The Church of Monett

"Knowing therefore the Terror of the Lord we persuade men."

The Root and the Fruit of the Modern Salvation Message

3

Can Man Please God?

In comparison with Protestantism, the Anabaptists had a different take on mans responsibility to God. As we mentioned before, Michel Schneider believed man *was* capable of doing Gods will, and this desire to please God was the very grounds for salvation. We might paraphrase Michel by saying - "If you dont please God you dont get saved". On the other hand, Luther understood God as being harsh, and unsatisfiable. Anything man did in obediance would ammount to filth in the eyes of God. The Anabaptists didnt see things that way. Michel states:

> "Christ Jesus came to earth to teach men the right way to go, to teach them to turn from sin and follow him..."

According to Michel the purpose of Jesus coming to Earth was to show man how to follow His example, never once does he suggest man is incapable of living such a life but rather he assserts that living such a life is the very basis of salvation:

> But the man who does not follow Christ is not redeemed by the blood of Christ, and his sins will never be forgiven.¨

According to the Anabaptist view, man *is* capable of pleasing God, and God expects such a desire from His followers, and the ability, or willingness to do it wasn't the result of some magical faith experience the way that Luther postulated. But rather, mans

desire to do the will of God was the substance of faith.

Quote from secret of the strength about faith - I cant find it now. It said something like "faith is obediance".

"The Early Anabaptists teachings of Salvation" from the "Secret of the Strength"

> "The words of Christ in the Gospels, especially in the Sermon on the Mount, were for the Anabaptists the seligmachende Lehre (teachings of salvation) to which the Old Testament was an introduction, and to which the New Testament epistles gave testimony. The Anabaptists did not lightly regard any of the Scriptures (they used and quoted the apocryphal books freely), but the Gospels were for them the doorway to them all. Every understanding of the Scriptures was a mistaken understanding, they believed, if it did not match the example of Christ and his teaching in the Gospels. In the Gospels the Anabaptists found the teachings of Christ, to which the following passages are the open door:

> As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him (Matthew 4:18-22). Another disciple said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus told him, "Follow me and let the dead bury their own dead" (Matthew 8:21-22). As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him (Matthew 9:9).

> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25). Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:25-27). "In the same way, any of you who

does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33)

Chapter 4 →

This website is not copyrighted. Feel free to reproduce the content en-masse.