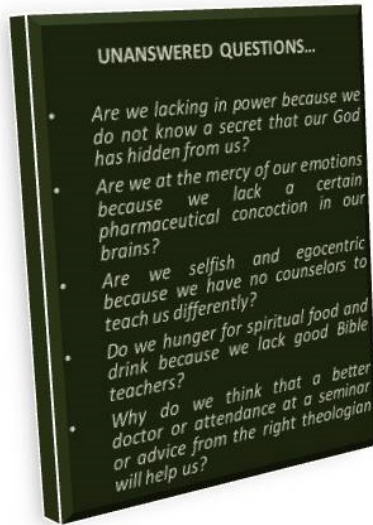


Red Letter Edition

What did Jesus Say?

An Ancient Call . . .

Don C Harris (Part 4)



...Life continues to kick us around, our emotions still overcome us, we exhibit less and less self control and we find it harder and harder to love those who do not love us... because...

We are disobedient:

The third step in fulfilling our calling is to determine to **obey** the voice of God within us. It requires a "no matter what" attitude. Stripping our lives of all encumbrances and weight, the daily actions of obedience will induce new life into us. Many nominal Christians doubt that they will meet God on friendly terms. Invariably, those who have such doubts are those who do not live in accordance with His voice within them. For the most part, those who *do* claim assurance of their eternal life, do so by wresting the Scriptures and by forming some kind of legal "contract," claiming God's general promises specifically, and, by deduction and logic, they infer

their own salvation. Their salvation comes from a book, a written document, not from a living God. "God said it, I believe it, that settles it." This is not where we, as true Christians, are to live. We are not saved by contract. *"Which were born, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* John 1:13

God has amply provided for you, assurance of His gift of eternal life. It is when we *obey* that we are given the sweet presence of His Holy Spirit, witnessing within us that we are His.^[1] If we obey every time, if we lose our life in His, we will feel again that our future is bright and secure, our hope will bud like springtime in our soul. It is our disobedience that obscures the solace to be found in Messiah. However, the modern church has told us that obedience (works) is secondary, unnecessary, and even an act against true faith. However, it is hard to find a man who believes and teaches that our works are unnecessary who does not also teach that our assurance of salvation comes from some convoluted, arm twisting "contract" we have with God. The Scriptures say that obedience is better than anything you may offer to God.^[2] Again, call to your mind the voice of God and let the voices of men fall away. How can a man teach what he does not understand? How can he tell you how to get to a place he has never been?

We trust our pastors and teachers, priests and preachers because we *believe* they are living the life we are not willing to live, and we *believe* that they possess the power we cannot, enabling them to hear the voice we cannot hear. **We know inherently that God expects a certain standard of moral living, a repentant and broken spirit, and a life of denial and simplicity, of humility and kindness to others.** We only accept the lies we are told to the contrary because we want to believe they are true. We only accept the lies we are told because the lies let us do what we want to do, meanwhile salving our sore and grieving consciences.

Re-dedication to Truth begins with our view of ourselves. Many who have read this far will take exception to the application of such harshness to their own lives. Many have never

seen their own depravity. They do not understand why they have little control of themselves. Some will even convince themselves that they are born again children of God even though they must radically reinterpret the Scriptures to maintain such a thought. When they read a Scripture that describes character that is not present in themselves they may say, "Oh, it does not really mean what it says" or some such other explanation to make conviction innocuous.

How do you deal with 1 John 3:9, "**Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.**" And 1 John 2:4, "**He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.**"

Many convince themselves that the questioning of their experience somehow denigrates the power of God so they make excuses. They will even defy the Scripture they profess to love by saying they are born of God yet they continue to sin, in direct opposition to their "infallible" Bible. They are terrified to admit after years of pretense that they are not "saved" as they have boldly professed for years, would show God to the world as inadequate to effect salvation. But, I would warn them, do not add more fantasy to your reason by claiming that you hold God's reputation as highly prized – it is your own honor you fear losing. The Lord Jesus promises: "**He that protects his ego shall lose it: but he that is willing to let it go shall find life eternal.**" We may not want to admit it, but our lives lack the power clearly promised to those who believe. The truth is, Jeremiah said it best, "*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*"

We are indeed disobedient.

Degenerate, Deceived, & Disobedient

How has this happened?

1) **We have listened to man, and we believe him over what we read in the Scriptures or hear within our own heart.** We have believed no Scripture except *after* a man (those whom we deem more educated than we) has interpreted it. These men have told us that we are never to trust what we hear in our heart, lest we be led astray. They told us that it is the devil who speaks to us in our heart condemning us and making us uncomfortable in our sin. We followed their advice so we could continue in our own way, disregarding the Guide who tells us to repent.

2) **We have purposefully drowned the voice within us.** The din of daily life, the lack of quiet time and mediation, the hectic modern schedule is welcomed in the life of those who would rather not hear the voice of God correcting and counseling them about their faults and problems. Even church services with loudness and frivolity, droning preachers, and endless noise have insulated us from the probing Holy Spirit who discerns our motives, separates our thoughts, and convinces us of sin. At first, we *purposefully* engaged in noise to replace our moaning conscience, now our lives are programmed by busy-ness so that we do not have to hear Him calling at all. Pitifully, the years of ignoring the living God in our breast has degraded our hearing to the point, that now, we *cannot* hear God's voice at all.

3) **We have not obeyed the voice of the Lord, in Scriptures, in Spirit, in principle or precept.** We have gone our own way and done what is "right" in our own eyes.^[3] We have clung to Churches, pastors, teachers, groups, and family who support our wrongdoing or who save our crying souls. We deem acceptance and community as more important than "quibbling over doctrine." What is true has eluded us and we have not pursued it because it is "divisive," or controversial. We hold to holidays that were born in the imaginations of man and abominations of paganism, while neglecting the "perpetual" "appointed times" our Creator set aside for us. In short, we would rather *belong* that *be right*.

Hence:

Our faith fails us when we need it most. We are left with a shredded life, an illogical faith, inconsistent theology, and a host of misspent years to show for our so-called Christian faith. Our songbooks and Sunday school literature makes sense to us, yet our Bibles remain shrouded in mystery.

We understand the preacher, but we cannot hear one word from the God he says is living. We know all the hymns – we know all the verses – we know all the right people – but we don't know how we will face death. We have no confidence that we can make it without someone else, a pastor, a teacher, a husband or wife. The promises of *"I will never leave you or forsake you"* mean absolutely nothing because we have never experienced the true person of Messiah in any real way. When tragedy strikes, we will cry out to a God whom we do not know.

Basing our future upon experiences we have never had. We will cry out, but we will never be sure how He will answer us or even *if* He will do so. Who were the persons to whom Jesus said, *"I never knew you."*? The bartender down the street? The whore in the dark doorway? The cold-blooded killer? The ravaged drug addict? Perhaps is a matter of denomination or skin color? The Muslim or Hindu? Would you venture the defense offered by these people would include the claim to have done many wonderful works in the name of Jesus? No... The people who will stand surprised by the Lord's response will be US! We who claim to do many wonderful things in His name! We are the ones He claims not to know in the Day of Judgment.

How can He say that He does not know us? Is He lying to us? Or have we been lying to ourselves?

We sing songs of no significant application to our lives; we listen to ineffectual sermons preached to licentious congregations who never grow past infancy. We attempt to witness for Christ to no avail, because we can only display to them lives of no consequence, no moment and devoid of the supernatural. In the end, if we are not an embarrassment, we are generally of no influence as salt and light in our dark and tasteless world. The largest churches are the most ridiculous ones. As Jesus so aptly put it, *we worship, we know not what.* [4] We cannot defend our faith because we do not know whence it came.

Most of those who profess to know Christ do not, in any way, resemble the men and women of faith about whom we read in the Scriptures, and certainly do not imitate Christ Himself. We display no integrity when faced with adversity. We have no power over the sin in our lives. We do not possess the power or authority given to, or the character developed in, the believers of the first century. We have no reason or right to ally ourselves with the faith once delivered to the saints; because at every hand we *rejected Truth in favor of our pet doctrines and permissions to sin*, so we may live in our own pleasure with a tolerable level of guilt.

We have excused our powerlessness, and our inability to overcome, and our lack of Christian character by saying, *"no one is perfect,"* thereby dispossessing ourselves of the force of the Holy Spirit to empower us to do as we are directed. We have frustrated the grace of God. [5] We have exchanged the wonderful gift of God (salvation and transformation) for a moment's worth of hot pottage and we are only now realizing what we have done.

To be continued...

Friendly,

Don C Harris

[1] 2 Timothy 2:19, *"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."*

[2] 1 Samuel 15:22, *"... Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

[3] Proverbs 30:12, *"There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness."*

[4] John 4:22, *"Ye worship ye know not what."*

[5] Galatians 2:21, *"I do not frustrate the grace of God..."*

*"When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" [Listen]
Question 151 excerpted from the Questions of Jesus by Don C Harris.*

Resolutions...I've made a few. Then I learned the secret - "It's not what you say that matters, it's what you do." Is it a new year for you?

"Does anyone really know what time it is, does anyone really care?..."

Order your copy of "[The Creator's Calendar](#)" to review the "Calendar on God's Desktop"... or click the calendar on the left to watch online.



TRI ThINKer's Thoughts ...

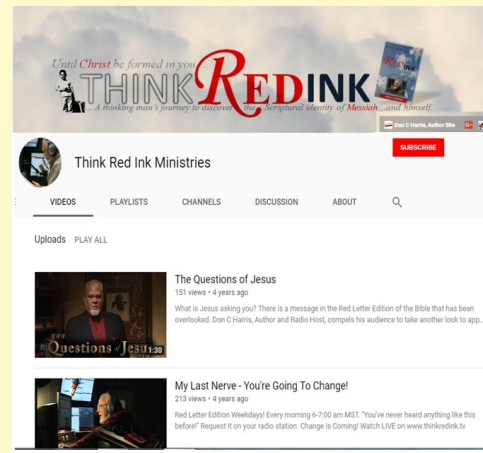


If you became acquainted with Think Red Ink Ministries through GLC, it is because of Al Cooper. After my first Light of the Southwest (LOTS) Interview, Al invited me to be a programmer at GLC. He walked to his producer, looked at the schedule and said "take off this one and put Don there" (about six times).

...Fast forward to this last February when I had the chance to answer Al's question, "*What happens when we die...?*" There was not a dry eye as we sat around his kitchen table and read the Scriptures.

Al says, "*Why doesn't everyone know this?*" Skipping that discussion, I've included the Scripture link below.

Perhaps you want to know...?
[2 Esdras 7:70-105 RSV](#)



Help us, tell the world
"What Jesus said..."

We are expanding our TRI outreach with YouTube LIVE stream and adding videos to our YouTube Channel.

- [Subscribe to our TRI YouTube channel.](#)
- Subscribers get notice when we "go live"
- Like, comment and share the videos.
- ***Freely [share] give...***

...THINK RED INK!



**"Think Red Ink Presents"
Weekly Program on GLC
Mon. 9:30 AM MT**

The Think Red Ink Presents GLC program scheduled to play on Jan 7, 2019, is the 6th of a 12-part **Series "ON GRACE"**. This series is full of the good news you long to hear.

Don presents the view of grace that has been obfuscated by "readers-digest" slogans. The truth is so much more.

If you missed this series, get a copy of from GLC. It's worth it. Support GLC and let the Coopers know how much you appreciate the TRI programs.

Thanks for giving your life to spread the truth regardless of the cost. I am learning about the costs of erasing the lies - family and friends think I'm crazy - yet they kinda swoon over Joel Osteen and his ilk. Observing Sabbath has become a blessing. Stay warm on the mountain.

~ ThINKer in TX

Ya know... [Red Letter Edition] IS an uplifting show. When you put things into perspective and meditate on the red words. It will get clearer. Most times, I forget to be as thankful for the trials as I am for blessings.

~ ThINKer in NM

...This season is something else! I've flipped and watched the standard teachings. I even considered going to ChristMass eve services with my daughter so she wouldn't think I'm totally nuts BUT.....I'm afraid I'd stand up and scream "What is Wrong With You People!" OMGoodness there is no end to it....Needless to say, I decided to pass on the service. Hroots are banging about Christmas trees and Christians are ragging because we don't act like HE is the reason for the season.....HUMBUG to all of them.

~ ThINKer in CHAT

I love this [December] time of year...and come near giving in....then I'm slapped with the reality of it all! LOL It's crazy what people believe. ...

~ ThINKer in CHAT

Thanks for all the recent uploads of your videos on YouTube [\[Think Red Ink Ministries channel\]](#).

~ ThINKer in TN

THINKER IN OHIO: Why do we as Protestants admire the works of G. K. Chesterton who was a Catholic theologian? I've heard nothing but good things about him.

REPLY FROM DON: Though Catholicism does not make good men, there are good men involved in Catholicism. We should recognize truth from whoever's mouth it comes. A person who is willing to discount good advice from people they don't trust, are just as likely to discount bad advice from they do.

THINKER IN VA: I hope this note finds you well. As always thank you for any and all material. Question, in our mind or interpretation can we make YHVH bigger or smaller than he really is? Does the Bible put a

limit on him?

REPLY FROM DON: In answer to your first question, the obvious answer is of course not. There are faith clichés such as "don't limit God" or "you're putting a limit on God" but, in reality, no man limits God at all - ever. Limits that we place upon ourselves do usually come about because of our perception of God. The Bible says, for example "He could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief." Some interpret this as a limitation on God, but it is in reality a limitation on ourselves. The LORD GOD still had the ability to do the miracle, therefore, no limit was put on Him, a fine line to be sure. But, one way of thinking keeps God's sovereignty and power intact, and the other subjugates Him to foolish men. A subject worthy of our meditation. I hope this helps.

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