

aug 9

am i my brother's keeper?

"then the Lord said to cain, "where is abel your brother?" he said, "i do not know. am i my brother's keeper?" gen 4:9

edward victor hill sr. was an american pastor. he was senior pastor at the mount zion missionary baptist church in los angeles, california from 1961 until his death in 2019. under his leadership, the church became one of the largest african-american congregations in the united states.

pastor e.v. hill used to tell of a time he received threats about his preaching about that "white Jesus." this was his reply:

"i don't know anything about a white Christ - i know about Christ, a Savior named Jesus. i don't know what color He is. He was born in brown asia, He fled to black africa, and He was in heaven before the gospel got to white europe, so i don't know what color He is. i do know one thing: if you bow at the altar with color on your mind, and get up with color on your mind, go back again - and keep going back until you no longer look at His color, but at His greatness and His power - His power to save!"

pastor hill was a prominent figure within the wider baptist movement. he also served as co-chair of the baptist world alliance and was closely aligned with fellow evangelists such as billy graham.

my mother and i used to watch pastor hill years ago when he would appear on the tbn network with paul and jan crouch. he was on often and was a favorite guest. you did not see black or white - you only saw Jesus.

what pastor hill would have to say about things today. even today i am not sure of what to call people without offense. is it latino, hispanic or mexican? is it african-american, negro or black.

now that segregation has ended, it seems that black people are now claiming superiority over whites even as whites once claimed it over blacks. some seek restitution from their fellows for the deeds of their ancestors as though there was no sin in any of their ancestors.

there are a few of the older generation of whites with held prejudices, but they are quickly dying out, while many of the younger generation of blacks seek revenge. i think the problem here is not one of color. it is one of good versus evil; one of love versus hate; one of mercy versus malice.

there is much talk today of equity, inclusion and tolerance. much of the world (including the church) have adopted the latter two trying to ensure the first. in fact, only one thing is true: "there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." rom 8:1

"but why do you judge your brother? or why do you show

contempt for your brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." rom 14:10 it is there and only there that true "equity" will be assured. and unless one is born again, none of us will rejoice when it comes. you know what they say: "be careful what you ask for. you just may get it."

the definition of equity: "equality of rights; natural justice or right; the giving, or desiring to give, to each man his due, according to reason, and the law of God to man; fairness in determination of conflicting claims; impartiality."

i don't know about anyone else but i want mercy over justice. i know what i deserve. "for judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. mercy triumphs over judgment." james 2:13 the only blood i seek to draw is that from Jesus. but to get mercy you must give it. "therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." gal 6:10

as much as grace will allow, let us be our brother's keeper. let us keep them from falling into everlasting darkness and separation from God. red and yellow, black and white - they are precious in His sight. maranatha!