

# *Howards Corner*

## **Cupcakes and Roses?**

Whoever told you that it was going to be “Cupcakes and Roses” in the Kingdom of God. If you have come into the kingdom by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and you are truly in Christ and you take your commitment to your Lord Jesus seriously you will meet the enemy along the way. But I say also that if you don't put your hand to the plow and start doing the work then you can skate by because you are not against the world system of Satan and the enemy will maybe leave you alone for a while, but you will not receive any good rewards when Jesus returns for His church or you will not be accepted as His but rejected and sent away to eternal damnation.

Jesus said plainly that the world hated Him first and we should expect the same thing. That is if we are engaged in the work of making disciples for the kingdom. If we choose the easy path and do not oppose the world's system which is Satan's system, then you may get by for a while with a life of ease but at some point, you will be required to follow the world's way and stray from a true Christian walk. He will lead you by clever ways that may sound good but are not the true work of the Christ follower.

The world of today is full of those calling good evil and calling evil good. The enemy is full of deceptions that are hard to see if you are not walking in the Holy Spirit and well versed in the word. We are in a battle and when you are in a battle there are going to be casualties. Are we in the “church” of today ready for casualties or do we think we can sit in our well-mannered churches and escape harm? If you have put your hand to the plow then there is no turning back. You are now a part of the kingdom and Jesus is your Lord. Be prepared to be called a fanatic or a traitor to the organized church, which is not necessarily the true church, but a man-made organization called the church, but the true “Body of Christ” are invisible to the organized church and to the world because we operate in the spirit and others do not realize who we are because we have not blended into the organized church or to the world's ways.

If you oppose the church systems or the world systems, then you will find there are no “Cupcakes and Roses” for you in this world but will find yourself being attacked even by those that profess Christ as savior. At this point you must be prepared to follow through even if you are rejected. Jesus has already warned us so be ready. There are no “Cupcakes and Roses” today but if we persevere and trust completely in our Lord we will be justified in the end and will receive more than “Cupcakes and Roses” on that day.

### **Have we just settled for comfort and ease?**

Today I am afraid we as organized churches have settled into our routine of ceremonies and rituals and our pride in our churches and denominations and, do we even question what is being said from the pulpit or more importantly what is not being said. Have we said this is a nice place with nice friends and it is pleasant being here on Sunday and socializing? Is that what the church is about? I think not! We need desperately to get out of our fine buildings and get out and witness the gospel and see souls saved and lives changed. That is our commission from our Lord – **Go make disciples of all the nations.**

### **Could this be someone that visits your church this Sunday? ---**

The churches are full of all sorts of people that come to churches on Sunday mornings, and I am one of them looking for an answer for my longing for peace in my heart. There are many reasons we come to churches that they do not understand. Are they thinking I am safe because I have come to church and surely, I already know the truth and that is why I am here. But they don't seem to understand that I need to hear the words that will set me free from the bondage of my sin today. Some maybe are searching for the word of hope but unfortunately there is no hope preached because the pulpit is silent, and they go home empty, and they think maybe next week I will hear or experience something that will fill the empty needs of my heart and soul. But no, once again there is no word of hope but only empty ceremonies and liturgies. No one has told me about this empty heart of mine that fears that hell is awaiting me, and I have no hope. Where is the message of grace and forgiveness that I have heard about? Why does no-one explain it to me. I am hungry and thirsty but all I get is a few songs and a message about being kind and maybe sometimes that I need to help others. Well, who is

helping me to find the peace I need in my heart and life? I have heard so much about this business of Christianity, but I can't find it in the churches I have been to—Maybe it is just a religion of empty promises. Why is it so hard to find something to hold onto in this life. I thought the church was supposed to know the way of hope for any that came. Well, I guess I was wrong—there is no hope here. It is empty of hope for me. Where are all the promises of hope and salvation I have heard about? Was it lost somewhere between the time the Jesus I heard about and today. Where is the word that said, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son so those that believe in Him shall have everlasting life." I think I have heard this on TV, but I have not heard it from the many churches I have attended so I am wondering if these churches do not believe the same thing. All I have heard from these churches is a few kind words—maybe help someone. But who is helping me for I know I need help but there is no help available in these churches I have visited. Where do I go now?

### **It is time to wake up churches**

How can anyone know the way of salvation except that someone preaches the word of God and explains what is needed to be born again. Is it that the denominational churches do not know that you must be born again? Only when you have the spirit of truth in you can you then witness the truth to someone else for the spirit alone can produce new spiritual life. If you preach in human wisdom and earthly knowledge, then you cannot produce spiritual life. That is what I see in today's churches. Spiritually dead preachers speaking spiritually dead sermons by way of human learning taught in spiritually dead seminaries. Thank the Lord there are a few exceptions that really understand the word and have been born again with the spirit of Christ. **But the rest**--It is critical that these churches re-examine themselves and repent of churchism and seek the Lord with sincerity. Churches do not save but only total trust in Jesus alone saves and then it is possible to receive His Spirit in our hearts.

Today it is widely believed that when you join a church, you receive the Holy Spirit but that has led church members thinking all is well with them but do not mature in word and spirit of the Lord. So, we have infants in the churches that have never been led and taught to grow in the operation of the Holy Spirit.

It is time to wake up churches and preach the gospel of salvation by grace through faith! Because Jesus shed His blood on the cross for the salvation of the world, but it is only available to those that seek and accept for themselves this great gift of eternal life. When did the church lose this message? Was it because they don't know the message themselves? Was it because it was lost in empty rituals and ceremonies? Is it because through the generations the word has been forgotten or the word has been watered down or we have become complacent and have no sense of urgency about saving souls? Have the churches fallen into the worlds ways and just trying to please everyone? That is Satan's strategy to just sedate us with his lies and half-truths, so we don't do anything.

### **When we read the word do we understand the meaning?**

Part of the problem is that a lot of people have read parts of the bible and know some of the words and may even have studied and learned a lot of the word. But there is a tremendous difference in knowing the words as you would know the words of a book. You must have an understanding of what these words mean. Do you only know in head knowledge and with worldly understanding, but do you have spiritual eyes? It is essential that you have spiritual eyes to see and thus understand. It requires the Holy Spirit to show you what it means. If you are not yet a believer, then you do not have the Holy Spirit in you but if the Lord has called you, He will provide the spiritual eyes for you to grasp the meaning of the words, but you then must accept the word and believe.

The churches are full of people that have been lulled to sleep because they have accepted the words of a preacher or denominational teaching but have not yet had their spiritual eyes opened. They are still walking in man's words but have not received spiritual words. They have not been born again as Jesus said in John 3 and they have not entered the Kingdom of God and do not know the way. Many have been misled by churches to think that they have salvation but are still in their sins and do not have salvation. How sad it will be when you die and come before the Lord Jesus and He says, "depart from me into everlasting damnation I never knew you".

It is sad because there are millions and millions that are operating in assurance of salvation for false reasons. Church membership does not get you into the Kingdom of God. Satan has produced multiple ways to deceive you. He makes it look so good and religious. So, you think you are all right because you attend church and maybe all the time and your parents did and many of your friend did. Religion is the opium of the world, and they are in every land over the face of the earth, and they all think they are right, but they are not right. There is only one king of king's and son of God and only one that died on the cross for my sin and yours. He is the only way that is accepted by God to provide you acceptance into the throne room of God and have eternal life. Don't be fooled by imitations, there is only one true way and even Christian churches are not the way but only Jesus alone.

When you do come into the kingdom of God after you have accepted in surrender of your will to Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit, the enemy will try to discourage and even persecute you and try to get you to turn back and serve Him. You will be operating in enemy territory and even from the supposed Christians. You will not be getting "Cupcake and Roses" for you are at enmity with the world.

If you are filled with the Holy Spirit and persevere in the walk and do not turn away, then you will receive much more than "Cupcakes and Roses" one day. You will have eternal life with God and have all you tears wiped away.

Have you been expecting "Cupcakes and Roses" from these empty churches and spending your time in ease but have failed to plow the field of evangelism and tell others about this great salvation that is available to those that surrender their hearts fully to the Lord Jesus? Do you have spiritual eyes, or have you been deceived by worldly words and systems?

It is time to go out into the deep water of the river of God flowing from Him alone.

With love for those that have been deceived and are still dipping a toe into the River of Living Water but will not plunge into that River and receive the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit—**That Living Water.**

*Howard*