

## PAY THE PIPER

Romans 3:8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just.

Ratcatcher's Day is celebrated by some today: July 22, as it commemorating the myth of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, because the poem by Robert Browning tells us that on July 22, 1376, the town of Hamelin in Germany was suffering from a rat infestation. So it was on this date (according to the story) a man dressed in pied (multi-colored) clothing appeared, claiming to be a rat-catcher. He promised the townsmen that he could solve their problem with the rats. The townsmen in turn promised to pay him for the removal of the rats.

The man accepted, and played a magical pipe to lure the rats with a song into the river where they drowned. Despite his success, the people reneged on their promise and refused to pay the rat-catcher for his deed. The man left the town angrily, but he promised to return later to retaliate for their failure to do what they had promised after he had done what he had promised.

The piper returned on a Sunday while the inhabitants were in church. He played his pipe yet again, but this time he attracted the children of Hamelin with his magical pipe. One hundred and thirty boys and girls followed him out of the town, where they were lured into a cave and never seen again.

Only three children remained behind. One of the children was lame and could not follow quickly enough, the second was deaf and could not hear the music, and the last was blind and unable to see where they were going. These three informed the villagers of what had happened when they came out of church.

The town had no more rat infestation, but because they did not pay the piper, the town was also missing its children.

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay.”

According to our text verse in Romans 3:8, some were falsely accusing the Apostle Paul of saying “Let us do evil, that good may come.” Some today actually believe so. Some think that NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO, GOD WILL BLESS IT. I' M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT AINT SO!

The thing we must be reminded of is this: SALVATION IS FREE - Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. But what we forget is that verse above verse 23: Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

We are NOW the servants TO GOD. While we don't PAY FOR SALVATION, WE OUGHT TO PAY OUR LORD IN THANKSGIVING WITH PRAISE AND SERVICE. What many forget is that WE CANNOT SERVE TWO MASTERS - Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

## PAY THE PIPER – DON'T MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL

Consider the LAME MAN. In John Chapter 5 we find Jesus nearing the Pool of Bethesda and in John 5:5 And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.” Now not all infirmities or ailments or sicknesses are caused by sin, but here we find Jesus heals the man and then we read in John 5:14 Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

What actually happened was simply this: the Lord healed him physically at the pool of Bethesda, but He healed his soul there in the temple. Sin had caused the man's trouble. First he got a well body, and then he got a well soul. He came to know Jesus, you see. Then he was able to tell who He was. This impotent man was waiting and waiting, looking at the pool, and one day Jesus, the Lamb of God, came by and saw him. Then the man saw Jesus. The impotent man met the Omnipotent Man. The thing that is amazing to me is that there were multitudes left in those porches and they were not healed. Today there are multitudes who are not saved. Isn't Jesus willing to save them? Yes, but they haven't looked at Jesus. They're just waiting, friend, waiting for something to happen.

Jesus told the Impotent Man TO PAY THE PIPER – Jesus TOOK AWAY HIS PROBLEM – Now He was to honour His healer, His God with his life. Now this is not to say that God would punish the man with sin if he did not obey, for James 1:13-16 tells us: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.”

## PAY THE PIPER – DON'T MAKE A DEAL WITH YOURSELF

Some people think they can play in the world and then run to God and confess and STILL be blessed. Many claim Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” Yet they fail to understand that the FIRST REQUIREMENT for this verse to be activated is “TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD” - That beloved is defined in: John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.” It seems like many of those folks only think of the verse prior: John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” Such folks are trying prove John 5:14 wrong! They're playing Church and then Playing in Sin. They sow their wild oats in the week and then rush to Church on Sunday to pray for crop failure. While God FORGIVES He still reminds us Galatians 6:7-8 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

Consider the mess the townspeople in the story got into. 1.) They had an infestation. You don't get an infestation of whatever overnight. It gradually happens. To me this is what has gradually happened – we drift away from God slowly. They may have tried to get rid of the rats but failed, and eventually they GOT USED TO THEM. THEY DID NOT SEEK HELP, “HELP” - purportedly – SOUGHT THEM. IF THE PIPER HAD BEEN OF GOD IT WOULD'VE WORKED BUT THE MAN WAS OF THE DEVIL.

Another reason they were in that mess was because they made a bargain with a sorcerer – the story tells of a man with a **MAGICAL FLUTE – THEY COMPROMISED!** - God's people are to have no dealings with witchcraft, spells, white or black magick, etc. These folks are said to have been at church when their calamity hit.

So many today are trying to claim God's Promises when they've **NOT** been **OBEDIENT TO HIM**. Consider Saul and Samuel:

1 Samuel 15:2-3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. 3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1 Samuel 15:10-11 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying, 11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

1 Samuel 15:13-14 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. 14 And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

Saul said **HE HAD OBEYED THE LORD – But it was only HALFWAY – at least in man's eyes!** To which Samuel **PLAINLY TOLD SAUL FROM GOD'S PERSPECTIVE HE HAD NOT OBEYED!**

1 Samuel 15:18-22 And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. 19 Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? 20 And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. 21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. 22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

**SAMUEL TO SAUL TO PAY THE PIPER – OBEY THE LORD!**

Finally, Some people think they can make a deal with the Highest

**PAY THE PIPER – DON'T MAKE A DEAL WITH GOD**

Over and over in the Bible we are told **NOT** to make promises or vows, yet **IF** we do – we **OUGHT TO KEEP THEM – Especially if/when these are made TO GOD – You know LORD, IM IN THIS (INSERT PICKLE, JAM, CRISIS, ETC HERE) IF YOU'LL GET ME OUT ETC THEN I'LL (INSERT PROMISE HERE).**

Listen to Moses Deuteronomy 23:21-23 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. 22 But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee. 23 That which is gone out of thy lips thou shalt keep and perform; even a freewill offering, according as thou hast vowed unto the LORD thy God, which thou hast promised with thy mouth.

Again, ASAPH warned Psalms 76:11 Vow, and pay unto the LORD your God: let all that be round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared.

Solomon laid it down in Ecclesiastes 5:2-7 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. 3 For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words. 4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. 5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. 6 Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands? 7 For in the multitude of dreams and many words there are also divers vanities: but fear thou God.

We ought NEVER to go BACK on our word to God – Now consider: Hebrews 11:32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Judges 11:30-39 And Jephthah vowed a vow unto the LORD, and said, If thou shalt without fail deliver the children of Ammon into mine hands, 31 Then it shall be, that whatsoever cometh forth of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return in peace from the children of Ammon, shall surely be the LORD'S, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering. 32 So Jephthah passed over unto the children of Ammon to fight against them; and the LORD delivered them into his hands. 33 And he smote them from Aroer, even till thou come to Minnith, even twenty cities, and unto the plain of the vineyards, with a very great slaughter. Thus the children of Ammon were subdued before the children of Israel. 34 And Jephthah came to Mizpeh unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances: and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. 35 And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the LORD, and I cannot go back. 36 And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the LORD, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth; forasmuch as the LORD hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon. 37 And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows. 38 And he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. 39 And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: and she knew no man. And it was a custom in Israel,

God does not approve of Human sacrifice (Deut. 12:30-31 and Lev. 18:21) but Jephthah did so because he RASHLY made a vow a promise to God. He PAINFULLY kept his word.

Jephthah is named in the Hall of Heroes of the Faith because he KEPT HIS VOW which so many fail to do and that is to PAY THE PIPER.

The wicked piper took away the children of Hamlin because he wasn't paid, We lose so much

in our lives many times because we fail to give God what is RIGHTFULLY HIS. We lose blessings, we lose favour, we lose joy, we lose so much when we fail to Pay God with our service, praise, hearts, minds and love. May we truly and honestly PAY OUR LORD – Not out of a scared fear but out of thankfulness and a healthy respect of Who He is!