

PREJUDICE IS A ROBBER

By Keith Greer

Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” {Isaiah 1:18-20} The word prejudice is defined as “an adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge or examination of the facts.” A prejudicial attitude can rob us of:

Precious Truth. *“And with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* {2 Thessalonians 2:10-12} Many remain in false religions because they are prejudiced against the truth. How can one truly know the truth unless he personally examines it? Why are people afraid of comparing their belief systems to the truth in God’s word? Perhaps they are comfortable where they are and don’t really want to know whether they are following the truth? It’s difficult to reach closed minds.

Essential Light. *“And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”* {John 3:19-21} In a world darkened by spiritual blindness, the Bible provides light and direction {Psalm 119:105}. Yet, many choose to remain in the proverbial darkness and shun the light of truth, because that’s where they’re used to being. Light is available, and it could make the way clearer, but unfortunately their minds are prejudiced against the light.

Esteem for Others. *“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”* {Philippians 2:3,4} In the modern world, we’ve been conditioned to believe that everything is about us. Sadly, prejudice can blind us to the good in others and the benefits of putting their needs before our own. *“That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.”* {Philippians 2:15}

Being Like Christ. *“Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations.”* {Colossians 2:20} Could there be a role model better than Christ? How could any person live a more productive and fulfilling life or be of greater benefit to himself and those around him, than by trying to assume the character of the Lord? Such a life brings happiness here and leads to eternal happiness in the next life.

Eternal Life. *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”* {John 5:39,40} Even those who actually saw and knew Jesus were prejudiced against Him and refused to

consider the things He tried to teach them. Their minds were made up about what they thought He ought to be, and they rejected anything different. The same is true today.

Unable to fit into a Christ-like mold, people reject His offer of life. Too busy, too comfortable, too wrapped up in ourselves, and giving all the credit to self instead of God. Sure recipe for disaster and destruction. Satan is very good at hiding and masking the cost of “**prejudice**” —eventually cost when the bill comes due! Dear reader, make no mistake about this— the character of “prejudice” destroys everything around it. Nothing good, helpful, substantial, or benefitting to the masses has ever resulted from this mindset. No other robber can leave us so poor! ***