

The Bishop's Corner

My Mind is Made Up

Praise the Lord Saints,

“And Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.’ Verily, verily, I say unto you, ‘Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it dies, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serves Me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serves Me, him will My Father honor. Now is My soul troubled; and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify Thy name.’ Then came a voice from heaven, saying, ‘I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.’ The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, ‘An angle spake to Him.’ Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice came not because of Me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.’ This He said, signifying what death He should die (John 12: 23-33 KJV).”

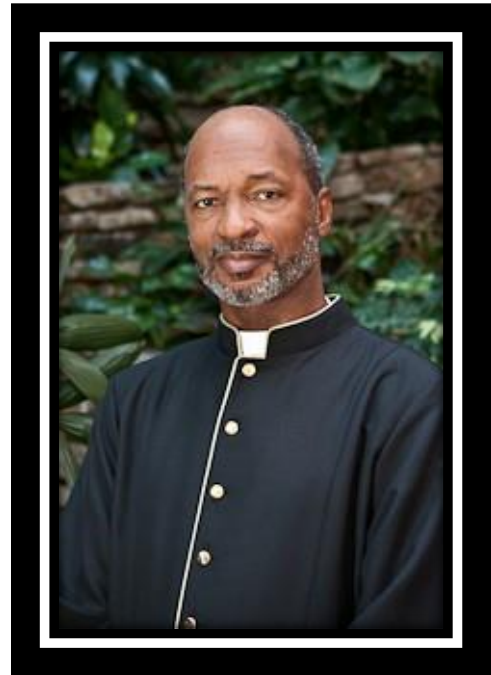
Jesus had a made-up mind about going to the cross. We can have a made-up mind and the pleasures of this world can change our mind. We don't want to be the kind of person that God stops, but the one who God sends. Somewhere along our walk in God, we must make that trip alone and bear our cross (burdens) by ourself. All of our burdens are on our cross that we must bear each day. Don't give up on God because there is a resurrection. Anything that drew us from God when we were in sin will draw us away from God if we go back to it. The world is stronger than us because even Jesus needed the Holy Ghost to make it through the garden of Gethsemane and the cross. We need to know when to say to God “I need help,” because whatever is pulling on us from the world is too strong.

We can't make a treaty with the devil. If someone is trying to keep us from going to heaven, he/she does not love us, and we should be offended by anything that tries to stop us from obeying God, because it is of the devil just as Jesus rebuked the spirit behind Peter's statement trying to get Him from going to the cross (Matthew 16:22-23). Our top priority must be to do the will of God and make it to heaven. There's a way that seems right to man but the end is death and destruction (Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 16:25). When people in the world try to tell us to come out of God, we need to tell them that they don't know the God that we serve and where He has brought us from.

By the time Jesus is on His way to Golgotha, He is battered, bruised and torn, which is the way we were in the spirit before God saved us from sin. We must not forget where God brought us from and that He made us new. Unless we die to ourselves, we won't do anything to glorify God. We must get to the point where we don't like this life. We made a covenant with God and God keeps His part, so we must also keep our part. We know that God keeps and sustains us. We're not in God to die in sin but to conquer and live.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
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For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."