

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

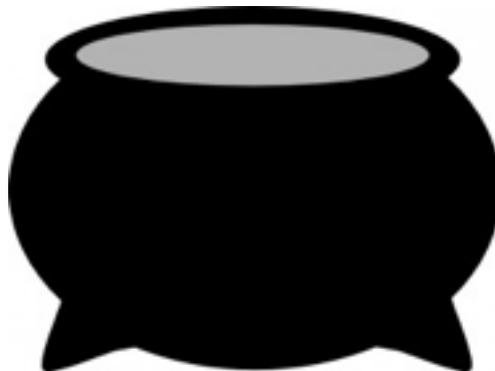
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Death In The Pot

by John Isaac Edwards



the men to eat. And it came to pass, as they were eating of the pottage, that they cried out, and said, O thou man of God, there is death in the pot. And they could not eat thereof.”

I’m making spiritual application of when there is death in the pot. There are some wild gourds being shred into the pot and poured out for men to eat:

1) The Notion That We Are Saved By Grace Alone. The Bible affirms that we are saved by grace. “...by grace ye are saved” (Eph. 2:5). But, nowhere does the Bible teach that we are saved by grace alone. Ephesians 2:8 says, “For by grace are ye

saved through faith...” If we are saved by grace alone, then all men will be saved and none will be lost. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men...” (Titus 2:11).

2) The Doctrine Of Justification By Faith Only. The Scriptures affirm that we are “...justified by faith...” (Rom. 5:1). But, where is the passage that says we are justified by faith only? Romans 5:9 states, “Much

The fourth chapter of 2 Kings records four fascinating stories about Elisha, the man of God. Verses 38-41 tell about the pot of pottage.

And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and see the pottage for the sons of the prophets. And one went out into the field to gather herbs, and found a wild vine, and gathered thereof wild gourds his lap full, and came and shred them into the pot of pottage: for they knew them not. So they poured out for

more than, being now justified by his blood..." If we are justified by faith only, then it could not be said that we are justified by the blood of Christ. If we are justified by the blood of Christ, then it cannot be true that we are justified by faith only. In fact, James 2:24 teaches, "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

3) The Idea That We Can Pray 'The Sinner's Prayer' And Be Saved. Many are told that to be saved they need to pray a prayer like this: "Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior. In Your Name. Amen." In New Testament days, when folks asked, "...what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37), they weren't told to pray for salvation. They were told, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38).

4) The Teaching That Baptism Does Not Save. A lot of folks have been made to believe

that baptism is not essential to salvation. If that be true: Jesus did not know it. He said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 16:16). The apostles didn't know it. Peter penned, "...baptism doth also now save us..." (1 Pet. 3:21). Disciples didn't know it. Ananias instructed Saul, "...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). And first-century converts didn't know it. Every case of conversion in the book of Acts included folks being baptized (Acts 2-19).

5) The Thought That Goodness Alone Saves. Some think that as long as they are good morally that is all that is required to please God and go to Heaven. Goodness alone did not save Cornelius. He was "A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway" (Acts 10:2). Yet, he was told to send for Peter, "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved" (Acts 11:14).

6) The Concept Of Once Saved, Always Saved. The theory that a saved person cannot

lose his salvation. This wasn't true in the Old Testament. Jude reminds, "...how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not" (Jude 5). And it isn't true today! There are warnings about falling (1 Cor. 10:12), instructions to keep us from falling (2 Pet. 1:5-11), examples of Christians who fell (Gal. 5:4), and passages that tell us what to do when we fall (Acts 8:22; 1 Jn. 1:9).

These wild gourds are being shred into the great pot and poured out for men to eat. While the pottage may be sweet to the lips, it is poisonous to the soul! The seed of the word of truth brings forth the wholesome plant of life (Lk. 8:11; Jn. 17:17; Jn. 14:6; 5:24). The seed of error and false doctrine produces a plant that brings death and destruction to the soul (2 Jn. 9; 1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 6:23; Mt. 15:13). Let's not swallow everything that is set before us to eat. "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Th. 5:21). "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1).

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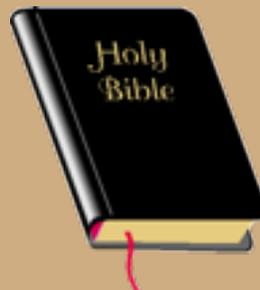
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