

The Final Segregation

To many people, if not most, the word "segregation" has a negative meaning as it is often a memory of the days of racial segregation in America as well as other countries. As a noun, segregation means the following: 1.) the act or practice of segregating; a setting apart or separation of people or things from others or from the main body or group: gender segregation in some fundamentalist religions. 2.) the institutional separation of an ethnic, racial, religious, or other minority group from the dominant majority. 3.) the state or condition of being segregated, set apart, separated, or restricted to one group. Segregation may be applied to a variety of things, such as fruit. For example, the good apples are segregated (separated) from the bad apples. So you see, not all segregation is bad segregation.

In the matter of racial segregation, much has changed though it still exists in many places. Activists and courts have been working to eradicate all segregation; some activist judges have even gone beyond the limits of the law in order to force their will on the people. Many volumes of books could be written on this subject as well as legal challenges in the judicial system. **HOWEVER**, there is one segregation coming and no civil rights movement or judicial branch in the world will be able to do anything about it; it will be without appeal!

In this world there are basically two groups of people; those who have trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and those who have not; there is no in-between for it is one way or the other. God's Word, the Bible, tells us that, in ourselves, we are not righteous, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." {Romans 3:10-11}, that we have all sinned, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" {Romans 3:23} and, because of unbelief, are already condemned "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:18}.

Even though a sinner and condemned, God and His great love for us has made a provision for us to escape this condemnation and His judgment, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {John 3:16} How do we obtain this forgiveness and everlasting life? By repenting of our sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, trust Him as personal Saviour, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;" {Acts 3:19} "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him." {Romans 5:9}

The last book of the Bible, Revelation, plainly tells us that there is a great segregation coming where the lost souls, those who have not trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, will forever be segregated {separated} from those who have repented of their sin and trusted Him as Saviour. The lost will be segregated to the place the Bible calls the lake of fire, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." {Revelation 21:8} while those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Saviour will be with Him for all eternity ". . . Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." {Revelation 21:3}

Talking about the segregation may not be popular, but God's coming segregation for the unsaved will be even worse; eternally worse. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 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: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death

and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:10-15}

But the **good news** is that it does not have to end that way because Jesus Christ has already paid our sin debt with His death and shed blood on the Cross of Calvary. If a lost sinner, any lost sinner will repent and call on Him for salvation, they will be forgiven and saved for all eternity. "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13}

Trusting Jesus Christ as personal Saviour does bring with it a responsibility, the responsibility of living our lives in such a manner as to bring honor and glory to our Saviour. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." {1 Corinthians 6:19-20} This is why it is important to faithfully attend a good Bible-believing and Bible-preaching church where we can be fed spiritually from God's Word and thereby grow spiritually. It is also important to read His Word daily and to pray.

Well friend, there will be a final segregation that cannot be escaped; will you be segregated with the lost or with those who have trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour? You and you alone must make the decision while you have time to do so. I most sincerely encourage you to repent and put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ - TODAY!

~Richard A. Ciarrocca