

GOODNEWS LETTER

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EITHER ... OR

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon," Matthew 6:24.

In a psychology class, the instructor voiced, "All either/or statements are untrue." I passed the class but never accepted his teaching on "either ... or."

Maybe it's true that all such statements are untrue if we deal with analysis of the physical, alone; or small worldly things. However, I learned a long time ago that words, decisions, doctrines and lessons on life are right on the button when Jesus is the Teacher.

So, it's "either" Jesus "or," it's not Jesus. And, when we are speaking of service, following or teaching the Master's truth, Jesus says a lot about the subject at hand.

In the "either ... or" title verse of Matthew 6 above, we have to decide if we are going to follow the Master or not. Fence straddling and half hearted attempts won't do; for, Jesus says, **"No man can serve two masters."**

The passage needs clearing up a bit; for me, at least. I learned that the word "hate" doesn't have the meaning that we think it does, worldly. It's defined as: "to LOVE LESS."

Thayer's Greek/English Lexicon on the translated word **hate**; which, comes for the Greek, "Miseo," as: *"the signification to love less, to postpone in love or esteem, to slight,"* pg 415.

But, one needn't know the meaning of hate to observe that a whole bunch of folks love Him less than other things. They Master of their lives is second to what they want to do, in far too many cases. To them, the love mammon is more important.

Clearly, how to love God correctly; that is, Scripturally, Matthew 6 must be preached from the pulpits and taught in the classrooms. We must learn that "**Either ... Or**" means we make proper decisions and **PUT THE LORD FIRST.**

Usually, anyone telling another that they hate the Master draws negative responses. However, one that is serious about his Spiritual walk needs to learn this lesson. He will search it out, himself and, the truth will search him out, too.

Without any doubt, learning and changing our thoughts on Scripture is a life's walk. First, a change in life-style is must. It includes the need to cover ourselves

with proper dress (which, I believe is putting on the clothing that our works provide, while in-service).

And, this isn't the only verse. We are demanded to put on many things; such as, the **"helmet of salvation"** and the other garments of Ephesians 6 that Paul instructs us to wear. Paul says, **"The whole armor of God."** covers our lives and allows us to stand against evil. In the same manner, **"wedding garments"** make us presentable to the Master; as, Matthew 22:11-12 records,

"And the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, Friend, how came thou in hither not having a wedding garment? AND HE WAS SPEECHLESS."

Matthew says that **"either,"** we have a wedding garment on **"or,"** we don't. The verse demands that we **"either"** answer the Master **"or,"** we are speechless. Talk about an "either ... or" definition for life; there it is and it's taught by our Master, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus said other **"either ... or"** statements in the Bible. In Luke 6:41 & 2, He said that one can't behold a mote in the brother's eye until he takes the **"beam"** (log) out of his own eye, first.

If we go back to Ecclesiastes 9:1, 2, 7-8, we shall learn that everyone can make a correct choice. **"All things are alike to all: There is one event to the righteous, and to the wicked ... Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment."**

Therefore, the words of Jesus are extremely important for all saved ones if they are to obey the Master and enter the Kingdom on that day (Mt 7:21).

Either, we read and learn or, we continue on with others; on a part-time, semi-service, oriented life.