

The Book With No Words

As a brand new year begins I can't help but reflect and thank God for all the blessings of the year that has just ended. First of all, we continue to live in the greatest country that this world has ever seen. In the USA we have a myriad of freedoms and liberties that are just not seen in any other country of the world. One of our greatest freedoms is having the right to worship as we see fit without fear of government interference. I pray this continues.

As a youngster growing up in a strong Bible believing church, I heard from a very young age that I was a sinner. That wasn't hard for me to believe at all; in fact I already knew that I wasn't a very good kid. I had stolen, lied, cheated, and broken the rules many times before I was only five or six years old. Then one day my Sunday School shared a story with her kindergarten class. It was odd though because this book had no words only three pages each a different color.

The first page was completely black which represented my heart which had a condition which we humans are all born with, sin. She explained how the original first couple that God had created, Adam and Eve, had sinned and brought the curse of sin upon the human race. Like every other human, I had a dirty heart that needed to be cleaned up. Romans 3:23 says; *For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.* We cannot measure up to a perfect and holy God.

The next page of the book was all red. The red page represented the blood that Jesus shed on the cross when He sacrificed His life for me. II Corinthians 5:21 reads; *He who knew no sin became sin for us, that we might become right with God.* I think that is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible. He who knew no sin means that Jesus was indeed God in the flesh, the only begotten son of God. He was perfect and therefore He could be the sacrifice that was needed.

Page three was an all-white page. My teacher explained that the white page indicated how clean my heart becomes when I put my trust in Jesus and believe that the blood that He shed on the cross paid the penalty for my sin and brought me salvation through faith. We used to sing a hymn in church called *Whiter Than Snow*, it went like this; *Lord Jesus I long to be perfectly whole, I want you forever to live in my soul, take down every idol, cast out every foe, now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Whiter than snow, yes whiter than snow, now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.*

I remember coming home from church and asking my Mom what it all meant. She explained it again just like my teacher had, and that night at bedtime we prayed together that I would receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. You know what, He became my Savior that very day. That didn't mean that life became a bed of roses. No, I had to work hard at following Jesus, but as each year passed, I became stronger in the Lord. I don't know what I would do without Him in my heart and life. The peace, joy and hope that He gives me when I pray and follow His ways are so tremendous.

At Peace Church our theme for the last couple years has been, *Trusting God like Never Before*. It's not just saying the words that Jesus is my Savior that makes a person a Christian. It's the fact that we truly believe and trust Him. We live in His presence every day in obedience to God through prayer, reading the Bible and loving others.

Even though we are living in trying times, I can't wait to see all that God has in store for His people, the Church, 2021. I hope you feel the same way. Until next week, God bless.