Drawn by the Beauty of Christ's Character

When we look at His ways and His teachings, we are really looking at the beauty of Christ, who is the image of God. His commandments ought to be our delight, because they reveal who He is. ("And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved." Psalm 119:47; "thy commandments are my delights." Psalm 119:143)

That is why the Lord Jesus says: "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). In other words: whoever loves Me also loves My commandments and finds delight in them, because My commandments express My character. They show what I am like.

God does not call us to value Him only because He offers us an eternal Kingdom with streets of gold, or because He saves us from hell. That alone will never make us fall in love with Him, nor make us want to follow Him so that we become like Him.

He calls us not only to value Him for what He has done for us, but to be like Him. He calls us to fall in love with Him, and for that reason He reveals to us the beauty of His character, which is perfect. ("And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32)

So, in His love for the crowning glory of His creation, God uses His messengers to speak to us about the Lord Jesus and to show us the character of His heart. He uses His disciples to describe to us the image of God, to show us the beauty of His heart, and to draw us to Himself with His perfect beauty.

No one can be drawn by His beauty if they have never heard of Him and cannot see the character of His heart, if they do not know His ways and what He is like. ("And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Romans 10:14; "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44)

If we were called to repentance only so that we would not end up in hell and could walk on streets of gold, without ever being shown the beauty of the Lord's heart, if no one ever told us that His purpose is for us to share His character, then we need to be careful, because those who brought us that message brought us a false, incomplete gospel.

Such people were not sent by God. If that is the gospel we received, we have been deceived by Satan.

Let us be honest with ourselves: what gospel were we given? Were there people who preached only one message to us, namely that if we do not repent we will end up in eternal hell? Did they teach us to value Him and be thankful to Him only for what He did for us on the cross?

Or were they God's messengers, who also showed us the beauty of the Lord's heart? Was I drawn by His character? Did love awaken in us, and did we long to have the same beautiful qualities He has?

God draws us with all His beauty, and He will make all the beauty of His heart pass before us. Just as He showed Moses the beauty of His heart, He will show it to us as well. ("I will make all my goodness pass before thee." Exodus 33:19) He does this so that we will fall in love with the character of His heart, so that love will awaken in us.

David's burning desire (which should be the desire of everyone who is in love with the Lord) was to dwell all his life in the house of the Lord, to behold the beauty of the Lord. ("One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD." Psalm 27:4)

If we come to God out of fear of hell, then the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, has not yet shone on us. ("But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:3-4)

If we are drawn by the beauty of the Lord Jesus' character and come to admire it, then we will long to have it too, and that is where it all begins. ("I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love." Song of Solomon 5:8)

No one will ever admire Him and love Him with all their mind out of fear of being punished in eternal hell. That only happens when we are drawn by the Lord's radiance, by the radiance of His Word. Only then does the burning desire to be like Him come alive. Only in this way can the purpose we were created for be fulfilled: to be like the Lord Jesus, our Bridegroom.

If we did not begin here, if we are not drawn by the beauty of His heart, if His commandments and His ways are not our delight, then the new life has not yet begun. ("No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." John 6:44)

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