

Prophet's Column

"The First Day"

By J. M. Little  
Special To The Post  
On that morning of the Crucifixion, the religious world along with the secular world, led by this centurion, went out to crucify what they thought was a "troublemaker," and much to the surprise of the centurion, and some of the soldiers under his command, they learned He was the Son of God. They killed their Substitute! When a sinner under Holy Spirit conviction learns that he crucified his Lord, this humbles you in the dust of repentance. You see all so clearly that God ought to cast you into the lowest Hell. Every sinner before he is saved learns that he is hell-born, hell-bent, hell-bound, and hell-deserving. And I'll give you this truth in passing; every sinner, before he is saved, comes to the place where he is 100 percent willing to go to Hell. If you are not willing to go to Hell you are not saved. Under Holy Spirit conviction you say "Amen" to everything He reveals to you. Man by nature is just a fit subject for Hell. I'll give you another truth in passing; there is only one thing that God has to do for a sinner to go to Hell. Do you know what that is? Every sinner learns this before the Lord saves him. The only thing God has to do for a sinner to go to Hell is just leave him alone. You learn that before the Lord saves you.

This Roman centurion was saved there at the foot of the Cross on the day he helped crucify my Lord. But he was not the only centurion to get saved. The Word of God tells us about two other centurions who were saved. Now what is a centurion? A military officer in charge of 100 soldiers. Centurion grew out of the Latin word "centum" which means 100. In Matthew 8 we have the story of another centurion who was saved and also in Acts 10. Cornelius was the centurion we are told about in this chapter. Please note that we are told that he was a devout man, meaning he was earnest and sincere, a man of his word. Also he gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always. And it is said that he feared God. Here we see a great religious man but he was lost. Just because a man is religious is no evidence he is saved. Just because a man is a preacher or teacher, is no sign he is saved. An angel told Cornelius to send for Peter. The Holy Spirit sent Peter to preach the Gospel to him, and not only did Cornelius get saved, others of his household and friends were saved.

How many in the religious world today are devout, but yet are lost? The Apostle Paul, the greatest representative the Lord ever had on earth told us that not many mighty, not many noble, are called to salvation in Christ. But here were three men in authority whom the Lord saved. Many times we wonder how we can reach a man in authority with the Gospel. The answer is, we cannot. And that's why I'm glad salvation is not in the hands of any man. How many men do you know in positions of authority who are saved? I don't know any. I know a lot of religious men in positions of authority. But being religious is no sign a man is saved.

I thank and praise the Lord He brought me with a price and delivered me out of the religious world. It takes a miracle of grace to bring a sinner out of the religious world.



J. M. Little

And every sinner is brought out of the religious world before God saves him. The Lord was crucified in open shame before the world. Every sinner that ever gets saved will take his place in open shame before the world. There is no such thing as getting saved in a back alley and not being held up before the world for them to mock you. Christ was stripped or unclothed that every sinner who repents as a guilty sinner may be clothed, with His righteousness. He cried out on the Cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" (Mt. 27:46). Yes, He was the Son of God. Then why did He ask, "My Father, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" When He was dying on the Cross, He was dying as a sinner, in His humanity.

A sinner cannot call God Father. No sinner can call God Father until he is adopted into the family of God. (Rom. 8:15). Then, the Father forsook Him that I and every sinner who comes to Him in repentance might not be forsaken. He cried out, "I thirst." Why was the Lord thirsting there on the Cross? On the Cross, Christ was suffering an eternity of Hell for all His elect. In Hell the lost are thirsty, but there is no water to cool their parched tongues. After this He dismissed His Spirit from His Body. The work was finished. The JUST had died for the unjust. The RIGHTEOUS had died for the unrighteous. The HOLY had died for the unholy. If you never see yourself as the unjust, the unrighteous, the unholy, you'll never hunger after the Substitute.

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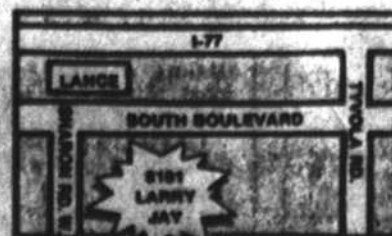
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