

WRITTEN BRIEFLY

Heb 13:22 But I urge you, brethren, bear with this word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

Brief outlines
and articles
that might be
to the edification
of the church
of the living God

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Your Life's Ambition

We (Christians) have as our ambition ... to be pleasing to Him (2 Cor 5:9)

Life is brief

Moses says life is like a night's sleep, David like a fading shadow, James like a vanishing vapor, and Peter like the withering grass. You are on a fast one-way street, never to pass this way again. In less than 100 years it will all be over; you will likely be long gone and scarcely remembered. The funeral home, the hearse, and the grave are at the end of the road. Are you spending your journey wisely? Are you on the right road? What is your life's ambition? What is the real purpose of life?

Pleasures

You say your goal in life is **PLEASURES**, a good time, to get all the gusto you can, to eat all you can, drink all you can, shoot all the drugs you can, have all the sex you can, and laugh all you can. But look down the road a ways. Will your life's ambition hold in the wheel chair? No, "burn out" is sure. You've spent your youth and energies. Your toes have curled, your teeth have rotted, your skin has wrinkled, and your lusts have withered like your body. What are left but a few fading memories whispering, "What was the use?" The tombstone will be your stop sign and the judgment of God will display all you have done in your body like an open closet door. God says, "It is appointed for men to die, and after this comes judgment".

Possessions

You say your goal in life is **POSSESSIONS**, to accumulate all you can. But I invite you to show me the house that hasn't rotted, the car that hasn't rusted, the clothes that haven't worn out or haven't been eaten by moths. Many are the elderly whose estates have been reduced to but a few sticks of furniture in a nursing home.

Howard Hughes, who was one of the wealthiest, came to the end of his career holed up in a hotel room, collecting his urine, eating only ice cream, with fingernails like bird's claws. What can mere things do for you when gaping for your last breath? The grave will even strip you of your precious wife and children.

Popularity

If your goal is **POPULARITY**, fame, reputation, and personal prominence? This boastful ugly show of self-life will see the curtains too. Again, take a tour of the cemetery (every town has one or more). Where are the successful? Truly, as someone said, "Death will always be the one signal failure of man." And furthermore, in two or three generations your name will be lost forever from the faceless, forgotten multitudes who have gone before. And besides, to what purpose, ultimately, is your supposed "influence for good" on mankind, when mankind itself will soon wink out of existence. God will surely close the world history book and burn the "Who's Who" at the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory.

The One Valid Goal

Listen, there is only **ONE VALID GOAL** in life – to live for God and love Him supremely. Isn't He worthy of the glory? God made us for Himself and a life spent for Him and with Him is fulfillment at its best yielding righteousness, peace and joy unspeakable. Your plans, ambitions and wishes are but hollow idols; throw them in the trashcan. **Take your splendid sins and cast them by faith on the mighty Savior, trusting that He died to pay your sin-debt – freely, fully, forgiven forever.** Get a Bible. Saturate your mind with it and find it to be a manifesto of the mind of God, an operator's manual for your soul, a blue print for building character, a rulebook for the race of life, a road map to heaven. Invest everything in God Himself. He alone has eternal life and those in union with Him through Jesus Christ will rise in the last day with a brand new body and live forever. Will you repent and believe, or will you press on and perish?

What does God say?

“All that is in the world,

- the lust of the flesh (**pleasures**)
- the lust of the eyes (**possessions**) and
- the boastful pride of life (**popularity**)

is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world is passing away, and also its lusts but the one who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:16, 17).

Make the will of God your career. Who are those who enter heaven at last? Those who do the will of God (Matthew 7:21).

The Revelation of God by Creation

Psa 8:3,4 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; what is man, that Thou dost take thought of him?

Job 12:7 But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

QUESTIONS

- Has God revealed himself?
 - How has God revealed Himself?
 - How do we know God is there?
 - Is there any proof or evidence that God is real?
 - Are there any indicators as to what God is like?
 - Is faith some leap in the dark?
 - What does the cosmos tell us of God?
 - How does creation reveal God?
1. THE FACT THAT SOMETHING IS HERE, RATHER THAN NOTHING, REVEALS GOD
- A. A building proves a builder, and so creation proves a creator
 - Heb 3:4 For every house is built by someone...
 - B. Evolution says all came from some elemental matter
 - 1) But where did that come from?
 - 2) Where did the first molecule come from?
 - 3) A child can understand that something can't come from nothing
 - 4) Empty your garage and wait for a car to appear
 - 5) The evolutionist says matter is eternal. But man still longs for answers – where did matter come from?
 - C. A thousand answers are contained in the first verse of the Bible – *in the beginning God created*

2. THE FACT OF ORDER, RATHER THAN CHAOS AND RANDOMNESS, REVEALS GOD

- A. Even the word “cosmos” means order
- Jer 31:35 Thus says the LORD, Who gives the sun for light by day, and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name
- B. God is a God of order
- 1 Cor 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order
- C. There is order in the big things – for example, the earth revolves around the sun at 66000 mph and turns at the equator at 1000 mph and yet with incredible precision
- D. There is order in the smallest things, such as
- 1) DNA
 - 2) Each of the 30 trillion cells in the human body contains the equivalent of a 4000 volume library
 - 3) The atomic chart reveals special ordering
- E. See the manifest wisdom of God seen in ordering distance and size
- Prov 3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.
 - Jer 10:12 It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom; And by His understanding He has stretched out the heavens.
- 1) The sun is just right
 - a) Right distance - 93 million miles away; if it were closer or farther, we would fry or freeze. Just the tilt of the earth, making a variation of only perhaps 1000 miles, produces summer and winter
 - b) Right mass
 - c) Right color
 - d) Right position in the galaxy
 - e) Right orbit
 - f) Is stable
 - g) Is alone and not with a cluster of stars
 - 2) If the earth were 10% larger, life would be impossible
 - 3) If the sea were 10 meters deeper, life would be impossible
- F. Laws must have a Lawgiver
- 1) Why is there a Law of gravity?

- 2) Why is a chemical reaction always the same?
 - 3) Why is the speed of light always the same?
 - G. Would evolution's big bang make order? Try setting a bomb off in your garage to straighten things up
 - H. Evolution teaches increasing order. That violates the Second Law of Thermodynamics which states that everything tends toward decreasing order – all houses tend to fall down
3. THE FACT OF MOTION REVEALS GOD – A MOTIVATOR
- A. If a ball were thrown in front of your face, you would know it was thrown by someone; that is, motion proves life
 - Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist
 - B. Consider the continual motion of the electrons and heavenly bodies – why don't they stop?
4. THE EXISTENCE OF LIFE REVEALS GOD
- A. Life reveals God
 - 1 Tim 6:13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things
 - Acts 17:25 neither is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things
 - B. Life is a mystery, for example, what is the difference between dead wood and living?
 - C. How can life come from non-life?
 - 1) How can grass come from rocks?
 - 2) Man can't make life
5. THE EXISTENCE OF PERSON-HOOD REVEALS GOD
- A. How can we get people from matter, rock, or water?
 - B. Are we only molecules extended?
 - C. Are we no different than a fly?
 - D. Man is made in the image of God
6. PURPOSEFUL DESIGN REVEALS A DESIGNER
- A. Newton: I would believe in God for no other reason than the thumb on my hand
 - B. Consider

- 1) Your eye
 - a) The location, lid, lashes, lens
 - b) There are 40 million nerve endings
 - c) The retina contains 137 million light sensitive cells
 - d) Darwin: To suppose that the eye could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree
- 2) The female pelvic structure for child birth
- 3) The animals
 - a) The feathers of a bird
 - b) The fur of the polar bear
 - c) The foot on the camel
 - d) The respiration of a fish
 - Job 12:8 Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you.

7. CONTINUITY REVEALS GOD

- A. There is conspicuous genetic continuity
 - Gen 1:11 Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed in them, on the earth"; and it was so.
- 1) Dogs don't have kittens
- 2) Apes don't have humans
- 3) Apes are still apes
- B. There is no major mutation
 - 1) Thus there are no transitional fossils
 - 2) Those transitional specimens that have been put forth have been found to be a hoax
 - a) Piltdown Man: in 1953 it was found to be a skull of 600 year old woman and jaw of 500 year old orangutan
 - b) Nebraska Man: built from one tooth of a pig
 - c) Neanderthal Man: found to be human not ape
 - d) Java Man: built from piece of skull, thigh bone, and 3 molar teeth
 - e) Heilelberg Man: built from jawbone, teeth
- C. Many things cannot exist in a transition state – for example,
 - 1) the flowers and the bees are inter-dependent
 - 2) both sexes must immediately be present to exist

- 3) that is, it takes all the parts of a mousetrap to catch a mouse
8. RATIONALITY – CREATION IS THE ONLY RATIONAL EXPLANATION
- A. Creation is the only thing that makes sense
 - B. Evolutionary theory self-destructs
 - 1) Chance-produced thoughts are meaningless
 - 2) The mind of man can't be trusted for anything, not even the theory of evolution
 - C. Darwin's own confessions: I was a young man with unformed ideas; I threw out questions and suggestions, wondering all the time over everything; and to my astonishment the ideas took like wildfire; people made a religion out of them
 - D. Darwin's "horrid doubt": perhaps my convictions are the product of a monkey's mind
 - E. Without God there is no meaning or purpose in life

CONCLUSIONS AND APPLICATIONS

1. We have a world-view that, though it is incomprehensible and yet requires faith, is rational
 - Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
- A. That is, we have an explanation for existence, otherwise everything is a 'cosmic accident playing a meaningless role in a drama without a plot' [Leiter]
 - Rev 4:11 You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created
- B. That is, science is possible
 - 1) There is a Creation and it is separate from Creator – whereas Pantheism [all is God] hinders use and exploration of the world
 - 2) The world is orderly; materials have inherent properties and this can be counted on
- C. That is, man has great worth; God who created us
 - Psa 100:3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us
 - 1) We are not the product of time and chance
 - 2) We are more than extended molecules

- 3) We are not animals or machines
 - 4) We are made in the image of God
 - 5) Our lives are not 'a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing'
- D. We have a supreme purpose – to glorify our Maker
2. Creation is one great distinction between the true God and the false (idols)
- Psa 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
 - 1 Cor 8:5,6 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.
 - Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands
3. Unchangableness in creation speaks of God's immutability and His unchangeable love
- Jer 31:36 "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the LORD, "Then the offspring of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before Me forever."
4. The intricacies, balance, diversity and unity in creation speak of God's skill and wisdom
- Prov 3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens.
 - Psa 104:24 O LORD, how many are Thy works! In wisdom Thou hast made them all
- A. Perfect balance, exquisite order, clock-like precision, enduring strength
- B. There are 75000 pores in your skin that can be covered by a grain of sand
- C. There are 34000 lenses in the eye of a butterfly
- D. Think of the marvel of the unity of creation along with diversity
- 1) variety of trees
 - 2) variety of snowflakes
 - 3) variety of insects
 - 4) Variety of fish
 - 5) Variety of fruit

- 6) Variety of individual appearance
- E. Rain
 - 1) The clouds themselves are a miniature ocean – one inch of rain on one acre = 116 tons of water
 - Job 26:8 "He wraps up the waters in His clouds; And the cloud does not burst under them.
 - 2) Yet God gives it in little droplets, like a gardener with his watering can
- F. Thus, we should trust his wisdom and let him have
 - 1 Pet 4:19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
5. The immensity of creation speaks of the greatness of God
 - A. The speed of light is the measuring stick for the heavenlies
 - 1) It takes 8 minutes for light to come from the sun
 - 2) The nearest galaxy is 2.7 million light years away
 - 3) Million of stars in millions of galaxies, and yet God names and numbers them
 - Psa 147:4 He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them
 - B. Having such a great God should humble us
 - Psa 8:3 When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou dost take thought of him? And the son of man, that Thou dost care for him?
 - C. Having such a great God should help us in prayer
 - Acts 4:24 And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is Thou who didst make the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them"
 - 1 Pet 4:19 Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
 - Jer 32:17 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, Thou hast made the heavens and the earth by Thy great power and by Thine outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for Thee
 - Psa 121:2 My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth
 - Isa 40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.
6. The bounty of creation - sunshine, rain, food - speaks of God's goodness

- Acts 14:17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness
 - Mat 5:44, 45 But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous
 - Psa 145:16 Thou dost open Thy hand, and dost satisfy the desire of every living thing
7. The mysteries yet of creation tell us there is much of God to seek and find
- Job 38:4 Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
8. Why is evolution so popular?
- A. Man does not want a God to whom he must give an account
- Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient
- B. Aldous Huxley: I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently assumed that it had none, and was able without any difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption...the philosophy of meaninglessness was essentially an instrument of liberation
- C. We should not wonder why there is so much crime if life is all chance, if we are no different than the animals
9. Man is responsible for the revelation of God in creation
- A. See Romans 1, the man without the Bible yet has much he knows about God and is inexcusable
- Rom 1:19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.
 - Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
 - Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.
- B. The revelation is so clear that man is a fool to not seek the Lord
- Psa 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."
- C. Einstein:

- 1) The scientist is possessed by a sense of causation...his religious feeling takes the form of rapturous amazement at the harmony of natural law, which reveals an intelligence of such superiority that, compared with it all the systematic thinking and acting of human beings is an utterly insignificant reflection
- 2) Everyone who is seriously interested in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe – a spirit vastly superior to man, and one in the face of which our modest powers must feel humble

D. All creation shouts, “Behold your God” (Isa 40:9)

10. God as creator should be preached

- Acts 14:15 Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you in order that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them
- Acts 17:24 The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands

11. We should think highly of the Lord Jesus Christ, for He is creator: Col 1.16, John 1.3, Heb 1.10, Rev 3.14

The Revelation of God in Man

1. MAN WAS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE

A. How does man reflect God?

- 1) A physical difference, walking uprightly
- 2) Especially in the properties of the **soul**
 - a) The amazing intellect, mind
 - b) Emotions
 - c) Will
- 3) Properties of our **spirit**
 - a) Communion – can commune with God
 - b) Self-consciousness – analyze deeds, motives
 - c) Conscience – he is a moral being, he operates in terms of right and wrong

B. The conscience especially reveals God. That is, why...

- 1) is there a universal moralness about man?
- 2) do all men have laws governing society?
- 3) does everybody feel they've been wronged when stolen from?
- 4) do aborigines punish adultery, robbery?
- 5) do folks call for a chaplain when someone is about to die?
- 6) does everyone respect the conscience?
- 7) do little children react when wronged?
- 8) This is nothing other than a manifestation of God

2. DEFINITION OF CONSCIENCE

A. Meaning of the word:

- 1) co-knowledge
- 2) that is, same knowledge as law of God

B. That aspect of the inner man which registers right and wrong

C. It is

- 1) a little judgment seat
- 2) an inward monitor
- 3) a moral meter
- 4) a sense of right and wrong
- 5) a conviction that evil should be punished
- 6) Illustration:

- Acts 28:4 And when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they began saying to one another, "Undoubtedly this man is a murderer, and though he has been saved from the sea, justice has not allowed him to live."
- D. If creation demonstrates God's wisdom and power, then conscience demonstrates His justice and holiness
- E. It is not a perfect instrument
- 1) It can vary throughout life
 - 2) It can be educated
 - 3) It can be callused
- F. God will use the measuring stick we use on others, on us in the judgment day, for, our conscience is an accurate measurement of your moral perception
- Mat 7.1
 - Rom 2.1ff
 - Luke 19:22 He said to him, "By your own words I will judge"
3. THE POWER OF CONSCIENCE
- A. It can rob us of sleep, as King Darius
- B. It can affect our countenance, as Cain
- C. It can make us a coward, as Felix
- D. It can make us imagine things that are not so
- Prov 28:1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, but the righteous are bold as a lion.
- E. It can haunt
- Gen 42:21 Then they said to one another, "Truly we are guilty concerning our brother, because we saw the distress of his soul when he pleaded with us, yet we would not listen; therefore this distress has come upon us."
- F. It can produce suicide
- Mat 27:3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,
- G. It can make us bold
- 2 Cor 1:12 For our proud confidence is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you.
 - Heb 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct ourselves honorably in all things.
4. DAMAGE TO THE CONSCIENCE, man by nature in varying degrees has a ...

A. Seared conscience

- 1 Tim 4:2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron

B. Defiled conscience

- Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

C. Evil conscience

- Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

5. CLEANSING OF CONSCIENCE

A. Bible speaks of

1) Clear conscience

- 2 Tim 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

2) Good conscience

- 1 Tim 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.

3) Blameless conscience

- Acts 24:16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men

B. How can we obtain a clean conscience?

1) The death of Christ to pay our debt to divine justice and remove our guilt

- Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

2) Resurrection of Christ

- 1 Pet 3:21 And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-- not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience-- through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

6. CARE OF CONSCIENCE

- A. **Important:** 1 Tim 1:19 keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

- B. **Exercise:** Acts 24:16 "In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.
 - C. **Goal:** 1 Tim 1:5 But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.
 - D. **Qualification:** 1 Tim 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
 - E. **Help others keep pure:** 1 Cor 8:12 And thus, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.
 - F. **Don't ask:** 1 Cor 10:25 Eat anything that is sold in the meat market, without asking questions for conscience' sake;
 - G. **Obey laws of land:** Rom 13:5 Wherefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.
 - H. **Live a principled life:** 1 Pet 2:19 For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a man bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.
 - I. **Make restitution:** 1 Sam 24:5 And it came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe. Gentile will be judged by what he knows, says, judges
7. THIS IS GOD CONFORMING US TO HIS IMAGE, that moral image that was marred
- Col 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

The Revelation of God by the Bible – Divine Authorship

1. FOREWORD

- A. Question: How does the Bible reveal God?
- B. Question: Is it valid to prove to believers that the Bible is from God – a thing that no true believer questions anyhow? Yes,
 - Gal 1.11 I would have you know
 - 2 Pet 1.20 Know this first of all
 - Prov 22:21 To make you know the certainty of the words of truth
- C. Satan
 - 1) from the beginning cast doubt on the Word
 - 2) is put to flight by: *it is written* [Mat 4]
- D. The challenge comes not
 - 1) just from humanists, etc.
 - 2) but seminaries, for example: the 1976, Hollyfield Survey of master of divinity students at one school found ...
 - a) 9% lost faith in existence of God
 - b) 24% in Jesus as the divine Son of God
 - c) 24% in existence of the devil
 - d) 33% in the virgin birth
 - e) 25% necessary to believe in Christ to be saved
- E. The gospel is *according to the scriptures*, 1 Cor 15.3

2. THE CLAIMS OF THE BIBLE FOR ITSELF REVEAL DIVINE AUTHORSHIP

- A. You would expect it to acknowledge this often, and indeed, about 4000 times the writers claim that they were writing the word of God
 - Thus says the Lord
 - The Lord spoke saying
 - The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me and his word was in my tongue
- B. The Bible calls itself
 - 1) The word of God, Luke 8.11
 - 2) The good word of God, Heb 6.5
 - 3) The word of life, Php 2.16
 - 4) The book of the Lord, Isa 34.16
 - 5) Truth, John 17.17

- 6) The scripture of truth, Dan 10.21
 - 7) The holy scripture, Rom 1.2
 - 8) The oracles of God, Rom 3.2
- C. How did we get the Bible?
- 1) God spoke, Heb 1.1
 - 2) God breathed, 2 Tim 3.16
 - 3) God moved men, 2 Pet 1:21
- D. We would expect it to speak with authority, such as, “you shall,” “you shall not”
- E. If it is divine in origin, you would ...
- 1) Expect PROPOSITIONS to be entirely reliable
 - Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away
 - 2) Expect PROMISES that can't be broken
 - John 10:35 ...and the Scripture cannot be broken
 - 3) Expect it to be ACCURATE down to the detail
 - Mat 5:18 For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law, until all is accomplished
 - 4) Expect it to be GLORIOUS, and indeed it is equal to God's name
 - Isa 42:21 The LORD was pleased for His righteousness' sake To make the law great and glorious.
 - Psa 138:2 ...Thou hast magnified Thy word according to all Thy name
 - Mark 8:38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words
 - 5) Expect that we should be ACCOUNTABLE to it
 - John 12.48 the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day
 - A. W. Pink: there is no other book in the world which demands, on pain of eternal perdition, total submission of all mankind to its authority
3. THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP
- A. That is, you would expect a divine revelation to be different in content
- 1) Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.
 - 2) It is self-authenticating
- B. The message is so **unique** in ...
- 1) The God it proclaims – beyond human invention...

- a) A Creator who made everything from nothing
- b) One God in three persons
- c) A God who is infinite yet personal
- 2) This Son of God who
 - a) Became also man
 - b) Was virgin born
 - c) Raised, exalted, seated
- 3) The description of man
 - a) Depraved and
 - b) Doomed
- 4) The salvation of God by grace vs. works
- 5) The types and antitypes – tabernacle, etc.
- 6) The mysteries of
 - a) God's sovereignty and man's accountability
 - b) Man can't come but yet must come to Christ
 - c) The believer is secure yet must persevere
- C. The message is so **weighty**
 - 1) Origin of all things and the end
 - 2) Plight of man and power of God
 - 3) Heaven and hell
 - 4) Love of God
- D. The message is so **unpalatable** to man
 - 1) Condemns man:
 - a) Always a drawn sword in his path
 - b) Woes to what he esteems, Luke 6.26
 - 2) Salvation by grace alone, not works
- E. The message is so **comprehensive** – Torrey: if every book but the Bible were destroyed, not a single spiritual truth would be lost
 - 2 Pet 1.4 all things
 - 2 Tim 3.17 thoroughly furnished
- F. The message is so **practical** – wisdom to govern
 - 1) Heart
 - 2) Home
 - 3) Business
 - 4) Church
 - 5) Nation
- G. Its emphasis on **purity and love**
- H. Its focus is entirely away from man – all to the glory of God

4. THE MANNER OF THE MESSAGE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP; think of the Bible's ...
 - A. **Majestic** style
 - B. **Simple** style
 - C. **Simple** content
 - D. **Profound** content
 - E. **Reserve** on some things
 - 1) Little on creation
 - 2) Nothing on the origin of sin
 - 3) Nothing on the Lord's physical appearance
 - F. **Conciseness**
 - G. **Unity**
 - 1) 66 books, 40 authors, over 1600 years
 - 2) One plan, purpose, theme
 - H. **Honesty** – the writers acknowledge their failures
 - I. **Unconscious consistency**
 - 1) that is, undesigned coincidence [Pink]
 - 2) things and facts easily fit
 - J. **Deliberate** consistency, that is, designed coincidence – for example, numerics
 - K. Dispassionate **poise** [Pink], that is, there is no anger, rancor, bitterness, revenge in telling about atrocities
 - L. Hidden **wisdom** – an absence of **listings** of religious steps
5. THE POWER OF THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP – changed lives
6. THE DURABILITY OF THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP – though hated by most, it remains
7. THE CIRCULATION OF THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP – more copies in more languages than any other book, plus commentaries and books and reference works
8. FULFILLED PROPHECY IN THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP
 - A. We should expect God
 - 1) would know and say things ahead of time
 - 2) would be right every time

- B. Prophecies of cities, countries, and kings in detail, especially the King of kings
9. HISTORICAL ACCURACY REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP – again and again the archaeologist’s shovel proves the Bible was right, for example, the Hittites’ existence
10. THE SCIENTIFIC WISDOM OF THE BIBLE REVEALS DIVINE AUTHORSHIP [adapted from Ray Comfort tract]
- A. The circuitry of the wind
 - 1) In 1600’s Newton discovered this, but
 - 2) 2600 years before Solomon wrote of it, Ecc 1.6
 - B. The number of stars
 - 1) Jeremiah 33:22 (written 2500 years ago): As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured.
 - 2) The Bible claimed that there are billions of stars ("host of heaven" is the biblical term for the stars). When it made this statement, no one knew how vast the numbers of stars were as only about 1,100 were observable. Now we know that there are *billions* of stars, and that they cannot be numbered.
 - C. Free float of the earth
 - 1) Job 26:7 (written 3500 years ago): He stretches out the north over the empty place, and hangs the earth upon nothing.
 - 2) The Bible claimed that the earth freely floated in space. Science then thought that the earth sat on a large animal. We now know that the earth has a free float in space.
 - D. Earth is round
 - 1) Isaiah 40:22 (written 2800 years ago): It is he that sits upon the circle of the earth.
 - 2) The Bible informs us here that the earth is round. At a time when science believed that the earth was flat
 - E. Sea-Path
 - 1) Psalm 8:8: And the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passes through the paths of the seas.
 - 2) What does the Bible mean by "paths" of the seas? The sea is just a huge mass of water, how then could it have "paths?" Man discovered the existence of ocean currents in the 1850's, but the Bible declared the

science of oceanography 2,800 years ago. Matthew Maury (1806- 1873) is considered to be the father of oceanography. He was bedridden during a serious illness and asked his son to read a portion of the Bible to him. While listening, he noticed the expression "paths of the sea." Upon his recovery, Maury took God at His word and went looking for these paths. His book on oceanography is still considered a basic text on the subject and is still used in universities.

F. Sea-Mountains

- 1) Jonah 2:6 (written 2,800 years ago): I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet have you brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God.
- 2) When Jonah was in the depths of the ocean, he spoke of going down to the "bottoms of the mountains." Only in recent years has man discovered that there are mountains on the ocean floor. The greatest ocean depth has been sounded in the Challenger Deep of the Mariana's Trench, a distance of 35,798 feet below sea level. Mount Everest is 29,035 feet high.

G. Sun's circuit

- 1) Psalm 19:4-6 In them has He set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man to run a race. His [the sun's] going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
- 2) Bible critics have scoffed at these verses, saying that they teach that the sun revolves around the earth. Science told them that the sun was stationary. Then they discovered that the sun is in fact moving through space at approximately 600,000 miles per hour. It is traveling through the heavens and has a "circuit" just as the Bible says. It is estimated that its circuit is so large, it would take 200 million years to complete one orbit.

H. Oceans measured

- 1) Isaiah 40:12 (written 2,800 years ago): Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand . . .
- 2) We are told that God has measured the waters and set a proper amount of water on the earth. Modern science

has proved that the quantity of water on earth is just enough for our needs. If the sea became three meters deeper, the water would absorb all the carbon dioxide and nitrogen, and no creature could live any longer.

I. Empty space

- 1) Job 26:7 (written 3500 years ago): He stretches out the north over the empty place . . .
- 2) Less than 200 years ago, through the advent of massive telescopes, science learned about the great empty space in the north.

J. Expanding universe

- 1) Isaiah 40:22 (written 2,800 years ago): It is He that . . . stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreads them out as a tent to dwell in.
- 2) Scientists are beginning to understand that the universe is expanding, or stretching out. At least seven times in Scripture we are clearly told that God *stretches* out the heavens like a curtain.

K. First law of Thermodynamics

- 1) Genesis 2:1 (after creation): Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
- 2) The Hebrew word used here is the past definite tense for the verb "finished," indicating an action completed in the past, never again to occur. The creation was "finished" -- once and for all. That is what the First Law of Thermodynamics says. It states that neither matter nor energy can be either created or destroyed. There is no "creation" ongoing today. It is "finished" exactly as the Bible states.

L. Second law

- 1) Hebrews 1:10,11 (written 2000 years ago): ". . . And, You, Lord, in the beginning have laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of your hands: They shall perish; but you remain; and they all shall wax old as does a garment.
- 2) The Bible tells us that the earth is wearing out. This is what the Second Law of Thermodynamics states. This wasn't discovered by science until comparatively recently.

M. Importance of blood

- 1) Leviticus 17:11 (written 3000 years ago): For the life of the flesh is in the blood.

- 2) The Scriptures declare that blood is the source of life. Up until 120 years ago, sick people were "bled", and many died because of the practice. We now know that blood is the source of life. If you lose your blood, you will lose your life.

N. Timing of circumcision

- 1) Genesis 17:12: And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.
- 2) Why was circumcision to be carried out on the eighth day? Medical science has discovered that the eighth day is the only day in the entire life of the newborn that the blood clotting element prothrombin is above 100%.

O. Woman's seed

- 1) Genesis 3:15: And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.
- 2) This verse reveals that a female possesses the "seed of life." This was not the common knowledge until a few centuries ago. It was widely believed that the male only possessed the "seed of life" and that the woman was nothing more than a glorified incubator.

11. CONCLUSIONS

- A. If God has not spoken, we have only the opinions and speculations of men
- B. Receive, cherish, advance the word, the good word of God

Trinity

1. Foreword and statement of the doctrine
 - A. The word trinity is not found in the Bible
 - B. It is, however, the distinctive and all-comprehensive doctrine of the Christian faith
 - C. Simply stated:
 - 1) One God in three persons, ‘tri-unity’
 - 2) Or: There is one God and in that godhead there is
 - a) Father, Son and Holy Spirit – each is God
 - b) Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each is a distinct person
 - D. Incomprehensible, but not irrational
 - E. The church down through history has gloried in this doctrine.
 - 1) Francis Schaeffer: I would still be an agnostic if there were no trinity, because there would be no answers. Without the high order of personal unity and diversity as given in the trinity, there are no answers.
 - 2) Charles Hodge: The doctrine of the trinity is peculiar to the religion of the Bible. It is a great mistake to regard that doctrine as a mere speculative or abstract truth, concerning the constitution of the godhead, with which we have no practical concern. On the contrary, it underlies the whole plan of salvation, and determines the character of the religion of all true Christians. No mere speculative doctrine, especially no doctrine so mysterious and so out of analogy could ever have held the abiding control over the faith of the church, which this doctrine has maintained. It is not, therefore, by any arbitrary decision, nor from any bigoted adherence to hereditary beliefs, that the church has always refused to recognize as Christians those who reject this doctrine.
2. Denial of the doctrine of the trinity is a characteristic trait of false religion
 - A. Examples: Jehovah’s Witnesses, Children of God, The Way International, Worldwide Church of God, Christian Science, Edgar Cayce and the Assoc. of Research and Enlightenment, Spiritism, Islam
 - B. Eerdmans’ Handbook to the World’s Religions: The understanding of God as trinity ... is peculiar to Christianity and sharply differentiates it from other religions. It sums up the distinctive and vital elements in Christian faith.

- C. The doctrine of Christ is a definitive point regarding true / false Christianity, and has to do with having “both the Father and the Son”, 2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. ... 9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.¹⁰ If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house, and do not give him a greeting; ¹¹ for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds
3. History
- A. 250 AD, Sabellianism was rejected, that is, the idea that Christ was deity, but denied any personal distinctions in the godhead.
- B. Not found formally in the theology of Christendom till the 4th century - Athanasian Creed: ‘One God in trinity, and trinity in unity. Whoever would be saved, let him think thus concerning the trinity.’
4. That there is one God
- Exo 20:3 You shall have no other gods [imaginary gods] before Me
 - Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
 - Isa 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.”
 - 1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
 - James 2:19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.
5. Yet there is plurality of persons in the godhead
- A. Each says “I”
- 1) The Father says “I”
 - 2) The Son says “I”
 - 3) The Holy Spirit says “Me”, Acts 13:2 ... the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
- B. Each says “you” to the other
- 1) The Father says to the Son “You”
 - 2) The Son says to the Father “You”
- C. Love is expressed for the other
- 1) The Father loves the Son, John 3:35

- 2) The Son loves the Father, John 14:31 but that the world may know that I love the Father
- 3) The Holy Spirit testifies of the Son, John 15:26 ... He shall testify of Me

D. See

- Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness" – Is it God and angels? No, for...
 - 1) Man was not created by angels, and
 - 2) Man was not created in the image of God and angels
- Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, "Behold, the man is become as one of us"
- Gen 11:6 And the LORD said ... 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.
- Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
- John 10:30 I and the Father are one

6. Although there is equality in their essence and nature, yet there is subordination in their operation

A. Father greater than Son

- John 3:17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge
- John 14:28 ... for the Father is greater than I
- John 17:4 I glorified Thee on the earth
- 1 Cor 15:28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all

B. Father greater than Holy Spirit

- John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name
- Acts 2:17 ... saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit

C. Son greater than Holy Spirit

- John 15:26 When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father
- John 16:14 He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.

D. Yet we have an indication of a uniqueness in the Holy Spirit

- Mat 12:32 And whoever shall speak a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever shall speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age, or in the age to come.

7. The Son of God is ...

A. Deity

- Jn 1:1 and the Word was God
- Jn 5:18 making Himself equal with God
- Phil 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped
- Heb 1:8 But of the Son He says, "Thy throne, O God..."
- Isa 9:6 His name... mighty God
- Mat 22:44 The Lord (Yehovah) said to my Lord (adown)

B. Yet, distinct from God the Father

- John 1:1
 - a) In the beginning was the Word [eternal]
 - b) and the Word was with God [distinction]
 - c) and the Word was God [deity]
- John 3:16 ... He gave His only begotten Son [distinction]
- John 5:18 ...but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God [distinction]
- John 10:30 I and the Father are one [distinction yet union]
- John 17:5 ... the glory which I had with Thee before the world was [distinction]
- Mat 17:5 ... This is My beloved Son
- Mark 14:36 And He was saying, "Abba! Father!"
- Heb 1:8 But of the Son He [God] says, "Thy throne, O God..." [communication with another]

8. The Holy Spirit is...

A. Deity

- 1) Is interchangeable with God,
 - Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, 4 ... You have not lied to men, but to God."
 - 1 Cor 3:16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- 2) The language of Jehovah is quoted as the language of the Holy Spirit, cp. Isa 6:9 and Acts 28:25
- 3) Equal with Father and Son,
 - Mat 28:19 ... baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit
 - 1 Cor 12:4-6 same Spirit, same Lord, same God
 - 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
- 4) Is eternal, Heb 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself
- 5) Is omnipresent, Psa 139:7 Where can I go from Thy Spirit?

- 6) To blaspheme Him is unforgivable, Mat 12:31 Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven
- B. A person [not humanity, but has person-hood], for the Holy Spirit ...
- 1) Intercedes, Rom 8:26 ... the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words
 - 2) Has a mind, Rom 8:27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is
 - 3) Thinks / evaluates, Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden
 - 4) Knows, 1 Cor 2:11 ... the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God
 - 5) Wills, 1 Cor 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills
 - 6) Teaches, Luke 12:12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you
 - 7) Fellowships, 2 Cor 13:14 the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 - 8) Speaks,
 - Acts 8:29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."
 - Acts 13:2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."
 - Acts 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.
 - 1 Tim 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith
 - Heb 3:7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "Today if you hear his voice"
 - 9) Hears, Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit..."
 - 10) Can be tested / tempted, Acts 5:9 Then Peter said to her, "Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?"
 - 11) Can be grieved, Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God
 - 12) Can be resisted, Acts 7:51 You men ... are always resisting the Holy Spirit
9. Ramifications? (New Bible Dictionary) the implications of the doctrine are vitally important not only for theology, but for Christian experience and life
- A. It is the basis for **diversity** in the universe – creation being a reflection of the Creator

- B. It is the basis of **God being God**, that is, we do not have a God who needed to create in order to communicate and love – He is self-contained, self-sufficient
- C. It is the basis for **fellowship and love**
 - 1) Between God and man, for, this is consistent with God, for it took place within the godhead from all eternity
 - 2) Between man and man – man being made in the image of God makes fellowship a vitally important reality
- D. It is the basis of **redemption**, and it is only accurate to see diversity in redemption, 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
 - 1) Father planning
 - 2) Son procuring
 - a) The Father sent the Son to die in our place
 - b) The Father rewarded and exalted Him
- C. Holy Spirit applying

To God be the Glory

Acts 12:23 And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and died.

The plight of kings

King Herod was slain by God, not for killing His chosen one, James, and almost Peter, but for not glorifying God. Contrast Paul and Barnabas' response when the crowd called them gods (Acts 14:11) – 'we are men like you and are preaching in order that you turn to the living God' (15).

The word that fell upon King Belshazzar was similar.

- *Dan 5:23 you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven ... But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have **not glorified.***

The plight of all

The crime of all men's crimes is stealing the glory from God. This is the condemnation on even the man without the Bible.

- *Rom 1:21 when they knew God, they **glorified Him not** as God.*

As man beholds the glory, the majesty, the beauty, the immensity, the unity, the diversity of the universe, he knows – if he would not suppress the truth – that the cosmos is more than chance and that the god who is there is something more than a crocodile or totem pole or himself, around whom he centers his life.

Man makes a very foolish exchange, far more than gold for dirt.

- *Rom 1:23 and exchanged the **glory** of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.*
- *Psa 106:20 Thus they exchanged their **glory** For the image of an ox that eats grass.*

The essence of sin is coming short of glorifying God as He ought to be.

- *Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the **glory** of God.*

We are so depraved that when the Son of God came to earth, we killed this Lord of glory.

- *1 Cor 2:8 ...for if they had understood it, they would not have crucified the Lord of **glory**.*

Every reason

We have every reason to give God the glory – our life-breath is a gift from His hand. What can be more obligatory?

- *Dan 5:23 ... the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have **not glorified**.*

God is entirely sovereign – the plan, the power, the purpose are all His.

- *Rom 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the **glory** forever.*

The most glorious thing that God has done was the sending of His Son to die for and rescue sinners, His own enemies, and bring them as sons into glory.

- *Rev 1:5,6 ... To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood, and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father; to Him be the **glory** and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

The reason God designed to save a people was for His glory – three times it is stated, that we might not miss the point.

- *Eph 1:6,12,14 to the praise of His **glory**.*

The ultimate reality

Everything that happens to the non-Christian is ultimately to bring him to bow down and to glorify God.

- *Rev 16:9 And men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues; and they did not repent, so as to give Him **glory**.*

On the great day of the Lord, not some, but all will rise from the grave and give the glory to God for the Lord Jesus. We can do this now by faith or then by force, but it is non-optional.

- *Phil 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the **glory** of God the Father.*

The coming glory

One aspect of the judgment coming upon the unbeliever is to miss out on seeing the glory. Have you ever been turned back from some gate?

- *2 Th 1:9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the **glory** of His power.*

The Christian anticipates and is sustained by the hope of the coming glory. 'Eternal glories gleam afar and nerve our faint endeavor.'

- *Rom 5:2 and rejoice in hope of the **glory** of God.*
- *Rom 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the **glory** that is to be revealed to us.*
- *Titus 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the **glory** of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.*

Jesus prays that we see His glory.

- *John 17:24 Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, in order that they may behold My **glory**.*

One thing that will elicit glory to God is our good works displayed on that day as well as now.

- *1 Pet 2:12 Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, **glorify** God in the day of visitation.*
- *John 15:8 By this is My Father **glorified**, that you bear much fruit.*

The Christian's supreme motive

It was a preview of the glory of God that brought us away from sin to Christ for salvation.

- *Acts 7:2 The God of **glory** appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia.*
- *2 Cor 4:6 For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the **glory** of God in the face of Christ.*

The Christian realizes that everything centers around the glory of God.

- *John 11:4 This sickness is not unto death, but **for the glory of God**, that the Son of God may be glorified by it.*

All our labors have this in view.

- *1 Pet 4:11* Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be **glorified** through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.

This touches the least little thing we do.

- *1 Cor 10:31* Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatsoever you do, do all to the **glory** of God.

It is a glory to suffer for the Lord Jesus.

- *1 Pet 4:14* If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of **glory** and of God rests upon you.

This is the way the Lord Jesus summed up His life's labors.

- *John 17:4* "I **glorified** You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

Seeking glory?

Is it valid to seek glory? Yes, but it must be glory that comes from God, not man. The Christian is described this way.

- *Rom 2:7* to those who by perseverance in doing good **seek for glory** and honor and immortality, eternal life.

One big reason people are kept from genuine faith, from becoming true Christians, is error here – seeking the glory from men.

- *John 5:44* How can you believe, when you receive **glory** from one another, and you do not seek the **glory** that is from the one and only God?
- *John 12:42,43* Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God.

Paul testifies regarding pure motives.

- *1 Th 2:6* nor did we seek **glory** from men.

Those who do seek the glory from God alone will in the end be glorified with Jesus.

- *Rom 8:17* And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also **glorified** together.

God glorifying men!

God intends to bring many to glory.

- *Heb 2:10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to **glory**, to perfect the author of their salvation through sufferings.*

Paul, under God, labored for this.

- *2 Tim 2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal **glory**.*

Summary

Man is made to boast, to glory in something. There is only one thing valid.

- *2 Cor 10:17 But he who glories, let him **glory** in the Lord.*
- *Gal 6:14 But God forbid that I should **glory**, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Have you believed on the Lord Jesus? Have you trusted His finished work on the cross where He died to pay for sins? This alone brings glory to God.

- *1 Pet 1:7 that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and **glory** and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
- *Rom 4:20 ... grew strong in faith, giving **glory** to God.*

The Christian is purchased by the precious blood of Christ, and love so amazing, so divine, demands that our lives be lived for the glory of our Redeemer.

- *1 Cor 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore **glorify** God in your body.*

It is easy to forget God's benefits.

- *Luke 17:15 Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, **glorifying** God with a loud voice.,*
- *Luke 17:18 Was no one found who turned back to give **glory** to God, except this foreigner?*

The Name Jehovah Only?

NOTE:

- A. Names are significant with God, for example, Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "...you will give him the name John."
 - B. Some hold that Jehovah is the only name valid
-
1. RESPONSE #1: God Himself in the Old Testament calls Himself by different names, such as,
 - A. Adonai
 - 1) Used 432 times
 - 2) Meaning: sovereign, controller, master, lord
 - 3) Example:
 - Gen 15:2 And Abram said, "O Lord (Adonay) God (Yehovah), what wilt Thou give me..."
 - Exo 4:10 Then Moses said to the LORD (Yehovah), "Please, Lord (Adonay)
 - B. Elohiym [El]
 - 1) Used 2605 times
 - 2) Translation: Gods [plural]
 - 3) Example: Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image
 - C. El Shaddai
 - 1) 48 times
 - 2) Translation: God Almighty
 - 3) Example:
 - Exo 6:3 and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as God Almighty (El Shaddai), but by My name, LORD (Jehovah) , I did not make Myself known to them.
 - Ruth 1:21 I went out full, and the LORD (Jehovah) hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD (Jehovah) hath testified against me, and the Almighty (El Shaddai) hath afflicted me?
 - D. Jehovah
 - 1) 6528 times
 - 2) Example:
 - Exo 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM (hayah) has sent me to you.'"
 - Jah, Psa 68.4
 - Iah ending – such as, Zechariah, Jeremiah
 - 3) Meaning:

- a) Self-existent or eternal
 - b) The Jewish national name of God
 - 4) What is special about Jehovah?
 - a) Jehovah occurs as early as Gen 2:4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD (Jehovah) God (elohiyim) made earth and heaven.
 - b) It is the memorial or personal name: Exo 3:15 And God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD (Jehovah), the God (elohiyim) of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations."
 - c) It is in the name of Jesus, Jehovah saves, Mtt 1.21
 - E. Conclusion: God must not be too concerned about just one name.
2. RESPONSE #2: the New Testament writers often used Lord, the Greek word kurios, to refer to God, to Jesus and to others
- A. Others
 - 1) An owner, Luke 19:33 And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?"
 - 2) A master, Mat 6:24 No one can serve two masters
 - 3) An emperor, Acts 25:26 Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord.
 - 4) Idol, 1 Cor 8:5 For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords
 - 5) A father, Mat 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.
 - 6) A husband, 1 Pet 3.6 calling him lord
 - 7) An angel, Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord?
 - 8) A stranger, John 12:21 these therefore came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee, and began to ask him, saying, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus."
 - B. Jesus
 - 1) Rev 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.
 - 2) Christ Himself owned the title Lord, Matt 7.21
 - 3) Both God and Jesus, James 1.5,7
 - 4) No disciple in the gospels addressed the Lord by Jesus only
 - 5) We do have Acts 7:59 ... "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

C. God

- 1) Jehovah, for example:
 - a) 1 Cor 3.20 and Psa 94.11
 - b) Mtt 4.7 and Deu 6.16
- 2) Adon, for example: Mtt 22.44 and Psa 110.1
- 3) Adonay, for example: Mtt 1.22,23 and Isa 7.14
- 4) Elohim, for example: 1 Pet 1.25 and Isa 40.8

Applications:

1. It is quite valid to use a common term, Lord, with reference to God or Jesus.
2. For those who will not call Jesus Lord, remember Peter gave exaltation significance to Lordship, Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-- this Jesus whom you crucified.
3. Regarding salvation
 - A. A confession of Lordship is necessary, Rom 10.9
 - B. One cannot truly confess Jesus is Lord apart from a Holy Spirit revelation, 1 Cor 12.3
4. Many speak it falsely, Mtt 7.21

Fullness Of Time – All On Schedule

1. The times and boundaries of the nations, Acts 17:26
2. The incarnation, Gal 4.4
3. The death of Christ, Rom 5:6
4. Pentecost, Ac 2.1
5. The gospel truths, Titus 1:3, 1 Tim 2:6, Mk 1.15
6. When all Gentiles are saved, Luke 21:24, Rom 11.25
7. The second coming, 1 Tim 6:15
8. Note:
 - A. There are ages to come (Eph 2.7), a final order
 - B. Now we are in the end of the world, 1 Cor 10.11

God's Two Wills

1. DEFINITION OF THE WILL OF GOD: God's desire, pleasure, plan, purpose
2. POSITED: THERE ARE TWO WILLS OF GOD
 - A. There is a
 - 1) sovereign will and also an optional will, or
 - 2) decreative will and also a preceptive will, or
 - 3) secret will and also a revealed will
 - B. Scripture for this distinction?
 - Deu 29:29 "The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.
3. THERE IS A SOVEREIGN WILL of God, that is, an eternal secret decree planned by God and carried out by God
 - A. Sovereignty is unique about God
 - Job 23:13 "But He is unique and who can turn Him? And what His soul desires, that He does
 - B. Sovereignty is a great distinction between the true & false god
 - Psa 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
 - C. God rules over all, unquestionably
 - Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?'
 - D. Opposition to God's will is a laugh to Him
 - Psa 2:4 He who sits in the heavens laughs, the Lord scoffs at them
 - E. God has an eternal plan, eternal decree, no options
 - Eph 3:11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
 - Psa 33:11 The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
 - F. Outcome is determined beforehand by God's will
 - Isa 46:10 Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'
 - Rom 4:17 ...God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were

G. Nothing is done apart from God's will

- Lam 3:37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it?
- Prov 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD, it will stand.

H. We can't move unless God's wills it

- James 4:15 you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that."
- Acts 18:21 I will return to you again if God wills

I. Timing is God's will

- Acts 1:7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;
- Acts 17:31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world

J. Intricate timing is God's will

- Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

K. The smallest detail is God's will

- Mat 10:29 Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.
- Mat 10:30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.
- Psa 104:14 He causes the grass to grow
- Heb 1:3 and upholds all things by the word of His power
- Prov 16:9 The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.
- Prov 20:24 Man's steps are ordained by the Lord

L. Seemingly chance events are willed by God

- 1 Ki 22:34 Now a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel in a joint of the armor
- Prov 16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord
- Jonah 1:7 So they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah

M. Animals do God's will

- 1 Ki 22:38 and the dogs licked up his blood ... according to the word of the LORD which He spoke
- Jonah 2:10 Then the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited
- 1 Sam 6:12 the cows took the straight way in the direction of Beth-shemesh

N. The weather does God's will

- Psa 147:17, 18 He casts forth His ice as fragments; Who can stand before His cold? He sends forth His word and melts them; He causes His wind to blow and the waters to flow
- Psa 148:8 Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word
- Job 36:30, 31 Behold, He spreads His lightning about Him, And He covers the depths of the sea. For by these He judges peoples

O. Nations do God's will

- Isa 10:6, 7 I send it against a godless nation and commission it against the people of My fury to capture booty and to seize plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. Yet it does not so intend nor does it plan so in its heart, but rather it is its purpose to destroy

P. Hardest hearts and proudest men do God's will

- Prov 21:1 The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the LORD; He turns it wherever He wishes

Q. Sin is at the predetermined plan of God

- Gen 50:20 "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive
- Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.
- Acts 4:28 to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur [crucifixion]
- 1 Pet 2:8,9 those who stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But you are a chosen generation

R. God hardens and softens

- Rom 9:18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.
- Psa 105:25 He turned their heart to hate His people

S. God's will is so iron-clad, that the objector asks 'how can man be accountable?'

- Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"

T. Predestination to heaven is by God's will

- Eph 1:5 He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will

U. The new birth is by God's will

- Acts 16:14 the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken
- John 1:13 who were born not ... of the will of man, but of God.
- James 1:18 In the exercise of His will He brought us forth

V. Growth in grace & our spiritual make-up is by God's will

- 1 Cor 12:11 the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.
- 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am
- Heb 6:3 And this we shall do, if God permits.

W. Some matters of God's eternal secret purpose we do know – the ultimate purpose of the universe

- Eph 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will

4. THERE IS A REVEALED WILL OF GOD – it is known and to be obeyed
 - A. Definition: Revealed will, that is,
 - 1) God makes known what He wants done
 - 2) These are moral matters:
 - a) righteousness vs. sin, and
 - b) this can be obeyed or violated & frustrated
 - 3) Example: it was **not** the will of God for ...
 - a) Moses to strike the rock at Meribah
 - b) David to do murder and adultery
 - c) Israel to go into idolatry
 - d) Jonah to flee from his call
 - e) Peter to deny the Lord Jesus
 - f) Christ to be crucified
 - B. Jesus is the example of doing God's will
 - John 6:38 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me
 - Heb 10:7 behold, I have come ... to do Thy will, O God
 - C. Obedience to the will of God is a mark of ...
 - 1) the family of God
 - Mark 3:35 For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother
 - 2) those who will go to heaven
 - Mat 7:21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven
 - 3) those who have eternal life
 - 1 John 2:17 but the one who does the will of God abides forever
 - 4) becoming a Christian
 - Acts 9:6 Lord, what will You have me to do?
 - D. The Christian life is a series of surrenders
 - Mark 14:36 yet not what I will, but what Thou wilt
 - E. This willing attitude will yield true spiritual knowledge
 - John 7:17 "If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching
 - F. Obedience to the will of God affects answers to prayer
 - 1 John 3:22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

G. Obedience to the will of God is the essence of our sanctification

- Rom 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect
- Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is
- Eph 6:6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart
- Col 1:9 we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
- # did not know how you wanted it done
- Col 4:12 Epaphras... always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God
- Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure
- 1 Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality
- 1 Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you
- Heb 13:21 equip you in every good thing to do His will
- 1 Pet 2:15 For such is the will of God that by doing right you may silence the ignorance of foolish men.
- 1 Pet 4:2 so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

5. HOW CAN WE RECONCILE THE TWO WILLS OF GOD?

That is, how can there be an iron-clad will of God on one hand and yet on the other, such a thing as sin?

A. **God is incomprehensible** and we should not be perplexed that

- 1) God is complex and
- 2) that we don't know all
 - Eph 1:9 ...the mystery of His will
 - 1 Cor 13:9 For we know in part
 - 2 Pet 3:16 in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort

B. **God has higher purposes:** While He hates sin, yet He takes violations of His revealed will to fulfill His sovereign will, His higher purposes, for example:

- 1) The crucifixion of Christ

- a) Revealed will: no
 - i. Satanically inspired [Luke 22.3]
 - ii. rooted in Jewish jealousy
 - iii. permitted by Pilate's cowardice
 - iv. assisted by Herod's contempt
 - v. executed by Roman cruelty
 - vi. enabled by the disciples' fear
 - vii. the action of "wicked hands", Acts 2:23
 - b) Sovereign will: yes
 - Isa 53:4 ... Smitten of God
 - Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.
 - Acts 4:28 to do whatever [crucifixion] Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur
 - c) Higher purpose: To bring about salvation and magnify his grace and glory
 - Rom 9:23 And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy
- 2) Pharaoh's stubbornness
- a) It was the revealed will of God for him to let them go; Pharaoh himself calls it sin
 - Exo 10:17 Now therefore, please forgive my sin
 - b) But the secret will of God was hardening so that he would not; the good thing that God commands, He prevents
 - Exo 4:21 but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go
 - c) Higher purpose: to declare His name and power
 - Rom 9:17 For the scripture says unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.
- 3) Israel's apostasy
- a) Revealed will: do not harden you hearts
 - Heb 3 do not harden your heart
 - Rom 11.12 their transgression
 - b) Sovereign will – divine hardening
 - Rom 11:7,8 ...the rest were hardened; God gave them a spirit
 - c) Higher purpose: riches for Gentiles, glory

- Rom 11:31 so these also now have been disobedient, in order that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy
- 4) Sihon's stubbornness
 - a) Revealed will for him to let them pass through
 - Deu 2:27 Let me pass through your land
 - b) Sovereign will – hardening so he would not
 - Deu 2:30 But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass through his land; for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate
 - c) Higher purpose?
 - Deu 2:30 in order to deliver him into your hand
 - 5) Eli's sons' resistance
 - 1 Sam 2:25 But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death.
 - 6) Moses striking the rock had a higher purpose: Joshua [type of Christ], not Moses [law], must bring them in to the land
 - 7) Rehoboam's error had a higher purpose: It fulfilled the word of God
 - 1 Ki 12:15 So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from the Lord, that He might establish His word, which the Lord spoke through Ahijah
 - 8) Jonah disobedience had a higher purpose: Through it the sailors were saved
 - 9) Jacob's sons' betrayal of Joseph had a higher purpose
 - Gen 50:20 And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive
 - 10) Calvinism vs. Arminianism – a difference of higher purpose [John Piper]
 - a) Arminians, who hold that salvation depends ultimately on the will of man, say that God's higher purpose is: human self-determination and the possible resulting love relationship with God are more valuable than saving all people
 - b) Calvinists, who hold that salvation depends ultimately on the will of God, say that God's higher purpose is: the manifestation of the full range of God's glory in wrath and mercy (Romans 9:22-23) and the humbling of man so that he enjoys giving all credit to God for his salvation (1 Corinthians 1:29)

C. There are various perspectives with God:

- 1) Does God change His mind?

- Jonah 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their wicked way, then God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.
 - a) Such passages are dealing only with ‘revealed will’
 - b) Such passages show forth the person-hood aspect of God rather than His sovereignty
 - 2) God does and does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked?
 - a) One way of looking at it
 - Ezek 18:32 "For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."
 - b) Another way of looking at it [same Hebrew word]
 - 1 Sam 2:25 they would not listen to the voice of their father, for the LORD desired to put them to death
 - 3) The cause of justice: a judge may not desire personally to sentence the criminal to death, yet officially he does desire it
 - Deu 28:63 "And it shall come about that as the LORD delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the LORD will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you shall be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it.
6. GOD DETERMINES OUTCOME, BUT DOES GOD HAVE A WILL FOR ME IN SMALL MATTERS? Yes, all are important
- A. The end includes the means; little choices are real in producing the end
 - B. The little choices are predetermined too; note the detail of some prophecies
 - C. The means [our works] are important enough to be judged by God
 - D. Even matters of indifference are to be done in faith and whatever is not done in faith is sin
 - Rom 14:23 and whatever is not from faith is sin
 - E. We often should proceed on what seems to be the will of God, that is, what seems to be the general revelation, such as, evangelism
 - Mark 16:15 ...go into all the world

- Acts 16:7 and when they had come to Mysia, they were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;
- F. Some things do seem left to us as equal options, that is, God may say, 'I will work with you that way too'

Does God Know Beforehand?

1. ANSWER: Yes, because of the implications of godhood
 - A. If anything is outside God's agency or permission, then that thing would be independent of God and He would no longer be supreme.

2. ANSWER: Yes, because of God's mental capacity
 - Psa 147:5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in strength; His understanding is infinite.

3. ANSWER: Yes, because God has lined out the end of the world from the start. This would necessitate that God determines all things along the way to produce that end, that is, God must know every event, including every choice of every free agent to yield a certain outcome.
 - Eph 1:11 ...predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will
 - Isa 46:9, 10 I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'

4. ANSWER: Yes, because God knows free choices before they occur
 - A. **Peter's** denial and it's exact timing (rooster crows)
 - B. **Judas'** betrayal and its exact circumstances (30 pieces, etc.)
 - C. If these were not free choices, then they were not sins and the person was not blameworthy
 - D. Prayers
 - Isa 65:24 It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer.

5. ANSWER: Yes, because none of God's decrees are left contingent upon secondary causes (as seen in the fulfillment of detailed prophecy) and therefore He knows
 - Prov 19:21 Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD, it will stand
 - Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death

- Rev 1.1 things which must shortly come to pass
6. ANSWER: Yes, because God even knows all contingencies – what might have been
- 1 Sam 23:12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you [if you do that]."
 - Mat 11:21 ... if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented
 - 2 Ki 13:19 So the man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck five or six times, then..."
7. QUESTION: What about the “now I know” in scripture?
- A. Example:
- Gen 22:12 And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."
 - 2 Chr 32:31 And even in the matter of the envoys of the rulers of Babylon, who sent to him to inquire of the wonder that had happened in the land, God left him alone only to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.
 - Deu 8:2 And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.
- B. Explanations
- 1) In Gen 22, are we to suppose that God might have found out that He had been wrong all along in choosing Abraham and that everything that had preceded in Abraham's life (from Gen 12 on – all the promises, etc.) might have ended up having to be discarded?
 - 2) It is an anthropomorphism – God speaking as a man
 - 3) It is God speaking in his person-hood
 - 4) It carries the meaning, “Now it is manifested.” God is drawing men out for their good and His purposes.
8. CONCLUSIONS AND APPLICATIONS?
- A. Omniscience magnifies God
- 1) We should be amazed
 - Psa 139:4-6 Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O LORD, Thou dost know it all. Thou hast enclosed me behind and before, and laid Thy hand upon me. Such

knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.

- 2) God never ...
 - a) discovers
 - b) learns
 - c) is surprised
 - d) is amazed, wonders
 - e) asks for information
 - f) takes counsel (Rom 11.34), or
 - g) forgets (Heb 6.10)
- 3) God knows
 - a) himself perfectly, in contrast to man
 - b) all matter and all matters – 1st causes, 2nd causes, mysteries, enigmas, chance events
 - Dan 2:22 It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness

B. Omniscience promotes an aversion to sin

- 1) See:
 - Rom 2:16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.
 - Heb 4:13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.
 - Psa 90:8 Thou hast placed our iniquities before Thee, our secret sins in the light of Thy presence.
 - Rev 2:2 I know your deeds
- 2) Fallen man does not want a witness, a watcher, a judge
 - Prov 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
 - Psa 10:11 He says to himself, "God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it."
 - Psa 94:7 And they have said, "The LORD does not see...."
 - Isa 29:15 Woe to those who deeply hide their plans from the LORD, And whose deeds are done in a dark place, And they say, "Who sees us?" or "Who knows us?"
 - Ezek 9:9 Then He said to me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is very, very great, and the land is filled with blood, and the city is full of perversion; for they say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land, and the LORD does not see!'

C. Omniscience yields great comfort

- 1) You question your own devotion?
 - John 21:17 Lord, you know
- 2) You are perplexed as to your own choices?
 - Job 23.10 He knows the way I take

D. You question whether God hears your prayers?

- Isa 65:24 It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.

E. You fear some unknown about yourself?

- 1) No talebearer can inform
 - 2) No enemy can accuse
 - 3) No forgotten skeleton can come tumbling out to abash
 - 4) No unsuspected weakness can be brought to light
 - 5) Whatever may befall, God knows and cares as no one else
- Jer 1:5 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you

The Waters of Baptism – A Real Killer

The devil has used the waters of baptism to sink more souls in hell than about any other vice or device. Wily as he is, he has stolen a beautiful ordinance of God and used it for himself, filling church houses with hypocrites whose lives have never been changed by any meeting with the living God -- they went into the water a dry sinner and came up a wet sinner. The murderer, the immoral, the thief, the gossip, the liar, and the arrogant hypocrite hide behind the baptistry. How many, by their infant baptism, have been insulated from a sense of their need of coming to Christ for true conversion in later years? Now think of this! MOST OF THE MAIN-LINE CHURCHES teach that water baptism is somehow effectual in dealing with sin – Roman Catholic, Lutheran, many Presbyterians, most Methodists, some Pentecostal, Episcopal, Christian, and Church of Christ. Baptism, that is, false concepts of it, is a real killer.

Now, it is true that baptism is Biblical. A Christian ought to be baptized. But the point is this: it is not something one does to become a Christian. Rather, it is something one does because he is ALREADY a Christian. To put it another way, although baptism is at the door of salvation, it is not the door.

That distinction must be maintained to avoid a false gospel. Proof? The Galatian churches were troubled by ‘Judaizers’. While they taught that Christ truly was the Messiah and salvation was through faith in Him, they ADDED something -- that circumcision also was necessary to be saved. That is, they taught a ‘faith plus’ salvation. This the Apostle Paul called “another gospel”; it was “desertion” from the true faith; and those who held to it were “accursed” of God, that is, headed for hell (Galatians 1:6-9). So, in the same way, to add that water baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins is an exact parallel to the Galatian error, incurring the same curse.

Another Bible proof that water baptism has nothing to do with the cleansing of the heart [it should be obvious that water on the skin won’t reach the heart] is the case of the conversion of Cornelius and his household. It is related in Acts chapter 15, verses 7-9. Note the sequence: 1. they heard the gospel, 2. they believed the gospel, 3. their hearts were cleansed by that faith, 4.

God bore witness to their hearts by giving them the Spirit, and 5. they were at last baptized (Acts 10:48). You see, their sins were forgiven BEFORE they went in the water.

The fact that JESUS HIMSELF WAS BAPTIZED proves baptism does not save. He did not need saving. It is only a ceremony.

Now, it is true that there are Bible verses that seem to make baptism effectual for forgiveness, such as Acts 2:38, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the forgiveness of your sins." But the key is this: the Greek word "eis" translated "for" can have the meaning "in view of". Thus, the meaning is this: be baptized in view of your sins being forgiven. Matthew 3:11 shows this same principle – baptism does not produce repentance. Isolated verses of the Bible can be used to prove about anything. God left plenty of dead ends for the dishonest.

What's so attractive about baptism? It is SOMETHING MAN DOES, and proud man always wants something he can do to try to find favor with God. But God has set up salvation such that we are left helpless and we must come to God as empty-handed beggars, looking to the living God for a hand out – for charity, for grace. And to put our little finger in to help is an insult to Him.

But baptism is a beautiful ordinance. First, it signifies the BURIAL of the old sinful self and the RAISING UP of a new man in Christ upon true conversion, a miraculous work of the hand of God (Colossians 2:12). Second, it signifies the WASHING away of sins (Acts 22:16). Third, it is the 'INITIATION CEREMONY' into the church of Christ (Acts 2:41), testifying to the watching world that the candidate has forsaken the company of sinners to side off with the saints.

The devil is good at superstition – he would get you to miss the reality for the symbol, the substance for the shadow. Make sure you have actually come to know the living God. Make sure your sins are personally washed away through RAW FAITH in the substitutionary death of Christ who died to pay the sinner's sin-debt. Make sure the Spirit of Christ has invaded your heart, breaking the power of sin, changing your life. This is the new birth. This is reality. This is life.

Infant Salvation and Age of Accountability?

It is urged that ...

1. **David's statement proves infants are in heaven:**

- *2 Sam 12:23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."*

However, is David referring to heaven or merely the hereafter, as the Old Testament tends to do?

2. **Little ones don't know good from evil and are innocent.**

- *Deu 1:39 Moreover, your little ones who you said would become a prey, and your sons, who this day have no knowledge of good or evil, shall enter there, and I will give it to them, and they shall possess it.*

It must be granted, that there is at least a relative innocence with infants. However, the Bible makes strong statements regarding humanity having a depraved nature [they are born fallen], such as,

- *Psa 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*

David acknowledges the sin problem came on early,

- *Psa 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

It is obvious very early that little children are morally alive, manifesting stubbornness and selfishness* and having a working conscience. For example, their crying is often and obviously selfish, devious, and exaggerated. Parents themselves recognize this moral accountability and give them their "No" (moral law) or their 'thump' on the hand at a very early age, expecting a response, trying to correct them or train them, as though they were in fact accountable.

*The Toddler's Creed

What's mine is mine, that's plain to see,
And what looks like mine must surely be,
If I like it a lot I'll lay my claim,
(If I might like it someday, that's kind of the same),
If you want it now, then I must too,
But change your mind, and I'll change my view,
If it's in my room, if it's in my hand,
If it's in my house, don't your understand?
It might be important to play with someday,

But what will happen if I gave it away?"

3. **God's desire is to save.**

- *1 Tim 2:4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

It is asserted that God is not willing for any to perish. That is true, but behold both the goodness and the severity of God. How many babies died in the Flood? God permitted myriads of Gentiles to “*go their own way*” in darkness and perish before the gospel came, Acts 14:16, Rom. 1:18ff.

4. **The kingdom belongs to infants.** This is urged from,

- *Matt 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*

Notice, first, these children were not here saved. The request and result was, rather, the laying on of Jesus' hands and prayer (vv. 13, 15).

Second, notice the NAS reading. The kingdom belongs to such as these. It does not say ‘belongs to these.’

- *Matt 19:14 But Jesus said, Let the children alone, and do not hinder them from coming to Me; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.*

The kingdom belongs to people who have become like children, that is, they are humble. They have taken the low position – “humble himself as this child.” Often Matt. 18:1f is taken as referring to children. However, upon closer examination, the Lord is saying a man must become like a child to enter the kingdom. That is, a believer is then like a child. The believers are the little ones.

- *Matt 18:6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble.*

Further considerations...

1. **Infants are partakers of imputed guilt:**

- *Rom 5:12a Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin*
- *1 Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die.*

Infants die. Some die before they are born – before they have done good or evil, Rom. 9:11. If fetuses suffer physically

from imputed sin, can it be proved for sure that they do not suffer also spiritually from imputed sin?

2. **Justification is by faith:** The Bible everywhere declares that justification is by faith. It would only be presumption to think that the blood of Christ is somehow applied to an infant's soul, the soul of one who cannot consciously exercise that saving faith. And it would be strange to think of it being withdrawn, and at what age? It is arbitrary and speculative, isn't it?

Conclusions

1. Pre-natal regeneration is possible, as in the case of John the Baptist.
 - *Luke 1:15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while yet in his mother's womb.*
- It would appear we have at least this one case of an infant being regenerated.
2. Scripture has left an uncertainty as to the destiny of those who die in infancy.
3. We must beware of sentimentality on such a delicate issue.
4. We know whatever God does with our precious little ones is right.
5. We had better pray for them from the start.
6. Children should flee to Christ.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

1. This phrase occurs...
 - A. at the end of
 - 1) Romans
 - 2) 1 & 2 Cor
 - 3) Gal, Php
 - 4) 1 & 2 Ths
 - 5) Ple
 - B. in a shortened form at the end of Paul's other epistles
 - C. at the end of the Bible
 2. Outline
 - A. Christ's riches
 - B. Christ's poverty
 - C. Our poverty
 - D. Our riches
-
1. THE RICHES OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST – *though He was rich*
 - A. Christ was rich...
 - 1) In His pre-incarnate, eternal state, when deity only
 - a) John 1.1
 - b) Our Lord's pristine condition
 - 2) Before
 - a) Calvary's cross
 - b) Nazareth's carpenter's shop
 - c) Bethlehem's manger
 - B. Christ was rich in glory
 - John 17.5 the glory that I had with You
 - 1) This was ...
 - a) before man & angels, not a comparative glory
 - b) when the glory of all the divine attributes & prerogatives being in full manifestation in Christ, unveiled
 - C. Christ was rich in communion

- John 17.24 for You loved Me before the foundation of the world
 - 1) Relationships are of first importance
 - Prov 15:17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is, Than a fattened ox and hatred with it.
 - 2) How great was the relationship between Father and Son?
 - a) So great that, being alone with only one another, they were not bored from all eternity
 - b) So big is our God
 - D. Christ was rich in possessions upon creation – the Son of God made all and owned all
2. THE POVERTY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST- *He became poor*
- A. Poverty in laying aside his glory
- 1) and taking on **humanity**. What wonderment amongst the angels when word got out that
 - a) Deity would become humanity
 - b) Infinite would become an infant
 - 2) and not only becoming man, but a suffering man that is, the poverty in **rejection & shame**
 - a) Christ had the fullness of Spirit, but was charged with having a demon
 - b) He was wisdom incarnate, but called insane
 - c) He was the only begotten of the Father, but charged with being born of fornication
 - d) He was the Holy One, but called a sinner
- B. Poverty in hindered communion
- 1) That fellowship was broken at Calvary
 - Mat 27:46 why have You forsaken Me?
 - 2) That intimate relationship veiled in the incarnation, for, we see our Lord wrestling to stay in touch with the Father
- C. Poverty from loss of possessions
- 1) Parents were poor
 - 2) Disciples were poor
 - 3) Supported by women, Luke 8.3
 - 4) Used a borrowed
 - a) Cradle
 - b) Tax money

- c) Donkey
- d) Womb
- e) Room
- f) Tomb

3. OUR POVERTY - implied in the text
 - A. The fall wrecked the universe
 - B. Sin stripped us of everything
 - 1) We have a poor record
 - 2) We have poor, perverted hearts - lovers of money, pleasures, self, darkness

4. OUR RICHES THROUGH HIS POVERTY – *might become rich*
 - A. Through His poverty, that is, the giving of Himself to accomplish redemption
 - B. We might be rich
 - 1) Not material, Heb 11.37
 - 2) but true riches, spiritual, Luke 16.11
 - C. The riches of ...
 - 1) Adoption – no longer criminals but sons
 - 2) Heirship – heirs of God
 - 3) Regeneration – Spirit of God in the heart
 - 4) Justification – a divine righteousness
 - 5) Sanctification – progressive victory over sin
 - 6) Communion – priests of God
 - 7) Knowledge of God, Jer 9.23
 - 8) Glorification - immortality

5. CONCLUSION & APPLICATION
 - A. Examination
 - 1) Am I rich or poor spiritually?
 - Luke 12:21 So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.
 - 2) These riches are only for beggars
 - a) Bunyan: I was more loathsome in my own eyes than a toad; and I thought I was so in God's eyes too
 - Rom 10.13 rich unto all who call

B. Adoration

- 1) The difference between the richest and the poorest is nothing compared to Christ in glory and Christ in humility
- 2) No one knows poverty like those once rich
- 3) And it was for your sake, Spurgeon: Just for us he raked in the mire to find the hidden jewels

C. Exultation

- 1) Spurgeon: If our riches be proportionate to his poverty, what riches are ours
- 2) Gold in Revelation means something

D. Exhortation

- 1) We have an example in our Lord Jesus Christ which is the primary criterion for Christianity
 - John 13:34 as I have loved you
 - John 13:15 For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.
 - Eph 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you
 - Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ
- 2) If you are a Christian, ought to be moved to gratitude and self-sacrifice by our Lord's example
 - a) He gave all and we give nothing?
 - b) Has our Christianity cost us anything?
- 3) Let us then be rich in ...
 - a) **Faith**
 - Jam 2:5 has not God chosen the poor to be rich in faith
 - b) **Good works**
 - 1 Tim 6:18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share
 - c) **Scriptures**
 - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you
 - d) **Reputation**, for Christ
 - Prov 22:1 A good name is to be more desired than great riches
 - e) **Reproaches**, for Christ
 - Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt
 - f) **Souls**
 - 1 Ths 2:19
 - Eph 1:17 the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

- 4) We may 'buy'
- Rev 3:17 Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me
- E. This grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, that is, the spiritual riches Christ purchased for you at the cross

Does All Mean All?

Sometimes “all” in the Bible does not mean all. That is, it does not mean all men without exception, but rather all men without distinction – all classes of men. This will greatly help in interpreting the Bible. Examples:

- John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw ALL MEN to Myself.

All must mean Gentiles, for, not all men without exception are drawn [for a definition of “draw,” see: John 6:44 No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.]

- Acts 19:10 And this took place for two years, so that ALL who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

“All” here is defined as both Jews and Greeks.

- Acts 19:17 And this became known to ALL, both Jews and Greeks, who lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Again, “all” is both Jews and Greeks.

- 1 Tim 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of ALL men

Paul, what do you mean by “all”? The next verse answers it – all categories of men.

- 1 Tim 2:2 for KINGS AND ALL who are in authority,

We should expect that these next verses then hold the same meaning.

- 1 Tim 2:4 who desires ALL men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- 1 Tim 2:6 who gave Himself as a ransom for ALL, the testimony borne at the proper time.

In the same way, “world” does not always mean all men without exception, but rather all men without distinction. For example,

Here world clearly means Gentiles, in contrast to the Jews.

- John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the WORLD [Gentiles] did not know Him. 11 He came to His own [Jews]

World must mean something else, for, not all men without exception have their sins taken away.

- John 1:29 The next day he saw[^] Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the WORLD!"

We might suspect that the Lord was saying, "Nicodemus, the gospel is for Gentiles too, not Jews only."

- John 3:16 "For God so loved the WORLD, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

The Samaritans took it to mean 'not Jews only.'

- John 4:42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the WORLD."

The definition is clear here – Gentiles.

- Rom 11:12 Now if their transgression be riches for the WORLD and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

Is the world is reconciled, that is, are their sins forgiven? No, not all men without exception, but all men without distinction.

- 2 Cor 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the WORLD to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Mysteries In New Testament

What is the New Testament meaning of mystery? It is the truth of God hidden to man, till revealed by God -- Rom 16:25, 26a ... according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested

1. **The mystery of Christ and His gospel of salvation**

- Col 2:2b a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself
- Rom 16:25a Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, but now is manifested
- Mat 13:11 To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted
- 1 Tim 3:9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.
- 1 Tim 3:16 And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Beheld by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.
- Note the description of the condition of the world before the gospel – Acts 17:30 having overlooked the times of ignorance

2. **The mystery of the indwelling Christ**, Col 1:27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3. **The mystery of the unity of believers, that is, the inclusion of the Gentiles**, Eph 3:4 And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ ... Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel

4. **The mystery of Israel's unbelief [ethnically] & restoration spiritually [of elect ethnic Jews]**, Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in;

5. **The mystery of lawlessness**, 2 Th 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

6. **They mystery of Babylon**, Rev 17:5 and upon her forehead a name was written, a mystery, "Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."
7. **The mystery of the rapture**, 1 Cor 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed
8. **The mystery of the goal/end of world history**
 - Rev 10:7 but in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets.
 - Eph 1:9,10 He made known to us the mystery of His will ... summing up all things

Old Covenant & New Covenant

1. QUESTION: Is there both a real and distinct Old Covenant and New Covenant?
 - 2 Cor 3:14 But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ.
 - Luke 22:20 This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.

2. QUESTION: Is the Old Covenant terminated and has a New Covenant replaced it?
 - Heb 8:13 When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.
 - Heb 10:9 ...He takes away the first in order to establish the second.
 - 2 Cor 3:11 For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

3. QUESTION: How was the Old Covenant replaced by the New Covenant? At Calvary by Christ's death.
 - Luke 22:20 This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.
 - Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions

4. QUESTION: Where and when were the covenants made?
 - A. Old Covenant – at Sinai / Horeb
 - Deu 5:2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us at Horeb.
 - Deu 29:25 Then men shall say, 'Because they forsook the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt.'
 - B. New Covenant – in heaven, through Calvary
 - Heb 9:24 For Christ did not enter a holy place made with hands, a mere copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
 - Luke 22:20 This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.
 - Signified by the rending of the veil

5. QUESTION: With whom were the covenants made?
 - A. Old Covenant – with Israel, the theocracy

- Deu 4:23 So watch yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you, and make for yourselves a graven image in the form of anything against which the LORD your God has commanded you.
- Deu 5:3 The LORD did not make this covenant with our fathers (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob), but with us, with all those of us alive here today.

B. New Covenant – the called / the believers of Jews and Gentiles

- Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah
- Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

6. QUESTION: What are the specific terms of the covenants?

A. Old Covenant – perfect obedience to

1) The Ten Commandments (Israel's constitution)

- Exo 34:28 So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.
- Deu 4:13 So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

2) All the written revelation

- Gal 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, to perform them."

B. The New Covenant – same as above; perfect obedience to / conformity to God

- Heb 7:11 Now if perfection [that is, that is still the goal] was through...

C. One great difference: the believer does not meet the terms; our Surety does

- 1) The Old Covenant was bilateral, that is, 'you do this and I'll do that', and that is why it failed. Israel could not hold up their end of the covenant.

- 2) In the New Covenant God simply states, 'I will' (Heb 8.8f). It is unilateral. God does it all. We "work not", but believe on Him who justifies the ungodly (Rom 4.5)
 - Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh

7. QUESTION: What blessing is promised for obeying the terms?

A. Old Covenant – life, eternal life

- Exo 19:5 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine
- Lev 18:5 So you shall keep My statutes and My judgments, by which a man may live if he does
- Jer 7:23 But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people... that it may be well with you.'

B. New Covenant – life, eternal life

- 1 John 2:25 And this is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life.
- Titus 1:2 in the hope of eternal life
- Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
 - a) New heart, v.10
 - b) God's people, v.10
 - c) Know God, v.11
 - d) Perpetual forgiveness, v.12

C. One great difference: believers do not meet the terms; our Surety does

- Heb 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.
- Rom 5:19 ... through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

D. Question: we must come to Christ; isn't that obeying the terms? Rather, our faith is a confession of our inability to obey any terms. It is a trust in Jesus' obedience in our behalf. All hinges on Him.

E. Note: the essential problem is sin. If a condemned criminal will ever escape death and live, another must pay for his crime.

8. QUESTION: What curses threaten disobedience to the terms?

A. Old Covenant – rejection, death

- Josh 23:16 When you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods, and bow down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land which He has given you.
- Ezek 18:4 The soul who sins will die.
- Heb 8:9 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

B. New Covenant – no curse possible, no apostasy possible

- Jer 32:40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.
- Gal 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"

C. One great difference: the New Covenant does not depend on our obedience, therefore it contains no curse for disobedience. In fact, it insures we will not depart from it.

9. QUESTION: Is there a different mediator for the New Covenant?

- Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.
- Heb 9:15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.
- Heb 12:24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

A. Aaron was replaced by “another priest”

- Heb 7:11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise

B. Moses was replaced by another prophet, another lawgiver

- John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.

- Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ [not Moses]
- Eph 2:20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
- Heb 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession.
- 1 Cor 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.
- Matt 5 (6 times) I say unto you

10. QUESTION: Is there a difference in the commandments? Yes

...

A. A change of priesthood means a change of law for the people

- Heb 7:11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

B. Examples of the difference:

1) Love

- Lev 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.
- John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you

2) Sermon on the Mount – “but I say unto you”

- a) Divorce, retaliation, etc. were altered
- b) Adultery, murder, etc. were taken to a deeper meaning

11. QUESTION: Are the Ten Commandments abrogated?

A. Yes

1) As a covenant document, that is, the Law is not our law book, but our history book

- 2 Cor 3.3f, Heb 8.13
- Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us

2) The entire system of Judaism has been abrogated

- 1 Th 2:16 wrath has come upon them [Jews] to the utmost
- Mat 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you, and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it

B. No

- 1) The Old Covenant law is valid, not as a covenant, but it must be read with a spiritual eye, and each appropriately applied
 - a) Sometimes a different application
 - 1 Cor 9:9 For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle the ox [preacher] while he is threshing."
 - b) Sometimes little if any change
 - Eph 6:2 Honor your father and mother ...on the earth [land, Deu 5.16]
- 2) The Lord Jesus Christ did not destroy the Law; He fulfilled the Law (Mat 5.17), its
 - a) Penalties by His death
 - b) Precepts by His life
 - c) Prophecies and
 - d) Pictures by reality

12. QUESTION: What are the respective signs of each covenant?

A. Old Covenant – the sabbath / sabbaths

- Exo 31:13 But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for this is a sign'
- Exo 31:16,17 So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant. It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever

B. New Covenant

- 1) Baptism – union with Christ
- 2) Lord's Supper – communion with Christ – “this is My body, blood”

13. QUESTION: Is the New Covenant better than the Old Covenant?

- Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

A. Better covenant

- 1) Note: the book of Hebrews uses the word better 13 times
- 2) Heb 7
 - a) Better high priest: dies / endless life
 - b) Better sanctuary: earthly / heavenly
 - c) Better sacrifice: animal, ineffectual / Son of God, once for all

- 3) 2 Cor 3
 - a) ministry of death / life
 - b) ministry of condemnation / righteousness
 - c) stone / hearts
 - d) ink / Spirit
 - e) letter / Spirit
- 4) Mat 5.20: righteousness surpassing (that is, heart purity)
- 5) Rom 6.14: law / grace (which yields victory over sin)
- B. Better promises: Heb 8 I will
 - 1) Make in them a new heart
 - 2) Be their God
 - 3) All shall know God personally
 - 4) Sins forgiven perpetually
- C. One could be a good Jew and yet end up in hell

14. CONCLUSIONS

- A. These Old Covenant / New Covenant issues will likely affect our view of...
 - 1) Baptism candidates – whether children of believers are in the Covenant
 - 2) What you have freedom to eat – if food laws still apply
 - 3) Giving, especially tithing – if is to be viewed as law
 - 4) Validity of holy days, especially Sabbath
 - 5) Validity of holy wars
 - 6) Validity of holy garments
 - 7) Validity of holy place – sanctuary v. meeting house
 - 8) Israel's place with God
 - 9) Christ – am I focused on precepts or a Person
- B. A proper view of these things yields great assurance and security for the believer
 - 1) We are in an unconditional covenant
 - 2) We are in an unending covenant
 - 3) We are in an unilateral covenant
 - 4) The Old Covenant says 'do'; the New Covenant says 'done'. We are trusting the finished work of Christ on the cross to be our only hope, to be our acceptance with God and the spring of our obedience.

The Stumbling Block of the Cross

Gal 5:11 But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished.

1. WHY IS THE CROSS A STUMBLING BLOCK?

A. It speaks of death

- Acts 10:39 ... And they also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.
- 1) It was the Roman electric chair
- 2) It was the place where criminals were executed
- 3) It is the emblem of 'suffering and shame'
- 4) It is not some fancy ornament
- 5) It is not some shining symbol for the in the meeting house

B. It speaks of a dead leader, a crucified Messiah

- 1 Cor 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness
 - Luke 24:21 we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel
 - Mat 16:22 And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You."
- 1) They stumbled at our Lord's
 - a) Obscurity
 - b) Poverty
 - c) Commonness - Mat 13:56 "And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" And they took offense at Him.
 - d) Pedigree – appeared illegitimate
 - e) Appearance – Isa 53.2
 - f) Doctrine – hard sayings, John 6:60
 - g) Discipline – contrary to the flesh
 - h) Followers – fisherment
 - i) Death, which was apparent failure
 - 2) The Lord gave them no sign, except the one they missed – the resurrection, Mat 12:39 – restoration from apparent failure

C. It speaks of death to man

- 1) Man is a sinner in need of salvation – the cross

- 2) Man is called to come and die with Jesus, Luke 9.23, die to his self-life
2. WAYS IN WHICH THE STUMBLING BLOCK OF THE CROSS IS AVOIDED – false gospels
 - Phil 3:18 ... they are enemies of the cross of Christ
 - A. **Circumcision** gospel – teaches you can contribute to your salvation and leaves Adam alive
 - B. **Free will** gospel – teaches salvation ultimately depends on the exercise of my will which leaves proud man yet on the throne, Adam yet alive
 - C. **Clever** gospel – exalts proud flesh, 1 Cor 1.17
 - D. **Success** gospel – Jesus will make you successful
 - E. **Improvement** gospel – does not call for a conversion experience, and leaves Adam yet alive
 - F. **Rededication** gospel – teaches that, although you have lived a sinful life, you just need to rededicate and reaffirm your childhood profession; it leaves Adam yet alive
 - G. **Pluralistic** gospel – teaches the cross not necessary
 3. WE SHOULD RATHER GLORY IN THE CROSS
 - Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I should boast, except in the **cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.
 - 1 Cor 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him **crucified**.
 - 1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the **cross** is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
 - Luke 9:23 And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross** daily, and follow Me.
 - Rev 12:11 "And they overcame him because of the **blood** of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.

Attributes of God's Call

Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

1. **Sovereign call**
 - A. *His call*, Eph 1.18
 - B. Based on eternal purpose of God, 2 Tim 1.9, Rom 8.29
2. **Selective call**, Mark 10:49 And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage, arise! He is calling for you."
3. **Sure call**, irrevocable, Rom 11.29
4. **Saving call**, 1 Pet 2.9
5. **Sanctifying call**, holiness, 2 Tim 1.9, 1 Cor 1.2
6. **Fellowship call**, 1 Cor 1.9
7. **Call to peace**, 1 Cor 7:15
8. **Liberating call**, Gal 5.19
9. **Unifying call**, Eph 4:4, All going to same place
10. **Heavenly call**, Heb 3.1, Php 3.14
11. **Unconditional call**, 1 Cor 7:21 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it
12. **Exhortation?** Eph 4:1 ... walk in a manner worthy of the calling

Causes of Salvation

(headings by A. W. Pink)

1. ORIGINAL CAUSE

- A. Appointed by God the Father, the purpose of God, the will of God, the decree of God
- B. 2 Tim 1:9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity

2. MERITORIOUS CAUSE

- A. Accomplished by God the Son; He purchased the blessing
- B. Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him

3. EFFICIENT CAUSE

- A. Applied by the operations of the Spirit of God; He applies saving grace to elect
- B. Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit

4. MINISTERIAL CAUSE

- A. Preaching
- B. 1 Th 2:16 hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles that they might be saved; with the result that they always fill up the measure of their sins. But wrath has come upon them to the utmost

5. INSTRUMENTAL CAUSE

- A. Believing
- B. Acts 16:31 Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household

The Nature of Saving Faith

1. Question: What must I do to be saved?
2. Answer: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.
3. Problem: What does it mean to believe?
4. Difficulty: Faith is easily counterfeited
 - James 2:19 ...the demons also believe, and shudder
 - Luke 8:13 And those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away
 - John 2:23, 24 Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men
 - John 8:30 As He spoke these things, many came to believe in Him ...John 8:59 Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him
 - John 12:42, 43 Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God
5. Helpful: Consider interchangeable terms.

1. COMING TO CHRIST

A. Used interchangeably

- John 6:35 I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst
- John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me

B. Used often

- Mat 11:28 come unto Me
- Luke 6:47 Everyone who comes to Me, and hears My words, and acts upon them
- Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own
- Isa 55:1 Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.
- Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost

C. Meaning: to change locations [spiritually]

2. RECEIVING CHRIST

- A. Used interchangeably
 - John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name
 - B. Also seen in ...
 - Mat 10:40 He who receives you receives Me
 - Rom 5:17 those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness
 - Col 2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him
 - C. Receive as a ...
 - 1) Receptionist at a place of business
 - 2) As a guest is received into the house
 - 3) As a gift – that of eternal life
3. LOOKING TO CHRIST
- A. Used interchangeably
 - John 3:14, 15 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness [that whoever looks shall live], even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes
 - John 6:40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life
 - B. Looking is also in reference to sanctification and glorification
 - Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus
 - Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him
 - C. Meaning?
 - 1) The eye of faith
 - 2) Gaze of trust, confidence, expectation
4. COMMITTING TO CHRIST
- John 2:23 many believed in His name, beholding His signs which He was doing. John 2:24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them [Note: same Greek word in both places reveals the meaning]
5. CALLING ON THE LORD
- A. Used interchangeably
 - Rom 10:11 For the scripture says, Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed ... Rom 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
 - B. Meaning? A desperate appeal

6. SUBMITTING TO CHRIST

A. Seen in

- Rom 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

B. Meaning? To put oneself under the rule, authority and plan of another

C. We are to submit to the God-given righteousness – Christ

7. FLEEING TO CHRIST

A. Seen in

- Heb 6:18 ... we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge
- Mat 3:7 ... You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

B. Fleeing is in the backdrop of fear and danger

8. PARTAKING OF CHRIST

A. Seen in

- John 6:53 Jesus therefore said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.
- Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end

B. Meaning? Finding nutrition and life for the soul

Repentance

Acts 17:30 Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

Repentance is foundational – “the foundation of repentance,” Heb 6:1b – yet, controversial. Is it necessary for salvation or not?

There is no little emphasis in Scripture on repentance. Sometimes faith is not even mentioned, but rather repentance is set out as the very condition for conversion and salvation. Look at this emphasis...

- What was the first thing out of John the Baptist’s mouth? “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”, Mtt 3:2.
- John’s baptism was characterized by repentance, Mtt 3:11.
- The Lord Jesus began His ministry preaching the same words, Mtt 4:17.
- Our Lord came specifically to call sinners to repentance, Mtt 9:13.
- The Lord Jesus reproved cities. Why? They did not repent, Mtt 11:20.
- The twelve were sent out. What was their message? That men should repent, Mk 6:12.
- What was the Lord’s application of the tower tragedy? That the living should repent, Lk 13:3.
- What is the concern expressed by a man in hell? That the living might repent, Lk 15:7.
- What is the joy of heaven? The repentance of a sinner, Lk 16:30.
- What was Peter’s closing cry to Jews in his Pentecost sermon? Repent, Ac 2:38.
- What was Paul’s closing cry to Gentiles on Mars Hill? Repent, Ac 17:30.
- What was Paul’s summary of his own preaching? Repentance and faith, Ac 20:21.

- What is the point of God’s kindness to men? It leads to repentance, Rom 2:4.
- How can one find the truth? Repentance, as it is written, “Repentance to the acknowledging of the truth,” 2 Tim 2:25b.
- Why is God so patient? That men repent, 2 Pet 3:9.
- What brings glory to God? Repentance, as it is written, “They repented not to give him glory,” Rev 16:9b.

Yet, with all that emphasis, differing views exist as to repentance. There are basically three positions...

1) That repentance is **not a condition** for coming to Christ **nor is it necessarily a result** of coming to Christ. That is, repentance is entirely optional. This is the classic ‘Carnal Christian’ doctrine. It was greatly popularized by ...

- The original *Four Spiritual Laws* tract, which shows, even diagrams, two kinds of Christians – the carnal and the spiritual. The carnal Christian has not repented; he still has self on the throne. Then there is the spiritual Christian who is living for the Lord Jesus, etc.
- The *Ryrie Study Bible* which says [“A Synopsis of Bible Doctrine”] surrendering to the Lordship of Christ and repentance are false additions to faith. It utterly errs on the former and has a wrong view of the latter, that is, a cleansing of the life.
- The *Scofield Reference Bible* which says on page 1214 that Paul divides men into three classes: the natural man, the spiritual man, and the carnal man who is renewed, but nevertheless walks after the flesh and **remains** [this one word is the error] a babe in Christ.

Optional repentance, lordship and holiness are all one bundle and it is widely taught. **Curtis Hutson**, editor of *The Sword of the Lord* after John R. Rice, once authored a main article titled, “Repentance Is Not Necessary For Salvation”. **Charles Stanley**, in an *In Touch* article, “The Right View of Repentance”, says that repentance is necessary, but, alas, has the wrong view of repentance – “changing your mind about the way you have been

living and trusting in Christ.” It’s close, but he goes on to clarify his position. “You cannot expect the unsaved alcoholic or drug addict to give that up so he can be saved.” That comes later, he says. I was once at a large **ministers’ seminar** where the leader’s dear old father, speaking on Romans 12:1, stood and said, “Perhaps many of you have been saved and been pastors for years, but have never presented your bodies to God as a living sacrifice [that is, unrepentant].” In response to that foolishness, most of the assembly stood. **Larry Burkett**, in an article, “Do You Love Jesus?” says, “They appear to be content in knowing they are saved, but they never have accepted the Lordship of Christ over their daily lives [that is, unrepentant].” **Warren Wiersbie’s** magazine, *Confident Living*, some years back included an article by Rich Wager who says there are two kinds of believers. Then there is the Crucified Life teaching, the Deeper Life / Higher Life teachings, and the Pentecostal emphasis on the ‘baptism’ – all which give us the idea that there are two kinds of Christians. Another preacher, **R. B. Thieme**, in *Apes and Peacocks*, p. 23, carries it to the end, saying, “Believers who become agnostics are still saved; they are still born again. You can even become an atheist, but if you once accept Christ as your savior, you cannot lose your salvation, even though you deny God.”

2) That repentance must **not be a condition** for coming to Christ, but it **will be the certain result** of it. Anything more than ‘only believe’ is works. Regeneration will bring about the change after receiving Christ. This is the old / new Marrow Controversy, that is, it is not right to tell a person he must forsake sin in order to come to Christ. Some Calvinists hold this position. I asked one, “When you came to Christ, weren’t you thinking of giving your heart to him?” He would not admit to that.

3) That repentance **is necessary** to come to Christ. By way of the following questions, I posit we must forsake sin to come to Christ.

Question #1: WHAT IS REPENTANCE? The Greek word *metanoeo* means to change the mind – an after thought. If I see a sign, “Bridge Out,” and I change my mind about my course.

God calls us to **change our mind about ourselves**. Natural man has big thoughts of self and little thoughts of God. By grace we come then to see ourselves to be sinners deserving of hell and in need of a savior. We stop fighting God. We surrender. We turn ourselves in.

God calls us to **change our mind about Him**. That is, we purpose to give Him the glory due. The crime of all crimes is to steal the glory from God. He demands and deserves first place.

“It is that change wrought in the conscious life of a sinner by which he turns away from sin” [Berkhof]. It is a turning from (a) all known sin and from (b) a life of sin.

Question #2: DOES REPENTANCE MEAN FORSAKING SIN? Yes, see this in the case of the Thessalonians, “You turned **to God from idols to serve** a living and true God,” 1 Th 1:9b. They (a) turned from, (b) turned to, and (c) turned to serve. There is a mental willingness to leave off sin. There is a willingness to turn my back on self-serving and sin-serving. There is a change of attitude, intention and direction.

I once asked the theologian of a mission organization, “But when you came to Christ, wasn’t there some idea that you were going to follow the Lord?” He denied it. Alas, how can we get into the kingdom without bowing to the king? He is Lord and we must receive Him as He is. Even our prayers are addressed to Jesus as Lord.

- Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall **call on the name of the Lord** shall be saved.

We are saying “yes” to Jesus.

- Acts 9:6 And he trembling and astonished said, **Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**

There is a settled refusal to set any limit to the claims which Christ may make on our lives [Packer]. There must be a mental willingness to turn from a life of sin and all known sin to Christ to follow Him. We come and bow to the yoke.

- Mtt 11:28 **Come** unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my **yoke** upon you.

Now, this is not a pre-salvation attempt to set our life in order but to turn our back on sin and embrace Christ with whole-hearted devotion [MacArthur]. We are not saying that repentance is some clean up act. No, we come just as we are. We are not saying we must get free of sin to come to Christ. We are powerless and we are coming to Christ, trusting that He will free us of it, Mtt 1:21, Rom 5:6. We are merit-less and thankfully the gospel is unconditional. That is why it is good news.

Question #3: MUST AN UNBELIEVER GIVE UP PARTICULAR SINS?

Should we expect the alcoholic to give it up? Yes, when there is a pet sin, an idol sin, one must be willing to give it up. See the case of the rich young ruler – ‘forsake then come, follow.’

- Mark 10:21 **One thing** you lack: go and sell all you possess, and give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**

No, the Lord was not requiring victory over covetousness. That takes time to get that rooted out and to get free from the love of money. But He was requiring that he break with it, that he give it up, as it is written, "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not **give up** all his own possessions," Lk 14:33. There must be nothing between my soul and the Savior, no pet sin, no idol sin, no conscious point of contention, but rather a bowing to the Lordship of Christ, as it is written, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself ... and follow Me," Lk 9.23.

Question #4: WILL REPENTANCE LEAD TO ACTUAL CHANGES?

Yes. I see the "Bridge Out" sign, I change my mind, and I turn around. Deeds are the product of repentance. Consider these.

- Acts 26:20b **Repent** and turn to God, performing **deeds** appropriate to repentance.
- Jonah 3:10a When God saw their **deeds**, that they **turned** from their wicked way, then God relented.
- Rev 2:5b And **repent** and do the **deeds** you did at first

A mark of false repentance is superficial sorrow as in the case of Judas. There is no change. It is 'jailhouse conversion'.

Question #5: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REPENTANCE AND FAITH?

They are simply complementary parts of the same process [Berkhof]. The Bible is not all that careful in protecting a

distinction between repentance and faith in gospel preaching. In Jonah it says the Ninevites believed, but Jesus calls it repentance, Mtt 12:41, Jonah 3:5. Repentance is the tear in the eye of faith [Puritans]. They are twin doctrines.

- Acts 20:21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of **repentance** toward God and **faith** in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Someone put it this way:

- Repentance takes us low but faith raises up.
- Repentance strips but faith clothes.
- Repentance ejects dead works, but faith brings in the living Christ.
- Repentance ejects rebellion from the soul, but faith brings in the King.
- Repentance calls for weeping, but faith rejoicing.

It is surprising how many times repentance is set forth as a necessary ingredient in finding forgiveness...

- Prov 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and **forsaketh** them shall have **mercy**.
- Isa 55:7 Let the wicked **forsake** his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have **compassion** on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly **pardon**.
- Jonah 3:10 When God saw their deeds, that they **turned** from their wicked way, **then God relented** concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it.
- Luke 24:47 And that **repentance** and [NAS "for"] **remission** of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "**Repent**, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the **forgiveness** of your sins.
- Acts 3:19 **Repent** therefore and return, that your sins may be **wiped away**, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.
- Acts 5:31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant **repentance** to Israel, and **forgiveness** of sins.
- Acts 8:22 Therefore **repent** of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that if possible, the intention of your heart may be **forgiven** you.
- Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted **repentance** unto **life**.
- 2 Cor 6:17 Wherefore **come out** from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will **receive** you.

Question #6: WHY ISN'T REPENTANCE WORKS, that is, a works-gospel? Why isn't this a merit-gospel? Aren't we talking about something we must do? Here are six reasons it is not ...

1) We are not talking **about works but about willingness**, a willingness to let **the Lord work** in and through me.

2) This condition is **by definition** merit-less. That is, faith and repentance consist in resignation and self-despair, and that is why even faith cannot be called works.

3) Even faith is set forth as a **condition** for salvation. "Believe...and you shall be saved," Acts 16:31.

4) Faith itself has conditions. So why can't repentance be one of them?

- Isa 55:1a Ho! Every one who **thirsts, come**.
- Mtt. 11:28a **Come**...all ye that **labor** and are **heavy**.

Even repentance itself has pre-conditions.

- 2 Cor 7:10 For **godly sorrow** works **repentance** to salvation.

5) The gospel is spoken of as something to be **obeyed**. You would think the Bible would be more careful in guarding against works-salvation. Let's not be more holy than God.

- 2 Th 1:8b Dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus
- Rom 15:18b Resulting in the **obedience** of the Gentiles by word and deed
- Rom 1:5b To bring about the **obedience of faith** among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake
- Rom 16:26b Leading to **obedience of faith**
- John 3:36b He who does **not obey** the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him
- Acts 6:7b priests were becoming **obedient** to the faith
- Heb 5:9b He became to all those who **obey** Him the source of eternal salvation
- John 6:28a This is the **work of God, that you believe** in Him whom He has sent.

6) It is the prevenient grace of God [regeneration] that produces this condition anyway.

- Acts 5:31 He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to **grant** repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins
- 2 Tim 2:25b If perhaps God may **grant** them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth

Question #7: **HOW DEEP MUST OUR REPENTANCE BE?** We must be sincere. The condition is this – all your heart.

- Acts 8:37 If you believe with **all** your heart, you may.

It is an error to try to measure the years and the tears. So, we should receive the repentance unless there's some obvious reason not to, as in the case of Peter with Simon ...

- Acts 8:21 You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Question #8: WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF MAKING REPENTANCE OPTIONAL? To fail in this matter will skew one's judgment. It will have me assuring the career-carnal professor that nevertheless he is going to heaven, when in fact the man is a false convert and unregenerate. It will tell him he needs a bandage, when in fact he needs the knife. Failure in this matter is one of the major reasons we have so many false believers and false conversions. The self-root never gets extracted, Lk 9.23. Self never gets dethroned. I know of a homosexual who was converted. The last thing to go, the hardest thing to go was not her many vile acts, but whether self would be yielded. So, optional repentance is a destructive heresy. It makes the narrow gate wide. The idea that you can be saved without bowing to Christ as Lord is a false gospel. Those who refuse Him as Lord cannot use Him as Savior [MacArthur]. The Lord will not save those whom He cannot command [Tozer]. Christianity will always be a drawn sword in the path of proud man.

Question #9: I'M A CHRISTIAN AND HAVE DEFEAT IN MY LIFE, WHAT SHOULD I DO? What would you counsel? Some say, "Just look to Jesus." Yes, we must remember our position in Christ.

- Rom 6:11a **Consider yourselves to be dead** to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
- 1 Pet 1:18a **Knowing** that you were not redeemed with perishable things.

But nevertheless we are under obligation to lay sin aside while looking unto Jesus.

- Heb 12:1,2 laying aside every weight and the sin ... looking

We are to stop sinning, 1 Cor 15:34. Churches don't need revival but repentance.

- Rev 2:16 **Repent** therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth.
- Rev 3:19 'Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and **repent**.

Question #10: WHY REPENT?

1) Because God's **kindness leads** you to repent.

- Romans 2:4 the **kindness** of God leads you to repentance?

Sunshine, rain, life, breath, food, clothing, existence, joy, comfort is all a kindness from God. You have so much more than you deserve, which is hell itself. The worst lot is better than you deserve. Anything less than utter devotion is unreasonable.

2) Because the degree of your punishment daily **increases**.

- Rom 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are **storing up** wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

Delay only increases the store of anger. The unrepentant criminal makes more infractions and his debt to justice only mounts.

3) Because your heart gets **harder**.

- Rev 16:11 And they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they [still] **did not repent** of their deeds.

Hearts, like clay, harden and the likelihood of repentance decreases. God reprobates. There is one deathbed repentance in the Bible – one that we might not despair; just one that we might not presume.

4) Because God **commands** you to repent.

- Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God overlooked; but now **commands** all men every where to repent.

God is not hinting, suggesting, inviting, persuading, or merely entreating, but commanding. This is a non-optional, absolute, universal obligation to turn. This command carries as much weight as the Ten Commandments.

5) Because **judgment** is coming.

- Acts 17:30, 31 Now commands all men every where to repent for He has fixed **a day in which He will judge**.

The Son of God became a man most humbly, lived a life most perfectly, died substitutionarily, rose gloriously, was seated in authority, rules universally, is coming again powerfully, will judge righteously, and will put you in **hell** if you don't repent.

- Luke 13:3 I tell you ...unless you repent, you will ...**perish**.
- Psa 7:12 If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His **sword**.

Christianity has the worst news that man has heard. In the end the Lord Jesus will easily crush all rebellion. Those who will not turn from serving King Self will be humbled at the Lord's feet and

punished with eternal torment for high-handed crimes against infinite goodness. Thus, we should flee from the wrath to come.

6) Because the Lord Jesus still receives sinners. Christianity also has the best news, the only good news – there is a way of escape from sin, from death, and hell. Heaven’s door is still open. My own mother-in-law recently apparently did business with God. Knowing she was dying with cancer, she acknowledged her doubts of salvation. “I have my doubts, but I don’t know what to do but to come to Christ as a sinner and trust that He died for me.” She poured out her heart. She confessed her utter sinnership – “Even my family does not know what a bad person I am.” She boldly confessed Christ to the nurses – one wept at the bedside. She spent much time in her last days talking about the Lord, singing, and praying. Her spirit was different. This, we hope, was “repentance unto life,” Acts 11:18.

And repentance is not a one-time act, but an attitude maintained. Rowland Hill on his deathbed said, “One dear friend who has been with me all my life and who I must leave behind at the gate of heaven is repentance.” The straight way to heaven has many turnings.

Assurance of Salvation

An outline from Romans 5

1. **LEVEL ONE: the word** of God, that is, by faith taking God at His word
 - A. Rom 5:1,2 Therefore having been justified by faith ... we exult in hope of the glory of God
 - B. Believe what? The gospel...
 - 1 Tim 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.
 - 1) Christ came from heaven
 - 2) Christ came to save from sin – Redeemer, Savior
 - 3) Christ came to save me, the sinner

2. **LEVEL TWO: your walk** with God, that is, by character development
 - A. Rom 5:4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope
 - B. Your conduct, character, works, walk, way
 - C. Assurance is gained as we see our lives lining up with the word
 - D. Good works vindicate faith
 - James 2:24 You see that a man is justified by works, and not by faith alone
 - James 2:18 I will show you my faith by my works
 - E. There are things that accompany salvation
 - Heb 6:9 But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation
 - F. Assurance from fruit
 - Luke 6:44 For each tree is known by its own fruit
 - G. Assurance from obedience
 - 1 John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.
 - 1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death.
 - H. Assurance from practicing righteousness
 - 1 John 3:10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

- I. Assurance from progressive development of godly characteristics which proves our call and election
 - 2 Pet 1:5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge...
 - 2 Pet 1:10 Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble
 - J. Assurance from progressive real victory over sin and self which is a proof of the Spirit's leading; there is no assurance in sin
 - Rom 8:13, 14 but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.
 - 1 Cor 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?
3. LEVEL THREE: **Witness** of the Spirit
- Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.
 - Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God
 - 1 Th 1:4,5 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (assurance)
 - 1 John 3:24 And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us

The Sealing of the Spirit

Eph 1:13, 14 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance

Definition of the sealing of the Spirit: a special portion of the Holy Spirit given to us at or after conversion for the purpose of 1) assurance of son-ship, and 2) empowerment for service.

1. QUESTION: What about the various terms regarding the work of the Holy Spirit? They are essentially interchangeable [just as a=b and b=c, therefore, a=c]...

A. At **Pentecost** we have *baptism = coming upon = filling = outpouring = receiving*:

- Acts 1:5 you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now
- Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you
- Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
- Acts 2:17 I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh
- Acts 2:38 you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

B. In **Samaria** we have *receiving = falling upon*:

- Acts 8:15 who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 8:16 For He had not yet fallen upon any of them

C. With **Cornelius** we have *falling upon = outpouring = baptism = witness*:

- Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all
- Acts 10:45 the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also.
- Acts 11:16, 17 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If God therefore gave to them the same gift
- Acts 15:8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us

D. With **Jesus** we have *upon = filling = anointing*

- Luke 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him
- Luke 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led

- Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
- Acts 10:38 God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power

E. **Also anointing = sealing = pledging**

- 2 Cor 1:21,22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.
- Eph 1.13,14

2. QUESTION: What is a seal? It has four main meanings...

A. A mark for assurance of **ownership**

- 2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness."
- Cattle brand, book, tool

B. A mark for assurance of authority or **authenticity**

- 1 Ki 21:8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal
- Est 8:10 And he wrote in the name of King Ahasuerus, and sealed it with the king's signet ring
- Jer 32:10 And I signed and sealed the deed
- 1 Cor 9:2 you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord
- John 6:27 on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal
- Notary seal, city seal, postal mark

C. A mark for assurance of **security**

- Mat 27:66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone
- Dan 6:17 And a stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing might be changed
- Electric meter

D. So it is especially a token of **assurance**, confirmation, attestation

- Gen 38:18 And he said, "What pledge shall I give you?" And she said, "Your seal and your cord, and your staff that is in your hand."
- John 3:33 He who has received His witness has set his seal to this, that God is true.

3. QUESTION: What is the purpose of the sealing of the Spirit? It is for assurance of son-ship, that is,

A. That we are sons of God ...

- Rom 8:15, 16 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by

which we **cry out, "Abba! Father!"** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

- Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, **crying, "Abba! Father!"**

1) This is what some call infallible assurance

- 2) 1689 Baptist Confession: This certainty of salvation is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance

B. That is, assurance of son-ship to others

- Mat 3:17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- John 1:33 And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'
- 1 Th 1:4,5 knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction (assurance)
- Acts 10:47 Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?
- Acts 19:2 Did you receive the Holy Spirit...?

C. That is, assurance of son-ship to ourselves

- Luke 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

D. Or, assurance that our sins are forgiven, our hearts are pure

- Acts 15:8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us

E. Or, assurance that God loves us and we are accepted, going to heaven

- Rom 5:5 and hope does not disappoint [that is, we have solid assurance], because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us

F. It is assurance that more is coming

- Eph 1:14 who [Holy Spirit] is given as a pledge [guarantee] of our inheritance
- **First fruit:** Rom 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

4. QUESTION: Is this the same as regeneration, that is, the same as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? No, we should think of a distinct sealing of the Spirit on top of regeneration...

- A. The seal is not the substance, but is on top of it, for example:
- 1) The notary seal is not the deal, but is to certify the deal
 - 2) Earnest money is not the purchase, but is to guarantee the good-faith agreement to purchase
 - 3) A witness is not one of the parties, but is to certify the transaction of others which is done “in the presence of” the witness
- B. Examples of a sealing of the Spirit **after** regeneration
- 1) **Jesus** was already a Son when the Holy Spirit fell on Him
 - 2) At **Pentecost**, the Spirit fell on already regenerate believers
 - 3) The **Samaritans** were already believers when the Spirit fell upon them
 - Acts 8:12 But when they believed
 - Acts 8:16,17 For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit
 - 4) **Cornelius** and his household had hearts already purified by faith and then received the witness consisting of the Spirit coming upon
 - Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word.
 - Acts 15:8 And God, which knows the hearts, bore them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit
- C. **Other** proofs
- Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
 - Eph 1:13 In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise
- D. There are historically two extreme positions
- 1) The **Pentecostal** position: which makes the sealing optional to regeneration [dependent upon our ‘paying the price’]
 - 2) The [contemporary] **Baptist** position: which makes the sealing equal to regeneration
 - 3) The first is too experiential, the other not enough
 - 4) Conclusion: while salvation is one package, we should think of a witness of the Spirit on top of regeneration,

even though it might happen simultaneously with regeneration

- E. Note: though the Spirit comes “upon”, yet it is a heart or inner man experience
- Rom 5:5 the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us
 - Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God
5. QUESTION: Is the sealing of the Holy Spirit known / experiential? Are there effects? Yes...
- A. Old Testament:
- Num 24:2 Balaam ... the Spirit of God came upon him. And he took up his discourse
 - Judg 3:10 the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel.
 - Judg 6:34 So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet
 - Judg 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid
 - 1 Chr 12:18 Then the Spirit came upon Amasai, who was the chief of the thirty, and he said, "We are yours, O David..."
- B. New Testament:
- Mark 1:10 the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."
 - Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.
 - Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
- C. The whole concept of the Holy Spirit as a seal or pledge implies something known.
- D. It is not ‘just take it by faith’
- 1) Note that in all cases God is active, man is passive
 - Luke 3.15 He Himself will baptize you
 - 2) See
 - In Acts 2, new wine implies some ecstasy
 - In Acts 4, the house was shaken
 - In Acts 10, Peter knew the Spirit fell
6. QUESTION: Is the sealing / baptism of the Holy Spirit only for advanced Christians?

- A. No, it is even for babes in Christ
- Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all
 - 1 Th 1:5 for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction
- B. Extreme conditions are not required, only true conversion
- John 7:37, Acts 2:38, 5:32, 8:14, 10:44.
- C. It is an integral part of the gospel message
- Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - John 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'
7. QUESTION: Is the sealing / baptism of the Spirit a guarantee of instant spiritual maturity? No, it is not automatic / instant perfection, for those who have experienced this may have immaturity and instability
- A. Corinthians
- 1 Cor 2:4 And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power
 - 1 Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ
- B. Galatians
- Gal 3:5 Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you
 - Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
 - Gal 3:1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you
8. QUESTION: Are there repeated *sealings* of the Holy Spirit?
- A. We do not see repeated *sealings* or *baptisms*, but we have repeated *fillings* ...
- 1) Peter
 - a) Was filled at Pentecost, Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit
 - b) And again, Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit
 - 2) Paul

- a) Was filled at/after conversion, Acts 9:17 has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - b) **And** again, Acts 13:9 Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him
- B. There must be some interchangeability, yet some different shade of meaning is implied by the terms
- C. We apparently are to think of the sealing and the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a once-for-all experience
9. QUESTION: Is this different than the command to be filled, (Eph 5:18 be filled with the Spirit)? Yes, for,
- A. The Ephesians **already** had received the Spirit, 1.13, 4.30
 - B. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a definite **experience**, but this is a continuous condition
 - C. In the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God is active, but here man is active, man is **commanded** to do this
10. QUESTION: Are there other aspects of the filling of the Holy Spirit? Yes, it is to empower for witness and service.
- Acts 1:8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses
 - Acts 4:31 they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness.
 - Acts 10:38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him
 - Judg 3:10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel.
 - Judg 14:6 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, so that he tore him as one tears a kid
 - Judg 14:19 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily, and he went down to Ashkelon and killed thirty
11. QUESTION: Are there different kinds of assurance?
- A. Three kinds
 - 1) **Word** – assurance in faith, that is, taking God at his word
 - 1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life
 - 2) **Walk** – assurance in obedience

- 1 John 2:3 And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments
- 3) **Witness** – assurance by the witness of the Spirit
- 1 John 3:24b we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us
- B. Baptist 1689 Confession: This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope, but an infallible assurance of
- 1) [word] faith founded on the blood and righteousness of Christ revealed in the Gospel; and also upon
 - 2) [walk] the inward evidence of those graces of the Spirit unto which promises are made, and on
 - 3) [witness] the testimony of the Spirit of adoption, witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God; and, as a fruit thereof, keeping the heart both humble and holy.
- C. Although false believers may be deceived through various experiences, etc., into thinking they are saved, yet the witness of the Spirit does not disappoint, Rom 5.5
12. QUESTION: Are there different degrees of assurance? Yes,
- A. Sometimes there is great grace and power, Acts 4:33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.
 - B. All that we receive is according to God, Eph 4:7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift

APPLICATIONS [some adapted from Conrad Murrell's book, *Spiritual Baptisms and Gifts*]

1. Do you have the assurance of Christ in you?
 - A. If you have no assurance and are not concerned about it, then you need to be converted; you are yet dead in your sins.
 - B. But if you are sincerely anxious to know that you have been accepted in Christ, then you need to be filled with the Spirit.
2. Are you able to understand the word of God? Does the Bible speak to you? Is it a personal message to your soul?
 - A. If you cannot understand the word and have no desire or hunger for it, then you are ye lost and need to be converted.

- B. But if your heart longs for the truth, yet you seem to be unable to grasp it, then you need to be filled with the Spirit.
3. Do you rejoice in Christ?
- A. If the person of Christ has no inward appeal to you, if you dislike the sound of the name of Jesus, if his work and attributes are boresome to you, then you need to be converted; you are yet an insensitive sinner.
- B. But if you love the Lord Jesus, but find it difficult to rejoice in Him and Him alone, to be satisfied with nothing but His love and fellowship, then you need to be filled with the Spirit.
4. Do you triumph over sins?
- A. If you have no victory over sins and have no desire to be rid of them, then you are yet in them and no child of God's.
- B. But if you long to be free from the hard yoke of Satan, if you cry out against the wicked self living in you but can find no liberty from habitual sins, then you need to be filled with the Spirit.
5. Is there power and effectiveness in your ministry?
- A. If you have no effective ministry and desire none, then you are not of the family of God. You need to be converted or you will die in your sins.
- B. But if you have a godly desire to serve and to please the Lord and to see men brought to Christ, but are unable to serve in any efficient way, then you need to be filled with the Spirit.
6. If then you have reason to believe you are a Christian, but are lacking this assurance, then...
- A. Purpose to search your life and confess and renounce all sin
- Eph 4.30 do not grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed
 - Psa 51:11 And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me
- B. Ask your heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit, Lk 11.13
- C. Go on and live by faith
- John 7:39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive
 - Acts 5:32 the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him

- D. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will come in God's own time and measure
- 7. What a kindness of God to give assurance to His people
 - Rom 5:5 the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The Lord's Supper – A Fellowship Meal

*Therefore, when you meet together, it is not to eat the **Lord's Supper**, 1 Cor 11:20*

*So then, my brethren, when you **come together to eat**, wait for one another, 1 Cor 11:33*

1. THE LORD'S SUPPER HAS OTHER NAMES

A. Communion

- 1 Cor 10:16 [KJV] The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

- 1) That is, union, common-union
- 2) Also: sharing, partaking, fellowshiping

B. Eucharist

- 1 Cor 11:24 and when He had given thanks [in Greek]

C. Table of the Lord

- 1 Cor 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

2. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A SUPPER

A. The Lord's Supper is not...

- 1) the symbols which are passed around
- 2) the meal

B. Rather

- 1) It is the meal
- 2) But a special meal, made special by the symbols in connection with it
- 3) Thus, it is the Lord's meal

C. Are there scriptural proofs that it was a meal?

- 1) It is called a supper
 - a) not snack
 - b) Greek word deipnon = chief meal
- 2) Jesus inaugurated it during a meal – the Passover Feast
 - Mat 26:26 And while they were eating
 - Mark 14:12 And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was being sacrificed
 - John 6:4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews

- Exo 12:8 And they shall eat the **flesh** that same night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened **bread** and bitter **herbs**.
- 3) 1 Cor 11 speaks of a meal
- a) If symbols only, drunkenness would not have been possible, v. 21
 - b) If symbols only, how could any be left hungry due to missing the symbols? v. 21
 - c) If symbols only, why were they bringing their own supper? v. 21
 - d) If symbols only, why were they instructed to wait for one another? v. 33
 - e) If symbols only, what does it mean that some had nothing? v. 22
 - f) Commentaries acknowledge both symbols and meal
 - g) Likely the love feast, Jude 12
- 4) Covenants in the Bible were ratified by meals
- a) **Isaac and Abimelech** Gen 26:30 Then he made them a feast, and they ate and drank
 - b) **Jacob and Laban** Genesis 31:44-55
 - c) **David and Abner** 2 Samuel 3:17-21
 - d) **Marriage**
 - Malachi 2:14 your wife by covenant
 - John 2:1-11
 - e) **Siniatic** covenant
 - Exo 24:11 and they ate and drank
- 5) It foreshadows the heavenly feast
- Luke 22:16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God
 - Luke 22:30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom
 - Luke 12:37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master shall find on the alert when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them
 - Luke 13:29 And they will come from east and west, and from north and south, and will recline at the table in the kingdom of God.
 - Luke 14:15 And when one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!"

- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'"

3. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A REASON TO ASSEMBLE

A. See

- 1 Cor 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
- Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread [special meal on special day]

B. There are other reasons we meet, other meetings,

1) **Teaching and preaching** meeting

- Acts 2:42 And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching...
- 1 Cor 14:26 ...When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

2) **Prayer** meeting

- Acts 2:42 they continued steadfastly in ... the prayers
- Acts 3:1 ... going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer
- Acts 12:12 ... many were gathered together and were praying.
- Acts 16:16 ...as we were going to the place of prayer

3) **Discipline** meeting

- 1 Cor 5:4 In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus, I have decided to deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.
- Mat 18:20 For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst

4) **Report** meeting,

- Acts 14:27 And when they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

5) **Pastors'** meeting

- Acts 15:6 the apostles and the elders came together to look into this matter.
- Acts 20:17 he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

6) **Evangelistic** meeting

- Acts 13:44 And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God.

7) **Fellowship - supper** meeting [note reading of Acts 2.42, NAS]

4. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS A FELLOWSHIP MEAL

A. The purpose of the Lord's Supper?

1) **Fellowship** [present sense]

a) To eat with someone means fellowship, unity, agreement

- Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me
- 1 Cor 5:11 I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler-- not even to eat with such a one.
- 1 Cor 10:21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.

b) God wants us to often sit down and look at one another and talk with one another

c) The meal is very spiritual, very special

- Acts 10:41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us, who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.
- Exo 24:11 Yet He did not stretch out His hand against the nobles of the sons of Israel; and they beheld God, and they ate and drank.
- Luke 22:15 And He said to them, I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer

2) **Remembrance** [past sense]

- 1 Cor 11:25, 26 In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

a) An enacted sermon, pantomime of the most important event in the history of the universe

b) Reminder of why we are here together

3) **Foreshadowing** [future sense]

a) The meal best foreshadows the coming meal in the kingdom of God

- Luke 22:16 for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

- Rev 19:9 Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb
- b) Atmosphere is that of a wedding feast!
 - Acts 2:46 ...and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart

5. THE LORD'S SUPPER MUST BE A UNITED SUPPER

- A. There was a grievance that was neutralizing it
 - 1 Cor 11:20 not to eat the Lord's Supper
- B. The problem?
 - 1) Divisions (v. 18)
 - 2) Selfishness: takes his own first (v. 21)
 - 3) Despising the church (v. 22)
 - 4) This was an unworthy manner (v. 27)
- C. Unity is important to God
 - 1 Cor 10:17 Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.
 - Eph 4:1,2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace...there is one...one...one
 - 1) Selfishness and division indicates a wrong view of the body of Christ, the church – does not judge the body rightly (v. 29)
 - 2) It is to be a love feast
 - Acts 2:46 ...and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart
- D. God judged them for infractions – weak, sick, sleep (v. 30)
- E. Did Paul cancel the fellowship meal here in v. 20? No, he was correcting it
 - 1 Cor 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.

6. WHY IS THIS ORDINANCE SO IMPORTANT?

- A. It is the sign of the New Covenant – “this is My body...the New Covenant in My blood”
- B. Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant and see how God dealt with Moses who balked at it, Exo 4:24
- C. The Sabbath was the sign of the Mosaic covenant, the Old Covenant, and see how God dealt with the one who picked up sticks on the Sabbath, Num 15:35

- D. It is the sign of the most important covenant God ever made
- 1) Its purpose: here redemption accomplished
 - 2) Its means: the shed blood of the Son of God

7. THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO BE OFTEN

A. When? At least primarily on the first day

- 1) The Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day
 - Acts 20:7 On the first day of the week...to break bread
- 2) Often
 - 1 Cor 11:25 as often as you drink it

B. Where? At least primarily as a church

- 1 Cor 11:18 When you come together as a church [vv. 17, 18, 20, 33]
- Deu 12:5 But you shall seek the LORD at the place which the LORD your God shall choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and there you shall come. And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution
- Deu 16:2 And you shall sacrifice the Passover to the LORD your God from the flock and the herd, in the place where the LORD chooses to establish His name.

C. When should the symbols be eaten?

- 1) During meal
 - Mat 26:26 And while they were eating Jesus took some bread
- 2) After meal
 - Luke 22:20 And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten
- 3) Perhaps before, what is the most edifying?
- 4) Edification is important
 - 1 Cor 14:26 When you assemble, each one has a psalm, ...Let all things be done for edification.
 - Heb 10:25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another

8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

A. Should the non-professors, such as children, be permitted to eat of the meal?

- 1) Although there is a unity between the symbols and the meal, yet
- 2) There is a distinction

- a) The cup and loaf alone represent the death of Christ
 - b) The exhortation to examination applies to the cup and loaf
 - c) The chastisement pertains to partaking of the cup and the loaf in an unworthy manner, although, in this case, that unworthy manner was being independent and inconsiderate at the meal.
- B. Are we dealing here with commandments? How much should these things control our conscience?
- 1) The only direct command is “this do”, v. 24,25, which technically applies to the symbols
 - 2) As far as frequency (Acts 20.7) and the inclusion of a meal, we have only the pattern, precedent and example of the early church, whereby, we would do well to head in that direction.

Why We Meet

1. THE PRAYER MEETING

- Acts 1.14, 2.42, 3.1, 12.5, 16.16, Luke 9.28, 1 Tim 2.1f

2. THE WORSHIP / MINISTRY MEETING

- 1 Cor 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

3. THE PREACHING MEETING

- Acts 2.42, 2 Tim 4.2
- Luke 5:1 the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God
- Acts 10:33 we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord
- Acts 13:44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God

4. THE REPORT / MISSIONARY MEETING

- Acts 14:27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

5. THE PASTORS' MEETING

- Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

6. THE EATING MEETING

- 1 Cor 11:20 Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. [Their sin of selfishness nullified the Lord's Supper in effect.]
- 1 Cor 11:33 So then, my brethren, when you come together to eat, wait for one another.
- Acts 20:7 And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread

7. THE DISCIPLINE / EXCOMMUNICATION MEETING

- 1 Cor 5.4, Mat 18.20

The Law of Christ

- *Gal 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.*
- *John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*

1. POSITED

A. The law of Christ is specifically ...

- 1) Christ-like love, that is,
- 2) Christ's New Commandment

B. Proofs:

- 1) Internal evidence: *bear one another's burdens* = love
- 2) Parallel scriptures...

- *John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you **love** one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*
- *John 15:12 This is My commandment, that you **love** one another, just as I have loved you.*
- *1 John 4:21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should **love** his brother also.*
- *James 2:8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law, according to the Scripture, "You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.*
- *1 Tim 1:5 But the goal of our instruction (commandment) is **love***
- *Gal 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through **love**.*
- *John 13:14 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.*

2. WHAT IS 'NEW' ABOUT THE NEW COMMANDMENT, after all, love is supreme in the Old Testament as well ...

- *Gal 5:14 For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "You shall **love** your neighbor as yourself."*
- *Lev 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall **love** your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD*
- *Mat 22:38,39 ... love God ... love neighbor*

A. NEW PROPHET, law-giver – not Moses but Christ

- *John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you*
- *Acts 3:22 Moses said, 'The Lord God shall raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to him you shall give heed in everything He says to you.'*
- *John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*
- *John 8:31 If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine*
- *John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.*
- *Mat 7:24 Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built*
- *Mat 17:5 ... This is My beloved Son ... listen to Him*
- *Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*
- *Heb 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son*
- *Heb 3:1 ... consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession*
- *Eph 2:20 having been built upon the foundation [teachings] of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone*

B. NEW PATTERN, example – love displayed by Christ (unconditional, unwavering, unrestrained giving, as the cross)

- *John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*
- *John 13:14,15 If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.*
- *Eph 5:2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*
- *Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*
- *2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace (the way He gave) of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*
- *1 Pet 2:21 ... Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps*
- *Rom 8:29 ... predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son*
- *1 Cor 11:1 Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.*
- *1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.*
- *1 John 3:16 We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

C. NEW PEOPLE – the church

- *John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love **one another**, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*
- 1) The community is no longer a people defined by physical traits, but now spiritual – the church
 - a) Blood bought
 - b) Regenerate
- D. NEW PURPOSE (motive) – our works are not for merit, but from gratitude, having been so loved
- *John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I **have loved** you, that you also love one another.*
 - *1 John 4:11 Beloved, **if God so loved us**, we also ought to love one another.*
 - *1 John 4:19 We love, **because** He first loved us.*
 - *2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ **controls** us*
 - *Luke 7:47 For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, **for** [therefore] she loved much*
- E. NEW POWER, that is, the Law for the Christian is internalized, in contrast to the Gentile who is without law and the Jew who is under law.
- 1) In-law to Christ (Greek: *ennomos*), *1 Cor 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.*
 - 2) Written on the heart, *Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people*

“One Another” in the New Testament

1. **LOVE** [13x]: John 13:34 A new commandment ... that you love one another
2. **BE DOVOTED TO**: Rom 12:10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love
3. **GIVE PREFERENCE TO**: Rom 12:10 give preference to one another in honor
4. **BE LIKE-MINDED WITH**: Rom 12:16 Be of the same mind toward one another
5. **DO NOT JUDGE**: Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore
6. **BUILD UP**: Rom 14:19 building up of one another
7. **ACCEPT**: Rom 15:7 accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us
8. **GREET** [5x]: Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss
9. **WAIT FOR**: 1 Cor 11:33 wait for one another
10. **CARE FOR**: 1 Cor 12:25 the members should have the same care for one another
11. **NOT CHALLENGE**: Gal 5:26 Let us not ...challenging one another
12. **NOT ENVY**: Gal 5:26 envying one another
13. **BEAR BURDENS OF**: Gal 6.2 bear one another's burdens
14. **FORBEARANCE TO**: Eph 4:2 showing forbearance to one another in love
15. **BE KIND TO**: Eph 4:32 And be kind to one another
16. **SPEAK TO**: Eph 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns
17. **BE SUBJECT TO**: Eph 5:21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ
18. **REGARD HIGHER**: Phil 2:3 regard one another as more important than himself
19. **TRUTHFUL TO**: Col 3:9 Do not lie to one another
20. **FORGIVE**: Col 3:13 forgiving one another
21. **COMFORT**: 1 Th 4:18 Therefore comfort one another with these words
22. **ENCOURAGE**: 1 Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another
23. **LIVE IN PEACE WITH**: 1 Th 5:13 Live in peace with one another.
24. **SEEK GOOD FOR**: 1 Th 5:15 seek after that which is good for one another
25. **EXHORT**: Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily
26. **STIMULATE**: Heb 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another
27. **NOT SPEAK AGAINST**: James 4:11 Do not speak against one another

28. **NOT COMPLAIN AGAINST:** James 5:9 Do not complain, brethren, against one another
29. **CONFESS TO:** James 5:16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another
30. **PRAY FOR:** James 5:16 pray for one another, so that you may be healed
31. **BE HOSPITABLE TO:** 1 Pet 4:9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint
32. **SERVE:** [also Gal 5:13] 1 Pet 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God

Pastors, Elders, Overseers

The point: that elder [presbytery], overseer [bishop], and shepherd [pastor, feeder] are interchangeable.

Conclusion: [1] the pastor / elder distinction is not scriptural, [2] the presbytery and the bishopric are at the local church, and [3] they are terms that bring out different aspects of the same office, work, or gift.

1. ACTS 20

- *Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the **elders** [presbuteros] of the church.*
- *Acts 20:28 Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers** [episkopos], to **shepherd** [poimaino] the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

2. TITUS 1

- *Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you might set in order what remains, and appoint **elders** [presbuteros] in every city as I directed you*
- *Titus 1:7 For the **overseer** [bishop, episkopos] must be above reproach as God's steward*

3. 1 PETER 5

- *1 Pet 5:1 Therefore, I exhort the **elders** [presbuteros] among you, as your fellow **elder** and witness of the sufferings*
- *1 Pet 5:2 **shepherd** [poimaino] the flock of God among you, exercising **oversight** [episkopeo]*

The Pastor's Support and New Testament Giving

1 Cor 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.

MONEY IS A DELICATE TOPIC

1. Many church problems arise over money matters -- the belly and the pocketbook are pretty close to home
2. Why did Paul speak about it?
 - a) He wanted them to have a righteous attitude and a renewed mind about how to handle their money
 - b) He wanted them to be fruitful
 - Phil 4:17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the fruit which increases to your account.

WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR OUR INSTRUCTION REGARDING NEW TESTAMENT GIVING?

1. That is, should we use the New Testament only or is it valid to use the Old Testament?
2. See how Paul employs the Old Testament
 - 1 Cor 9:9 For it is written in the Law...
 - 1 Cor 9:13 Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat
 - 2 Cor 9:9 as it is written, "He scattered..."
 - 1 Tim 5:18 For the Scripture says...
3. Conclusion: Look for general, underlying, abiding principles in the O.T.

WHAT ARE THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF GIFTS?

1. **Tithe**, Mat 23:23 you tithe mint and dill and cumin
 - a) This is God's portion, Lev 27.30
 - b) It is regular giving, not special
 - c) It is for the local ministry, Deu 14.27
2. **Offering**, Luke 21:4 ... they all out of their surplus put into the offering
 - a) This is a contribution, a donation
 - b) It can go to ...
 - i) a special collection for the local ministry, Exo 35.5, John 13.29
 - ii) outside ministries, Php 4.17, 3 John 8

- iii) show appreciation, John 12.3
- 3. **Alms**, Mat 6:2 When therefore you give alms
 - a) This is a contribution, a donation
 - b) It is for poor, needy, 1 Cor 16.2, 2 Cor 8, 9,
 - i) Acts 11:29 each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.
 - ii) Acts 24:17 I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF TITHE?

1. In Hebrew it means *tenth*
2. Regarding those not self-employed, the tithe would not be a tenth before taxes are taken out of the paycheck
3. For those self-employed, the tithe would not come out of the gross income but the net income

TO WHOM DID THE TITHE BELONG?

1. It belonged to **God**, Lev 27:30 Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S; it is holy to the LORD.
2. The tithe was non-optional, regular giving
3. In a way, it was not giving, for it wasn't theirs to give

WHAT DOES GOD DO WITH THE TITHE?

1. God then designates it for the **ministers**
2. Levites, Num 18:21 And to the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting.
 - a) God designates it for the Levites in each town, that is, your pastor[s]
 - Deu 14.27 the Levite that is within your gates you shall not forsake him
 - b) It is regular support for the local ministry
3. Priests
 - a) They were supported by offerings, by the firstborn, and by the first fruit
 - b) See
 - Num 18:8 Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, "Now behold, I Myself have given you charge of My offerings, even all the holy gifts of the sons of Israel, I have given them to you as a portion, and to your sons as a perpetual allotment."
 - Deu 18:3 Now this shall be the priests' due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, either an ox or a sheep, of which they

shall give to the priest the shoulder and the two cheeks and the stomach.

- Deu 18:4 "You shall give him the first fruits of your grain, your new wine, and your oil, and the first shearing of your sheep.
- c) Note: It does not say tabernacle expenses, that is, it is not for the local church, but rather the ministers

IS TITHING SCRIPTURAL FOR NEW TESTAMENT GIVING?

1. It is a yes and no answer
2. Consider the precedent in the Old Testament, that is, the example of the **fathers** before the Law:
 - a) It occurs first with Abraham:
 - Gen 14:20 "And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of all.
 - b) Abraham's grandson Jacob practiced this too:
 - Gen 28:22 "And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee."
3. Then we have the teaching of the **Law**, that is, the rebuke of the **prophets**:
 - Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed Thee?' In tithes and offerings.
4. The teaching in the New Testament: Mat 23:23 For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin ... these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.
 - a) Nevertheless
 - i) Mat 23 was spoken in an OT context
 - ii) The NT is conspicuously silent as far as explicit direction to tithe
 - iii) The Old Testament just gives some structure, some framework as to what we might do by faith
5. So, what do we conclude?
 - a) The NT employs the OT and binds our conscience to generously support the ministers of the gospel
 - i) 1 Cor 9:14 So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.
 - ii) It is called a right, 1 Cor 9.12
 - b) NT calls us to especially support our pastors
 - i) 1 Tim 5.17,18 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing," and "The laborer is worthy of his wages."

- ii) Gal 6:6 And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.
- c) If the pastor is not worthy, then find one who is

WHY IS THERE NOT MUCH MENTION OF TITHING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

1. Because of regenerating grace, the New Testament attitude is more 'I want to' than 'I have to'
2. The N.T. standard is always higher (Heb 2:2) and ten percent would be a good place to start, for, a good Jew gave much more, closer to 30 per cent
3. N.T. Christianity is not 10% but "all" and we are but stewards
 - Luke 14:33 "So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions.
4. The standard for giving for us in the New Testament is Christ
 - 2 Cor 8:9 For you know the grace [giving] of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 - 2 Cor 9.15
 - John 13.34

WHY SHOULD WE 'TITHE' [note: this is in quotes, and the meaning is support of local ministry]

1. It is not ours but the Lord's
2. It is an acknowledgment and honoring the Lord in that it is He who blessed us with anything we have
 - Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he [Abraham] gave him a tenth of all.
 - Gen 28:22 And this stone, which I have set up as a pillar, will be God's house; and of all that Thou dost give me I will surely give a tenth to Thee.
 - Prov 3:9 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce
3. It teaches us to fear God
 - Deu 14:23 And you shall eat in the presence of the LORD your God, at the place where He chooses to establish His name, the tithe of your grain, your new wine, your oil, and the first-born of your herd and your flock, in order that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.
4. It meets the needs of ministers having left their normal incomes
 - Luke 8:3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who were contributing to their support out of their private means.
 - Num 18:24 For the tithe of the sons of Israel, which they offer as an offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites for an inheritance;

therefore I have said concerning them, 'They shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel.'

- Neh 13:10 I also discovered that the portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers who performed the service had gone away, each to his own field.
 - 2 Chr 31:4 Also he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the law of the LORD.
5. It is only “right”, 1 Cor 9.18. [Note: sometimes, especially at the start of a work, it may be prudent for the pastor to deny support, avoiding any appearance of greed]
- 1 Th 2:5, 9 For we never came with flattering speech, as you know, nor with a pretext for greed, God is witness ... For you recall, brethren, our labor and hardship, how working night and day so as not to be a burden to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
 - 1 Cor 9:12, 15 If others share the right over you, do we not more? Nevertheless, we did not use this right, but we endure all things, that we may cause no hindrance to the gospel of Christ... But I have used none of these things. And I am not writing these things that it may be done so in my case; for it would be better for me to die than have any man make my boast an empty one.
6. It helps divert greed and subtle selfishness

WHY SHOULD THE PASTOR BE SUPPORTED BY ‘TITHE’ INSTEAD OF SALARY?

1. It avoids putting a price tag on one’s ministry
2. The salary fosters professionalism and the hireling mentality, and greed is a mark of the false preacher:
 - Mat 23.14 you devour widows’ houses [estates]
 - John 10:12 He who is a hireling, and not a shepherd
 - 1 Tim 6:5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.
 - 2 Pet 2:3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words
 - Jude 1:11 Woe to them! ... and for pay they have rushed headlong into the error of Balaam
 - Micah 3:5, 11 Thus says the LORD concerning the prophets Who lead my people astray; When they have something to bite with their teeth, They cry, "Peace," But against him who puts nothing in their mouths, They declare holy war ... Her leaders pronounce judgment for a bribe, Her priests instruct for a price, And her prophets divine for money.
- a) The free-will offering or tithe is a healthier atmosphere, for, it is **regular** like wages, and yet **free and unpredictable** as a gift
3. The minister receives an average income of those to whom he is ministering

- a) If there were ten families and each gave a tenth, then that would make up another income
 - b) Notice the case of OT Israel with 11 supporting one tribe. The tithing of the tithing was given for the ongoing needs of the tabernacle ministry (Neh 10.38), so the tithing from 11 tribes made 110% minus 11% then equaled 99%.
 - c) If there are more than 11 families, perhaps another pastor is needed
4. It exercises faith on the part of the minister
 5. It exercises faith on the part of the congregation
 6. It gives freedom to the church to not have to come up with that salary

HOW OFTEN SHOULD ONE GIVE TITHES?

1. Regularly, perhaps as regular as your income. Set your own schedule, that is, what you can 'live with' by faith
 - Prov 3:9 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce
 - 1 Cor 16:2 On the first day of every week
2. Why regularly?
 - a) Your income is regular
 - b) The need is regular

SHOULD THE MINISTER KEEP ALL THE TITHES?

1. The Levites were to tithe also
 - Num 18:26 "Moreover, you shall speak to the Levites and say to them, 'When you take from the sons of Israel the tithing which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then you shall present an offering from it to the LORD, a tithing of the tithing.'
 - Neh 10:38 And the priest, the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes, and the Levites shall bring up the tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse.
2. It was a tithing out of all they received
 - Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts you shall present every offering due to the LORD
3. It was from the best
 - Num 18:29 from all the best of them
4. Otherwise it would be sin
 - Num 18:32 And you shall bear no sin by reason of it, when you have offered the best of it.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE CASE OF A CO-PASTOR SITUATION? Factors For Distribution...

1. Support is according to **need**, family size
 - Num 18:11 This also is yours, the offering of their gift, even all the wave offerings of the sons of Israel; I have given them to you and to your sons and daughters with you, as a perpetual allotment. Everyone of your household who is clean may eat it.
2. According to **quantity** of work: how much he is drawn away from regular income
 - 1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
3. According to **quality** of work: how well he does
 - 1 Tim 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.
4. Leadership should **distribute**
 - 2 Chr 31:15 And under his authority were Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah in the cities of the priests, to distribute faithfully their portions to their brothers by divisions, whether great or small

WHAT SHOULD OUR ATTITUDE BE?

1. Sacrificial giving
 - Luke 3:11 And he would answer and say to them, "Let the man who has two tunics share with him who has none; and let him who has food do likewise."
 - Luke 21:4 for they all out of their surplus put into the offering; but she out of her poverty put in all that she had to live on
 - 2 Cor 8:3 For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord
2. Willing giving, that is, "How much can I give?"
 - 2 Cor 8:4 begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints
3. Abundant giving
 - a) Five dollars might be sacrificial but it might not be abundant
 - b) Observe the example of the Jews; they gave...
 - i) Three tithes
 - a) 1st tithe to the Levite, Num 18.21
 - b) 2nd tithe on self, Deu 14.22
 - c) 3rd tithe to charity, Deu 14.28
 - ii) Various other offerings
 - Deu 12:6 And there you shall bring your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand,

your votive offerings, your freewill offerings, and the first-born of your herd and of your flock.

- iii) The first fruit, perhaps 1/50 or 2%, Exo 23:19
- iv) The first born, Deu 12:6
- v) The fallow ground, 1/7 or 14%, Exo 23:11
- vi) The corners of the fields, Lev 19:9
- vii) The gleanings of the fields, Lev 19:9
- viii) That which is forgotten, Deu 24:19
- c) The Jews gave at least 10% and probably over 19% and were incredibly resourceful
- d) Abundance is implied even in this, Eph 4:28 Let him who steals steal no longer; but rather let him labor, performing with his own hands what is good, in order that he may have something to share with him who has need.

WE HAVE A TREMENDOUS PRIVILEGE TO LAY UP TREASURE IN HEAVEN

- 1 Tim 6:18,19 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.
- Mat 6:4 that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

God first wants our HEART

- 2 Cor 8:5 and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

HOW should the money be received? Suggestion: A box can be mounted on the wall in the back of the meetinghouse with two compartments – one hole is ‘*Local Church, Regular Support*’, and the other is ‘*Special Purpose, Designate*’. Whatever is put in the first is taken to be so-called ‘tithe’ money.

- 2 Ki 12:9 But Jehoiada the priest took a chest and bored a hole in its lid, and put it beside the altar, on the right side as one comes into the house of the LORD; and the priests who guarded the threshold put in it all the money which was brought into the house of the LORD.

What about supporting a VISITING SPEAKER? Suggestion: If the visiting speaker were at a church for a series of meetings, that is, several sermons, it would be most Scriptural that his support should **not** come from the general fund, but from special giving as a contribution or offering.

What BOOKKEEPING practice can be employed? Fund accounting is convenient – General Fund, Wages Fund [the percent for the pastors which is then emptied at the end of each month], Conference Fund, Repair Fund, Alms Fund, Mission Fund, etc.

False Leaders & Preachers – Warnings from the New Testament

1. What a big problem and repeated warning:
 - Mat 7:15 Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are **ravenous wolves**.
 - Mat 15:14 Let them alone; they are **blind guides** of the blind
 - Mat 23:16 Woe to you, **blind guides**
 - Mat 23:24 You **blind guides**
 - Mat 24:4 See to it that no one **misleads** you
 - Mat 24:24 For false Christs and **false prophets** will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to **mislead**, if possible, even the elect.
 - Acts 20:29ff I know that after my departure **savage wolves** will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, **speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be on the alert...
 - Rom 16:17ff Now I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye** on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them. For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they **deceive** the hearts of the **unsuspecting**.
 - 2 Cor 2:17 For we are not like **many**, **peddling** the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.
 - 2 Cor 4:2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in **craftiness** or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.
 - 2 Cor 11:4 For if one comes and preaches **another** Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.
 - 2 Cor 11:15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also **disguise** themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.
 - Gal 1:7 which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you, and want to **distort** the gospel of Christ.
 - Eph 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the **trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming**
 - Phil 3:2 **Beware** of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision
 - Phil 3:18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are **enemies** of the cross of Christ

- Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and **empty deception**, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
 - 2 Th 2:2 that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way **deceive** you
 - 2 Tim 2:18 men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and thus they **upset** the faith of some.
 - 2 Tim 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.
 - 2 Tim 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate **for themselves teachers** in accordance to their own desires
 - Titus 1:10 For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and **deceivers**, especially those of the circumcision
 - 2 Pet 2:1 But **false prophets** also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies
 - 1 John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many **false prophets** have gone out into the world.
 - Jude 1:4 For certain persons have **crept in unnoticed**, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
 - Rev 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot endure evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be **false**
 - Rev 2:14 'But I have a few things against you, because you have there some who **hold the teaching** of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit acts of immorality
 - Rev 2:20 'But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a **prophetess**, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants **astray**, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.
2. Jeremiah's words still fit
- Jer 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so!

Do Not Be Deceived

1. You are deceived if you think deception is obvious, *Mat 24:24* "For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect.
2. You are deceived if you think deception is rare, *Rev 12:9* And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
3. You are deceived if you think you can neglect the word of God and get by with it, *Mat 22:29* But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken [deceived], not understanding the Scriptures, or the power of God."
4. You are deceived if you think it is enough to know the Bible, *James 1:22* But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.
5. You are deceived if you think riches are neutral, *Mark 4:19* and the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.
6. You are deceived if you think man has the answers to life, *1 Cor 3:18* Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become foolish that he may become wise.
7. You are deceived if you think your companions won't affect you, *1 Cor 15:33* Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."
8. You are deceived if you think you are something, *Gal 6:3* For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
9. You are deceived if you think you can sin and get by with it, *Gal 6:7* Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.
10. You are deceived if you think those who claim to be Christian, but practice sin, will go to heaven, *1 Cor 6:9* Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals
11. You are deceived if you think God is not good and not worthy of your trust, *James 1:16, 17* Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good thing bestowed and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights
12. You are deceived if you think you cannot tell who a Christian is, *1 John 3:7, 8* Little children, let no one deceive you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil

13. You are deceived if you think you are not a sinner in need of a savior, *1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us*

Betrayal

1. It is a very wicked sin of treachery and unfaithfulness, inspired by the devil.
 - John 13:2 And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him
2. This sin is very grievous to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - John 13:21 When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me."
3. Betrayal often not detected by others. Even those near might not see it, but only the one who is being betrayed feels it.
 - John 13:24 Simon Peter therefore gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking."

Rich Toward God

Luke 12:16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a certain rich man was very productive..."

Luke 12:21 "So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

1. QUESTION: Why did the Lord tell this parable of the rich farmer?
 - A. An inheritance squabble, v. 13
 - B. A warning against "every form of greed", v. 15

2. QUESTION: Why did the rich farmer lose his soul?
 - A. Because he earned his money dishonestly? No
 - B. It was because he was selfish – he laid up treasure for himself, not for the glory of God

3. QUESTION: Wherein are we to be rich toward God?
 - A. Rich in grace, Eph 1.7
 - B. Rich in faith, Jam 2.5
 - 1) It takes faith to throw off sin, Acts 19.17
 - 2) It takes faith to give, Luke 19.9
 - 3) It takes faith to submit to authority, Mat 8.10
 - 4) It takes faith to persevere in prayer, Mat 15.28
 - C. Rich in good works, 1 Tim 6.17
 - 1) Dorcas
 - 2) The poor widow, all widows, 1 Tim 5.10
 - D. Rich in reputation, Pro 22.1
 - Eccl 7:1 A good name is better than a good ointment
 - Phil 2:29 Therefore receive him in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard
 - 1 Tim 3:7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside
 - Acts 6:3 But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation
 - 1 Tim 5:10 having a reputation for good works
 - Acts 16:2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium
 - Acts 22:12 And a certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the Law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there

- 3 John 1:12 Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone
 - E. Rich in the word of God, Col 3.16
 - 1) Apollos, Acts 18.24
 - 2) Spurgeon of Bunyan: anywhere you pricked him, his blood was Bibline
 - F. Rich in the knowledge of God, Col 2.2, Jer 9.24, Eph 3.8
 - G. Rich in souls, Eph 1.18, Psa 2.8
4. Think of our heavenly inheritance
- A. All has been given to Christ, Heb 1.2
 - B. But those in Him are joint heirs, Rom 8.17
 - C. These riches are permanent, 1 Pet 1.4

Sickness and Its Causes

1. OBSERVE:

A. Sickness: a very **practical** topic

- 1) Sickness is pervasive
- 2) Health care is a giant industry
- 3) 1998 USA health care expenditures exceeded \$1.1 trillion

B. Sickness: a very **difficult** matter

- 1) The body and soul are so connected
- 2) Both directions:
 - a) A bodily injury can touch the soul
 - b) A sick soul can affect the body
- 3) Example: Anxiety can cause diarrhea, nausea, rash

C. Sickness: a very **delicate** topic

- 1) The danger of undue introspection
- 2) The danger of wrong conclusions, as Job's friends

2. SICKNESS BECAUSE OF NOTHING

A. General sickness, not due to sin but a fallen world

- 1) Cold and flu
- 2) Accidents
- 3) Congenital
- 4) Might never know any reason – deep in the purpose of God

B. For the Christian, it is simply a reminder that

- 1) we are in an imperfect, fallen world where death reigns
- 2) we look for another world
- 3) flesh is frail
 - Job 4:19 How much more those who dwell in houses of clay,
Whose foundation is in the dust, Who are crushed before the moth!
- 4) sin is hurtful
- 5) death is certain
- 6) we must be prepared to enter eternity

3. SICKNESS FROM THE WORK AND WILL OF GOD

A. Epaphroditus

- Phil 2:27-30 For indeed he was sick to the point of death ... because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

B. Daniel

- Dan 8:27 Then I, Daniel, was exhausted and sick for days.

C. The Lord

- Psa 69:20 Reproach has broken my heart, and I am so sick [our Lord was physically afflicted from the inward struggles].

4. SICKNESS TO FURTHER HUMBLE OR TEACH US

A. Examples:

- 1) The crippling of Jacob's thigh, Gen 32
- 2) Paul's thorn in flesh to keep him from exalting himself, 2 Cor 12

B. Suffering promotes prayer

- James 5:13 Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.
- 2 Chr 33:12 And when he was in distress, he entreated the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

C. Note

- Psa 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, That I may learn Thy statutes.
- Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now I keep Thy word.
- 2 Cor 1:3,4 the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our affliction

5. SICKNESS DIRECTLY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

A. Job's case

- 1) It was specifically a specimen case to display to men and angels that God is worth it regardless of the benefits
- 2) That is where his friends missed it
 - Job 11:13 If you would direct your heart right, And spread out your hand to Him; If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, And do not let wickedness dwell in your tents. Then, indeed, you could lift up your face without moral defect

B. The man born blind

- John 9:2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him.

C. Lazarus

- John 11:4 But when Jesus heard it, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

6. SICKNESS FROM DEMONS

- Luke 13:11 And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit

7. SICKNESS FROM FOOLISHNESS

- A. This borders on sin, can be sin
- B. Poor judgment
 - 1) Not dressing warmly enough
 - 2) Not reading directions on chemicals
- C. Poor hygiene, uncleanness
- D. Poor diet
- E. Poor maintenance – neglecting exercise, sleep

8. SICKNESS FROM SIN

- A. That is, affliction due to particular sin or general spiritual sloppiness
- B. We ought to think about tracing sickness to spiritual causes. There can be a connection?
 - Hosea 5:15 In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.
 - Deu 28:22 The LORD will smite you with consumption and with fever and with inflammation and with fiery heat and with the sword and with blight and with mildew, and they shall pursue you until you perish.
 - James 5:15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another
- C. **Immorality**
 - Psa 32:3 When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. For day and night Thy hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away as with the fever heat of summer. Selah.
 - Rom 1.27 receiving in themselves that recompense of their error
 - Rev 2:22 Behold, I will cast her upon a bed of sickness [due to her bed of sin]
- D. **Some point** of rebellion
 - Moses balked on circumcision, Exo 4:24 Now it came about at the lodging place on the way that the LORD met him and sought to put him to death.
- E. **Envy**

- Prov 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.
- Psa 112:11 ...righteous exalted...the wicked will see it and be vexed; He will gnash his teeth and melt away

F. Anxiety or littleness of faith

- Prov 17:22 A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones.

G. Someone else's sin

- 2 Sam 12:15 So Nathan went to his house. Then the LORD struck the child that Uriah's widow bore to David, so that he was very sick.

H. Offenses pertaining to the Lord's supper:

- 1 Cor 11:30 For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

9. WHY SICKNESSES CONTINUE

A. Unconfessed sin, Psa 32, Psa 66.18

B. Not enough faith

- Mat 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith
- Mark 6:5 And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them.
- James 5:15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

C. Not enough prayer and fasting; They had to persevere in prayer

- Mat 17.21 not but by prayer and fasting
- Elijah, 1 Ki 17:21 Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and called to the LORD, and said, "O LORD my God, I pray Thee, let this child's life return to him."
- Elisha, 2 Ki 4:33 Then he returned and walked in the house once back and forth, and went up and stretched himself on him
- Paul, 2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

D. There is some way that is not in accordance with God's specific direction

- 1) Naaman had to dip in the Jordan, not once, but seven times
- 2) Note the variety
 - Acts 5:15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets, and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on any one of them.

- Acts 19:12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
 - Acts 9:34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise, and make your bed."
- E. It is not God's will to heal in this case; there are other & higher purposes
- 1) Example:
 - a) Trophimus
 - 2 Tim 4:20 Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.
 - b) Timothy
 - 1 Tim 5:23 take wine
 - c) Paul
 - 2 Cor 12:8 Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
 - 2) Sometimes is delayed so human impossibility is apparent
 - John 11:6 When therefore He heard that he was sick, He stayed then two days longer in the place where He was.
 - 3) Sometimes to bring about our death to enter heaven
 - 2 Ki 13:14 When Elisha became sick with the illness of which he was to die

10. REMEMBER

- A. Our Lord is in the business of healing
- Acts 10:38 You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and **how He went about doing good, and healing** all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.
 - Mat 8:17 in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "He himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases."
- B. A day is coming when we will be fully healed, full redemption
- Rom 8:23 eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
 - Rev 21:4 no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away

The Thorn in the Flesh

2 Cor 12:7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me-- to keep me from exalting myself!

1. QUESTION: What brought this thorn on Paul? Visions and revelations of the Lord, v. 1, which tempt to pride
2. QUESTION: What was the thorn in the flesh?
 - A. In Paul's case:
 - 1) A messenger [Greek: angel] of Satan
 - B. Is a demon in the body of a Christian possible?
 - 1) It reads that way
 - 2) The following: "that he [Greek] might buffet"
 - 3) Other supporting references:
 - Mtt 15.26, demonic deliverance is called children's bread
 - Luk 13.11, the woman who had an infirmity caused by a spirit was a daughter of Abraham.
 - C. More generally: v. 10, weaknesses, insults, etc.
3. QUESTION: What was the purpose of the thorn in the flesh?
 - A. To keep Paul from exalting himself, pride, v. 7
 - B. These things appear to be hindrances, but are instead keepers
4. QUESTION: Where did the thorn in the flesh come from?
 - A. It was "given," v. 7, by the Lord, not Satan. Proof: Paul entreated the Lord for deliverance, v.8
 - B. Note the parallel in Job's case:
 - 1) Directly from Satan,
 - 2) But ultimately God
 - Job 1:21 ...the LORD has taken away.
5. QUESTION: What should we do regarding a thorn in the flesh?
 - A. Pray and ask
 - B. Pray and ask some more, even three times, v. 8

- C. How long? Until the Lord says ‘enough’, v. 9
6. QUESTION: How can we be content and glad with thorns in the flesh, v. 9, 10?
- A. Weakness enables God’s power, Example:
- 1) Abraham bore the promised child only out of weakness
 - 2) Jacob had to be weakened
 - 3) Moses had to be weakened
 - 4) Ai’s defeat was due to self-confidence, in contrast to the victory over stronger Jericho
 - 5) Uzziah was helped of God till strong and proud, 2 Ch 26
- B. Why don’t people come to Christ to be saved?
- 1) They are too strong yet; they must see the need of a Savior
 - 2) The weak pray, they go outside of themselves
 - 3) The strong don’t pray, they think they can handle it themselves
7. QUESTION: How can we avoid a thorn in the flesh? If it can be avoided, it will be by keeping ourselves weak and lowly

Comforts from 'Though' ... 'Yet'

1. The comfort of God's ultimate care and purpose behind our sufferings
 - Job 13:15 **Though** he slay me, **yet** will I trust in him
 - Hab 3:17, 18 **Though** the fig tree should not blossom... **Yet** I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.
 - Ezek 11:16 **although** I have scattered them among the countries, **yet** will I be to them as a little sanctuary
 - Heb 5:8 **Though** he were a Son, **yet** learned he obedience by the things which he suffered
 - 2 Sam 23:5 **Although** my house be not so with God; **yet** he hath made with me an everlasting covenant
 - 2 Cor 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but **though** our outward man perish, **yet** the inward man is renewed day by day

2. The comfort that some especially care for us
 - 1 Cor 4:15 For **though** ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, **yet** have ye not many fathers

3. The comfort of God's resurrection power
 - Job 19:26 And **though** after my skin worms destroy this body, **yet** in my flesh shall I see God
 - 2 Cor 13:4 For **though** he was crucified through weakness, **yet** he liveth by the power of God

4. The comfort of having some real virtue
 - 2 Cor 11:6 But **though** I be rude in speech, **yet** not in knowledge

Paul's Self-image

*Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to **think** more highly **of himself** than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

1. Chief of apostles, 2 Cor 11.5, 12.11, Gal 2.6
2. Least of the apostles, 1 Cor 15.9
3. Not fit to be called an apostle, 1 Cor 15.9
4. Very least of all the saints, Eph 3.8
5. A nobody, 2 Cor 12.11
6. Chief of sinners, 1 Tim 1.15

Music – a Message

Cows can't make music, nor horses. Frogs and birds come closer. But it is man, made in the image of God that is able to make music. God also gave this gift to angels

- Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

The devil himself is a skilled musician. This prophecy cannot be about an earthly king only.

- Isa 14:11a, 12a Your pomp and the music of your harps have been brought down to Sheol ... How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn!

Music is a wonderful gift from God. It is a marvelous ability. It is a powerful means of communication.

But does music communicate? Does music matter? Does it convey a message? Let's try to demonstrate that music matters. Let's try to establish that **music does communicate** – apart from the lyrics, apart from the listener's connotative memories, and apart from the musicians' morality and motives. Granted, the individual notes, like bullets, are quite neutral. It is, rather, a matter of what is done with them. It is a matter of how they are used, that is,

1. the NOTATION (what notes are played),
2. the RHYTHM (how long they are played),
3. the VOLUME (how loud they are played), and,
4. the BEAT (an emphasis on some notes and/or percussion).

These are the elements that give music a message. A given piece of music, then, ministers an attitude, creates an atmosphere, stirs a mood, and makes an effect. Music expresses a worldview.

THE NOTATION communicates. Play C-E-G on the piano; then change just one note to play C-E-F. It is a different effect. It is a different mood, isn't it? One sound speaks resolution and rest, while the other, warning and tension. You don't need to know a thing about music to feel this. No one needs to have an ambulance siren interpreted. There is an inherent message in the sound. Yes, music talks.

THE RHYTHM communicates. For example, look at church hymns. "Leaning On the Everlasting Arms" has similar content to

"My Faith Has Found a Resting Place". Yet, because of the rhythm put to it, the first is cheerful and even lends itself to clapping, but not so for the latter which conveys resignation. In this way, music talks.

THE VOLUME communicates. Take a trombone. Play one note softly. Then blare out that same note. Something is communicated thereby. Crescendos are put on the score for a reason. Increasing the decibels will give quite a different effect. Contrast the delicate reflections of an instrumental quartet with the expansive tide of a philharmonic orchestra or the overpowering electronic 'heat' of a rock band. In this way, music talks. It moves us.

THE BEAT communicates. Tribal musicians work their warriors up into a murderous frenzy with nothing but their drums! The marching band, with nothing but their drums, can make your pulse race with a sense of foreboding power. The accent in our speech – simply the way we say something – can reveal a whole different message or attitude to the listener. The quality of sound talks to us.

The musicians themselves intend to communicate by their music. The high school pep band certainly intends to give out a different message than the chamber band at baccalaureate. Stravinsky produced some classical music ("The Rite of Spring") specifically to create chaos. At the first concert there was a mass riot and the theater was torn up. Think of the music on a TV show. The music alone can create tension and fear even before the viewer sees the danger coming. The U.S. Military used music in an attempt to drive Manuel Noriega, the former leader of Panama, from his stronghold. Advertising companies spend fortunes in researching how music can be used to influence people. Music, you see, is deliberately employed to give out a message. Jesus implies this:

- Matt. 11:17 We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not mourn.

Music has character. It communicates, and the musicians glory in their ability to move people by their music. Try telling the piano

soloist or the rock star that his music did not move you. They would be insulted. That is their glory. Texas barrelhouse piano player Robert Shaw boasted, "I could sit there and throw my hands down (on the keyboard) and make them gals do anything. I told them when to shake it and when to hold it back." Saxophonist Clarence Clemons, describing his new instrumental CD, Peacemaker, said, "I *said* what I wanted to *say*... words often get in the way." Music is a powerful medium of communication.

To our utter amazement, my wife and I witnessed two of our children, each when they were two years old, go into the appropriate dance when a song came on the radio. It could not have been due to their understanding of the words, and I can't imagine they had ever seen dancing, much less learned it. I myself, before I knew the Lord, can say that it was indeed the music that drove me while on the dance floor. I little knew the words.

D. M. Lloyd-Jones says it so well, "We can become drunk on music -- there is no question about that. Music can have the effect of creating an emotional state in which the mind is no longer functioning as it should be, and no longer discriminating. I have known people to sing themselves into a state of intoxication without realizing what they were doing." Dr. Max Schoen writes in his book, *The Psychology of Music*: "Music is the most powerful stimulus known among the perceptive senses. The medical, psychiatric and other evidence for the non-neutrality of music is so overwhelming that it frankly amazes me that anyone should seriously say otherwise." Music is a powerful communicator.

Do you see that music is not neutral? It is never entirely neutral. Sure, words say more than music, but nevertheless, music in varying degrees will move both the spirit and the body. It has content. It gives out a message and that message then can either rightly or wrongly represent Christianity and the living God.

Now we have this question: does 'Christian rock' represent Christianity? Is it Christian? Does it fit amongst the saints? Listen to these testimonies:

1. The testimony of Scripture. What does God say?

Is there a direct scripture? No, there is no scripture that directly says that Christian rock is not Christian, just like there is none that directly says that cocaine or pornography or abortion is wrong. We must look at underlying scriptural principles and then make applications and conclusions, just as has been done, for example, with the doctrine of the Trinity.

Ephesians 5:3,4 tells us to consider what is "FITTING" and "PROPER". Just as we would consider what clothing *fits* the occasion or what food *fits* the occasion, so we must ask if this music *fits* Christianity. Does rock music communicate attributes and virtues of God? Is it Godly? Does the music exalt God? Specifically, does it minister **submission** to Him or does it communicate **aggression and rebellion**? Does the music minister **cheer** or **tension**? Does it suggest **order** or **disorder and chaos**? Does it suggest **hope** (tension followed by resolution) or **despair**? The answer is obvious. Look at rock. It is **loud and pushy**. It is **daring and tough**. It is **lawless**. Pete McRae, a disc jockey pushing for Ted Nugent's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, said, "He embodies the spirit, energy and wild abandon that rock and roll is all about." Wild abandon! Well said! And, rock is **sensual**; it calls me to move my hips. None of this *fits* the deepness, the richness, the seriousness, the urgency, and the majesty of the great God of heaven and His glorious gospel. These C-rock singers snarl out a commitment to God. This does not *fit* the contrite disciple of Jesus. None of this *fits* the God of the Bible. It is a different message. It is a different worldview.

Ephesians 5:19 calls for "MELODIOUS" music. The music of heaven is "like harpists playing on their harps" (Rev. 14:2). David was called the "sweet" psalmist (2 Sam. 23:1). There should be a sweetness in Christian music. But rock is (in varying degrees) **harsh, strident, snarling, distorted** and kind of **nasty**. Furthermore, in rock music, the beat is generally very dominant and competes with the melody. The body must have a (heart)beat, yet when the beat becomes predominant, you've got trouble. Rock is not Christian. *Rolling Stone* Mick

Jagger said, "It's a noise we make. That's all. You could be kind and call it music."

I Corinthians 14:33, similarly, tells us our God is "the author of PEACE." Again, the strident, harsh, and driving elements of rock are condemned. Rock is a **pounding** music; it won't let you rest. There is indeed virtue in lively music but the roar and the scream of rock makes it anti-Christian.

Colossians 3:16 says that Christian music is to "TEACH and ADMONISH." But the characteristic high volume of rock music is not only unapologetically, sinfully injurious to the hearing, but it disgustingly covers the words. Dave Roberts, a columnist for *Buzz*, a CCM (contemporary Christian music) magazine, agrees, "Heavy rock is body music designed to bypass your brain and with an unrelenting brutality induce a frenzied state amongst the audience." Content should be preeminent for the Christian.

James 4:4 condemns WORLDLIKENESS. Contrary to this, Christian rock often is a deliberate, professed attempt at friendship with the non-Christians to try to identify with them and win them. Amy Grant's manager says her music gives Christian kids something to be proud of so they can say, 'Hey, we're normal'. But God does not need the world's tunes to carry His message any more than a Philistine ox cart to carry the ark (1 Chr. 16:13). That is not Christian.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD." Rock music is generally so wild that it is quite incompatible with congregational singing. Thus, these musicians are not able to be worship leaders; they are performers. Their ministry is more like a showboat than a lifeboat. What so often comes across is not 'Look, the Lamb of God', but 'Look at *me* saying, "Look, the Lamb of God".' Thus, the musicians steal the glory. **The girls even scream at these fellows!** Someone asks, "Are they servants or stars? Are they producing followers or fans?" It has all the smell of flesh. It is idolatry. Contrast this show business with Paul's ministry -- "night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears" (Acts 20:31). Let's look at some

of the **leaders** of Christian rock. Are they doing "ALL to the glory of God"? Consider their lyrics and their conduct, as well as their music.

One leader unashamedly says that his intent is to entertain. The crowd laughs, yells, and claps at his blasphemous skit, "Are You the One?", a mock conversation between Jesus and John the Baptist. Now entertainment may have its place, but the gifts of God are given by God, not to divert, not to amuse, not to entertain, but to edify the church (1 Cor. 14:12, 26). This fellow is cute. His music is cute; it is clever -- the very thing the apostle Paul says "nullifies the gospel" (1 Cor. 1:17).

Another CCM leader's music so ambiguous that it sells equally well to the devil's crowd. She says, "If an audience feels I've walked away from God because I no longer talk about Him on-stage, then that's their loss." On another occasion she says, "I'm a singer, not a preacher ... I'm not trying to convert anybody." Beer companies sponsor her TV shows.

Another CCM group's performance was so vile and violent that MTV would not even tolerate it without some changes.

Probably the most prominent, in one album, The Big Picture, uses the name of Jesus once in the nine songs. One Reunion Records promo says, "[He] took the stage with some twirling dance steps that sent the crowd into rocking frenzy." Glory to God?

Another says, "We've been careful to avoid any religious terminology in this record that would turn people off." Jesus turned people off so much that they killed Him!

Another takes their song, "Bargain", from an old secular song by *The Who*. No wonder it is a little thin on doctrine.

One Christian music magazine says of another's album, Live to Die, "It is a sound your parents will hate." Christian? Glory to God?

Another: In one album you could count the references to Christ on two fingers. They say the reason they don't give altar calls is that the crowd might mob them and rip their clothes off (what little they have). Christian? These "effeminate will not inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Cor. 6:9,10).

Here's another group that makes reference to the resurrection of Christ by saying, "You can't keep a good man down." This is not Christian. This is cheap blasphemy!

Remember, these are the leaders! Can you see, there is a yellow streak right through the Christian rock scene revealed by, not only the music, but also, the lyrics and the manners of these C-rock idols? And these concert-hopping, money-loving, fame-promoting, merchandizing, compromising entertainers are ashamed to be too different from the world. They are ashamed to come out for Christ entirely (Mk. 8:38). They are ashamed to "glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:3).

2. The testimony of godly men. I could list several men of God whom others and I highly esteem in the faith who cry out against so-called Christian rock – its music, its worldliness, and its carnality. Some years back, two leaders of the underground church in Russia sent a message to the USA churches asking them to not send Christian rock over there. Now, we know, man's word is not conclusive when it comes to making an absolute. But, nevertheless, when men, many men, men greatly used of God in turning hundreds of souls to righteousness, speak out against a thing, it is at the very least significant. (See: 2 Chr. 36:15,16).

3. The testimony of the secular artists themselves. If you won't believe the men of God, hear what the secular leaders say about the music.

LITA FORD: "Sex and rock go together like wheels on a car."

LITTLE RICHARD: "I was using dope, marijuana, angel dust, cocaine and heroin with pills and drinking and all I wanted to do was have orgies ... rock & roll doesn't glorify God. You can't drink out of God's cup and the devil's cup at the same time. I was one of the pioneers of that music, one of the builders. I know what the blocks are made of because I built them."

FRANK ZAPPA: (quoting Hal Zeiger, one of the first big promoters of rock) "The big beat matched the great rhythms of the human body. I knew it and I knew there was nothing that anyone could do to knock that out of them (the youth). And I further knew that they would carry this with them the rest of their lives. The ways in which sound effects the human body are myriad and subtle. The loud sounds and bright lights of today are tremendous indoctrination tools."

DAVID BOWIE: "Rock has always been the devil's music and you can't convince me that it isn't."

TED NUGENT: "Rock is the perfect primal method of releasing our violent instincts." He calls his music 'combat rock' and speaks of raping his audience.

MICK JAGGER: "We communicate aggression and frustration to an audience, musically and visually."

ALLEN LANIER of *Blue Oyster Cult*: "Rock and roll brings out violent emotions. There's a lot of violence, a lot of aggression in the music."

JERRY LEE LEWIS: "I am sorry that I was involved in the beginnings of rock and roll. It has helped to destroy untold millions of young people the world over."

JIM STEINMAN: "Rock is the perfect idiom for the supernatural."

LINDA RONDSTADT: The purpose of rhythm "is to get into an orgiastic state of losing yourself."

TOM MCSLOY: "To get into rock you have to give in to it, let it inside, flow with it to the point where it consumes you, and all you can feel or hear or think about is the music."

GRAHAM NASH: "Pop music is *the* mass medium for conditioning the way people think."

TIMOTHY LEARY: "Don't listen to the words, it's the music that has its own message...I've been stoned on the music many times."

BOB DYLAN: "If I told you what our music is really about, we'd probably all get arrested."

RICHARD OLDEN: (manager of *Rolling Stones*) "Rock music is sex and you have to hit teenagers in the face with it."

JANIS JOPLIN: "I couldn't believe it -- all that rhythm and power. When I first heard rock and roll, I got stoned just listening to it. Like, it's the best dope in the world. It was so sensual."

JAN BERRY: "The throbbing beat of rock and roll provides a vital sexual release for its adolescent audience."

PETE TOWNSEND of *The Who*: "When performing I don't know who I am. If someone walked on the stage I'd probably kill." "We wanted to blow their minds with our music, turn up the amplifiers so they could not hear themselves think."

4. The testimony of sociologists, psychologists, doctors, lawmen and newsmen. These make connections between violence and rock. Drs. Daniel and Bernadette Skubik say, "Indeed, as rock music has moved farther away from its historical roots and medium (viz. folk music) it both causes and expresses an increasing association of overt aggression linked with sexuality." It should be apparent that more than just the lyrics are involved in producing such powerful effects as seen at concerts and in lives. The content of the *Beatle's* "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" and of *Elvis'* "Teddy Bear" is fairly mild and hardly worthy of the fame accorded them, but the music is gas to the fire in the words.

Professor William Shafer, a non-Christian sociologist, says, "What is undeniable about rock is its hypnotic power."

Jimi Hendrix, one of the devil's best pipers who died early and miserably, as many of them have, said, "Atmospheres are going to come through music, because music is a spiritual thing of its own...you can hypnotize people (with music)...and when they get to the weakest point we can preach into the subconscious what we want to say. Our music is just as spiritual as going to church." He called his concerts "the electric church."

Yes, music is a very spiritual thing. It speaks to our spirit. Sin and bondage can be ministered by music. Righteousness and deliverance can be produced by music (2 Chr. 20:22, Ps. 149:6,7, 1 Sam. 16:23, Ac. 16:25). Think. If David's harpistry could **drive away demons** (1 Sam. 16:23), we should not be surprised if certain other music could also **invoke them**. Think. If Elisha's musicians could **invoke the Holy Spirit** (2 Kg. 3:15), we should not be surprised if certain music could **invoke evil spirits**. Hendrix often used a young African from Ghana, Kwasi Dzidzornu, a skilled conga drum player. Kwasi said Hendrix' rhythms were identical to those used by his father in demon-raising voodoo ceremonies.

The devil is a musician. If his demons can inspire doctrines (1 Tim.4:1), it should not surprise us that **they can also inspire music**.

Admittedly, music is not as much a hard science as math or chemistry. Room must be left for personal taste. There are gray lines. But music is not at all entirely subjective, and we who profess Christ would do well to exercise discernment, to be as objective as possible, and to stay away from devilish music. "Do not touch what is unclean" (2 Cor. 6:17).

There is such a thing as good music produced by ungodly men, which nevertheless fits the Christian worldview. There is such a thing as bad music, produced by true Christians with the best of motives, but nevertheless, music that simply does not fit Christianity. It does not communicate a Christian worldview.

Music can be a powerful tool for good or evil. Music matters, and the right music with the right words sung by a right heart is more pleasing to God than the offering of a herd of cattle on some altar (Psa. 69:30,31). May it be so amongst the saints for Jesus' sake to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Hatred – A Distinguishing Mark Of The Christian

A great mark of true Christianity is our hatred of sin. It says, “Hate evil, you who love the Lord” (Psa 97:10).

What stronger language can God use? “Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good” (Rom 12:9b).

It can't be both ways. “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). “Friendship with the world is hostility toward God” (James 4:4).

It is a wicked man who “does not despise evil” (Psa 36:4).

Contrast Job. He was a man who “turned away from evil” (Job 1:1).

A great part of what it means to fear the Lord is to hate evil (Prov 8:13).

The mark for mercy was placed on those who sighed and groaned about the religious sins in the city (Ezek 9:4).

The Lord Jesus groaned when the Pharisees disputed and tested Him, asking for a sign – “an evil and adulterous generation” (Mark 8:12).

Paul bore great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart for his lost relatives (Rom 9:2).

When Paul saw the city full of idols, his spirit was provoked (Acts 17:16).

Lot was even tormented in his soul daily by what he saw and heard in Sodom (2 Pet 2:8).

David was grieved over those who subtly did not keep the word of God (Psa 119:158). He “hated every false way” (Psa 119:104).

Hatred is an attribute of God. “You hate all who do iniquity” (Psa 5:5). If you want to be godly, you must hate some things.

Do you want more of the joy of the Lord? Remember His example and the blessing. “You have loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows” (Heb 1:9).

Finding a Wife

Prov 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD.

I – INSTRUMENTALITY. Is it valid for the man to take an active role in finding a wife for himself, or does God do it all?

1. Yes, the man has a real part; see...
 - Prov 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, And obtains favor from the LORD
 - Prov 31:10 An excellent wife, who can find?
 - Gen 4:19 And Lamech took to himself two wives:
 - Gen 6:2 that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.
 - Gen 11:29 And Abram and Nahor took wives for themselves.
 - Gen 28:1 So Isaac called Jacob and blessed him and charged him, and said to him, "You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan.
 - Gen 36:2 Esau took his wives from the daughters of Canaan:
 - Ruth 1:4 And they took for themselves Moabite women as wives;
 - Mark 12:20 There were seven brothers; and the first took a wife,
 - Mat 1:20b Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary
 - 1 Tim 5:14 Therefore, I want younger widows to get married
2. However, yet ultimately God is sovereign in it.
 - Gen 2:22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
 - Prov 19:14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD.

II – IMPORTANCE. Can a person make bad decisions regarding the selection of a mate?

1. Yes,
 - Ecc 7:26 And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.
 - Pro 5:4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.
 - Prov 27:15 A constant dripping on a day of steady rain And a contentious woman are alike
- A. There are five warnings in Proverbs regarding the nagging wife, Prov 27:16 He who would restrain her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand.
2. Examples:
 - A. Jezebel

- B. Sapphira
 - C. Drusilla
 - D. Lot's wife
 - E. Solomon, 1 Ki 11:3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and his wives turned his heart away.
3. Also, a grief to parents
- Gen 26:34 And when Esau was forty years old he married Judith the daughter of Beeri the Hittite, and Basemath the daughter of Elon the Hittite; and they brought grief to Isaac and Rebekah.
 - Gen 27:46 And Rebekah said to Isaac, "I am tired of living because of the daughters of Heth; if Jacob takes a wife from the daughters of Heth, like these, from the daughters of the land, what good will my life be to me?"
4. On the other hand the wife is a powerful influence for good
- A. For example
- 1) Sarah, Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.
 - 2) Manoh's wife, Judg 13:23 But his wife said to him, "If the LORD had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would He have shown us all these things, nor would He have let us hear things like this at this time."
 - 3) Abigail, 1 Sam 25:32 Then David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me, 33 and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed, and from avenging myself by my own hand.
 - 4) Priscilla, Acts 18:26b But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.
- B. Prov 12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who shames him is as rotteness in his bones.
- C. Prov 14:1 The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.
- D. Prov 31:12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

III – HAZARDS in finding a wife by dating

- 1. Dating is not sin, but dating is not necessary
 - A. Not the safest way
 - B. Not the wisest
- 2. Dating is a place of temptation, being alone

- A. Dinah, Gen 34:2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force.
 - B. Tamar, 2 Sam 13:9b And Amnon said, "Have everyone go out from me." So everyone went out from him.
 - C. Joseph, Gen 39:11 Now it happened one day that he went into the house to do his work, and none of the men of the household was there inside.
3. Sport dating is liable to be inaccurate
- A. Prov 30:18 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand ... the way of a man with a maid.
 - B. The 'best foot' is put forward. Many do not marry the one they thought they were. Gen 29:25 So it came about in the morning that, behold, it was Leah!
4. Sport dating is liable to injury
- A. Those who don't get dates are hurt
 - B. Those who get dropped are hurt, for, a bonding occurs, but it is without commitment
 - C. Defrauding occurs – enticing others to desire what you are not intending to give or cannot give
 - D. A series of relationships with its bonding and breaking is preparation for divorce, not marriage
5. Sport dating – recreational or experimental dating – is liable to emotional promiscuity, that is,
- A. Recreational relationships are a national pass time
 - B. It is man-chasing or woman-chasing, that is, lust
 - C. It is flirting with another's heart
 - D. When married, you will wish your mate was the first one and only one you had given your heart to
 - E. Save your heart as well as your body for your wife
 - F. The girl I dated was [to be] someone else's wife

IV – INDICATORS, How then am I to find a good wife, husband? There is no 1,2,3 way. Each is unique. But there are some basic principles

- 1. The sovereign providence, direction of God
 - A. Trust God
 - 1) Prov 19:14b But a prudent wife is from the LORD.
 - 2) Pro 3.5 trust in the Lord
 - 3) He is more concerned than we are, Rom 8.32 give you all things
 - 4) Mightily trust God to engineer it all

- a) Adam, Gen 2:22 And the LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.
 - b) Boaz and Ruth, Ruth 2:3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz
 - c) Isaac, Gen 24:14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also';-- may she be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and by this I shall know that Thou hast shown lovingkindness to my master."
 - d) Jacob, Gen 29:6 And he said to them, "Is it well with him?" And they said, "It is well, and behold, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep."
 - e) MOSES, Exo 2:17 but Moses stood up and helped them, and watered their flock 21 And Moses was willing to dwell with the man, and he gave his daughter Zipporah to Moses.
- 5) We have God. We know God, in contrast to the Gentiles. Note this possible reading: 1 Th 4:4 that each of you know how to possess [acquire] his own vessel [wife] in sanctification and honor [a holy and honorable way] 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God
- B. You want God's will. We should ask God...
- 1) Is this your will supremely?
 - 2) Is this your idea?
 - 3) Does this have your smile?
2. Input of appropriate and wise counselors
- A. Pastors
 - B. Parents
3. Character, testimony
- A. Acts 16:2 and he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.
 - B. Note the "also" of Gen 24:14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink,' and who answers, 'Drink, and I will water your camels also';-- may she be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and by this I shall know
- C. Beware of outward beauty
- Prov 11:22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.
 - Prov 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

- D. Personality is not nearly as important as character; those who know how to bear the cross in self-denial, can make adjustments for personality differences
- E. Doctrinal agreement is very important
- 4. Desire, affection, love, feelings
 - A. Love can be shallow – a mix of love and lust
 - 1) **Jacob**, Gen 29:11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept. Gen 29:18 Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve...
 - 2) **Samson**, Judg 16:4 After this it came about that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.
 - 3) **Amnon**, 2 Sam 13:1 Now it was after this that Absalom the son of David had a beautiful sister whose name was Tamar, and Amnon the son of David loved her. 2 Sam 13:15 Then Amnon hated her with a very great hatred; for the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Amnon said to her, "Get up, go away!"
 - 4) **Shechem** - Gen 34:2, 3 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force. And he was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her.
 - B. Some say it is sin to fall in love
 - 1) Those who fall don't know where they will land
 - 2) Godly love is more than 'falling in love'
 - a) Love is sacrificial, John 3.16
 - b) Love is learned
 - Tit 2.5 teach them to love
 - Col 3.14 put on love
 - C. But normally exists a great attraction and affection and a conviction that 'I can't live without her'
 - D. It may come quickly, Gen 29:11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel, and lifted his voice and wept. Gen 29:18 Now Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve..
 - E. But this love doesn't have to be there – a sense of God's will is enough.

V - Some PREPARATIONS

- 1. Age
 - A. Why even bother yourself about a relationship with someone if not ready to marry
 - B. Stay asleep, until the time
 - As with Adam Gen 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.

- Song 2:7 I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please.
2. Vocation – why think about marriage when you don't have a job to support one?
 3. Spiritual attainment will help the marriage
 - A. Learn self-control now. Marriage won't necessarily help. Get victory over inordinate affection, Col 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh
 - B. Get to know God all the more before marriage
 - 1) Holiness = happiness, Heb 1.8
 - 2) The more of God, less of self the better the marriage
 - C. Redeem the time in pursuit of God and be neutral. If God is going to give you a wife, He will do it sooner if you are dead to self and all for Him, Mat 6.33

Growing in Grace

2 Pet 3:17,18 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest, being carried away by the error of unprincipled men, you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

1. A DEFINITION of the grace of the Lord: His unmerited favor, smile, blessing, power, giving
2. A PREREQUISITE to growing in grace: we must be “in” grace before we can grow in it. Am I in or out?
3. WHY should we grow in grace?
 - A. The danger of falling [17]
 - B. Like riding a bicycle, progress is the best preventative against falling
4. How is it POSSIBLE to grow in grace?
 - A. It is not possible to grow in justifying grace, for, if we have saving grace we have everything
 - B. In another way, we can have more, a greater degree
 - Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all
 - Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor [grace] with God and men
 - 2 Pet 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you
 - C. This is hopeful to the saints, that we can ...
 - 1) Change
 - 2) Be different next month
 - 3) Have more victory over sin
 - 4) Know God better
 - D. There are differing rates of growth
 - 1) Throughout our Christian life
 - 2) Between Christians
 - 3) Like trees

5. This is a COMMAND to grow in grace
 - A. How can growth be commanded? Isn't it natural?
 - Mat 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
 - B. Yet, there are means of finding more grace, just like in the physical realm, there are things that are conducive to growth

6. What are the MEANS of finding more grace?
 - A. Prayer
 - Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need
 - Luke 22:43 Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him [after prayer]
 - B. Giving
 - 2 Cor 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed [after giving]
 - C. The word of God
 - Acts 20:32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified
 - 1 Pet 2:2 like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation
 - D. Right response to suffering
 - 1 Pet 2:20 For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor [grace] with God.
 - E. Humility
 - 1 Pet 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.
 - F. Good conversation
 - Eph 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear.
 - G. Not grieving the Holy Spirit, that is, a consistent holy life
 - Heb 10:29 ... has insulted the Spirit of grace?
 - H. More of the knowledge of God
 - 1) See next phrase ... *and in the knowledge*
 - 2) Also see
 - 2 Pet 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord

- Exo 33:13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people
- 3) Then we ought to think much of our Lord's...
 - a) Incarnation through a virgin's womb
 - b) Temptation in a desert place
 - c) Conversation at the appointed well
 - d) Supplication on the lonely mountain side
 - e) Demonstration of power in his miracles
 - f) Transformation on a mountain top
 - g) Resignation in Gethsemene's garden
 - h) Humiliation in Pilate's hall
 - i) Reconciliation on Calvary's tree
 - j) Glorification to the right hand of Majesty
 - k) Intercession at heaven's throne
7. The ULTIMATE MOTIVE for growing in grace? The glory of the Lord – *to Him be the glory*

A Man Full of the Spirit

Acts 7:55, 56 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

1. he *gazes*, not glances
2. *intently*, not casually
3. into *heaven*, not on earth
4. sees the *glory* of God
5. sees the exalted of Christ, at the *right* hand
6. sees the *open* heavens - communion
7. sees the mediation of Christ - *standing*
8. tells others to look – *behold*

Mine and His

Song 2:16 "My beloved is mine, and I am his"

Introduction

- A. This is the New Covenant relationship
 - Heb 8:10 this is the covenant that I will make ... I will be their God, and they shall be my people
 - B. This is obviously a love story between Christ and the church
 - C. There is no greater theme in the Bible than this
 - D. It speaks of mutual possession
 - 1) This is what every lover wants to know
 - 2) Many contemporary songs see this
 - E. How, in what sense is this so?
1. I AM HIS BY WAY OF
- A. Divine donation, Psa 2.8, John 6.37, Eph 1.4
 - B. Redemptive Purchase, Acts 20.28, 1 Cor 6.19, Rev 5.9, 1 Pet 1.18
 - C. Sovereign conquest, 2 Tim 2.26, Gen 3.15, Phil 3:12, Psa 110.3
 - D. Personal surrender, Rom 6:16
 - E. Mystic union, as husband and wife - the wife is his
 - 1) Taking his name
 - 2) Taking his interests
 - 3) Taking his residence
2. HE IS MINE BY WAY OF
- A. The whole work of salvation which is for us, for me
 - B. The mystic union as the vine to the branch
 - 1) Many times it says we are "in Christ"
 - 2) But also, John 17:23 "I in them"
 - C. A marriage union - the wife receives
 - 1) Honor
 - 2) Reputation
 - 3) 1 Cor 3.22 "all belongs to you"
 - D. Christ is mine ...
 - 1) His love, attention, affection, *beloved*
 - 2) His wisdom

- 3) His righteousness
 - 4) His sanctification
 - a) partakers of His holiness, Heb 12.10
 - b) partakers of the divine nature, 2 Pet 1.4
 - 5) His glory
 - 6) His victory
 - 7) His gospel, Rom 2.16
- E. He is mine - **Totally**
- F. He is mine – **Certainly**
- G. He is mine - **Presently**
- H. He is mine – **personally**
- I. He is mine – **caringly**, SS 7.10
3. Have you taken Him by faith?

We Have the Mind of Christ

1 Cor 2:16 For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ

1. THE NON-CHRISTIAN HAS THE MIND...
 - A. Set on the flesh, Rom 8.5f
 - B. Set on earthly things, Php 3.19
 - C. Of the devil, Jam 3.15

2. THE CHRISTIAN HAS THE MIND OF CHRIST
 - A. Not entirely, but substantially
 - B. We essentially have His world-view and are able to “appraise all things”, 1 Cor 2.15
 - C. This wisdom is by the Spirit’s revelation, v. 13

3. THE CHRISTIAN MUST YET RENEW THE MIND, Rom 12.2
 - A. We can think devilish thoughts, Mat 16.23
 - B. We can be affected by demons, Jam 3.15
 - C. We must set our mind on things above, Col 3.2
 - D. A great part of the mind of Christ is humility and self-denial
 - Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus...
But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant
 - E. God wants all our mind for His love, Mat 22.37

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