the less, it still requires a crucified walk with Christ, to be dead to the worldly sin and alive to living Holy.

The Apostle Paul says in **Galatians 6:14**; *“But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”*

He also says in **Romans 6:6**; *“knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”*

Those on The Celestial Railroad are slaves of sin. That's why Mr. Smooth-it-away, Mr. Live-for-the-world, Mr. Hide-sin-in-the-heart and Mr. Scaly-conscience, and a group of gentlemen from the town of Shun-repentance, talked about the advantages resulting from the safety of their baggage (burdens of sin). This is simply because they have not repented of their sins and have not received forgiveness from Jesus, therefore, their baggage is not a burden as it was for Christian, but rather because of a privileged Religious mindset, their burdens are stowed away in a safe place, out of site and out of mind.

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These passengers have stowed away their burdens of sin, while Christian, was carrying the burden from sin, running from The City of Destruction. There is a difference. These passengers like their burdens of sin. There is even the convenience of keeping it, stored away that when they get off the train, they can take it with them. Their sin is valuable to them. You see, they didn't have the burden from sin weighing them down, their hearts were not heavy with conviction of sin. But it was rich and precious to them. Mr. Smooth-it-away made sure to take their burden of sin away from them so that no one else could see that they were sinning.

Religion is good at making the outside look good, while on the inside it is not good.

Jesus addressing the religious leaders says this in **Matthew 23:25-27** says; “*25 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also. 27 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.*”

Our story continues with this; “*Myself, and all the passengers indeed, joined with great unanimity in this view of the matter; for our burdens were rich in many things esteemed precious throughout the world; and especially, we each of us possessed a great variety of favorite habits, which we trusted would not be out of fashion, even in the polite circles of the Celestial City. It would have been a sad spectacle to have seen such an assortment of valuable articles tumbling into the sepulcher.*”

Who wants the burden from sin, like Christian carried? No one. But these passengers want the burdens of their sins kept. They esteem their burdens to be rich in many things, esteemed precious throughout the world. They probably even celebrated in their sins together. There was no conviction to repent, it wasn't heavy to carry nor was there need to be delivered from them.

I'm reminded of what it says about Moses in **Hebrews 11:24-26**; “*24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.*” Don't kid yourself, sin is pleasurable when there is no conviction of the Holy Spirit.

So long as there is no need to be born-again, and no need for the Holy Spirit, the burden of sin is not a burden. Sin is not seen as sin, but rather a great variety of favorite habits that are covered with and hidden with Religious Tradition.

Churches are full of people who attend week after week and continue to live in sin with no burden to bear, no need to be born again, no need to repent, no need for the Holy Spirit, and they believe that when they die, they will be forgiven and that their privileged Religious traditional belief in the Bible, will secure their salvation.

Jesus, in talking to Religious Jews in **John 10:1-18** says the following; “*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. 5 Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.*” 6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.”

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When you're genuinely born again, you will not follow a stranger, but will flee from him because you know the voice of the Lord. Those on the Celestial Railroad do not know the Lord, and are following the voice of a stranger, Mr. Smooth-it-Away. Church pulpits are full of Mr. Smooth-it-away's, who are preaching a broad and wide road to hell.

We continue in verse 7; *"7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. 17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

Jesus gave His life, no one took His life. The Holy Spirit rose Jesus from the dead and built the temple again, that being his body.

In Pilgrims Progress, we see where Christian arrives at the place of deliverance – the Cross. *"His burden is buried as he looks. The emphasis here is upon a risen Christ who, on that cross, provided a once-and-for-all, finished atonement ([Heb. 9:24-28](#)). However, the open tomb that receives Christian's burden, presumably being empty, is demonstrable proof that his sin has really been dealt with ([Rom. 1:3-4](#); [4:25](#); [I Cor. 15:17](#)). Hence, Bunyan's gospel incorporates the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ ([I Cor. 15:3-4](#))." (From [BunyanMinistries.org](#))*

When Christian was delivered of his burden at the cross, he clearly understood that Jesus died for his sins, and He rose from the dead, and he did not have to carry that burden any longer. It just fell off him at the revelation of Jesus's death and resurrection.

The Apostle Paul says this in **Galatians 2:20**; *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*

Jesus says in **Matthew 7:13-20**; *"13 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. 15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them."*

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Mr. Smooth-it-away, Mr. Live-for-the-world, Mr. Hide-sin-in-the-heart and Mr. Scaly-conscience, and a group of gentlemen from the town of Shun-repentance, have one thing in common. They all bear bad fruit and will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Isn't that enough of a motivation to keep you off of The Celestial Railroad?

Pulpits are full of men and women like this, and like what Jesus says, they all bear bad fruit and their end is to be thrown into the fire. That is their end!

Jesus also says this in **Matthew 7:21-23** which should put the fear of God into all of us; *"21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

This scripture goes beyond those on The Celestial Railroad, because we see no mention of the passengers doing this. They seem like a group of 'lukewarm believers', who have not given themselves over to repentance, who've rejected the Holy Spirit, and rejected salvation upon repentance.

If Jesus says these strong words to those who are 'acting in His name', what will He do to those who've rejected salvation, the Holy Spirit and the cross? He has no choice because He watches over His word to perform it. His word says you must be born again to enter the kingdom of heaven, so He surely won't give them a free ticket and waive them through, will He? Surely not. Jesus won't waive off anything. His yes is His yes and His no is His no. He's the great I AM, He's the beginning and the end. He doesn't say one thing and then do another. He's not double-minded. He's not unstable. That's not who Jesus is. He's the author and finisher of our faith and has the final say in everything.

Are you in a church with Mr. Smooth-it-away, Mr. Live-for-the-world, Mr. Hide-sin-in-the-heart and Mr. Scaly-conscience in the pulpit, or board members who Shun-repentance? If so... it's time to leave that church, look for the exit and find Jesus. It's time to repent of your sins. It's not God's will that you or anyone spend eternity separated from Him, He has the plan for salvation. You have to take your burden of sin, go to Jesus, who will forgive you of it, go the cross where the burden from it will fall off. Jesus will forgive you of all your sins, and cleanse you from all unrighteousness and will send you down a straight and narrow road and lead you to a church that preaches repentance of sin and the need to be born again.