

Scott's Thoughts

December 15, 2024



“The Mighty One, God, the Lord! The Mighty One, God, the Lord! He knows; and let Israel itself know! If it was in rebellion or in breach of faith against the Lord, do not spare us today” (Joshua 22:22, ESV)

I was listening to the radio in my truck on Friday as I drove to and from Wichita, making several stops along the way. The station was a country-western one with the tagline, “We are putting the western back in country western.” I don't know how many songs they had in their rotation that day, but I do remember hearing one song at least three times. It's amazing how the right tune and a catchy phrase can grab one's attention on a subconscious level. You're riding along, and by the second or third time, you hear yourself singing along during the chorus. This is what happened to me Friday afternoon.

That's when I stopped singing and started listening very closely to the words. The basic premise of the song was that “Me and Jesus have our own private relationship; it is custom-made just for me and Him.” There are comforting thoughts when thinking along those lines, but while they may comfort our human souls, they can also be thoughts of great danger.

Believing that Jesus has made a special way just for us to have salvation—one that checks all the right boxes, allowing us to keep all the things in our lives that we really enjoy while discarding only the items that we really don't care for—is a belief that a whole

world population could get behind. There is only the problem of “One.”

Clearly, the Bible states that there is “One God.” Those exact words are found at least nine times in the scriptures. Then we find this passage in Ephesians: “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all” (Ephesians 4:4–6, ESV).

One, one, one again and again—“ONE.” None of this speaks to a multitude of different deals. The Gospel that Jesus told the twelve to preach to the whole world was specific and therefore exclusive. There were not twelve men preaching twelve different ways to obey the Gospel but twelve different men speaking by the power of the “One Spirit” so that people of different languages could all hear and, without misunderstanding, obey the “One Gospel” and gain the “one hope” of “One Salvation.”

The result would be God's Church. This is the reason Christians in the first century could find the distinct people of God when they traveled.

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Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott