

SOME THOUGHTS ON SOME PASSAGES

INTRODUCTION

- A. If a man is truly benevolent, he bears the image of the God who is the foundation of benevolence; if he is pure and uncontaminated in his walk and deportment he also resembles his Maker, for He is holy.
- B. "Hypocrites place religion of performing the external duties of devotion, But pure religion and that which is not defiled with worldly mixtures, in the esteem of God, even the Father, does not consist in forms, but is this: To take care of orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep one's self unspotted by the vices of the world." (MacKnight).
- C. A congregation can do anything that an individual Christian must do. JN 4:24; Acts 20:7; 1 CO 11:18; 2 TI 3:16-17.

DISCUSSION

- I. JAMES 1:26-27.
 - A. What is "pure religion?" Visit the fatherless and the widows.
 - B. Can the church practice "pure religion?"
Does this exclude a person who has a father?
What about a widower?
The fact he says, "fatherless" and "widows" is to say those in need. This is a metonymy– (the employment of one name or word for another) which is a figure of speech. DT 6:11; IS 1:23; 10:2; JE 5:28; Cf. JA 1:27.
Does this exclude an old man or a child who has a father?
If it does not exclude these people, then it is not a detailed pattern and exclusive pattern account of every person who Christians can care for. If detailed account then we can bind it? It is not a detailed account!
 - C. To whom is James speaking – individuals or collection (church). 1:1; LK 22:30. Who are the 12 tribes? Christians? Church? GA 6:16; Israel of God? Church! GA 1:2 "churches". PH 3:2 – Who are Jews in God's sight? Christians. JA 2:2 "assembly" – James talking to Christians. 1:27 "himself" – 1 CO 11:28-29 – exclude the church????
 - D. Some observations:
 - 1. If this is not an obligation of the church, then the church cannot practice pure and undefiled religion, because the way to practice such, so James rules, is to "visit" (with the view of assisting) the fatherless and the widows.
 - 2. Moreover, if this passage is applicable only to individuals, then in order for individuals to practice "pure and undefiled religion," each person must provide for the fatherless and widows, and thus those unable to do so are not able to exhibit such religion before God.
 - 3. Word fatherless and widows are plural in number – single person 2 orphans and 2 widows; a married couple 4 orphans and 4 widows; parents with 2 Christian children etc.
 - 4. Are James and Paul in conflict? 1 TI 5:16 – will discuss later.
James tells in 1:27 what is to be done, and Paul designates in 1 TI 5:16 who is to do it!
- II. GALATIANS 6:10.
 - A. Context: 6:6 – "communicate" = give; See RO 12:13 ASV. One taught to help the teacher.
6:7 – The harvest comes after the sowing.
6:8 – The vineyard, fields, where people can work.
6:9 – The reward is surely coming.
 - B. 6:10

1. We have a contrast of “all men” with “household of faith.”
 2. Can a church from the treasury help those who are spoken of here? Is the question under consideration? Some believe we can help “household of faith” but not “all men.”
 3. Some go back to v. 6 – “let him”; v. 7 “a man”; v. 8 “he”; all of these are individuals. GA 1:2 – addressed to “churches”.
- C. Can one separate the church and the individuals?
1. If no – then why do it in JA 1:27; GA 6:10; 1 TI 5:16.
 2. If yes – where is the passage saying a group of Christians to worship God in “spirit and in truth?”
 - a. If we say inference for us to obey – same true in GA 6:10; JA 1:27; 1 TI 5:16. If not, why not?
 - b. MT 15:9 – Given to who? Church? Or Individual?
 - c. MT 28:18-20 – Given to whom? Not the church!
 - d. The church can do anything that a Christian MUST do to be a Christian.
 3. If GA 6:10 forbids to help non-Christians from the treasury then GA 6:6 (where they admit is to an individual) forbids the preacher to be paid from the treasury.
 - a. Do we withdraw the collection plate to the non-members?
 - b. How about when one is a member and another is not – can we help?
- D. Feeding the poor from the treasury of the church is just as spiritual as preaching the Gospel. Example – Acts 11:27-30.
- E. Some try to counteract with MT 18:15-18 with GA 6:10. With what Christians can do and the church can do. But notice v. 15, “if hear you”; what happens if hear the church? What happens if he doesn’t hear you or the church? The only difference is the time.
- III. 1 TIMOTHY 5:16.
- A. We are told there is a vast difference in what the individual work is and the church.
1. This passage does not say one thing what the church can or cannot do.
 2. The passage tells us not to shun our duty or responsibility.
 3. One is to carry out his duty; we are not to neglect it, not to put it off on the church. We are commanded to carry out our responsibility and we are not to let someone else do it. It is sinful to the one who refuses to help to carry out his responsibility; but it is not wrong for the church to help.
- B. Notice 1 TI 5:16 and JA 1:27.
1. No reference to a woman who is not a widow but other would, could get help in need but passage doesn’t refuse to help them. DT 15:11; MK 14:7.
 2. There are 3 classes of widows.
 - a. 1 TI 5:3-5 = Old one who have children they can depend on.
 - b. 1 TI 5:11, 14 = young ones.
 - c. 1 TI 5:9 = one taken into this number who doesn’t have anyone.
 3. Therefore:
 - a. Don’t take younger women – Why? They want to marry again and they have every right to do so.
 - b. Don’t take one under 60 years of age, married to man at a time, etc. This is a special group chose to do certain type of work.
 - c. If they are nursing, one of qualifications, are we going to let her starve? MK 14:7. Not. There is something about the qualification to help her in the work chores to do.