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**“Admit One”: Do You Have the Correct Ticket?**

There are times when to enter a place or an event, or to be in for a drawing, that a ticket has to be purchased or punched; a price may need to be paid.  Maybe so many punches on your ticket gets you a gift or enters you in a drawing.  Also, it is important to understand the contract; are you purchasing a ticket for a service, or are you purchasing a raffle ticket with a chance to win something?  So now, here you are thinking, when leaving this mortal life will I have the correct ticket?  I would suggest that you make no doubt about it and make sure you have the right ticket to enter Heaven.  It is really a very basic and simple choice that many clergy seem to muddle the waters on, by directing parishioners to the wrong ticket; will you have the “Admit One” ticket or will you have the ticket that will be “null and void”.

There are really only two choices of tickets from which to choose to determine your eternal destiny.  Before describing these two choices, let me first explain that only you can own the correct ticket for yourself; no other mortal can pave the way for you; the Preacher can’t do it!  The Rabbi can’t do it!  The Priest can’t do it!  And neither can a spouse or parent.  I have relatives who are Catholic (non-practicing of course), yet still if asked, they will tell you that they are Catholic; this is their denomination via association.  They are Catholic because their parents and/or grandparents were Catholic; they will tell you, “That is who we are”.  If you are hoping for the denomination “punch” on your ticket, you will be holding the wrong ticket!  Guilty by association will be the path for many on the road to hell; that is, those persons hoping their denomination is what will be their entrance ticket, will be sadly mistaken.

How about an even closer example of which I can relate?  I am a PK; always have been, always will be!  As a “Preachers Kid” my parents for sure wanted me to be “saved”.  My father a Baptist Minister; a good man that I believe led many persons to the Lord.  Yet, it always seemed that we had to add something to our salvation.   I had to make a public profession of faith; I had to ask God into my heart; I had to be water baptized to join the church (immersed; not just sprinkled).  We were informed that all we had to do was believe (John 3:16) and then we were “saved”.  Then why did I need be “dunked” as the Kingdom Gospel believers were?  Why does man keep adding to what was paid for in full? Is it mans’ vice that he needs to add to something because “nothing is free”?  Is it to stroke the pride and egos of those in the clergy that have “the administrative power”?  Or is it just because that is the way it has always been done, albeit the wrong way, due to the denominational blinder affect?  It is not of works, right?  Then why do works keep appearing?  The “Golden Rule”; the 10 Commandments; legalism; tithes and offerings; etc.  (Romans 6:14)

Recently, after services, while in the lobby of my church, I pretended that I was swiping some candy.  Our minister, who knows of my study habits of the Bible, as a relatively new grace believing dispensationalist, made the comment: “Well go ahead, it doesn’t matter; you can swipe it because you are a grace believer.”  He then looked at me and said, “Now see how that doesn’t make sense?”  I just smiled back at him and said, “I would never do that; you really don’t get it do you?” I guess some people don’t understand the joy that comes with being a grace believer; there is no license to sin (Romans 6:15); I believe I am a moral and ethical person; I don’t intentionally do wrong, but I do sin every day.  I guess some people don’t know the heart of a grace believer; those individuals attempting to analyze the grace believer, are lost and confused relative to their perception of the true grace believer; what a joy is passing them by and they don’t even know it!  The devil is cunning, baffling and subtle.  As long as he can keep the denominational blinders on persons, he stays on his course of evil works, leading many to his eternal doom.

I am proud to be a dispensationalist!  I feel it to be much better than a denominationalist.  I used to read the Bible; now I study the Bible.  I thank God for all of the ways he has blessed me.  A dispensationalist focuses on studying the Word of God, and pleasing God.  I fear the focus of a denominationalist is that of pleasing man more so than God.  I am pleased today to say I no longer consider myself Baptist, due to the denominational blinder affect, which I fear may be directing some poor souls to the “wrong ticket”.   Now I am not saying that people in denominations are not saved; I just feel that many more would be saved if they kept to the basics and were instructed by denominational teachers not to attempt to add to their salvation.

                        Salvation is wholly by God’s grace, not partly by man’s works, for in

            Romans 11:6 we read: “…if [it be] by grace, then is it no more of works:  otherwise

            grace is no more grace.”  And in Romans 4:4, 5: “…to him that worketh is the reward

            not reckoned of grace, but of debt.  But to him that worketh not, but believeth on

            Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”  Thus salvation

            is “not of works” but “unto good works” (Eph. 2:8-10).   Good works is the fruit, not

            the root.  (Pastor C.R. Stam)

So, which ticket do you need?  The one that has many punches on it? 1. Joining the Church, 2. Water Baptism, 3. Tithes and Offerings, 4. Doing Good Deeds, 5. Singing in the Choir, 6. The Sunday School Teacher, 7. The Sunday Morning Greeter, 8. Attending Church, 9. Hospital Visits, 10. Visiting “Shut-ins”, 11. Keeping the 10 Commandments, 12. Witnessing to Others, etc.  Or, do you want the ticket with one punch on it? The punch of simple trusting faith (belief) that Christ died to pay for your sins by going to Cross, was buried and rose on the third day, and is at the Father’s Right Hand; we serve a Living God! Your ticket has been purchased for you my friend; Jesus Paid it All!  Do not grieve Him by trying to add to your salvation, just accept what he has done on your behalf.  I hope you have the “Admit One” Ticket; it just takes one punch; the choice is yours; you can please God by simply accepting His free gift! (Romans 10:9)

With His Peace, Love and Grace,

Galatians 5:22-26

Joe