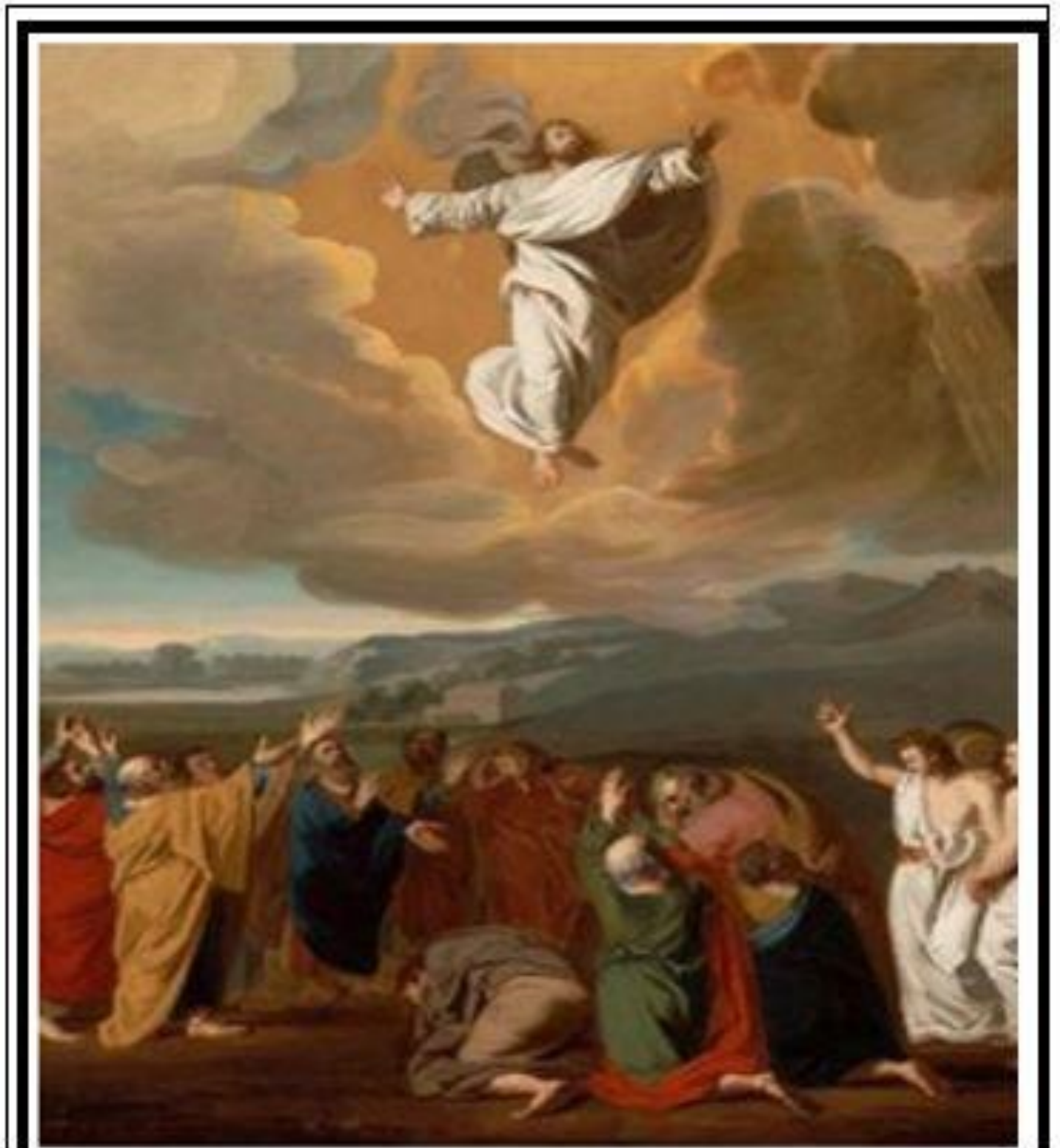


Christ's Message of Redemption



Devoured by Desires

Randolph Dunn

BibleWay Publishing

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BibleWay Publishing
BWP.Topical@gmail.com

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Paul in Romans states that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation (1:16), and that faith comes from hearing or reading in such a way that the word of God is understood. (10:17) When we obey God's Word we die to sin. "... We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:2-4)

This is the seed analogy. A seed must be planted, germinate and push up through the soil before it can become a glorious plant. As the plant continues to grow it may face many trials; for example, storms, floods, drought, fire, disease, bugs, birds, animals, and man. Some plants may not be damaged at all while others may become deformed, broken down, eaten, or cease to mature and die. As with plants, unpleasant things happen to Christians and they too may become deformed, broken down, devoured, or just cease to mature and die as shown in the following scriptures.

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:8)

"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation **if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**" (Colossians 1:21-23)

"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connection with the Head." (Colossians 2:18-19a)

"All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf." (Colossians 1:6-7)

"Holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme." (1 Timothy 1:19-20)

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth." (1 Timothy 4:1-3)

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (1 Timothy 6:10)

"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge, which some have professed and in so doing have wandered from the faith." (1 Timothy 6:20-21)

"Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place." (2 Timothy 2:16-18)

"For Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me." (2 Timothy 4:10)

"For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain." (Titus 1:10-11)

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel." (Galatians 1:6)

"If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!" (Galatians 2:17)

"You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! I

fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you." (Galatians 4:10-11)

"Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace." (Gal. 5:2-4)

"You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?" (Galatians 5:7)

What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?" (James 2:14)

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. (James 2:17)

"Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall," (2 Peter 1:10) and by implication, if you do not do these things you will fall.

"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves." (2 Peter 2:1)

"Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position." (2 Peter 3:17)

"These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm—shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted—twice dead." (Jude 12)

Jude clearly states others were devoured. "Though you already know all this, I want to remind you that the Lord delivered his people out of Egypt, but later destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day." (Jude 5-7)

Questions

1. When Paul stated in Colossians that Christ would present Christians holy and blameless "provided that

you continue in the faith" he left no doubt that those who did not continue in the faith would not be presented holy and blameless.

True

False

2. The disciple Demas, Paul's companion, deserted Paul and returned to his former worldly life.

True

False

3. Peter warned Christians to beware lest they be carried away from their secure position.

True

False

4. Even angels were carried away leaving their place and are being held in darkness until judgment.

True

False

5. The craving for money causes some to wander away from the faith.

True

False

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