

An A+ For More of Christ

This semester I registered for a class in the Sweet Savor Bible School called A Treasury of Christian Literature. Our “coursework” consisted of reading the book, *More of Christ*, by Rex Beck, which is a re-write of the book, *The Stewardship of the Mystery*, by T. Austin-Sparks.

In this book, I think that what touched me most was chapter 9: TAKING THE GROUND OF THE HEAVENLY MAN. “Taking the ground of the heavenly Man” was a new term to me. I’ve heard the terms, “the ground of the church” or “the ground of locality” to describe the ground the church meets on to maintain oneness in each locality. Here, “taking the ground of the heavenly Man” refers to the basis upon which God receives us. He cannot receive us based on the ground of ourself, no matter how “good” we think we are. “The only man that God has anything to do with is the man who is standing on the ground of His Son, the heavenly Man” p. 75. “It must become a supreme goal of our life to get off of the ground that we are standing upon, whatever that may be, and stand upon the ground of this heavenly Man” p. 76.

The book gives some examples of ones who realized this matter of leaving any other ground to stand on the ground of the heavenly Man. The first example was Nicodemus, whose ground of being a Jew and a teacher in Israel could not give him new birth. Nicodemus had to step on heavenly ground in order to be born again.

Another example was Peter, who needed to get off his historic, Jewish ground of not associating with Gentiles and come to the ground of the heavenly Man. Then earthly distinctions are lost sight of, that fellowship could be with all who believe, whether Jew or Gentile.

Paul was another one used to show us that God cannot use us on our own ground. Paul clung to the ground of Israel as long as he could but eventually he had to let go of his own ground to take the ground of the heavenly Man.

“All of these illustrations show us that God will not meet us on any of our own grounds” p. 78.

“On the ground of Christ, the heavenly Man, everything lives and is full of life. This is true as we take the full ground of the heavenly Man, which is a corporate ground where all the things of Christ have value. In Him the Word of God lives. When we are on that ground, we will prove that the Word is alive, and everything comes to life. If we keep our own ground, if we stand on what we are, we will end in death. But as we forsake that ground and take the ground of the heavenly Man, we will see that everything lives” p. 80. I find this statement to be true on a daily basis! When I am found on the ground of my good self, my background, my preferences, etc., nothing of the Word is that real to me, even though I have been a Christian for many years and read the Bible daily. However, when I take the ground of Christ, the heavenly Man, the Bible is alive and full of light!

I want to learn to forsake any other ground, no matter how good it is, to stand on the ground of the heavenly Man!

-Ken G.