

DIVINE PARADOXES

INTRODUCTION: A "paradox" is an assertion or a sentiment seemingly contradictory, but that yet may be true in fact. A "paradox" seems to say to opposite things. We have a look at some statements in the Bible that seem, on the surface to be paradoxical within themselves. Here are some of them:

1. Matthew 5:6; "Blessed (happy) are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
2. Matthew 19:30; 20:16; "But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first." See also Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30.
3. Matthew 23:12; "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." See Luke 18:14.
4. Mark 12:41-44; Verse 43; "This poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury. WHY?
 1. All the rest cast in of their abundance and had much left over.
 2. The poor widow of her want did cast in all that she had, even her living.
5. John 9:39; "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and they which see might be made blind."
 1. Verse 40; Then the Pharisees asked:
 1. "Are we blind also?"
 2. Verse 41; Then Jesus said unto them:
 1. "If ye were blind, ye should have no sin."
 2. "But now ye say, WE SEE: therefore your sin remaineth."
 3. Jesus here speaks of two classes. They are:
 1. Those who did not see, who should see and did see and accept the teaching of Christ.
 1. Verse 11; "And I went and washed, and I received sight. HE OBEYED.
 2. Verse 41; We see, We know it all, You can not teach us anything.
6. JOHN 12:24; "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit."
 1. Remaining in the granary it is useless. Giving itself up to die it becomes fruitful.

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ROMANS 12:20; 7,

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head."

1. Do you have any enemy? How shall I treat him?
 1. Do him good: this is the only vengeance, the only coals of fire allowed to the Christian.
2. What Jesus allows that we shall do to our enemies:
 1. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you..."
 2. "Do good to them that hate you."
 3. "Pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you." Matthew 5:44
3. Why all this required?
 1. "That ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." Matt. 5:45

8. 2 Cor. 12:10; "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." See also 2 Cor. 6:8-10

1. The times of my weakness are the very occasions when my strength is revealed.
2. When I am most oppressed with trials and afflictions, then with the help of God I rise to meet those difficulties head on.
3. AN EXAMPLE:
 1. The preacher who in the power and vigor of youth was ready to fight at the drop of a hat and if no one else would drop the hat the preacher seemed not to mind dropping it.
 2. This preacher soon suffered two light strokes, one in each side of his face. He also suffered for a year and a half under a nervous and mental collapse. He recovered from all this.
 1. Result: Today he is tender hearted, more patient with people and baptizing many.

9. Rev. 2:9; To Smyrna, "I know thy works, tribulation and poverty (but thou art rich)." 2 Cor. 6:10, Where Paul said, "As poor, yet making many rich." James 2:5, "Hath not God chosen the poor in this world rich in faith."

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