

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

**"A CUP OF COLD WATER"
THE ROCK?**

By Cpt. Gordon F. Nelson

"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18. By this one scripture, infallibility is transferred to the papacy of the Vatican. If their interpretation is correct, we are all heathen; none of us can escape hell: we are not a member of the true and only church. Every religion finds credibility for existence if they have a verse of scripture as their "rock" to build upon. This "rock" is really a pebble, with no corroborating scripture that even remotely infers Peter is the first pope.

Through ecumenicalism, all religions will become one. It is no longer the Catholic Church, but *"MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman (the great whore) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus."* Revelation 17:5-6. This New Age religion (through its system of "networking") will intertwine and become one with Romanism. The New Age religion is dedicated to destroy all Christians.

According to the Bible, Catholicism is the only church we are warned to stay out of. *"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."* Revelation 18:4.

The Edict of Constantine ceased the persecution of Christians. Foxe's Book of Martyrs declares the entire world would have been swept into the kingdom had the persecution not ceased. Rome was accustomed to seeing men die, but not as they were singing the high praises of God while being fed to the lions as Nero looked on. This single edict reversed what was once illegal (to attend church).

To give credence to their priests, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of England also accepted the "tradition" of apostolic succession commencing with Peter as the first pope. *"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."* Romans 3:4.

Looking at the Greek text, we see the King James translators add to the obscurity: *"Thou art Peter (Gk. Petros, a little stone), and upon this rock (Gk. Petra, a rock) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Matthew 16:18. It is self-evident that the ROCK is Jesus Christ, not Peter, a little stone.

Jesus asked his disciples, *"Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the*

living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona (Gk. son of Jonah)."

Occasionally, an unspiritual man can make a tremendously important statement of observation; *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"*. Jesus blessed him for his observation, but his dedication was not where his mouth was. Simon Bar-Jonah, your will has not been broken.

Jesus knows all men, none can fool Him. *"I am the good shepherd, and know (by name) my sheep."* John 10:14. Noise does not prove spirituality. Jesus was flesh and blood. *"Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee."* This is not part of My teaching; *"Then charged His disciples they should tell no man: that he was Jesus the Christ."* Matthew 16:20.

Peter was saying the right thing, but at the wrong time. Timing is so important! It would be the right time for Peter to prove Jesus was the Son of God, after first being "endued with power from on high" when the Day of Pentecost was fully come. Then Peter would be given enablement's, the keys of the kingdom, with the descent of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost.

"I will give unto thee the keys..." (nine gifts of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11), and collectively the presbuterous, so that *"whatsoever is bound on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* Matthew 16:19. *"If two or three (elders) can agree on earth concerning anything, I will do it."* Such power exercised by one man will destroy him as greed overpowers him.

As a "flesh and blood" man, the Son of Man had to win against the "wiles of the devil". Peter never understood this as he blurted out his declaration, *"Thou art the Son of the living God"*. Jesus' victory lies in being the Son of Man: *"But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant (man) and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself. ."* He laid aside His powers as the Son of God; he "could have called twelve legions of angels". But, Jesus humbled Himself, and limited His powers to that of a man so He could be the Son of Man.

"And when the tempter came to Jesus, he said, If Thou be the Son of God, command these stones to be bread." This is no fete whatsoever for the Son of God. The devil wanted Him to use these powers. As the Son of Man, it would be impossible. As the Son of God, Jesus could cast Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple and never get a scratch. It would be crazy for a Son of Man to die in such a manner.

"Again, the devil taketh Him up into an exceeding high mountain and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of this world, and the glory of them." Matthew 4:8. As the Son of Man, He has nothing: *"The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath no where to lay His head."* Luke 9:58. If Jesus had accepted this offer, He would be the Antichrist ("the whole world wondered after the beast").

Jesus Christ had to lay aside his heavenly robes and not permit some idiot to advertise, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

The demons came knowing what Peter knew, and Jesus rebuked them, too; *"And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, saying, 'Let us alone. What have we to do with Thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art Thou come to destroy us? I know Thee who Thou art, the Holy One of God.'* And Jesus rebuked him saying, *'Hold thy peace, and come out of him.'"* Mark 1:23-25.

"...two blind men followed him, crying, 'Thou son of David, have mercy on us.' Then touched He their eyes saying, 'According to your faith be it unto you.' And their eyes were opened, and Jesus charged them, saying, 'See that no man know it.'" Matthew 9:27,30. This charge was given so men wouldn't uncover his mask, as being the Son of God. His only hope in winning was by being disguised as the Son of Man.

If Peter were in the spirit on the Mount of Transfiguration he would have declared, "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God", for Jesus *"was transfigured before them, and there appeared Elias and Moses talking with Jesus"*; especially, after having heard a voice from heaven say, *"This is my beloved Son, hear Him."* But, Peter could only suggest three tabernacles. When they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them to tell no man, *"till the Son of Man be risen from the dead."* Mark 9:5-9.

Jesus had to be tempted and tested in all points as a man. Then and only then could He be qualified to stand as a mediator between God and man, ever making intercession for us. He presently stands at the right hand of God as the Son of Man. He is our attorney. We are guilty from the evidence brought forth by the prosecuting attorney (Satan). A defense attorney more brilliant than Belli will represent Christians at the Great White Throne Judgment when all the books are opened. *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. . ."* Revelation 20:12. The Bible-thumpers do not believe the Book of Life will be opened at the Great White Throne Judgment; it doesn't fit into Charles E. Larkin's charts on dispensational truth.

Following the incident where impetuous Peter made his dramatic observation, *"Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God"*, we find this Peter rebuking the Lord. Jesus tried to share with his disciples the many things He would suffer.

"Then Peter took Him and began to rebuke Him saying, 'Be it far from Thee, Lord; this shall not be unto Thee.'" Matthew 16:22. Every time Peter opens his big mouth, he gets his foot in it. *"Jesus turned and said unto Peter, 'Get thee behind me Satan!'"* Matthew 16:23: the same identical language He used in the wilderness temptation, Matthew 4:10. Peter, you don't speak the language of what is written, but speak with the mentality of a carnal man.

Paul's worst inditement to the Corinthians was that "they walk as men". *"For ye are yet carnal...and walk as men."* 1 Corinthians 3:3. *"Ye are not your own, for ye have been bought with a price."* With the mind of Christ, our speech should correspond to what is written: a true sign of conversion.

"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift thee as wheat. But I have prayed for thee (He ever intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father) that thy

faith fail not: and when thou art CONVERTED strengthen thy brethren." Luke 22:31-32. In his present state, he was leading "the brethren" in the wrong direction. He had stood before the resurrected Christ, been to the mountain of transfiguration, walked on water, and all he could say was, "I go a fishing."

The unconverted heads of households are like this on a Sunday morning, "I go golfing." What patience! Jesus Christ never gives up on you. He is the hound dog of heaven. He will track you down!

When the preacher comes over to the house, we all put on a religious front, hiding the Playboy and Playgirl magazines, etc. Peter steps up to defend his religion, *"Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death."* Luke 22:33. *"I tell you Peter, the cock shall not crow before thou hast denied Me thrice."* Simon Bar-Jonah I know who you are. I know your name.

If "signs and wonders" could convert a soul, Peter would have already experienced it. The question is, "When did Peter get converted?" Truly, he showed the signs of an unconverted man as Jesus called from the shore to the fishermen in their boats, *"Children have ye any meat?"* They answered Him, *"No. And He said unto them, 'Cast your net on the right side of the ship and ye shall find.'"* This miracle was performed for the benefit of the big fisherman. Miracles seem to attract the unconverted. Peter recognized who it was by the particular miracle being performed: *"It is the Lord!"* John 21:5-7.

Jesus found him naked (John 21:7). The fig leaf of religion was gone. One day we will all stand naked before God. Our bellowing, "Lord, Lord!" and screaming out, "Thou art Christ the Son of the living God" knowledge of who He is, will not help then.

Two possessed with devils in the country of the Gergesenes cried out, *"What have we to do with Thee, Jesus, Thou Son of God?"* Did that confession save the demons? Wake up church! *"It is he who doeth the Father's will."*

All Peter had was a fig leaf of his own righteousness. Now, completely bare before the Lord; no more religious antics; *"I am ready to go with thee to prison, and to death."* He was naked. It is not till you are willing to disrobe and cast the garment of religion away, that God can clothe you in His righteousness (*"white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed."* Revelation 3:18, or free grace).

Three times Jesus addresses the problem (fishing). Don't you know Jesus will put His finger on your first love. Fishing was Peter's besetting sin. Have you gotten the victory over yours? *"Until a grain of wheat goes into the ground and dies, it abideth alone."* Many church members hold on to their old lifestyle and mouth "Lord, Lord" on Sunday morning, but never experience change. *"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things (fishing, in Peter's case) are passed away, behold, all things are new."* 2 Corinthians 5:17.

As they were reclined for supper Peter said, *"Lord which is he that betrayeth thee?"* This is Holy Ghost conviction. Peter is wondering if he is any better than Judas? He sees himself, no longer religious, but a sinner. Peter then said, *"Lord, what shall this man do?"*

"Not my will, but thine"; a sign of a surrendered will. It is acknowledging you are a sinner, then having Peter's famous confession with the mouth, and then asking him the question, *"Lord, what shall this man do?"* John 21:21.

After asking this question of Jesus, Peter would never again fail his Lord, and would "strengthen his brethren" as Christ predicted he would.

Oh, the battle some of us have to surrender our wills. We need to pray so church members can feel Holy Ghost conviction. Simon Peter had been a member of the greatest church in the world for over three years, only to compare himself to Judas.

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*"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call
on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* Acts 2:21.

*". . . they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold,
and one shepherd."* John 10:16.

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