

A Lord's Day Snippet!

Biblical And Southern Studies

H. Rondel Rumburg, ThM, DMin

494

1. What think ye of Christ? is the test
To try both your state and your scheme;

 You cannot be right in the rest,
 Unless you think rightly of Him;
 As Jesus appears in your view,
 As He is beloved or not,
 So God is disposed to you,
 And mercy, or wrath are your lot.

2. Some take Him a creature to be,

 A man, or an angel at most:
 Sure these have not feelings like me,
 Nor know themselves wretched, and lost;
 So guilty, so helpless, am I,
 I durst not confide in His blood;
 Nor on His protection rely,
 Unless I were sure He is God.

3. Some call Him a Savior in word,
But mix their own works with their plan;

 And hope He His help will afford,
 When they have done all that they can;
 If sayings prove rather too light,
 (A little they own they may fail)
 They purpose to make up full weight,
 By casting His name in the scale.

4. Some style Him the pearl of great price,

 And say He's the fountain of joys,
 Yet feed upon folly and vice,
 And cleave to the world and its toys;
 Like Judas, the Savior they kiss,
 And while they salute Him, betray;
 Ah! what will professions like this
 Avail in His terrible day.

5. If ask'd what of Jesus I think,

 Although my best thoughts are but poor;
 I say He's my meat and my drink,

My life, and my strength, and my store,
My shepherd, my husband, my friend,
My savior from sin, and from thrall,
My hope from beginning to end,
My portion, my Lord, and my all.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Who Do You Say Jesus Is?

“But whom say ye that I am?”

Mark 8:29

This question is not asked because of a lack of knowledge on the part of the Lord! What are the implications of that question? The answer to Jesus' question brings either eternal acceptance or rejection. The question has personal requirements. No, the emphasis is not on what other people think of Him, but what do you think about Him? How do you consider Him? Jesus is asking this of you! The answer is obvious when considering the place of Jesus in the person's life. There must be living credibility. Christ and His blessed Gospel are just as little understood in reality as the present object of one opinion after another as it was when Jesus' words were spoken.

William Gadsby (1773-1844) was well known for his hymnal and being a Strict Baptist gospel preacher. He was the Lord's servant from Manchester, England, and on one occasion was walking to a preaching point at a great distance. In his walk he ran across another preacher who was on a similar errand. He talked with the man about his understanding of various aspects of the teachings of the Bible. The man turned out to be a Sandemanian, that is, the man believed that saving faith was merely an intellectual act. To him you simply needed to trust the letter of the Scriptures. Bro. Gadsby rejected such a view for he believed that faith in Christ was the gift of God which was accompanied by repentance from sin. The two preachers had a truce in their argumentation as they walked along, and were glad they came across an inn where they could rest and get refreshments. The other preacher was about to enter when Gadsby stopped him, and asked, “Why are you going in? According to what you believe, isn't it enough to stay outside and read the menu here on the wall and acknowledge it?” Everyone knows that that will not be enough. Seeing food on the table is not enough to nourish the body; neither is the smell of the food's essence as it is cooking enough to meet physical needs; and even knowing that the food is good and wholesome is not sufficient to pacify hunger; it is not enough to desire the food or for your salivary glands to pour forth moisture into your mouth in a desire for it. No, that is not enough! You must eat the food and drink the beverage for it to be

received into your body so that you will be nourished by it. You must partake of Christ by faith in Him alone for your salvation. “Neither is there salvation in any other.”

“But you, who do you say I am?” conveys a very important lesson, namely, that a true believer is one who is willing, whenever necessary, to fly in the face of popular opinion and openly to express a conviction that is contrary to that of the masses. In the best sense of the term, the believer is willing to come forth *boldly* in the interest of the truth. The kingdom is for ‘vigorous people’ (Matt. 11:12); for strong and sturdy men like Joseph (Gen. 39:9); etc. …” [Hendriksen]. Peter declared, “You are the Christ!” He is the Christ who is our all in all!

Jesus called out, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” John declared, “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God” (John 1:12-13). Yes, one must be born of God. John also explained, “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him” (1 John 5:1).

“Who do you say that I am?” Once there was a young woman whose was named Betty, and someone asked her why she attended the ministry of William Gadsby every Lord’s Day instead of going to hear the more famous Dr. Halley. She replied, “It’s like this: when I was a girl I lived near a viaduct, and when I shouted my name under the viaduct it kept echoing back to me: ‘Betty! Betty! Betty!’ Mr. Gadsby’s preaching is just like that. He preaches just to me. His words keep coming to me all the time, Betty! Betty! Betty!” What about you Betty? What do you say about Jesus, Betty? Have you received Jesus, Betty?”

“Take Jesus away and you take all away,” said John Newton, “my meat, my drink, my life, my strength, my store, all are gone, but with Christ I have everything; without Him I have nothing.”

On one occasion William Gadsby announced this test, “It pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell.” He paused, looked at the congregation and said, “Then everything else is emptiness.” Every thing apart from Christ does not have that eternal weight of glory.