

A golden crown with intricate designs and red gemstones is positioned at the top of the image. Below it, a silver spoon lies horizontally. The background is a dark, textured surface. The text is overlaid in the center, reading:

**Would you sell your crown
for a spoon?**

Would you sell your crown for a spoon?

If you want to be comfortable now, sell your crown for a spoon and a bowl of stew, submit to the intolerance a non accepting world, and say goodbye to a future in heaven.

Esau Sells His birthright for a spoon

'Once when Jacob was cooking stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was exhausted. And Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stew, for I am exhausted!"

Jacob said, "Sell me your birthright now." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me now." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.' Genesis 25:29-34

This is a perfect example of a future inheritance sold for earthly appetite to be enjoyed now. We are promised a crown in the kingdom of God if we remain faithful to Jesus Christ and overcome the temptation to satisfy earthly pleasure and the demands of the world. Will we sell out for earthly pleasures?

Many false teachers have entered the Church and embrace the lie of the world of darkness. Tolerance of the darkness invites us to satisfy earthly passions, which means there is now a tolerant church of false teachers who don't see any need for holiness and the purification of God's people according to His word.

This is nothing new, Peter had the same experience. *'But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift*

destruction upon themselves. Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep'. 'having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousnes.'

2 Peter 2:1-3, 14-15

The church in the world in many ways and in many places has become tolerant of the darkness of sinful man, even within itself.

What is forbidden in the word of God for His people who need to be holy, is overlooked in the worldly spirit of tolerance.

As long ago as 1960, the friend of a future brother in-law attempted to cultivate a 15 year old lad for the purpose of sodomy.

Unfortunately, while he escaped, his much younger 13 year old brother became victim to their approach, and eventually died of AIDS after adopting a homosexual lifestyle.

Four years after the first approach this now 19 year old who had joined the army found his best friend endeavouring to entice him for the purpose of sodomy for his paedophile chemist friend, a supposed nice gentleman who had procured his friend with gifts and expensive meals in first class restaurants. This man behaved as if sodomy was supposed to be normal for people with a good reputation.

While the young man escaped again, he never considered speaking up against this behaviour; he just accepted it as part of life.

Now why is this so when he was confirmed in the church? What has been the Church's attitude to this perversion? Did the Church proclaim the need for purity for the people of God? Or did the Church also see this corruption of morals as a normal part of life?

One reason for the tolerance of the darkness of homosexuality was that it was tolerated in the community because the Church was silent about this perversion of what God meant for good. And lo and behold, we have found members of the church, and those who were supposed to be teaching the truth of God were themselves entangled in its evil deception.

Now if sodomy is tolerated by the Church as normal human behaviour, what hope is there for not killing unborn children? What hope is there for lifelong marriage? What hope for those who suffer domestic violence? What hope is there for the wife of a Christian who is

forced to endure sodomy because she is supposed to be in submission to her husband? What hope is there for the Church when idolatry, spiritual pride, and materialism are accepted as normal behaviour?

The culture of worldly darkness has entered the Church through blind tolerance. The Church has become perverted by not defending the standards of God. The witness of the Church for good was now worthless.

Mahatma Gandhi styled his life on the life of Christ whom he loved and promoted His teaching by proclaiming what He learnt of Christ by the quality of his life. But Gandhi would not join the Church and become a Christian because he saw this Church to be everything Christ opposed. He saw the degraded quality of the Church as being largely responsible for the oppression of the people of India under British rule.

And so today, we still hear people say, "Why should I become a Christian when the Church is full of hypocrites?" "What has the Church to offer that the world doesn't already have?"

Therefore, why are we surprised at the intolerance of the world and a worldly Church when a small minority in the faithful Church attempt to hold up the enduring truth of God?

Today we have a Church full of people who are intolerant of those who argue earnestly for the holiness God demands for His people, even when it is for their own good. Some individuals in the Church believe they can demand their rights to live their faith anyway they choose.

There is no real understanding that everyone who has become a Christian has surrendered their worldly rights to live for the kingdom of God according to His dominion authority.

There is no understanding that they have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus so they are not their own, they now belong to God. There seems to be no real knowledge they are not living as a temple of God where the Holy Spirit has taken up residence.

There is no understanding that all Christians are now the body of Christ on earth to do His work and follow His example of suffering for the kingdom of God.

In the wheat field of the kingdom of God in the Church, there are more weeds than wheat. The exclusivity that is essential to the holiness of God for His people has been downgraded to the lowest common denominator.

The Church has sold its birthrights to the world for a bowl of stew and a spoon. No longer do Christians have to worry about everyday sins like greed and coveting. No

longer do we have to be concerned about self indulgence and pandering to the desire of the sinful nature. No longer are we to take the risk of proclaiming the righteousness of God. No longer is there a problem with extra marital affairs and sexual unfaithfulness.

Now we can even indulge ourselves with how we want to perform worship, and if it doesn't make us feel comfortable we don't have to be involved.

The Church has in many places become the weekly distraction for the religious minded who need to forget their struggles. The Church is offered as a place you can enjoy yourself so that you will return often. Therefore Church is often more about entertainment than purity, or if conscience should bother us, we can be pacified so we don't have to worry about holiness because God isn't finished with us yet.

Now we can take our yearly overseas holidays and enjoy the best the world has to offer, while our desperately poor brothers and sisters in Christ will have to manage the best they can by themselves.

Now we can get the latest fully equipped car we can possibly afford, since there is no need to be concerned about wasting money, besides it's mine anyway, I worked for it so I could do as I wish. Now that things are going along without too much disturbance, let's not rock the boat.

Everyone who calls themselves Christian has the right to decide for themselves how best to live and how they should consider God. If you don't want to be judged, don't judge others; isn't that the way of the world, it must be right. Don't worry, be happy. Under these circumstances, it's no wonder there is a lack of concern for taking the gospel to the world,

besides we don't really think it has anything to offer since it hasn't been successful in turning us around either. No wonder there isn't a voice of decent about the depravity of society and the Church because of the fear of men, look at what Jesus said would happen if you stood up for His divine authority.

“Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.” Matt 24:9-12

“These things I have spoken to you so that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. These

things they will do because they have not known the Father or Me.” John 16:1-3

Because of the fear of men, the Church sells out the kingdom of God and the crown of righteousness for a pot of stew and a spoon made by men.

How long oh Lord?

It has even been reported that due to the ready access to pornography, many young men are pressuring young woman to indulge in the sins of Sodom, saying it is now normal practice. How dark is the darkness? Sodom and Gomorrah thrive in our world today. What was common for natural man in a sinful world has now become expected. And what of those Churches that see no problem in having Ministers who are homosexual?

What the world has on the menu for our indulgence is not acceptable to God.

'Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.' 1 Cor 6:9-10

Notice that much of what is promoted by the world and tolerated in the Church today will not be accepted on the Day of the Lord's judgment. We cannot indulge in worldly practices and expect a crown in heaven. Stew today will mean burning fire tomorrow.

False teachers insist we can have all the world has to offer and still enter the kingdom of God. However sons and daughters of God in Christ represent the views of God in the world, even to the point of death as they take a stand against worldliness so they don't suffer the second death and forfeit their crown.

All God's people are charged with standing up for the faith as revealed to us by God. *'Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.'*

Jude 1:3

We overcome the pressure to conform to the world and the flesh by holding firmly to the faith. Those who overcome will receive a crown. *'Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.'*

James 1:12

The present situation in the Church indicates we need to go back to the beginning and refresh our minds about what salvation is all about.

What is life really about?

The truth is, the way we live determination our eternal destiny. This life is not a practice for the next; it determines our fate in the next.

Each of us has no control over where we are born and the family and circumstances we are born into. But each one of us is responsible for how we live, and how we live determines our final destination at the end of this life. Because the world is in rebellion against God, suffering and death are a normal part of life.

However, the ways of the world are not the way God intended we should live. God intended man to live as His honoured servants on earth to manage the world and keep the peace according to His will. But the evidence of sin, daily suffering and discomfort and death testify that we have not done what is

required of those who are born with the likeness of God.

We can understand sin to be anything that is not according to the truth and the life of God as revealed in Jesus Christ.

God allows this painful struggle with sin, which is the result of Satan's rule on earth, to get our attention and encourage us to accept we are powerless to control our world or overcome the corruption in our own lives which deny the rule of God.

The only answer for our continued suffering and ultimate death is not to be found the world or through the ability of men. The only way to peace comes from God who created the heavens and the earth.

We are born with the corruption of the world in rebellion to God as part of our human DNA, which is due to our original parents Adam and

Eve allowing themselves to be seduced by Satan's lies in disobedience to God. The only way to escape the corruption in our lives is by God giving us a new life.

If we are not delivered from the darkness of the world by God, our destiny is bound up in eternal suffering and separation from God as we endure the consequences of our own sinful decisions. But we all have an opportunity to reach out to God because God reaches out to us in Christ Jesus. In Christ, God offers us a new life, but it doesn't change our broken world, it doesn't mean we can be untouched by suffering and disease, but it will give us a new way of living under God, and change the way we live as His children who have His nature and are enabled by His mighty power.

Being rescued by God means being spiritually joined together with God so that we can live according to His will which means we can be

in peace even though we are still in the world under the control of Satan. But before this can happen, we have to deal with the way we have lived our lives in the world in rebellion against God.

There is nothing we can do that can deliver us from the world of sin and death. No man on earth can ever be good enough to win the favour of God, because no man is as good as God. There is no man made religion that can atone for our sins because our religion is the result of our sinful pride. Even calling ourselves Christian without denying ourselves to the world to live only for God will not save us from God's judgement.

The only spiritual answer to our darkened spiritual hearts is to receive a new heart from the maker of hearts, to have a heart which is responsive to the Holy One who gives life and peace. Therefore we need to get our help from

God, but first we must face the consequences of our sinful lives in rebellion against God, judgement must be satisfied before there can be a new beginning.

But how can we pay the penalty for our sinful lives by paying with our lives in order for the debt we owe to be fully paid? Realising this we should be cast down to the earth, we are helpless; we cannot pay the penalty and live. We have to come to the truth that we are entirely at the mercy of God.

However we need not despair; we have to considerer the love of God. God, in His love for us, has paid the penalty for our sinful lives Himself.

Jesus has died as the sinless Son of God; this is Jesus Christ who died the death we deserve on a cross of shame, so that we can live holy and righteous with God.

Believing in Christ enough to lay down our lives in submission to Him will allow us to be forgiven by God, so that we can receive a new life in the image of Christ under His sovereign authority.

Jesus Christ the Son of God calls on all those who want to live, to deny themselves and take up their own cross and follow Him.

When we take up our cross we give Him our present death in the world, so that we can receive His life and the power of the Spirit of God, in order that we can live as sons and daughters of God who are made new in His image in the likeness of Christ.

A new life in Christ means we can walk with God and live in peace even though we live in the darkness of the world. With the life of Christ, we become His light in the world of darkness. The obedient life Jesus lived is the

example for how we are to live as those who are born again with the image of God under the guardianship of the Holy Spirit.

It is then our responsibility, supported by the empowering of the Spirit of God, to put off, or cut away, to seriously put to death whatever is inconsistent with the life of Christ that may be revealed in us as we walk with God. God doesn't want us to be spiritual children; He wants us to live mature lives as we represent Him on earth. *'The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority.'*

2 Peter 2:9-10

God wants us to work out the life He gives us in the world, for this is the place of our training in holiness, this is the only way we can grow as we learn to walk as Jesus walked.

Jesus didn't avoid suffering for our good; He embraced suffering as the sure way to glory. This is also the way to our glory in Christ.

Worldliness limits godliness

We have as much of God as our attachment to the world will allow. Having all of God, that is being filled up to the fullness of God, can only happen when God has all of us.

This means a good Church isn't necessarily one that is popular. Worldly Churches attract worldly people. Sometimes the popularity of a Church indicates the church is more about the comfort and the enjoyment of the people than it is about worshiping God in self sacrifice and devoted service in faithfulness to the example of Christ.

You will find more people at a party than you will find willing to carry a cross in conformity to the life of Christ.

The demand of Christ for His disciples is to deny themselves and take up their cross, this sorts out the weed from the wheat, the worthless from the valued harvest.

Worldliness is far from godliness. Real worship isn't excited singing and a lot of exalted emotions, real worship in the Spirit can only happen when we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice in obedience to God.

'Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.'

Rom 12:1

When the emphasis is on our comfort, our happiness, our success, our enjoyment, our ability to enjoy all the world has to offer, then we are more interested in the spoon in the stew than the crown of righteousness.

The majority of people are devoted to making sure that life is as good as it can be today. Isn't this the same as unbelievers? If we are mostly concerned with our earthly existence we certainly wouldn't want to embrace the suffering of a cross.

If we live for today, we want a Pastor to support us in our worldly aspirations, to comfort us when expectations disappoint, and we certainly would not want him to try to stretch us in the way of righteousness that causes pain. The man of God will not require sacrifice is almost guaranteed to have a successful Church in the eyes of the world.

The good Pastor does comfort the distressed, but his patients are those wounded in the battle with the forces of darkness. The good Pastor also gives encouraging support to those who have heavenly aspirations. The good Pastor equips his people for the battle for

souls. The good Pastor always stretches us to go the next step in the imitation of God as we live in the world.

The real Church is about self sacrificing devotion in the adoration of God, with eyes only for God, the building up of one another in the image of Christ, and obedience to the mission of Christ to the world lost in darkness; regardless of the cost.

It requires service to Christ for now and heaven will come later. All of which is the purpose of the Spirit of God in the Church.

Worldly Churches are more about the number of people who attend than raising the quality of the sacrifice of the individual in service to God.

The Church is supposed to be the collective body of believers duplicating the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ in obedience to God.

The worldly Church is harnessed to earthly blessings; the Church that is harnessed to Christ is looking forward to a crown. Sacrifice is accepted for now, the glory will come later.

What is your life all about?

What is the end of your physical life going to reveal? If we want to be with God we must consider the way we live determines our destiny.

There are only two choices; live the way we live in the world and die an eternal death; or lay down our lives at the feet of Jesus Christ, and take up our cross to follow His example, and receive His life and share in His glory in heaven when He comes again to judge the heavens and the world.

What will your destiny be? Jesus says *"I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown."* Rev 3:11

A golden crown with red and blue gemstones and a silver spoon. The crown is positioned at the top of the image, and the spoon is positioned at the bottom. The background is dark and textured.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

Compiled by

Robert C May

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www.cometothestream.com

cometotherivere@optusnet.com.au