

Is It Settled?

I WANT you to think for a moment of one or two very solemn facts. You are traveling—whether you will or not, you are traveling to an everlasting heaven or to an endless hell—which? Now this is very solemn, and demands your most earnest and immediate attention.

In the affairs of this life men always like to have important matters settled; and until they are, they are uneasy and restless; but no sooner is all settled than their minds are relieved of every anxiety. And, my reader, if the affairs of your precious soul are not settled, and settled in a divine way, so that you “have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” then remember, if you have peace, it is the devil's peace—the peace of a soul lulled to sleep by Satan, to be awakened (if not in time) by the awful judgment of the Almighty in eternity—when beyond all hope (Ezek 13:10-22).

Infidelity cannot settle this solemn and all-important question for you. With its cold, cheerless speculations, it cannot brighten the dying countenance with the divine certainty of present peace and grace, and future glory with Christ above (Rom 5:1,2). No, no! It may suit the depraved self-will of the sinner here: and at the end give him “a leap in the dark” to find out “the great secret”; but it gives no certainty. Alas! It leaves its dupes in the “outer darkness” of an eternal night!

“Hold on, Jim,” said an infidel collier to his dying companion, “Hold on, Jim; you will soon find out the great secret.” The dying man raised his fast-closing eyes and managed to gasp out, “I've got nothing to hold on by; I've got nothing to hold on by”; and, shortly after, he died—hopeless—Christless—Godless—lost! (Eph 2:12).

The religion of the world will not settle it for you. Ah, no! The world has a religion without a Savior. It consists in church or chapel going, with a mixture of human goodness added to it; and leaves out the wages of sin, and the precious blood of Christ. Indeed, a person would scarcely be thought respectable if he did not make some sort of profession and go to some place of worship, as it is termed. But that will not settle the question between a guilty, dying sinner, and the living, holy God. Never!

Thus the question remains, How are you to meet God? How is this momentous question to be settled, so that God can be glorified and your soul saved?

It is God you have to do with! Can you trifle with Him? Dare you attempt it? Can you mock Him and escape? Impossible! Will He be satisfied with a little bit of empty religious profession, which even the eyes of your neighbors can see through? Surely not!

“Be not deceived, God is not mocked.” Delude yourself no longer with such foolish thoughts. “The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23), and time is speeding you on to eternity. Where are you to spend it? In heaven or hell, which?

Think of the lifetime of sins which will meet you at the judgment bar! Think of the despised opportunities of blessing, and the slightest mercies. How can you go on, and not have the matter settled? Yet, like Gallio, “you care for none of these things” (Acts 18:17). Remember God has said, “The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God” (Psa 9:17), and unless you truly come as a penitent to the feet of Jesus, and trust Him as your Savior, it is settled where you will spend eternity—in the outer darkness, “where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44).

Perhaps you may say, "I do want it settled. I've been seeking salvation for a long time, but seem not to be able to grasp it."

If this is true, is it not because you have been looking in the wrong direction? To have it settled you must look backward, not forward. You must look back to the cross of Christ, and there you will see the settlement of sin.

I remember hearing of a Christian doctor who asked an old lady, a patient of his, if the affairs of her soul were settled. She looked up in his face and gave a most beautiful answer, "Yes, doctor, thank God they are. The blood of Jesus Christ in its solitary dignity settled all for me."

Ah, that was a magnificent answer. It was settled indeed with that old lady. Is it with you? It was not her prayers that settled it. It was not her tears. It was not her religious efforts. No! It was "the blood of Jesus." It was not the blood AND something else. No! It was "the blood of Jesus, in its solitary dignity." "Oh, the blood of Jesus, the precious blood of Jesus! Oh, the blood of Jesus, it cleanses from all sin."

We see this beautifully brought out in type in Exodus 12:13. The lamb had to be slain and its blood sprinkled, and God said, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." And, "Without the shedding of blood is no remission" (Heb 9:22). And, "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

Thus we see it is the blood of Christ that settles it, and the word of God that proves it. God is satisfied with the blood of His Son. When the poor, trembling, anxious sinner comes, he finds the blood of Jesus has satisfied every claim of divine justice, and God has raised His Son from the dead in proof of His satisfaction. He no longer looks within for peace. He waits for no feelings to tell him he is saved. No! He sees God's entire satisfaction in the person and work of the Savior, and there he finds his own. How blessed this is! The believer can then say, "It is settled." God sees the blood shed for my sins; and has "raised His Son for my justification" (Rom 4:25). I am saved. Now I can lay my head down to rest; all the fear is removed from my heart. I know that whenever it may please God to take me, or Christ may come to me, I shall be "with Him above, which is far better." Yes, it is settled.

Then the holy life begins; but not till then. Numbers of souls are trying to live a holy life in order to get the matter settled; but this is all a mistake. It is really putting the cart before the horse. There must be life before service. God gives eternal life first as a gift, and also gives us to know the divine and righteous settlement of all our sins; then He can say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" May you, dear reader, know the settlement of all your sins, and like one of old say, "Here am I, send me." (Isa6:7-8). ☞

© Copyright 2013 Chapel Library: annotations. Permission is expressly granted to reproduce this material by any means, provided 1) you do not charge beyond a nominal sum for cost of duplication; 2) this copyright notice and all the text on this page are included.

Chapel Library is a faith ministry that relies entirely upon God's faithfulness. We therefore do not solicit donations, but we gratefully receive support from those who freely desire to give. Chapel Library does not necessarily agree with all the doctrinal positions of the authors it publishes.

Worldwide, please download material without charge from our website, or contact the international distributor as listed there for your country. In **North America**, for additional copies of this booklet or other Christ-centered materials from prior centuries, please contact

CHAPEL LIBRARY
2603 West Wright Street
Pensacola, Florida 32505 USA

Phone: (850) 438-6666 • Fax: (850) 438-0227
chapel@mountzion.org • www.chapellibrary.org