

He Cannot Attain Salvation Who Does Not Believe in The Messenger of Allah and Profess The Religion Brought by Him

(٨/٨) عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ قَالَ وَالَّذِي نَفْسُ مُحَمَّدٍ (ﷺ) بِيَدِهِ لَا يَسْمَعُ بِي أَحَدٌ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْأُمَّةِ يَهُودِيٍّ وَلَا نَصْرَانِيٍّ ثُمَّ يَمُوتُ وَلَمْ يُؤْمِنْ بِالَّذِي أُرْسِلْتُ بِهِ إِلَّا كَانَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ النَّارِ. (رواه مسلم)

(8/8) Abu Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) has related that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "By Him in Whose Hand is the life of Muhammad, a Jew or a Christian of the present *Ummah* [i.e., belonging to the present age] who hears about me [i.e., the call of my Prophethood reaches him] and, yet, dies without affirming faith in the religion brought by me will, surely, be among the dwellers of Hell." (Muslim)

Commentary: The reference to the Jew and Christian in the above Tradition is only by way of an illustration. What it aims at emphasising is that when confirmed people of the Scripture, like Jews and Christians, can not achieve deliverance without acknowledging the Prophethood of Muhammad (ﷺ) and accepting the Islamic *Shari'ah* as their way of life, one can imagine what the end of the infidels and polytheists is going to be.

This Tradition clearly implies that in the current era of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) [which began with his raising up as the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) and shall endure till the Last Day] anyone to whom the call of his Prophethood reaches but he does not believe in him nor accept the religion revealed through him as his own and dies in that state, will go to Hell, be he a Jew or a Christian, i.e., the follower of an earlier Prophet and his Book and way of Law.

In a nutshell, with the raising up of the Last of the Prophets (ﷺ), salvation is not possible without affirmation of faith in him and acceptance of his *Shari'ah*. Whoever may not have received the knowledge of his mission or heard the call of Islam is, of course, free from guilt. It is a fundamental principle of Islam and any doubt or misgiving in respect of it can only be due to lack of appreciation

of the true significance of the mission of the sacred Prophet ﷺ.

(٩/٩) عَنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ بْنِ مَسْعُودٍ قَالَ جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى النَّبِيِّ ﷺ فَقَالَ يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ
 أَرَأَيْتَ رَجُلًا مِنَ النَّصَارَى مُتَمَسِّكًا بِالْإِنْجِيلِ وَرَجُلًا مِنَ الْيَهُودِ مُتَمَسِّكًا
 بِالتَّوْرَةِ يُؤْمِنُ بِاللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتَّبِعَكَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ ﷺ مَنْ سَمِعَ بِي مِنْ
 يَهُودِيٍّ أَوْ نَصْرَانِيٍّ ثُمَّ لَمْ يَتَّبِعْنِي فَهُوَ فِي النَّارِ. (اخرجه الدار قطنى فى الافراد)
 (9/9) It is related by Abdullah ibn Mas'ud رضي الله عنه that a person came
 to Prophet ﷺ and said, "O Messenger of Allah! There is a
 Christian who acts according to the Bible, and, in the same way,
 there is a Jew who obeys the commandments of the Torah and
 also believes in Allah and His Messenger, but does not profess
 your Faith nor accepts your *Shari'ah* — tell us, then, what is the
 verdict about them." The Prophet ﷺ replied: "The Jew or
 Christian who received the knowledge of what I tell [i.e., my
 call reached him], and yet he did not become my follower is
 sure to go to Hell." (Daraqutni¹)

Commentary: The above Tradition is even more explicit than the preceding one. It distinctly tells us that even though a Jew or a Christian believes in Allah and His Messengers (i.e., acknowledges the Oneness of God and the mission of the Messenger) but follows the Torah or the Bible in place of *Shari'ah* brought by the holy Prophet ﷺ, and regards it as sufficient for his salvation, he will not attain deliverance. The same truth has been propounded in the Qur'an in these words:

Say: If ye love Allah, follow me. Allah will love you and forgive you your sins.

(Aal-e-Imran 3:31)

”قُلْ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُحِبُّونَ اللَّهَ فَاتَّبِعُونِي
 يُحِبِّكُمْ اللَّهُ وَ يُغْفِرْ لَكُمْ
 ذُنُوبَكُمْ“ . (ال عمران ٣:٣١)

1. This Hadith is narrated by Mawlana Badr Aalam in *Tarjuman us Sunna*, v2 and I have reproduced it from there.