**JESUS SAVES**

***Such Were Some Of You***

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 teaches a very powerful lesson about the process of conversion that is sorely needed in our modern world. Although it was written nearly 2000 years ago, it is as relevant and up-to-date as this morning’s newspaper. Read these words carefully and prayerfully. They could save a soul, maybe even yours.

“***Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God***.”

Did you catch the key word in that paragraph on the sins dominating the Roman world, and our world? “And such ***WERE*** some of you.” Take a good long look at each one of those sins that once plagued these Corinthians.

Fornicators.

Idolaters.

Adulterers.

Homosexuals.

Sodomites.

Thieves.

Covetous.

Drunkards.

Revilers.

Extortioners.

Whew, that is a Who’s Who list that shows us that there is truly nothing new under the sun. That list has not been amended or updated in two millennia. Those folks back then struggled with the exact same catalog of sins that modern Americans battle still. Perhaps you and I can easily relate to their plight in one or more of those sins. If so, take heart, for there is that wonderful word “***were***.”

“*Were*” speaks of something in the past, not the present or future. It speaks of a change that has taken place. It speaks of a conversion from one thing to another. It says, in no uncertain terms, you can change from one who is called “unrighteous” and excluded from the kingdom of God, to one who is “*washed… sanctified… justified*” by the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God. In other words, you can be “born again” of water and Spirit to start all over with a fresh clean slate (Jn. 3:5). The pain of being thought by God as dirty and unworthy of His fellowship has been changed to being called “*saint*” (i.e. sanctified, set apart as holy). The stigma of being labeled “guilty” has been removed and replaced with the words “not guilty” (i.e. justified, righteous).

The woman taken in adultery and now facing a firing squad (of stone-throwers) was comforted by Jesus with the words, “*neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more*” (Jn. 8:11).

The sinner condemned by the boastful Pharisee in the temple was judged by Jesus as one who “*went down to his house justified*” (Lk. 18:14).

The thief on the cross condemned to death by the Romans was told by a merciful Savior, “*today you shall be with me in Paradise*” (Lk. 23:43).

So, if you are at this moment being attacked by Satan with any sexual sin (fornication, adultery, homosexuality, sodomy)…

or any money sin (stealing, covetousness, extortion)…

or any drug problem (drinking, etc) …

or anger issues (reviling)…

then take heart, help is near.

Conversion to Jesus Christ will certainly not remove all the temptations from your past, but it will give you a new and powerful Friend who has already proven He can destroy the works of Satan and provide a way of escape from sin (I Jn. 3:8; I Cor. 10:13).

The Lord Jesus has conquered every temptation and can show you how you can do it too (Hebrews 4:15). His invitation stands: “*Come unto Me you that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest*” (Matt. 11:28).

You can soon be among that number that once “***were***” enslaved to Satan and sin, but “***now***” are washed, sanctified, justified.

Come to Jesus. Jesus saves!

* Rick