

## PIGS AND PEOPLE

God's people are likened to many things in the Bible, including various animals. Peter likens certain Christians to pigs. He writes, "*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire*" (II Pet. 2:20-22).

Though the idea of the dog returning to his own vomit is disgusting to us and rightly should be, for the Christian that returns to the world should be disgusting to us, it is the sow returning to her wallowing in the mire that we wish to consider.

First, note that she had previously been covered in the filth of the mire, but had been washed and made clean. Such is the person that has become a child of God. All who have reached accountable age have soiled themselves with sin (Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 3:23).

In Peter's analogy, those filthy sows had been washed clean. Upon hearing God's word and obeying it, we can have the filth of sin washed away, not the filth of the flesh, but the guilt of sin. Jesus said one is made clean through the word (John 15:13). Paul enumerated a number of the filthy sins that the Corinthians had been guilty of (I Cor. 6:9-10). He then said, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Cor. 6:11). Paul was told to "...arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Just as those sows had defiled themselves again by returning to their wallowing in the mire, when a child of God returns to the sinful practices of their past life of sin (whether it be in short order or after years of remaining clean), they are just as filthy as they had been prior to having been washed clean. Their filth is made even more odious because of their cleansing by the precious blood of the Lamb. It took the death of Christ on the cross to cleanse us and we "crucify the Son of God afresh" (Heb. 6:6) when we return to the mire.

*Tilis*

## SAY WHAT?

Most people are woefully ignorant of things that are truly important for them to know. In the political realm I have heard one man who often speaks of the politically uninformed. There is no realm that this is any more true than in the realm of Christianity. If religion comes up in a conversation, not many words will go by before a scripturally knowledgeable person could legitimately say, "say what?". Consider just a few such ignorant statements that could bring about such a response.

Often we hear someone say that we need to accept Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior. We do have to accept the fact that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and willingly confess that truth. However, generally when this is said, the speaker means that all one has to do to be saved is believe in Jesus. God's word tells us that we must obey His word (Heb. 5:8-9; II Thess. 1:8; John 14:15).

How about, "join the church of your choice"? Is this something that can be found in God's inspired word? The answer is obviously "NO", you can't. The Bible teaches that there is just one church in which there is salvation and that church is the one that Christ built (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:4, 5:23). Biblical ignorance is the origin of this statement.

And, then there are those who provide a "I feel it in my heart" as the proof that they are saved. Now, just where in all of God's word does one come up with such nonsense? It simply is not found there. The word "feelings" is not found in the Bible at all and the word "feeling" is only found twice (Eph. 4:19; Heb. 4:15), neither which have anything at all to do with grounds for thinking one is saved. Again, it is just ignorance talking.

Dependence on "the sinner's prayer" which says something to effect that one believes that God has for Christ' sake pardoned them of their sins, is another commonly heard statement in religious circles. Again, it simply is not found in the Bible. There is not a single example in the entire New Testament of an alien sinner being told to pray in order to be saved.

So, from where do people get this kind of nonsense? They get it from listening to mere men (Matt. 15:9) and Jesus said concerning this, "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Mat. 15:14). *Tilis*