Putting The Cart Before The Horse

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 26th, 2020

Text: Mt. 7:21-23

### Intro

1. Old phrase: “Putting the cart before the horse”
   1. In times before automobiles, carts (carriages) were pulled by horses.
   2. This was a phrase that mocked those who lacked common sense.
2. Modern technology has changed the image!
   1. Now horses are pulled in trailers behind automobiles (Modern conveniences).
   2. Perhaps this new image has affected the thinking of some people when it comes to spiritual matters!
3. Mt. 7:21-23: Jesus said the ones saved are those who do the will of God! (that means in His way under His authority)
   1. Many people put the cart before the horse in spiritual matters and think God overlooks it!
   2. Putting the cart before the horse physically, one will go nowhere.
   3. Applying the same to the spiritual, one will not grow properly, and will go where they do not wish to go!
4. Many people put the cart before the horse by reversing God’s order in trying to serve Him!

#### Ways Man Reverses God’s Order

* 1. By believing they are IN Christ ***before*** baptism
     1. Many teach one can be in Christ and in His church without baptism!
     2. *Mk. 16:16:* The one that “believes and is baptized” will be saved.
     3. Gal. 3:26-27: The sons of God are those who were “baptized *into* Christ.”
     4. I Cor. 12:13: To be in the church, one must be “baptized *into* one body.”
  2. By believing they are forgiven of sins ***before*** baptism
     1. Many teach forgiveness of sins can be had with a simple prayer, without baptism
     2. Acts 2:38: To be forgiven of sins, one must “Repent and *be baptized for* the forgiveness of sins!”
     3. Acts 22:16: To call on the name of the Lord, one must “be baptized, and wash away your sins.”
  3. By believing God hears prayer ***before*** being saved according to His will
     1. Many teach one can be saved by praying for salvation before obedience!
     2. I Pet. 3:12: God hears the prayers of the righteous, and turns His face against those who do evil.
     3. Prov. 28:9: The one who does not obey God, even his prayers are an abomination!
     4. *Acts 10:* Cornelius, a God fearing man, prayed to God. God answered him with what he needed to hear first before attending to his prayers.
        1. What he needed: to hear the gospel and obey it! (Acts 10:47-48)
     5. I Jn. 5:14: God hears the one who prays according to His will.
  4. By believing one can have faith ***before*** hearing God’s word
     1. Many teach that one can just believe in God (believe there is a God) and be saved without ever really hearing His word *(Cornelius couldn’t).*
     2. Acts 15:7: For the Gentiles to believe, they must first hear!
     3. Acts 16:31-32: For the Philippian Jailer to “Believe in the Lord Jesus” they were taught “the word of the Lord.”
     4. *Rom. 10:17:* “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Gal. 3:2)
  5. By believing one can live a good life & expect to go to Heaven ***before*** obeying the gospel
     1. Many teach one can live a good and “righteous” life apart from obedience to the gospel – God’s word contains what man needs to know about righteousness
     2. How can one be “righteous” apart from the righteousness of God? *(Cornelius)*
     3. Gal. 2:20: To “live by faith” one must first be in the “faith!” (Eph. 4:5)
     4. II Pet. 1:2-3: His word contains the knowledge of “life and godliness.”
     5. Rom. 6:3-5, 17-18: To no longer be slaves of sin, one must be freed through obedience to become slaves of righteousness!
  6. By believing in an inheritance in Heaven ***before*** following Jesus Christ
     1. Many believe that God could never send anyone to Hell, therefore it doesn’t really matter how one lives: *Everyone is going to Heaven!*
     2. I Pet. 1:3-5: Those who live by faith have that inheritance in Heaven!
     3. Mt. 6:24: Jesus said one cannot serve two masters.
        1. One must choose to serve God – Rom. 6:16-18: By obedience!
     4. Lk. 9:23: Must deny self and follow after Christ daily!
     5. II Tim. 4:7-8: Paul said the reward comes to those who “have loved His appearing.”
        1. Jn. 14:15: Jesus said the one that loves Him is the one that obeys Him!
  7. So many doctrines of men seek to serve God by putting the cart ***before*** the horse!

#### We Must Respect God’s Order

* 1. Titus 2:11-14: In order to receive salvation and an eternal rest we must respect God’s authority and do things His way – He redeemed us as His special people!
  2. One must hear the word of God – *Jn. 5:24 (Rom. 10:17)*
  3. Believe (have faith) – *Jn. 3:16-18*
  4. Repent – *Lk. 13:3-5*
  5. Confess Jesus as Lord – *Mt. 10:32 (Acts 8:37)*
  6. Be baptized for the forgiveness of sins – *Mk. 16:16 (Acts 2:38)*
  7. Remain obedient (faithful) till death – *Jn. 8:31 (Rev. 2:10)*
  8. Pursue righteousness – *II Tim. 2:22*
  9. The blessings of God fall upon those who do things according to His plan!

## Conclusion

1. Let us not be guilty of “putting the cart before the horse” in our Christianity!
   1. If we are guilty of that we need to repent of it and correct it!
   2. I Jn. 1:9: God says when we repent and confess our sins He will forgive us!
2. Our eternity in Heaven will be determined not by what we think or believe to be right, or even by a majority poll, but by our obedience to God!
   1. II Thess. 1:7-9: Putting the cart before the horse religiously will cause us to be separated from God eternally!
   2. Mt. 7:21: Ones that will be saved are the ones who do “the will of My Father in Heaven.”
   3. ***It is not the will of God if it is against the word of God!***
3. Don’t put the cart before the horse in service to God but do as God has ordered in His order to be saved!
4. If you are not a Christian, you need to be! Repent and be baptized!
5. If a Christian in error, repent (correct) & be renewed!
6. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!