

Salvation requirements. The good Samaritan parable. - The greatest commandment. - Need of charity according to the apostle Paul. - Mistake of sectarianism. - **Instructions from the spirits:** Without charity there is no salvation.

1. *When the son of humanity comes in his majesty with the angels he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him. He will separate people like a shepherd divides sheep from goats. He will put the sheep on his right hand side and the goats on his left.*

The king will say to those on his right hand side: - You, blessed of my God, come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world, because I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me water, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you covered me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.

Then the righteous will ask him: - Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you or thirsty and give you water? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you or naked and clad you? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the king will answer them: - Inasmuch as you did it to one of my least siblings, you did it to me.

The king will say to those on his left: - Depart from me, you cursed. Go into the fire, prepared for the devil and his assistants, because I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me no water, I was a stranger and you did not take me in, I was naked and you clad me not, I was sick and in prison and you visited me not.

Then they will ask him: - Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick or in prison and leave you helpless? Then the king will reply: - Inasmuch as you forsook one of my least siblings, you forsook me. Then Jesus completed: - These will go to punishment and the righteous to life. (Matthew 25:31-46.)

2. *A law doctor stood up and tempted him by asking: - Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? Jesus said to him: - What is written in the law? How do you read it? He replied: - You shall love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said to him: - You answered correctly. Do this and you will live.*

But the law doctor, wanting to justify himself, asked Jesus: - Who is my neighbor? Jesus answered him:

- A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among robbers who stripped him and inflicted him blows. They went away leaving him half dead. It chanced,

however, that a priest went down the same road. When the priest saw him, he passed by. Likewise, a Levite came to the place. He saw him and also passed by. Then a Samaritan traveler came and saw him with compassion on him. He bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine. He put him on his own beast, brought him to an inn and took care of him. In the next day he took out two silver coins, gave them to the host and said: Take care of him. Whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.

Then Jesus asked: - Which one of these three do you think was a neighbor to him that fell among thieves? He answered: - The one who had mercy on him. Then Jesus said: - Go and do likewise. (Luke 10:25-37.)¹

Salvation requirements. The good Samaritan parable

3. All Christian teachings can be summarized in charity and humility, virtues opposed to selfishness and pride. Jesus stresses that these virtues lead us to eternal happiness. He teaches the humble are blessed because the kingdom of Heaven is theirs. He says the pure-hearted, the meek, the peaceful and the merciful are blessed. He also tells us that we need to love everyone, including our enemies, as ourselves;

¹ - Quotations are in accordance with Bible primitive text, taken from Vulgata Latina.

that we have to do to others what we want others doing to us; that we must forgive others as much as we would like being forgiven; that we should do good secretly and that we must self-judge before judging others. Charity and humility: these are the virtues Jesus recommends, gives the example and clearly establishes as bliss requirement. Selfishness and pride: these are the vices Christ always fights.

Apart from its strong image, which was necessary to impress the people of that time, the Jesus' final judgment depiction presents a major idea: the righteous will rejoice and the wicked will suffer. On such supreme decision, what evidence is the sentence based upon? Does the judge ask the inquired ones if they fulfilled this or that formal practice? No! The decisionmaker asks but one question: Have you done charity? And pronounces: - Go to my right hand side those who have been charitable with their neighbors; Go left those who have been selfish. The judge does not ask if their faith was orthodox, or whether they believed according to this or that rite. Jesus places the Samaritan, who, although considered heretical, assisted a neighbor, above the cold-hearted priest. Beyond being fully opposed to selfishness and pride, charity comprises all other virtues: humility, kindness, benevolence, indulgence, justice etc. This is the reason why Christ places charity first. He considers it as the only salvation

requirement, not just one condition among others.

The greatest commandment

4. *Having heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. Then one of them, a law doctor, asked Jesus, aiming to tempt him: - Rabbi, which is the greatest commandment in the law? Jesus said to him: - You shall love God your Master with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And similar to the first is the second: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments embrace the whole law and the prophets. (Matthew 22:34-40.)*

5. Charity and humility: the only salvation pathway. Selfishness and pride: the ruin road. This guidance is contained in the words: “Love God with all your soul and love your neighbor as yourself; *these two commandments comprise all the law and the prophets.*” Besides, in order to prevent misinterpretation about the human love to the Most High, Jesus stresses that both commandments are similar. Therefore one cannot love God without loving neighbors, who are all God's children. Impairing a neighbor is the same as harming the Supreme Being. Thus,

all humankind's duties are summarized in the maxim: *WITHOUT CHARITY THERE IS NO SALVATION.*

Need of charity according to the apostle Paul

6. *I may even speak the languages of humans and angels. But if I lack charity I will be as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. I may understand all mysteries and all knowledge. I may have prophetic powers. I may even have all faith, so that I could move mountains, but if I lack charity I will be nothing. I may give away all that I have. I may offer my body to be burned. However, if I lack charity I will gain nothing.*

Charity is patient and kind. Charity is neither envious, nor arrogant, nor rude nor easily provokable. It neither seeks its own, nor thinks evil nor rejoices in wrongdoing. It rejoices in the truth. Charity bears all things, believes all things, hopes and suffers everything.

Faith, hope and charity: these virtues will remain. And among them, the greatest is charity. (Paul the Apostle, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7 and 13.)

7. The apostle greatly understood the true character of charity, so that he placed it

above even faith. Independent of any special belief, charity is within of reach of everyone, ignorant and wise, poor and rich. Remarking this, Paul still clarified that, more than beneficence, charity is the collective of all heart qualities, including goodness and benevolence toward all beings.

Mistake of sectarianism

8. Exclusivist religious or political thoughts like “out of doctrine there is no salvation” are intolerant and divide people. They favor deadlock and increase anger between the followers of different sects, who, often damning and persecuting each other, live as enemies even if they are relatives or friends. The father refuses his son, the son rejects his mother, and the friend hates their friends because one condemns the other's ideas. Such sectarian philosophies, which can separate siblings even in cemetery, are essentially mistaken.

9. The expression “out of truth there is no salvation” is also exclusivist, since all sects claim to possess the truth monopoly.

In the other hand, the maxim “*out of charity there is no salvation*” is a universal principle, which unites all God's children around the love flag. It opens the happiness road to everyone, no matter who they are and how they think, because everyone can practice charity.

Based upon equality before God, it respects belief freedom and encourages all humans to help each other. The Spiritist philosophy never says “out of Spiritism there is no salvation” because every person, no matter they are Spiritists or not, can achieve salvation provided they love their neighbors as themselves. Spiritism does not say “out of truth there is no salvation” because this thought is intolerant and feeds conflict, as earthly humans are still spiritually immature to understand all the truth.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SPIRITS

Without charity there is no salvation

10. My children, the principle *Without Charity There is no Salvation* encloses the human destiny both on the Earth and in space. On the planet because beneath this banner people will live in peace. In the spiritual world because those who practice charity will receive God's grace. Charity is the celestial beacon, the bright lighthouse which will guide humankind during the life storm, putting them on the correct course toward the Promised Land. In the spiritual world it shines like a saintly halo on the chosen ones' brow. On the Earth, it is engraved inside the hearts of those to whom Jesus will say: Go to my right hand side, blessed of my God. You will recognize them by the goodness

perfume they spread. Nothing can better summarize Jesus' thought and human duties as this divine maxim, a reflection of the purest Christianity. By presenting this motto as a rule, the Spiritist doctrine clearly shows its origin. Human beings will never go astray wheter they follow this sublime guidance. Struggle to understand the deep meaning and the consequences of this maxim. Then discover the many ways you can practice charity. Submit all your activities to this divine light and your conscience will respond. Besides preventing you from doing wrong, charity will drive you to doing good, because idle virtues are insufficient. Moral qualities must be active! Charity demands willpower action, whereas, in order to abstain from wrongdoing, one just needs to keep inert or unconcerned.

My friends, God has allowed you to enjoy the Spiritist enlightenment. Be very grateful about it. Salvation does not demand you to follow this philosophy, but it helps you to understand and practice the Jesus' teachings. Let your good example show to your fellow beings that the true Spiritist and the true Christian is one and the same. All those who practice charity are the God's beloved servants, no matter the diverse beliefs they might follow. - *Paul the Apostle*. (Paris, 1860.)