



# Reformation Christian Ministries

## The Christ and Gospel of RCM

December 2007

Joy to the world, the Lord is come. He rules the world with truth and grace.

Tradition reminds us at this time of year of the inestimable gift that God has given His people in the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was sent into this world to redeem a people for God's glory. Most of the readers of this newsletter are aware that there are many false Christ's that God has permitted to exist in order to deceive those who are not His people. But this is a joyful time of year, why be negative? Consider that God sent His Son into an extremely negative world, in order to redeem His people out of it. Our joy can only be seen in relationship *to the opposite*. The joy of our salvation must be seen in light of the depths of our own sin. Likewise, the joy and wonder of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection can only be appreciated supremely at the cross. Joy at the cross! Imagine that. He came into this world as Light (John 8:12) and Truth (John 14:6) to put away darkness (Acts 26:18) and lies (1Jo 2:4).

As His people, we are part of putting them away. Perhaps the following meditation contrasting a well known false Christ with the True should help even more darkness and lies go away; while bringing even more joy from the realization of how truly great God's Christ is.

**Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe [it] not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it] were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before.** [Matthew 24:23-25]

There is a false Christ whose promotion surrounds us today. He is said to have come into this world to save every last man. But what joy is there in such a "Christ" in contrast to the True? Ask yourself this question: *IF* Christ's death truly saved people and He died for everyone, **why isn't everyone saved?** Have you ever thought of that? If you do think about it, there are only two conclusions: 1) Christ's death saved no one—it *only made men savable*; OR 2) Christ did not die for everyone.

If Christ died only to make salvation a possibility for everyone, then what makes the difference between those who are saved and those who are not? If you stop and seriously consider this question, it must lead to only one conclusion: *something IN man or DONE BY man makes the difference*. If Christ has done all He can do and is waiting for man to make the difference, then ultimately man's salvation depends upon him. The cartoon on the left illustrates this quite well: the devil has cast his vote, God

has cast His vote, and man must break the tie.

If this was the Christ of the Bible (thankfully it is not), his death for every man *at most* only made salvation a "possibility" to which man must add something from himself. *That is not good news* because then salvation would depend upon man rather than God. In fact, it is very bad news! Dead men can't vote or decide anything. They are dead (Eph. 2:13). This is darkness.



**BUT HOLD IT!** The Bible brings us the truth in contrast to this lie. The True Christ died to save His people from their sins (Mat. 1:21), not just make them savable (Gal. 2:21). He brings all of His people to Himself through the true Gospel (John 6:44). He begins the work and finishes it (John 3:3; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 12:2). Thus, from beginning to end, salvation is of the Lord (Jonah 2:9). *But is there*

*nothing required of me?* Nothing that comes *from you* is pleasing to God (Isa 64:6). *What about faith, isn't that mine?* No, true faith is God's gift of grace and is not from you (Eph. 2:8). Until He gives you life, you can't believe or do anything God accepts because you are dead (Eph. 2:1). May God grant that He gives you His life. Pray for Him to give His life to every one for whom He died, for He will not lose one (John 10:27-29).

Compare the false "Christ", who allegedly died for everyone but leaves them dead in their sins until they can somehow accept him; with the True Christ. **He is the One who secured the salvation of every one of His people when He died on the cross** and rose from the dead and took them with Him to heaven even before they were born. That comparison shows how much greater is the Christ of Scripture? The difference is like day and night, light and darkness, truth and lies.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let earth receive her King!* May God grant you a joyous life as you bask in the truth of the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the darkness that surrounds us. His Light is so much greater when we see the darkness. Let us look forward to the time when there will be no more darkness **And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.**

Praise the Lord, that we know the true Christ of God who saved His people from their sins. This is the Christ and Gospel of RCM. We invite your prayers and participation in our Gospel-centered outreach and education aimed at reformation.

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