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There Is No Difference

BY OSWALD J. SMITH, D.D.

There are only two companies of people in this world today; those who are guilty and those who are not guilty, the saved and the lost, the sinners and the saints. And you, my friend, belong to one or the other. You are either a Christian or you are not a Christian. And the Bible says: "There is no difference, for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:22-23).

There are only two ways: the Broad Way that leads to destruction and death, and the Narrow Way that leads to heaven and eternal life. And you, my fellow traveller, are on the one or the other, the Broad or the Narrow, for there is no third — no way between — you are either travelling to heaven or to hell.

There are only two Masters, God and the Devil, and you are serving either one or the other, for "no man can serve two masters." Therefore, let me ask you: To which company do you belong? Where are you going? Whom are you serving?

Over the one group is written the word "guilty," and over the other "not guilty," and

“there is no difference.” It matters not whether you consider yourself a great sinner or a small sinner; you are either guilty or not guilty.

You may have your name on the rolls of a thousand churches, you may be the most active worker in the church, or you may have spent the years of your life in the penitentiary for some great crime, but it makes no difference; if you are unsaved you are guilty.

You may be cultured and refined, and have many things to commend you, but God places you in the same class with the most debauched sinners of the world, and brands you “guilty.” All in that company are not equally degraded, but all are equally guilty for “there is no difference.”

THE GREAT DELUGE

What an awful picture presents itself as we think of the great deluge, when the flood destroyed the entire race with the exception of Noah and those who were with him in the ark! Sinners who had lived good moral lives, along with the most degraded and depraved, were drowned beneath the mighty waters that swept them into Eternity. Only two classes, only two companies: those in the ark and those outside.

It mattered not whether their sin had been small or great, whether their lives had been, as people say, good or bad: they had disobeyed God: they had refused to be warned and to enter the ark of safety, and there was no alternative. It was the ark or death.

THE CITIES OF THE PLAINS

When God destroyed the cities of the plains, think you that all in Sodom and Gomorrah were equally sinful and degraded? Were there not sinners great and small? Was every man a criminal? By no means. But all were sinners, and therefore all were guilty before God. And when the fire and brimstone fell, it destroyed them all alike, old and young, great and small, good and bad. All were in the city and in the same company, and all were branded "guilty."

THE FIRST-BORN OF EGYPT

No one would think for a moment of saying that all the first-born of Egypt were equally depraved. Many were, no doubt, the finest living men of the land: statesmen, poets, philosophers and priests. But God said, "When I see the blood I will pass over you" (Exod. 12:13). Therefore every house sprinkled by the blood was passed over, and every one not so sprinkled was smitten, and the eldest son slain. It was not a question of the heinousness of sin, it was a question of obedience. Was the blood there or not? And once again there were only two companies, those sheltered by the blood and those not so covered.

THE GREATEST SIN

You tell me you are not guilty! You say you have never sinned! I want to tell you that you are guilty of the greatest sin it is possible for a human being to commit. I accuse you of the blackest crime of which man can be guilty. You

have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ. You have spurned His love, ignored His pleadings and trampled underfoot His precious blood. You have refused to accept God's offer of mercy; and you are guilty of the sin of unbelief, the greatest sin that the Bible knows anything about.

THE REMEDY

Yes, you have sinned, you are guilty, for "there is no difference," but God has provided a remedy for you. And with joy untold I proclaim to you today that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Oh, glorious message! Wonderful news! Will you not believe the tidings? Will you not accept the remedy? Oh, then, come; take your place as a lost and guilty sinner; believe His Word that "there is no difference," plead "guilty," and cast yourself on the mercy of God. Will you do it? Do it, and do it — NOW.



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