

Giving God Control or Death

By R.T. Nusbaum

"I am crucified." We all want to quote the next part first: "Christ liveth in me." As long as we are alive, then Christ is not in control. Jesus does not want to take control of our lives. He does not want us to give Him control of our old nature. He wants us to succumb to the death of the Cross. First we must be crucified with Christ; then Christ can ascend the throne of our heart. People rebel against being controlled by rules and schedules. Our goal is not to impose control but to bring to the knowledge of the Cross. If a person understood this death, then rules and all other "impositions" would be no problem.

Israel put the blood on their doorposts by killing the lamb. THAT is what brought them out of Egypt. All were then baptized into the Sea, which was a type of baptism into death. But they did not let that death capture their understanding. Pharaoh and Egypt were made dead by that baptism, along with their old life back in Egypt. But later Israel wanted to go back to what they were dead to. They did not live according to the Cross, which declared them to be dead to the old. To them, the old was still a viable alternative. The real power of the Cross was made void along with the death of the Lamb and their baptism into the Red sea. Instead of acknowledging their death, to them, God was now in control of their lives and they were to be submitted.

Later, they would not "cross over" the Jordan into Canaan because the true "crossover" had not yet happened in them. What had happened to them by Christ Crucified -- represented by the lamb and the Red Sea -- was supposed to be worked into them. God did not bring them out of Egypt, for "I called my Son out of Egypt," (Hos. 11:1). They failed to enter in because of unbelief. "Who hath believed our report?" (Isa. 53:1). We must take His death as our death. When we do this, we no longer have a life of our own. Christ is the Resurrection. And WHEN that comes to pass in its true understanding, then Christ as our LIFE will not be difficult. But when the Cross and the resurrection are not truly comprehended, then all we can produce is religious flesh that tries to give God control.

The Mind

This well meaning religious man needs to "Let" this mind of Christ be in Him (Phil. 2:5), so that he does not just acknowledge that Jesus died but also surrenders himself to THAT death. We need another mind other than the mind of the flesh. The mind of the flesh is a mind of religious activity FOR God. It will do whatever work for God that it can do. But the mind we need is not one of willingness to do any work but one that has fully embraced the already completed work of the Cross. This mind and this death must be comprehended and worked in us so that we will enter into the REST.

If it is not worked in, then we can expect another 40 years of useless wondering. Is that what we want? Be sure that Israel died when they come out of Egypt, but if we do not acknowledge this reality as our mind, we will set out on a course of trying to control what

God has crucified. We will wonder why there is such violent reaction in us to things that require a sacrifice. It is because the life we are living is not Christ, and it abhors the thought of laying down its life. It cannot do it. It may seek in every way to fulfill God's direction but it cannot, for the only plan for this life was death by the Cross. If you have not received that death, you will become fearful that you will be put in circumstances that will threaten death. Why would we fear loss of life if we have comprehended the Cross to be the place where we already lost our life?

Why would God swear in His wrath that Israel would not enter His Rest? (see Ps. 95:11). Why was God upset enough to forbid them to enter in and allow them to die in the wilderness? I'll tell you why! They rejected the Cross as a reality and a way, and sought to bring the old into His place of rest. THIS brings wrath. They not only will not but cannot be allowed to enter THAT rest as long as the old still exists. There must come a greater understanding of the work of God than simply God is trying to get control of our lives!

The Jordan will not roll back for the undead. But when it sees the dead, it allows them to reckon and enter fully. The Jordan is a barrier to the flesh like the veil was. Yes, death is the answer, but not at the Jordan. We do not have to jump into the Jordan and drown ourselves in order to die. We enter into it. Because we have already embraced our death at the Red Sea, the Jordan opens to us and we enter a death that is settled. The way we surrender to our death with Christ is by comprehending it first and then by embracing it. We look at ourselves by Him as dead and believe that He is well able. This is more than knowledge. It is putting on THIS mind. We become obedient to death. We comprehend it, and then we put it on. It becomes a condition of the heart. We conform to that death by accepting it as done and as ours and enter it by faith.

Entering in is dependent upon how we relate to and align ourselves with His death and Him as Resurrection. If we understand both death and resurrection as simply an act done for me, then we have only obtained a new belief system. But if we die in His death and He is our resurrection, then our whole being is changed. The Cross can be understood as nothing more than a symbol of Christianity with no real "power of the Cross." But the power of the Cross subdues us, puts us away and frees the living Christ to come forth. If we do not embrace His death and resurrection, then we have the truth but deny the power of it. But upon receiving them as He understands it, we become partakers at this table and in so doing find true communion with Him and in Him. ***