

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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A Few EXCEPTIONS!

Paul was on a ship about to suffer being shipwrecked. An angel spoke to him and he told the shipmaster for all to stay aboard. **Acts 27:31**, "Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, **Except** these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved."

It would be necessary for all to abide in the ship for salvation. They had to abide or stay in the ship. We understand what the expression "except" means in that sentence.

Well, Jesus tells us some things that will not be allowed for the salvation He offers.

"EXCEPT" WE BE CONVERTED AND BECOME AS LITTLE CHILDREN WE CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM.

Matthew 18:3, "And said, Verily I say unto you, **Except ye be converted (turned), and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.**"

- A. Teachable
- B. Moldable
- C. Simple
- D. Humble

"EXCEPT" OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEEDS THE PHARISEES, WE CANNOT BE SAVED.

Matthew 5:20, "For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**" (key)

They were told their righteousness must exceed the knowing ones and the Holy ones. What if we were told our righteousness must exceed the righteousness of Luther, Calvin, and the Pope?

There is no other saving righteousness than Christ's – our righteousness is as filthy rags, not just our sins.

The righteousness of the scribes and pharisees' was:

- A. Self-induced.
- B. Selfish righteousness.
- C. Self-glorifying not God-glorifying.

"EXCEPT" YOU REPENT, YOU WILL PERISH.

Luke 13:3-5, "3 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.** 4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**"

"EXCEPT" YOU ARE BORN OF WATER AND SPIRIT...

John 3:5, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**"

You must be born again. Jewish proselytes who became Jews were baptized and they were said to be "born again". Nicodemus knew what

born again meant. It was familiar to him.

"EXCEPT" YOU EAT CHRIST'S FLESH AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU.

John 6:51-53, "51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us *his* flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.**"

Notice it says, "He will give". It refers to something futuristic. Later, Jesus explained it.

"EXCEPT" YOU ABIDE IN THE VINE, YOU WILL HAVE NO FRUIT AND WILL BE CUT OFF AND BURNED IN THE FIRE.

John 15:4-5, "4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, **except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.** 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

So much for "eternal security" or "once in grace always in grace"!!

**"EXCEPT" YOU STRIVE
LAWFULLY, YOU ARE NOT
CROWNED.**

2 Timothy 2:5, "And if a man also strive for masteries, *yet* is he not crowned, **except he strive lawfully.**"

When I was a boy and ran, around the outside fence when the track team ran, I would beat them. I never strove lawfully, so I never won any ribbons or got any trophies.

CONCLUSION

Now we understand except these abide in the ship they would not be saved. It was essential to their salvation from the shipwreck.

Likewise, We See Some "Musts" for Us:

× **Become as a child... like a teachable child.**

× **Have Christ's Righteousness, not our own.**

Philippians 3:3-10, "3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, **and have no confidence in the flesh.** 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** 8 **Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,** 9 **And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through**

the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"

× **Repent or perish.**

× **Be born of the water and Spirit.**

You had better not misunderstand: **Titus 3:5**, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

× **Eat the flesh and drink His blood He said He would give for the life of the world.**

Let the Bible interpret what Jesus meant eating His flesh and drinking His blood:

Matthew 26:26-29, "26 And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake *it*, and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is my body.** 27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it;** 28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Mark 14:22-24, "22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake *it*, and gave to them, and said, **Take, eat: this is my body.** 23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave *it* to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them, **This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."**

Luke 22:19-20, "19 And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake *it*, and gave unto them, saying, **This is my body** which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. 20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying,

This cup *is* the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

These explain **John 6:53**, "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

× **Abide in the vine so we can bare fruit.** It is not easy-believism – we can be cut off!!

× **Strive lawfully if we are to be crowned.**

Jesus named these exceptions. There are no **exceptions!** Comply or die!!!

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