

Occasional Update #1

Saturday 16 April 2022

"You shall have no other gods before Me." (Exodus 20:3)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"Commit your way to the LORD, trust in Him, and He will act." (Psalm 37:5)

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done."
(Luke 22:42)

WHO IS OUR 'SUPREME LEADER'?

Michael Palin travels the world, visiting various countries, and making TV programs about each country. A few weeks ago, there was a program on TV about his visit to North Korea. Near the end of his conducted tour, he asked his guide what she thought about the Western form of leadership compared with North Korea's. She gave a reply (probably a 'well scripted' reply that their tour guides always give) that in the West you can choose your leaders from time to time and do what they think is best for you. In our country, our Supreme Leader knows what is best for us, so we do what he says, because he knows best.

As Christians (followers of Jesus), do we always do what He tells us? He is the only 'Supreme Leader' who *always* knows what is best! Or do we sometimes 'water down', ignore, or disobey what the Lord says? After all, He is Almighty God – our Creator, Sustainer and Saviour – He is unlike any human leader who dies and needs to be replaced, for example, by the next-in-line 'Supreme Leader' (as in the Kim dynasty family line). Jesus died but rose again three days later – He is *always* King of kings and Lord of lords!

God always wants the best for us but sometimes we may deny it, question it, or reject it, and go our own way instead of following our 'Supreme Leader'.

The more we, the Church, our country, and the world, deviate from what the only true 'Supreme Leader' says, the more problems we will have. The **Lord** knows what is best for us, and because of His love, that is what He wants for us.

Adam and Eve thought they knew best, and disobeyed God. (Genesis 3:1-7)

Job questioned God about what was happening to him. (Job ch. 40-42)

Peter rebuked Jesus for what He said about how He would die. (Mark 8:31-33)

Satan tempted Jesus to do what was *not* the will of His Father. Jesus refused, the third time saying, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only Him'." (Matthew 4:10)

Jesus knew His Father's ways were best! Even in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me ..."; He *also* said, "... yet not My will but Yours be done." (Luke 22:42) What if Jesus had *not* gone to the cross and died for us? Where would we be today? Left in our sins, unforgiven, without eternal life! But our 'Supreme Leader', Guide and Protector gave His life for us. He died; He rose again; He ascended to Heaven. We also will die, but because of Him, we also will rise again, and ascend to Heaven; to eternal life – to be with Him forever, in His glorious presence. Praise the Lord!

FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Praise God that He is our Leader. For what He has done for us. For His guidance. For His help to follow His ways. For His perfect and eternal love. For forgiveness for our disobedience; and for His saving grace.

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