

Christians with No Denominational Ties

By: Bill Hall

God places great emphasis on names. He changed Abram's name to Abraham (Gen. 17:5), Sarai's name to Sarah (Gen. 17:15), and Jacob's name to Israel (Gen. 32:38). He gave to John and Jesus their names before they were born (Luke 1:31,32). He has given to His people of this age the name "Christian" (Acts 11:26; 1 Peter 4:16). He has given no sectarian or denominational names, but rather condemns them (1 Cor. 1:10-13). The great need of our day is for men and women to forsake their denominational ties, be nothing but Christians, and call themselves "Christians," with no other religious names.

It is of interest to note that leaders in the prominent denominations, including some of their founders, recognized and preached this truth. N. B. Hardeman, in his *Tabernacle Sermons* (Volume IV, pages 216, 217), gives quotes from Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, and John Wesley in which they plead for unity.

Charles Spurgeon, a prominent Baptist preacher, is quoted as saying: "I look forward, with pleasure, to the day when there will not be a Baptist living. I hope they will soon be gone. I hope the Baptist name will soon perish; but let Christ's name endure forever." (*Spurgeon's Memorial Library*, Vol. I, page 168).

The quote from Martin Luther: "I pray you to leave my name alone, and call not yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. Who is Luther? My doctrine is not mine. I have not been crucified for anyone. St. Paul would not let any call themselves after Paul, nor of Peter, but of Christ. How then, does it befit me, a miserable bag of dust and ashes, to give my name to the children of God? Cease, my dear friends, to cling to these party names and distinctions: away with them all; and let us call ourselves only Christians after Him from whom our doctrine comes." (*The Life of Luther*, by Stork, page 289).

Brother Hardeman's quote from John Wesley, founder of the Methodist church: "Would to God that all party names and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christian world were forgot; that we might all agree to sit down together as humble, loving disciples at the feet of a common Master, to hear His words, to imbibe His spirit, and to transcribe His life into ours."

We cannot help but wonder what changes would have taken place in religious history had the followers of these men heeded their pleas. The pleas, however, went unheeded.

Denominationalism with its religious division exists and will continue to exist until our Lord comes to "root it up" (Matt. 15:13). But meanwhile, no one has to be a part of the denominational system; no one should be a part of it. Today, one can be just a Christian—as was Paul, or Peter, or James, or John with membership in nothing but a local church made up of other Christians. Faithful churches of Christ, with no denominational affiliations, meet throughout the world.

Memory Verse

Revelation 12:9

So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

5/25/25

Gospel Meeting

Guest Speaker

Jay Dixon

June 27th-29th, 7:00 PM Nightly

Sunday morning Bible Study, 10 AM

Sunday morning worship 11 AM

Sunday evening worship 6 PM

seeking Truth



Southend Church of Christ,
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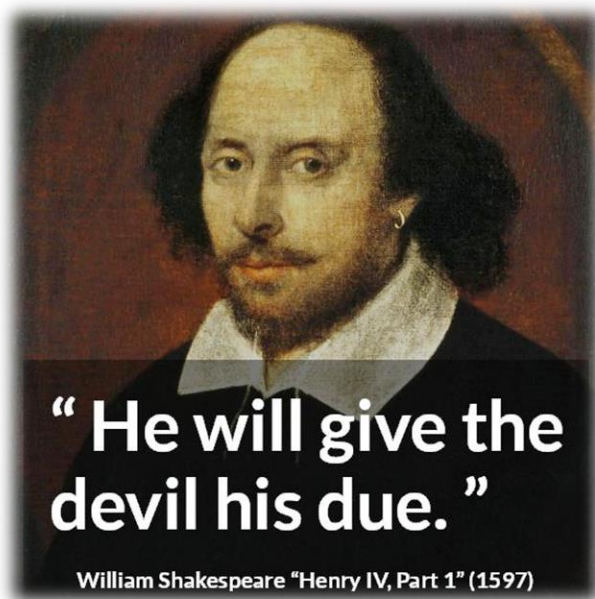
Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

Everyone is Welcome To Attend!



Give the Devil his Due

By: Stacey E. Durham

Have you ever heard the phrase “give the devil his due”? Some use this as an idiom that means to give credit to an enemy.

For example, a politician might say this to acknowledge that his opponent does something successfully, even though he disapproves of his opponent.

Should we actually give the devil his due? Scripture acknowledges Satan’s craftiness and power (Gen. 3:1; 2Cor. 4:4; 11:3; Eph. 2:2). He successfully “deceives the whole world” (Rev. 12:9), and “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” (1John 5:19).

Certainly, we should respect these aspects of the devil in the same sense we respect the power of something dangerous and destructive like a bomb or a tornado. He “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1Pet. 5:8), so we must regard him seriously.

Nevertheless, there should not be a hint of admiration for the devil or his tactics. Nothing he does should be imitated or employed. Jesus said that he “was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him” (John 8:44). Our wicked and evil adversary and enemy is not due any praise or accolades from anyone.

So then, what are we due to give the devil? The answer is resistance. This is what Satan deserves from us, not because we owe it to him, but because we owe it to our Lord. Jesus has equipped us for resisting the devil with the “full armor of God” (Eph. 6:11-12). God’s word instructs us to resist, saying, “Do not give the devil an opportunity” (Eph. 4:27), and, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (Jas. 4:7; see also 1Pet. 5:9). Jesus Himself gave us an example of such resistance when He overcame Satan’s temptations (Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 4:15). Let us follow in His footsteps.

Ultimately, the devil’s full due will be rendered not by us but by the Lord Jesus Himself. Satan’s judgment is not for us to pronounce, for even Michael the archangel “did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, ‘The Lord rebuke you!’” (Jude 9). The Lord will indeed rebuke the devil, and his just and due punishment is figuratively depicted in Revelation 20:10. That passage says, “And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

The devil is due for eternal destruction, and so are those who are enslaved to him. Jesus will pronounce that judgment, saying, “Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matt. 25:41).

Therefore, let us escape from the power of Satan through faith in Jesus (Eph. 2:1-7; 2Tim. 2:25-26; Heb. 2:14), and let us resist the devil so that we will not share in what is due for him.