

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Necessary

"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things." – Winston Churchill

"I have learned that only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. First, let her think she's having her own way. And second, let her have it." – Lyndon B. Johnson

"All intelligent thoughts have already been thought; what is necessary is only to try to think them again." – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

"To gather with God's people in united adoration of the Father is as necessary to the Christian life as prayer." – Martin Luther

Obviously, in this life, there are matters which are necessities. It is absolutely necessary that we consume food and water. Our survival depends upon it. It is necessary that we breathe, for without it we would die. It is necessary that we sleep, for without it we could not function.

As we look at the sacred text, we become aware of those things which are good in nature, and then there are those things which are undeniably necessary. For example, consider salvation.

The Bible makes us aware of the existence of sin. "There is none righteous, no, not one; ...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:10,23). "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

We note that there are things which are essential if we want salvation from our sins. "...for it you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins" (John 8:24). "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3,5). "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 10:33). "There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 3:21).

When the apostle Peter was sent to Cornelius by the angel, Cornelius was admonished – "He will tell you what you must do" (Acts 10:6). Later as Peter rehearsed the events, Cornelius was told, "Who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved" (Acts 11:14).

These matters were not optional, but necessary for the salvation of those souls involved, just as it is necessary for us today.