

## **Ashamed Of Christ** ***(Bro. Sam K. John)***

A story goes along like this: a Hindu of high rank was disturbed in his mind about the subject of a future state. He had heard about Christians and he wanted to talk to them about their religion and to gain information about the Lord Jesus Christ. He visited Great Britain and had many introductions to leading people. At a great banquet, he said to the gentleman sitting next to him, 'Can you tell me something about Christ?' the man quickly replied in a hushed tone, 'We do not speak about such subjects at dinner parties.' Later he was invited to a fashionable ball and took the opportunity to ask his partner for information about Jesus. Again, he was told that a ball was no place for such a subject. The man said later, 'How strange these Christians are in England, they seem ashamed to speak about their religion and of Christ, its Founder.'

There may be many moments in our own lives when we may be ashamed of what we are living for. Be it the situation, the circumstances, the people, or just the way we feel, we may be reluctant to reveal who we truly are. Yet, even in its difficulty of revelation, it can strengthen. As Paul said in Romans, 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of salvation to everyone who believes, for the Jew first, and also for the Greek' (1:8, NKJV).

We know how Paul's life began as a worker for the chief priests to bring down the followers of Christ. His one goal, aim, purpose, his sole desire was to get rid of all the Christians. Only when Jesus finally confronted him, did he perform a dramatic change. From then on though, his life became a living testimony. He suffered so much, went through so much, and still he had to endure more. Any other man would have broken. Perhaps if Paul had a wife from before his conversion, she may have done much like Job's wife said and told him to simply renounce the name of Christ so that his life could be so better. In the end, it was good enough for him. He spoke of his journey in life as a great race and through it all, he was never ashamed of the name of Christ.

We call ourselves Christians, but we sometimes do not or cannot acknowledge our figurehead. It is interesting how often as Indians that the phrase, 'Are you Hindu?' comes up. Jesus has done so much, given so much, and loved us unendingly, and still we may be reluctant to openly say that He is our salvation, our deliverer, or our savior. The names that are attributable to Him are many because there is so much that He has done for us. However, even Jesus gave the people and His disciples a stern warning in the towns of Caesarea Philippi.

Jesus said in Mark, 'For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels' (8:38, NKJV). Also in Matthew He said 'But whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven' (10:32,33 NKJV). Imagine being spoken about by Jesus Himself. As He said Himself though, would you rather have Him talk well about you, or have Him deny you in the presence of the One who is above all, the King of Kings. For to be denied by Christ, would be akin to being disowned because we are the children of God.

Here the matter can become even more poignant. With our own parents, sometimes we are ashamed. Maybe it is because of the culture, the clothes they were, the way they speak or even act. On the other hand, I praise God for all those who respect and honor their parents. God Himself promised long life for those who did so making it the 'first commandment with promise.' So then, if we must do this much for our parents on earth, how much more should we do for our Father in heaven. For no matter what we go through in this world, He is willing to be by our sides all the time. Jesus took all the sins of the world upon Himself on the cross of Calvary, and there He cried out to God and asked Him why God had abandoned Him. It was because of us.

He wants to be with us, He wants to walk with us, and He wants to love us. However, if we refuse to acknowledge His love and sacrifice. He cannot do anything for us. Please, do not wait until you are in trials or tribulations to call upon the name of God. Look at the Israelites and learn. They were so blessed and were chosen to be God's people, but they would always forget God once they had prospered and felt they had no need of Him. They could have had such an intimate relationship with Him, but they drove Him to the point where He was about to wipe out their existence only to be stopped by the pleading intercession of Moses.

Know Him, love Him, and live for Him. Without Him, nothing is certain, but with Him, all things are possible. God bless you all.