

Escape the Mire

Everyone receives a reward, a person obtains eternal salvation, or a person receives eternal damnation. God is not a respecter of persons, meaning your physical appearance, rank, or wealth status not critical, but rather who is willing to accept the calling and the life of God. Of course, it works both ways, and if you are not willing, you suffer the gnashing of teeth for eternity. God gave us a vessel, vessel in the sense of a spiritual building, to obtain our salvation, the Church of Christ. **(Matthew 16:18)**.

God gives a glimpse into the future of the Church by illustrating Noah and his obedience. Genesis 6 describes an entire creation perverse in thought and heart. God repented creating man and issued a deathly judgment. All of creation destroyed, Noah and his family spared through obedience. Harkening to God's voice and strictly adhering to God's direction, Noah and his family obtained salvation, **(Genesis 5:22)**. Quite simply, the ark was the vessel to escape judgment.

Interestingly, Noah and his family were not the only creatures to survive God's anger. Noah also took animals, both clean and unclean. Our lesson follows the path of Noah's cargo. **(Genesis 6: Genesis 7:1-3)**

God classified animals into two classifications, clean and unclean based on physical characteristics. In Leviticus 11, God forbids the Israelites not to eat and abstain from the unclean animals. Strict dietary mandates to the sanctification of God's chosen people.

On the same token, God designated one nation above all others, the Israelites. They were a chosen sanctified nation, and all others were considered unclean or unholy. A stern instruction to never intermingle with other nations of the world, by marriage or by custom. Just as God classified the animals, he also organized the people of the world. **(Deuteronomy 7:1-6)**.

God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the "Father of many nations," and God honored this covenant. **(Genesis 17:5)**. Consecrating a people to himself that obeyed and worshipped the one true God, Jehovah.

Jesus, according to the divine plan of God, introduced the eternal Kingdom of God, the Church of Christ **(Matthew 16:18)**. Under the new covenant of God, he removes the physical barrier of Gentile and Jew and only requires obedience

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and faithful service to the son of God, (**Ephesians 2:11-13**). Just like Noah, the church is built according to God's instructions and nothing else, thus a person is saved by heeding God's call and strict obedience to his doctrine (**Ephesian 2:19-22**). Now we understand the manifold wisdom of God when he proclaimed that Abraham was to be the father of many nations, not just a father of a multitude (**Galatians 3:8**).

The Church of Christ proudly proclaims that our origin is documented in (**Acts 2:38**), but for Gentiles, our introduction started in **Acts 10**. Peter, in his vision, saw a sheet full of clean and unclean animals descending from heaven; God told Peter to get up and eat (**Acts 10:10-17**). Peter was adamant that he abstains from unclean animals. Peter did not understand the vision until he baptized Cornelius, a Gentile. God is not a respecter of persons (**Acts 10:10-17**). The sow is now clean; God is merciful.

The introduction of Gentiles into the Church, presented the Apostles a new dilemma, Gentiles were accustomed to unlicensed behavior and needed training and education in the worship of God, (**Romans 15:14-16**). Exhortation after exhortation from the apostles and prophets is an effort to present the Church perfect to the Lord (**Ephesians 5:27**).

There exists a phenomenon a person can enter the waters a dry sinner and come up out of the water a wet sinner (**Matthew 23:25-27**). According to many religious rites, religions practice the act of submerging a person in the water. These baptisms are not valid or recognized by the Church of Christ. Church of Christ converts still need to be baptized according to the Plan of Salvation, regardless if a person was baptized in any other religion. Every member of the Church of Christ has realized the first steps to salvation, Hearing, Believing, Repenting, Confession, and Baptism.

From that fateful day of Cornelious's baptism in **Acts 10**, religions have cropped up proclaiming Jesus as their Savior, all completely missing the mark of truth. Church of Christ leaders will often refer to these errs as an Apostacy from the oracles of God. For example, Catholicism, Baptist, Methodist, and any other religion is considered an apostate. What of the phenomenon of the wet sinner? These all went into the water a dry sinner and came out a wet sinner, void of

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God's mercy. This explanation is not the correct application for **(2 Thessalonians 2:3)** or **(2 Peter 2:21-22)**.

Being a spiritual Israelite is a privilege and not a physical attribute, and it is a status that can be stripped away **(Matthew 18:17)**. **(Isaiah 1:2-4)** speaks of national defection children "are gone away backward." Specifically despising the Apostles Paul's exhortation in **(1 Corinthians 11:1-2)**, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." Paul is guiding the Church, "remember me in all things and keep the ordinances," or the traditions. Gentile traditions? Not at all, but follow the traditions of a sanctified nation or a Holy people, having obtained mercy from the Lord Almighty **(1 Peter 2:9-10)**.

Church leaders employ every tactic and device to ignore Paul's exhortation, thus shunning the complete sanctification of the Church **(Jude 1:10)**. Having escaped the pollutions of this world, the Gentile rulers of the Church returned to their former Gentile state. The clean sow returns to the mire, the gentiles have rejected God's mercy and returned to their unlicensed behavior. Consider God's language as he condemns the false teachers of the Church, **(2 Peter 2:20-22)**.

For those of us that have obtained God's forgiveness, we must continue to hate the Gentile lifestyle. For those that have not, God calls you to come under his love and compassion. For the brothers and sisters that are still stuck in the miry clay of lies **(Psalms 40:3)**, God is compassionate. Escape the riptide of Necessary Inference and enjoy God's mercy, which is abounding in the Lord's vessel of salvation, **(2 John 1:2-3)**. Repent of the sins of the Gentile world and worship the Almighty God.

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