

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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Two Portions

Matthew 16:21 to 27

21: From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priest and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22: Then Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying, be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. 24: Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26: For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 27: For the son of man shall come in the glory of his Father his with angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Jesus not only taught his disciples, he also prophesied to them, as did the prophets of old. He was telling them of his suffering, death and resurrection. This had to be done for the salvation of men. He is also telling or reminding us of that great work he did for all mankind. It is important that we stay in and hold to that faith the Lord has given us. Then Peter answers quickly, "this should not happen to thee." What prompted Peter to make such a statement? Because he was speaking from his flesh which was influenced by the enemy of our souls, Satan. This is why our Lord said, "get behind me Satan." The children of God can also say that when the enemy of our soul tries to influence us. All of mankind cannot understand the scriptures, even the believers, unless it is revealed by the Holy Ghost. Denying ourselves and following after the Lord is what God wants us to do. It leads us to a successful journey to our heavenly home, but also gives us a peaceful life here on earth as we travel. There is not anything in this world that is more precious than righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost! This is the kingdom of God. We receive only by the grace of God which is sent to us through his gospel by his servant.

What is the Gospel? The gospel is that word when a believer speaks to another that your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, because He shed His blood on the cross of Calvary. We read this in John 20:19-23 "Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. and when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained." And we also read in Matthew 16:19 "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" "So then Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". Romans 10:17

Jesus will come in full Glory of the Father with his angels to reward every man according to his works.

When we are in the works of our Lord and Saviour, they are acceptable to God. But if we are in our own works, they are not acceptable. This text is written in three of the Gospels - very important text for us to continue to read. We read in verse 17 of this chapter. "Blessed art thou Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in Heaven."

Yes we are made of two portions - the old man and the new man. One is temporal and one is eternal.

Heb. 12:27 And this word Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

May the peace of God remain with us all!

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