

March 29, 2005

Flannery O'Connor "Wise Blood"

Compiled by Kirk Irwin

"What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written:

Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on him will not be put to shame."

Romans 9:30-33

"Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,

And

A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense

They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed."

I Peter 2:7-8

"There was already a deep black wordless conviction in him that the way to avoid Jesus was to avoid sin."

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"'Then I met this Prophet here,' he said, pointing at Haze on the nose of the car. 'That was two months ago, folks, that I heard how he was out to help me, how he was preaching the Church of Christ Without Christ, the church that was going to get a new jesus to help me bring my sweet nature into the open where ever'body could enjoy it. That was two months ago, friends, and now you wouldn't know me for the same man. I love ever'one of you people and I want you to listen to him and me and join our church , the Holy Church of Christ without Christ, the new church with the new jesus, and then you'll all be helped like me' Haze leaned forward. 'This man is not true,' he said 'I never saw him before tonight. I wasn't preaching this church two months ago and the name of it ain't the Holy Church of Christ Without Christ.'"

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Questions:

Why is Jesus a stumbling stone? What are the things that our culture has difficulty in understanding about Jesus?