

Cows And Christians

Joe Slater

A city slicker bought a farm and moved into the farmhouse. He went to his new neighbor and asked if he might purchase a milk cow. The neighbor sold him his prize milk cow, and the city slicker happily took the cow to the barn on his farm.

Within three weeks the cow went dry. The city slicker returned to his neighbor and complained: "That milk cow you sold me is no good!" The astonished neighbor replied, "What do you mean?" The city slicker explained: "She has gone dry! I can't understand it, either. If ever a person was kind and considerate to an animal, I was to that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I needed only a quart, I took only a quart." The neighbor then explained that the way to keep milk flowing wasn't to take as little as possible from the cow, but to take as much as possible.

Isn't that true of the life of a Christian? Like milk cows, we must keep giving on order to keep the flow of Christianity alive. We are to give of our time, our talent, and our treasure. If we give of these things only when an extraordinary need arises, we miss the opportunities and joys of day-to-day service.

In the case of the milk cow, there is always a need for more milk. Not everyone has a full stomach. All over the world there are hungry people. Besides, the "use it or lose it" factor is obvious. Likewise, there is always more to do in the Lord's kingdom. There are classes to be taught, discouraged people to be encouraged, sick and homebound people to be visited or called or written to, missionaries to be supported and encouraged, lost friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to be contacted, and a world full of people to be prayed for. If we are content to do only a tiny bit, we may end up doing nothing at all. On the other hand, if we will give and give of our time, talent, and treasure, God will supply every need and give us additional opportunities to glorify Him and bless other people's lives.

Christ: The Only Savior

Christianity differs from all other religions in that it is the only religion that has a savior. This savior's name is Jesus, "*For He shall save His people from their sins*" (Matthew 1:21). Referring to Jesus Peter declared, "*Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

The first-century Jews rejected Jesus as their savior (Acts 13:44-46). He had warned that unless they repented and accepted Him they would "*die in (their) sins*" (John 8:24). Since they refused Jesus and His offer of pardon, they must pay the penalty for their own sins: spiritual death (Romans 6:23; Isaiah 59:1-2).

Nowhere does the Quran claim that their prophet Mohammed was sinless. Mohammed could not die for your sins or mine because, like all men, he sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10). Since he sinned, any death that he suffered could only be regarded as the penalty for his own sins.

Buddha's real name was Siddhartha Gautama. He lived about 566 B.C. to 483 B.C. History indicates he never claimed to be a savior – only a mere man. As a man who sinned, any death he suffered could only be reckoned as the penalty for his own sins.

By contrast, Jesus lived an entirely sinless life (John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15). Every other accountable human has sinned at some point. This is why only Jesus' death upon the cross can save you and me. Jesus didn't deserve the death He died because He never sinned.

Because He was sinless, He could die in our place. His death atoned for our sins. As Christians, let us praise God for the wonderful provision of His sinless Son and our only Savior!

--Mike Riley (adapted)

We're Being Invaded!

An army is now invading America. No matter how we fortify ourselves, it is going to conquer. This army will capture every city, every town, and every hamlet in every state in this union. This army will take possession of every business, school, and political office. Every home and every church will be taken over. Nothing will be left to us – absolutely nothing!

Who makes up this great army? The answer is simple. It is composed of the children who are growing up in our homes! Every generation since Adam has been supplanted by such an army. The training these children receive will determine the world of tomorrow.

God said, "*And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children*" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:4).

It is pathetic when a generation arises to take control that has not been trained in righteousness. "*And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers; and there arose another generation after them which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel*" (Judges 2:10; Deuteronomy 32:7).

Every child has the right to be loved, accepted, protected, and trained. The child does not know by instinct what is right and wrong, what is good and bad. The responsibility for instruction rests squarely upon the parents.

--Bobby Key (deceased) via *Old Paths*