

Ryan:

Our meeting with Papaw (May 25, 2015 between 9 and 11:30 P.M):

We arrived at his house at around 9:30 P.M. It was a miracle that we arrived without hardly being touched by rain on the 3 hour drive, seeing that we had thunderstorms before and behind. We told him how glad we were to see him, when we came and introduced him to the children and spoke about many things of the world and hobbies and the children and weather and our families and his history for the first hour and a half at least, desiring to honor him and fund rapor. Early on he mentioned a little vaguely something about not seeing us for a while, which is true and we were there in part to fix that. We haven't seen him in part because he has not wanted us to come, if we are going to be Christians, which is to love the biblical Jesus with all of your heart and your neighbor as yourself, and seeing that my wife has been burdened for her grandfather since long before we were married based upon plain teachings of Scripture and his lifestyle, but has hardly expressed it to him, she knew she would be obliged to at least speak to him about it as the only reasonable and loving thing to do in order to deal faithfully with his never dying soul on some level.

In all honesty, we were intending to possibly stay the night, not expecting that things would turn the way they did. Indeed, we didn't imagine he would be so hard hearted and set in darkness, not even willing to talk about the Scriptures, though he be 90 years old... but sadly though this be inexcusable biblically it is how he was. Had he been reasonable on any level we no doubt would have stayed with him, even if he was unwilling to fully believe our concerns for him by way of Scripture and hopefully would be seeing him much more regularly. The problem was that he wanted us to treat him as one who loves God with all their hearts and is a Christian, as he was constantly trying to tell us he is confident he is saved, while not even wanting to talk about God, Jesus, or act in any way as a Christian on the most basic levels of reasonability, transparency, openness to Scripture, eternal mindedness, et cetera.

More about how the night went. The night started out as such: having arrived, he spoke very passionately about sports and television, above other things, on numerous occasions. He watches T.V. a lot obviously and talked about it. He in fact didn't turn off the weather channel until the end of the meeting. That was not necessarily so negative seeing there were storms. He was intimately acquainted with what sports were in season and what were not. Regarding religion, he did speak about how he prays for the children everyday and he at one point did show us his Bible in the first hour and a half and said that he reads it every day and he is confident in his salvation, but those things seemed to be what he was trying to get across to us to justify his profession of salvation. They were one liners it seems intended to put away the talk about God so that we all could speak about what he really loves, the world. This is a reasonable conclusion in light of what followed. He told us as well that he will be ninety years old in November.

The end of the night is the most important, here is the account: toward the last thirty minutes, I asked him about the history of his family and church and he shared how he had always been dissatisfied with the R.C.C and how he met Virginia his now deceased wife in Arkansas, as he was doing construction up there. While my wife was out of the room for some of this brief time, he shared how he switched churches and wanted forgiveness of his sins. He said it wasn't hard for him to receive Christ. Fearfully, in his testimony was no mention of the New Birth, repentance, a new heart, nothing of being broken as a sinner and seeing himself as a wretched man, a worm, coming to God through Jesus Christ as a desperately needed Saviour (like the three thousand at Pentecost for instance who were 'pricked' in their hearts coming like that as an irreplaceable, though non-meritorious precursor for salvation, and every other historical and extra biblical testimony of true salvation - e.g. see also the Jailor testimony in Acts 16 and the Lord's words in Matt. 9:12-13). He did not mention salvation being of God either, there was no mention of the cross and being identified with Christ in His death burial and resurrection which is the plain teaching of baptism, there was no mention of salvation being a miracle, turning from the world as a vile thing, seeing the vanity of a life without God, coming into vital union and fellowship with God and His Spirit through the Gospel after a life of spiritual darkness, no reference to absolute surrender to the Lordship of Christ, nor was there any thought for sanctification and holiness that could be even hinted at. He could have missed some of these things and missed others but he mentioned none. There was obviously an ignorance of the Gospel which is the only way if salvation. The most fearful thing about all of this was that he not only didn't mention these things, but he wasn't even open in the slightest to speaking about any of these things or the lack thereof, even on the most basic of levels. He was in other words in darkness and didn't want to talk about salvation, the most blessed theme to anyone who has truly experienced. Consider how many hymns have been written about it from a heart of joy manifest in all them that experience it in truth (e.g. And Can It Be).

Note, because of these things which were missing in both accounts of his testimony (for Joy had come out and also asked him about his testimony, as you will hear below) that he shared, Joy was compelled to speak about the gospel (hence she eventually asked about 2 Corinthians 5:17, expounded on having a new heart, etc). Please keep reading to understand...

After this, my wife kindly asked about his testimony and heard him out also. He spoke about how he had no problem coming out of the R.C.C church in Arkansas around 70 years ago, when he was working construction up there. He wanted to believe that all of his sins were forgiven, and the R.C.C he says was not saying that then and they were losing people because of it, but they share the plan of salvation now, he says.

After sharing all of that, my wife asked him if she could share a Scripture. It would have been the first one of the night. All of the sudden he became seriously defensive and stumbled to say, "your not trying to turn me", before she had shared anything, showing that he was already hardened against us as "Christians" because that is normal Christian behavior, to want to speak about the Lord, the gospel, Jesus Christ, et al (In the Lewis revival, when God came, all people generally spoke of and were concerned for was salvation of themselves and or others). My wife said I just wanted to share a Scripture, and he did reluctantly let her share it at this point. She shared 2 Corinthians 5:17 and said something about "that's what happens at salvation." She also said it is not changing churches. She was hardly able to go on however, for he was extremely defensive at this point and interrupted her, refusing to speak about salvation. We had spoken about everything else for an hour and a half before this and were by no means overbearing at this point. Despite that, he asked if we were trying to come and "disciple him" like Joy asked to do in an email requesting a visit awhile ago" and he said he didn't want us to and he was confident in his salvation and that he is happy. He said at some point he's been saved for 70 years to try to justify that there is no need to speak about salvation with him. He said Virginia (his wife who had passed) was happy being this way and she is in heaven and he is going to be with her in Heaven. He said, "I don't want to talk about it, so that nobody gets hurt." He said that he didn't think we would do this when we came (as though we were doing something wrong, but again I reiterate, we did not force anything and w're just being Christians who speak about more than superficial things and are transparent, yet he is against that. It is darkness.)

I now said something here to strengthen my wife, who had been interrupted and silenced and who was now weeping because her grandfather was so unwilling to talk about the gospel, salvation, and Jesus Christ. I said that I didn't grown up as a R.C.C, but as a Protestant in form, but I never had 'vital reality' with God. I shared how my wife prays sometimes at 3:00 a.m., she is burdened for souls, she wakes up and wants to study the word, she encourages the sisters. I was trying to prove she was a new creature basically. As I was sharing these things, he said unkindly and as though to revile our Christianity that "he doesn't want our religion and he doesn't want to talk about it and if we want to talk about it we should just leave."

It was shameful behavior and much darkness. At this point, my wife asked with tears and much meekness, kindness, and slowness, with a glowing countenance, "can I share something about Christ?" He grievously cut her off and said that he's saved, he's happy, he's gloriously saved, and he doesn't want to talk about it with us and we can't convert him and we can't change him. He said that we're not making him question anything and he knows he's saved. O may the Lord have mercy!

At this point I said that my wife was not saying whether you are saved or lost, she merely wanted to talk about Jesus Christ because she loves him and what you love you want speak about. If you loved your wife you would want to speak about her, if you love sports which I once did but they were an idol to me, you want to speak about them, and my wife loves Jesus Christ Who shed His blood for her and wants to speak about Him.

He brought up at that point, where do we want the children to sleep and Joy said anywhere vaguely, it doesn't matter. Then I said we love you, we care about you, we are glad to see you (very slowly), we want to see you much more Lord willing, and are glad that you are able to be introduced to our children, but we will be leaving, we are Christians, we love Jesus Christ more than anything and we can't but talk about Jesus Christ and be Christians. My wife said also around this time, "I'm a Christian, I have to talk about Him, I can't not talk about Him". He said he's saved and he'll talk about the Lord, but he's not the noisy type. He also bitterly and in a reviling way said he's not a "holy roller" at this point (I believe because I had mentioned sports were an idol to me). His Lord is not holy by how he was speaking here, obviously belittling holiness (see Hebrew. 12:14, 1Pet 1:13-15). He said there's a group, he doesn't know who it is, that is researching our religion, this was also derogatory, but we love him and just wanted mercy. He did say thank you for your concern around this point, but I'm fine. I said that I was thankful he was being more kind at that point than he had been but how could your granddaughter who loves you not share her concerns when she's concerned about your eternal soul? (I said that because for a moment his tone wasn't so rough). I also explained that we don't want to be cowards.

Note, every time he said 'your religion' I said we're Christians and measure everything by the scriptures. This he was unwilling to do.

At that point, I was packing up our stuff and Joy followed Papaw to the kitchen as he did a few dishes and then he hugged her good bye and she pled with him how God is holy and hates sin and that this is sin what he is doing in not wanting to talk about the Lord and that all who die in sin will not go to heaven (see 1 Jn. 1:7). He cut her off again saying that he is fine, thank you for your concern but he wasn't even willing to listen to her, he was despising her. He said "I won't go to sleep until like 3:00 A.M. because of this." He wasn't even looking at her most of this time. It was completely uncourteous and disrespectful. He said that before she got married she was a sweet and godly girl, and the most sincere in the family but she's different since she's been married. Joy was weeping more profusely at this point. He shook my hand and I told him in a very loving tone that Joy loves you and she is the godliest woman I know and she loves Jesus Christ with all her heart. And I said if I was you I would listen to her. Joy told him that she was saved before she was married and was walking with the Lord but she wasn't faithful to his soul and to tell him of the things in his life that weren't pleasing to the Lord, like the TV with all of the evil that comes from it and that she was sorry for not being more faithful.

We gathered up the children to leave and I made sure the children said goodbye (numerous times) then I took the children out. He was trying to grievously run from Joy, his weeping granddaughter, who was still trying to share with her aged and dying grandfather, by opening the door for me. I left with two of the children.

Joy told him goodbye and that she was afraid she would never see him again. She started to tell him how salvation is a miraculous change in the heart and he stopped her again saying he didn't want to hear and he was fine. Joy was weeping. He said he liked her the way she was before she was married and he doesn't want what she has. Joy looked him in the eyes and said she loves Jesus Christ with all her heart and that she loves him. He told her good bye and started to shut the door and go back in as she walked off. And turned the light off real quick. That was the end. May the Lord have mercy!

"19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."