

November 1

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#8 - AUTHORITY WITHOUT COMPASSION

According to Bill Britton: “It is absolutely necessary to have government, even in the things of God. Therefore, someone must be given authority by the Spirit. But authority is dangerous, unless the person with it has a heart full of compassion for others. Look at Saul, the king that Israel chose to serve over them. God told them what kind of man he would be, one that would make slaves of them, and would think only of himself. He used his power without mercy, and would even have killed his own son had not the people restrained him. Being David’s king, he had much authority in David’s life, even chose his wife and the place he should live. David was a blessing to the king with his harp. But Saul had no compassion for others. And his power and authority was a dangerous possession. It caused his downfall, the death of Jonathan, and would have destroyed David had not God protected him.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

It is extremely important that we let God work into us HIS COMPASSION AND LOVE FOR OTHERS! Those who will rule the nations in the coming age will be those who have had the character and nature of their Heavenly Father written upon their hearts. Our Heavenly Father is not going to put people into positions of authority that have not learned compassion. Jesus (in Matthew 9:36) saw the multitudes and was MOVED WITH COMPASSION FOR THEM, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd...As we can see, Jesus came to exercise authority over the multitudes, but He did it BEING MOVED WITH COMPASSION. As well, the story of Joseph tells us of him (Joseph) being elevated to a place of authority and leadership, but we also see that Joseph forgave, loved, and had compassion on his brothers who sold him as a slave into Egyptian bondage.

According to Bill Britton: “Every man has authority in some area of his life. A man who is a husband and father has an authority delegated to him in his home. He may be on the bottom of the heap on his job, or at church, but at home he has authority. Happy is the home where this authority is accompanied by compassion and a love for his family. There are men who are mousy and submissive in the world, yet are brutal to their children at home, or a dictator over their wife. Such a man needs help and deliverance. The only place he has authority, he has no compassion. God could not trust such a one to rule over the nations. Rulers need compassion and love for others.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

Let us be...

MOVED WITH COMPASSION!



November 2

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#9 - RICHES WITHOUT SHARING

According to Bill Britton: “The power to get wealth is in the hand of the Lord. The Bible warns us much about being greedy of filthy lucre. It tells us to withdraw ourselves from those who suppose that gain is godliness (that is, having plenty is a sign of holiness, life, and the favor of God). We read that the love of money is the root of all evil, and that coveting after money will pierce us through with many sorrows. They that will be rich fall into temptations and a snare. All this makes it sound like money is a bad thing. Yet it seems that everyone continues to want more of it. Having riches is not bad, if you know how to use them to the glory of God. But a covetous or greedy spirit will not allow you to share your riches with others. And riches can be a dangerous possession unless there is sharing according to the direction of the Spirit.” (*Ten Dangerous Possessions*, Bill Britton)

The apostle Paul taught on the importance of giving in 2nd Corinthians 9:6 when he said... He which sows sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver...As well, Romans 12:8 tells us that there is a ministry of giving. What is this ministry of giving? It is an attitude of being willing and ready to give of your riches, doing the best you can at all times, being led by the Spirit of God as to where to direct your giving. This is to be done in love with a cheerful heart and not with a grudging attitude as though you were paying money to a bill collector.

The book of James speaks very strongly concerning those that heap treasure for themselves for selfish reasons. James 5:1-3 states...Go to now, you rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. You have heaped treasure together for the last days...

It is quite obvious that the Lord is NOT PLEASED WITH A SELFISH ATTITUDE AS FAR AS RICHES ARE CONCERNED. He is not pleased with those who heap treasure together with no intention of sharing their riches with others. The very reason that the Lord gives certain people power to get wealth is that they will share their riches with others. Let us be careful to remember that...

THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL!



November 3

**TEN DANGEROUS POSSESSIONS
(GROWING UP IN GOD)**

#10 LIFE WITHOUT JESUS

According to Bill Britton: “Can life really be a dangerous possession? Yes, dear ones, all that we have said previously can be summarized in these words...life without Jesus, a meaningless, tasteless, useless, and even dangerous possession. To make life worthwhile, we must have the nature of Jesus in us. To the extent that we allow Him to come within, to that extent we enjoy the benefits of a full, happy, and fruitful life. Life without Jesus is a struggle for an existence with no eternal quality or divine benefits. To find the excitement of a life full of the thrills of real happiness and the delicious taste of lasting joy, you must have Jesus within. There is no other way.” (Ten Dangerous Possessions, Bill Britton)

We must see that the very reason that Jesus came to this earth was to bring us from a condition of death to life. This means that we are being brought from the carnal mind (death) to the mind of Christ (life). A life that is lived in the carnal mind is no life at all, but is actually death, FOR TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH! True life can only be experienced in and through Christ, FOR HE IS LIFE! God is bringing us to the place where we can say, along with the apostle Paul...I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: NEVERTHELESS I LIVE; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME: AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME. I DO NOT FRUSTRATE THE GRACE OF GOD: FOR IF RIGHTEOUSNESS COME BY THE LAW, THEN CHRIST IS DEAD IN VAIN (Galatians 2:20)...

Without the Galatians 2:20 experience being applied to our lives, we really have no life at all, but we are actually walking in death (the carnal mind). In essence, our life (or the lack thereof) becomes a dangerous possession, in that we constantly bring forth death (carnality) instead of bringing forth life (Christ) to those around us. How our Heavenly Father longs for us to lose our life for His name's sake, for when this is done we have actually found the true source of life, which is Jesus Christ! Without a death to the self-life we are doomed to frustrate the grace of God over and over again. But when the life we live becomes the life that is lived by the very faith of the Son of God, the true life in Christ (that we possess) becomes a wonderful and glorious possession! This possession becomes the very thing that is used to set us free, including the entire creation. It is His...

ABUNDANT LIFE!



November 4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #1

According to Charles Slagle:

Question:

“This teaching cancels out any necessity for Calvary. What would be the point of Christ dying on the cross if God plans to save everyone anyway?”

Answer:

That’s like asking, “What’s the point of having a hospital that has discovered the cure for all diseases?” Just because Calvary will prove itself to be 100% successful does not render Christ’s sacrifice unnecessary. If a rescue team saved all the passengers on a sinking ship, would that prove their mission to be futile? The unscriptural dogma that only some will be saved undermines the atonement. It renders our Lord’s work as mostly a failure. Some (Calv-Arminians?) believe that most people will be saved. This renders Christ’s atonement *almost* successful!” (Question and answer by Charles Slagle)

Not only does the teaching of eternal torture make a mockery of the cross of Christ, but it also would make His sacrifice an absolute failure. The scriptures tell us that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world (1st John 4:14). The question is, did He succeed or fail? Is He the potential Savior of the world or the actual Savior of the world? The very reason that Christ died on the cross was TO TAKE AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD. As a result of His sacrifice there was purchased a universal salvation for the entire human race. Jesus reversed the curse of Adam that was upon us, bringing salvation, blessing, forgiveness, and grace (READ ROMANS CHAPTER 5).

The other aspect of the cross that many do not understand is that Jesus did not die to save us from eternal torture, but He died to save us from SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES! Remember... The wages of sin is DEATH (not eternal torture). So... Jesus came to save us from SIN AND DEATH. Well... What is sin? What is death? The word “sin” means TO MISS THE MARK. Romans 8:6 tells us that... TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH. So... “Sin” is a missing of the mark of the very nature of God, and “death” is first and foremost the spiritual condition of being in the carnal mind, as well as physical death.

As God gives us eyes to see, we will grasp that **He has already reconciled the world to Himself** (2nd Corinthians 5:18-21). What is now left is for men to be awakened to what the Father has already accomplished. This will happen to every man in his own order (1st Corinthians 15:22-28), continuing into the ages to come (Ephesians 2:7), until our God is all in all (1st Corinthians 15:28)!!! This is why the Son of God poured out His life. He came...

TO SAVE US ALL!



November 5

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #2

According to Thomas B. Thayer:

Question:

“Don’t we need hell to keep people moral?”

Answer:

The belief of future endless torments does not restrain nor prevent men from the indulgence of their criminal passions. Those believing are no better, in character or conduct, *because* they believe it. The hell of the Burmans is as horrible as imagination or invention can make it; and yet they are notoriously corrupt, licentious, bloody-minded - the greatest thieves, liars and cheats in the world. The disbelief of endless torments does not make man immoral or wicked.” (The Origin And History Of The Doctrine Of Endless Punishment, Thomas B. Thayer)

There will always be those who insist that...Without dangling people over the flames of an eternal hell, that those people will not turn to God for salvation. Such has been the belief of Evangelical Christianity for many centuries now. While it is true that many experience their conversion after hearing a preacher scare them to death about being tortured forever, the person has come to the Lord for the wrong reason, and is being motivated to serve God out of a fear of eternal hell, rather than the true motivation for serving the Lord, which is LOVE. **FEAR OF ETERNAL TORTURE IS NEVER A PROPER MOTIVE FOR ONE TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD!!!** 1st John 4:18,19 states...There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love. **We love Him, because He first loved us...**

There are many that would make the statements...We need the threat of eternal torture to bring us to God...&...We need the threat of eternal torture to keep us right with God. This would be the same as saying that a bride needs the threat of never-ending torture to marry and to stay married to her husband. While it is possible that a marriage could be started and sustained based off of this premise, the marriage would be based on fear (not on love), WHICH IS A WRONG MOTIVE!

The large majority of those in Christianity are serving God because they are afraid of what will happen to them if they don't. This way of thinking does not keep people moral in the eyes of God, for it is not true morality. IT IS NOTHING MORE THAN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS MOTIVATED BY FEAR OF ETERNAL TORTURE! As well, let us look down through history. The “so-called” gospel of eternal torture has not caused the masses and the nations of the world to turn to God. THEY KNOW WHAT CHRISTIANITY PREACHES, BUT YET THE NATIONS ARE NOT COMPELLED TO TURN TO GOD AFTER HEARING THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL TORTURE IN HELL. The good news is...THE TEACHING OF ETERNAL TORTURE IS A LIE! While it may momentarily scare some into serving God, it can never, never, never produce the fruit of the Spirit, which is...

LOVE!

November 6

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #3

According to Charles Slagle:

Question:

“Why live a good life if all will be saved? (Why are we serving God?)

Answer:

Why live a good life if God plans to save everyone in the end -- no matter what they have done? It's amazing how often folks ask that question without giving more thought to it before they voice it. My first response to people who pose that question is another question: “Are you saying the only reason you don't cheat on your spouse, abuse your children, or steal from your neighbors is because you're afraid of going to hell?” Hmmm... Awkward question, that one... It usually brings a blush to folks who insist that people need to be threatened with never-ending punishment to give them “incentive” to seek the Lord, to live morally and ethically, and to love their neighbors as they love themselves. Why do those who advocate the dogma of endless hell find my question embarrassing? It is because they have a conscience, that's why. The human conscience knows that right is right, because it is right. So we find it shameful to suggest that the only reason we would do right by others is to avoid being trashed and burned forever.” (Question and answer by Charles Slagle)

If a person is seriously asking this question it shows that the only reason they are serving God is because they are afraid of eternal torture. We must all be truthful with ourselves to see whether or not that we are in the faith. We must ask ourselves...WHY ARE WE SERVING GOD? WHAT IS IT THAT MOTIVATES US TO SERVE HIM? Is it fear or love? If it is fear, then we have become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 1st Corinthians 13:3 states...And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, IT PROFITS ME NOTHING...

So...Why should we serve God? WE SHOULD SERVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST SERVED US! WE SHOULD LOVE HIM BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US! **O THAT MEN WOULD BE ABLE TO GRASP THAT GOD IS LOVE!!!** Micah 7:18,19 states...Who is a God like unto You, that pardons iniquity, and passes by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retains not His anger for ever, because He delights in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us; He will subdue our iniquities; and You will cast all their sins into the depths of the sea... To understand a scripture like this is to understand the character and nature of God. As you see your Father in this light...

YOU WILL WANT TO SERVE HIM!



November 7

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #4

According to Charles Slagle:

Question:

“This may be the truth. Even so, the restoration of all things could be dangerous teaching for unstable people who would interpret it as license to sin.

Answer:

People looking for excuses to sin will always find them under any belief-system. Regarding the salvation of all mankind, Paul said, “These things prescribe and teach” (1 Tim. 4:9-11). Understanding God’s true character and plan for His creation lays a healthy foundation for authentic righteousness that comes from whole-hearted trust and love toward the Lord. The greatest commandment of all is that we love Him with *all* our being. How can we totally trust and love our Creator, and at the same time be totally convinced that His commitment to *us* is conditional?” (Question and answer by Charles Slagle)

What is truly at stake concerning the restoration of all things is whether it is true or not. If it is true, then there is no way that it can be harmful to tell others about it. It should be taught and preached to the world. IT IS GOOD NEWS! There are millions of people right now who are living in rebellion to the will of God. These people who are living in rebellion are doing so despite being told that if they do not get right that God is going to torture them forever. Those who are looking for a way to live in rebellion to God are going to do so no matter what they are taught about God. Please believe me, GOD IS GOING TO CORRECT THESE PEOPLE IN THE AGES TO COME! Their wood, hay, and stubble will not go unnoticed before God. His consuming fire will burn up any and all carnality that is within us, whether now or in the ages to come.

As we have stated, those looking for excuses to sin will always find them under any belief-system. But it is our job to teach the truth of God. It is our duty to proclaim the true gospel of salvation, forgiveness, restoration, and reconciliation. 1st Timothy 4:9-11 states...This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance. For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living **God, Who is the Savior of all men**, specially of those that believe. **These things command and teach...**We are told by the apostle Paul to **COMMAND AND TEACH THAT GOD IS THE SAVIOR OF ALL MEN**. As we do this, we will be pleasantly surprised to see how many more people will be drawn to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMAND AND TEACH THESE THINGS!



November 8

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #5

Question:

If the teaching of the salvation of all men is true, then why are there so few people who understand it?

Answer:

To the surprise of many people, there are more people who believe and understand the salvation of all men than you would think. (Compared to the number of people who believe and teach eternal torture though, it is few.)

As you do a study of early church history (from the apostle Paul until the Dark Ages/about 500 A.D.), you will find that most of those in Christendom (including the teachers) did not believe or teach eternal torture. The majority of Christians believed and taught the ultimate salvation of all men in the ages to come. This can be easily researched and seen to be true. This can be confirmed by studying the writings of Origen and those who followed in his footsteps. Augustine, who flourished between 400 A.D.- 430 A.D., was the first to argue that “aionios” signified strictly endlessness as it referred to the punishment of unbelievers and the wicked.

According to Dr. Harold Lovelace: “The great truth of the salvation of all creation by God was denounced by the Fifth General Council of the Catholic Church held in Constantinople from May 4, A.D. 553 until June 2, A.D. 553. The Dark Ages, as they are known, came upon the world for about 1,000 years, and this great truth was hidden.” (Read And Search God’s Plan, Dr. Harold Lovelace)

It is very helpful to know this information which we have just stated, but this is still not the heart of the matter. That which is at stake concerning the salvation of all men is simply... **WHETHER OR NOT IT IS TRUE! THAT IS ALL THAT MATTERS! HOW MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE SOMETHING HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH WHETHER OR NOT IT IS TRUE!** If the majority of people believe that two plus two does not equal four, that still does not cancel out the fact that two plus two equals four. People would rather “go with the flow”, “not rock the boat”, believe everything their pastor tells them (never researching it for themselves), and continue to “play church”, remaining a form of godliness that denies the power of God.

FORGET ABOUT WHO BELIEVES WHAT! DO WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS YOU TO DO! STUDY TO SHOW YOURSELF APPROVED UNTO GOD!!! Come to the Father in prayer, asking Him to show you the truth. Do not ask Him to show you what YOU WANT TO SEE, but rather, ask Him to show you THE TRUTH! It is only in knowing the truth that we can be...

MADE FREE!



November 9

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #6

Question:

Does the reconciliation of all things include the powers of darkness?

Answer:

YES...OF COURSE IT DOES! It is the reconciliation of ALL THINGS!

Colossians 1:16-20 is an incredible passage of scripture that explains to us in great detail that there is to be a reconciliation of all things. This reconciliation of all things is a direct result of the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. WOW...That is a powerful cross! Thank God for the cross (the atonement) of the Lord Jesus Christ! Colossians 1:16-20 states...**For by Him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; And, **having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself**; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven...As well, Ephesians 3:9-11 sheds light on this subject. It states...And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world has been hid in **God, Who created all things by Jesus Christ**: To the intent that now unto **the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God**, According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord...

Many people have no understanding at all that GOD IS SOVEREIGN, and that God is responsible for having created ALL THINGS, INCLUDING SATAN AND THE POWERS OF DARKNESS. In our daily Christian walk we find ourselves fighting against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Well...THE SCRIPTURES HAVE JUST TOLD US THAT GOD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HAVING CREATED THESE FORCES OF DARKNESS. In fact, Ephesians 3:9-11 tells us that the powers of darkness are the MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD. Principalities and powers are created and used by God, according to the eternal purpose (the purpose of the ages) which He purposed in Christ Jesus. They are used to shape and mold the sons and daughters of God into the very image of God. HOW CAN THIS BE?

In order for God to bring about His purpose of the ages there had to be **opposition** and obstacles for His children to overcome. God created the powers of darkness (including Satan - the prince of the power of the air - the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience), giving His children something to overcome. We must understand that God wanted overcomers. In order for there to be overcomers there had to be something to overcome. So...God made sure to it that there would be things to overcome. When the purpose of God is completed (at the end of the ages) there will be no more need for the powers of darkness, at which time these powers, WHICH GOD CREATED...

SHALL BE RECONCILED UNTO HIM!

November 10

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #7

According to John Gavazzoni:

Question:

“Is God going to force people to be saved?”

Answer:

The relationship of God’s will to us, is not one of making us do something against our will, but by bringing our will into union with His. This is not coercion, this is causation, and it is causation by the force of love which ultimately worked by God leaving us to ourselves to do what we would do left to ourselves; which was to crucify His Son, and then to love such enemies back to Himself by the power of forgiving love.” (Answer from: Free Will, John Gavazzoni)

We MUST understand our salvation experience in the light of God’s sovereignty. WE DON’T JUST WAKE UP ONE FINE MORNING AND DECIDE TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD. The Bible tells us that the Spirit of God must first DRAW us. John 6:44 states...No man can come to Me (Jesus is speaking), except the Father which has sent Me **draw** him: and I will raise him up at the last day...Let us not take these words lightly, for they testify that a person can not even come to God unless God, by His Spirit, draws that person. This blows to pieces the idea that we are responsible to just wake up one morning and *choose* to serve the Lord. It is IMPOSSIBLE to come to God unless HE FIRST DRAWS YOU!

John 12:32,33 states...And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, **will draw all men unto Me**. This He said, signifying what death He should die...It is imperative that we seek to understand this statement from the Lord Jesus. It testifies that God is sovereign. Unfortunately, there are very few people that understand what Jesus was actually saying. The word “draw” that is found in this scripture verse (John 12:32) means to DRAG. God is lovingly dragging us to Himself in the same way that a man in love would continue pursuing the woman that he was madly in love with. You must come to the realization that **our Heavenly Father will not be denied. He will draw (drag) ALL MEN unto Himself**. This will not be fully accomplished in this present age, but will continue in the ages to come until EVERY KNEE BOWS AND EVERY TONGUE CONFESSES THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD (Philippians 2:10,11)! We should be excited to know that our Father WILL STOP AT NOTHING to reveal His love to us, for He has promised to...

DRAW (DRAG) ALL MEN!



November 11

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #8

Question:

Why should we preach the gospel now if God is going to have all men to be saved in the end?

Answer:

This is a very ridiculous question, but nevertheless, many people continue to ask it in light of the salvation of all men. Our answer is to be found from Romans 10:14,15. We must understand that the preaching (and teaching) of the gospel is the means by which God AWAKENS the human race to what He has ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED in Christ. This is taking place and will continue to take place in the ages to come.

Romans 10:14,15 states...How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!...Let us also consider what 2nd Corinthians 5:18 tells us. It states...And all things are of God, Who has reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and has given to us the ministry of reconciliation...

What beautiful passages of scripture! They both testify to the fact that we have been called to preach and minister the salvation and reconciliation of our great God. We must first take into account that God has already (past tense) reconciled the world unto Himself. This means that ALL PEOPLE have been reconciled to God by Jesus Christ (whether they know it or not). Even with this having been accomplished, mankind is still called upon (by God) to recognize, repent, and respond to what God has made available. We don't preach to "get people saved", but rather, we preach to AWAKEN THEM to the fact that God has already saved and forgiven them. THIS IS GOOD NEWS! THIS IS THE GOSPEL! We must stop thinking that our preaching, altar calls, and formulas (the sinner's prayer) is what saves a person. In essence, they are already reconciled, but they just don't know it yet. With this being said though, man is still accountable (to God) to repent and respond in faith to the message of reconciliation, which then leads us through the salvation process of our spirit, soul, and body.

We are called upon to preach the gospel for the purpose of awakening the human race to the fact (GOOD NEWS) that they have been reconciled to God by the death of His Son Jesus Christ. How can a person know that they have been reconciled to God unless someone tells them? This is God's method of causing all men to come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, **WHETHER NOW, OR IN THE AGES TO COME!** So...Let us...

PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!



November 12

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #9

Question:

If the salvation of all men is God's ultimate purpose for the human race, then why is it so difficult for so many people to understand?

Answer:

Our answer is to be found in the understanding of Proverbs 25:2. As well, the organized church (Babylon) has done a great job of misrepresenting the true God. This has caused many to believe the lie of eternal torture. People are comfortable with the status quo message that is supported by the religious leaders of Evangelical Christianity. They assume that it (the false message of eternal torture) must be right because the majority of Christians believe and teach it.

The salvation of all men is plain to see when we are not under the influence of the carnal mind, the traditions and doctrines of men, the power of the organized church, and the negative influence of family and friends who have been seduced by all the things that we just mentioned. With this being said though, the main reason that many do not see the deep things of God is to be found in the understanding of Proverbs 25:2. It states...It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings is to search out a matter...

It is imperative that we understand God's dealings with man. GOD PURPOSELY HIDES THE TRUTH UNDER THE TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN SO THAT WE WILL SEARCH FOR IT! This verse (Proverbs 25:2) also tells us that God is glorified in the fact that He hides the truth and that we will then search for it. The truth of the salvation of all men (along with all other truth) must be revealed to a person by the Spirit of God. This takes place as we begin to search out the matter.

Ephesians 1:9,10 sheds even more light on this particular subject. It states (The Emphasized Bible)...making known to us **the sacred secret of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Him, - For an administration of the fullness of the seasons, to reunite for Himself (under one Head) the all things in the Christ, the things upon the heavens, and the things upon the earth, in Him...This verse tells us that the reconciliation of all things is a **SACRED SECRET THAT MUST BE MADE KNOWN TO US!!!** If God has a SACRED SECRET, then that tells us that He has concealed something that we must search out.

In conclusion, we must see that the act of God concealing something (such as the truth of the salvation of all men) is the very GLORY OF GOD! God is actually glorified by the fact that His purpose of the ages is concealed. Because it is concealed, it causes us to search out the matter, laying down our lives in pursuit of the MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD! It results in God being revealed to us and glorified in all the earth. May the Heavenly Father reveal to you...

HIS SACRED SECRET!

November 13

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SALVATION OF ALL MEN - #10

Question:

As far as the teaching of the salvation of all men is concerned, what if we are wrong?

Answer:

When a person is ready to seek the Lord with all his heart, dropping all personal agendas, he will see that the scriptures proclaim this great truth. IT IS UNDENIABLE! But for the sake of argument, let us suppose that this teaching is wrong. What is it that those who believe it would be found guilty of? Generally speaking, we would be found guilty of two main things, which are:

1. BELIEVING THAT GOD IS ALL-LOVING
2. BELIEVING THAT GOD IS ALL-POWERFUL

As well, we would be found guilty of believing that God actually had a purpose and plan for the entire creation that makes sense. Some other things we would be guilty of are:

1. Believing what the scriptures actually teach...
2. Reading the scriptures...
3. Studying the scriptures in their original Hebrew and Greek...
4. Studying the word meanings of the English words "hell", "for ever", "eternal", and "everlasting"...
5. Challenging the present teachings of the organized church...
6. Studying church history...
7. Believing that God is sovereign...
8. Believing that God is love...
9. Believing that the cross of Jesus Christ was a total and complete universal victory for the entire human race...
10. Loving and forgiving all people...

When a person comes to the understanding that God is ALL-LOVING and ALL-POWERFUL, the ridiculous teachings of men (such as eternal torture) no longer deceive us. We know the heart of our Heavenly Father. We know that He is ABLE and WILLING to SAVE ALL! This is Who He is. **HE IS THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!!!** Do not the scriptures testify of this? Does not your heart cry out that this is so? The only thing that stops people from hearing the voice of God in their heart concerning this matter is the negative power of the traditions and doctrines of men, and those who are under the spell of organized religion.

Once a person is set free from the bondage of the organized church, he is truly SET FREE from the most powerfully negative force that is known to the human race. There is nothing more wicked than the Pharisee (religious) spirit. It always produces self-righteousness and stinks in the nostrils of God. There is one more question that must be asked concerning the salvation of all men in the ages to come. That question is...

WHAT IF WE ARE RIGHT?

November 14

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 1

According to Randy Bonacorso: “If there is one single topic in the Bible that remains shrouded in confusion, it would be understanding the purpose of the law. We are of course speaking of the law of Moses and all that is contained therein. There is so much confusion on this topic that one hardly knows where to begin. There are those who say that the law has no more purpose in our lives in this day and age, paying absolutely no attention to it at all. Then there are those who are still under the bondage of trying to keep the law, living a life of condemnation, frustration, hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and failure. Still yet, there are those who want to play both sides of the fence, trying to keep certain laws while totally ignoring and disregarding others. ARE YOU CONFUSED YET? MOST OF THE CHURCH IS! Let us look to the scriptures for solid and concrete answers to this perplexing problem. 1st Timothy 1:8,9 states...But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient...The definition of sin is clearly spelled out and defies complication. John’s first epistle defines sin as “transgression of the law” (3:4). Paul writes in Romans 3:20, “By the law is the knowledge of sin.” In Romans 5:13 he says, “For until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law.” Finally, he puts it as simply as possible: “For where no law is, there is no transgression” (Romans 4:15).” ([The Gospel Of Maturity](#), Randy Bonacorso)

With a little bit of research we can already begin to see that there is a purpose for the law, and that this purpose is very specific. The very first and foremost purpose of the law is to bring us to the knowledge of sin. It is so important that we understand this primary purpose of the law. Many people use the law unlawfully, using it as a means to acquire righteousness with God, making themselves feel superior to others. THERE IS NO BONDAGE LIKE THE BONDAGE THAT ACCOMPANIES A PERSON WHO IS TRYING TO ACQUIRE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD BY THE KEEPING OF THE LAW. THE VERY PURPOSE OF THE LAW IS TO SHOW MAN THAT HE IS NOT ABLE TO KEEP IT (THE LAW) IN AND OF HIMSELF. The law is a mirror in which we see ourselves for who we really are. It shows us the condition of our condition. This is explained to us in Romans chapter three. We are told that the law is the very thing that reveals to us our sinful condition. This is a very important step in our salvation process, for it brings to our attention...

THE KNOWLEDGE OF SIN!



November 15

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 2
THAT EVERY MOUTH MAY BE STOPPED

Romans 3:10,11,19,20 states...As it is written, There is **none** righteous, no, not one: There is **none** that understands, there is **none** that seeks after God...Now we know that what things soever the law says, it says to them who are under the law: **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.** Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin...

In spite of what this passage of scripture has to say, many continue to use the law unlawfully. Instead of applying this passage to themselves by having their mouths stopped and being convinced of their guilt, they use the law to run their mouths, pointing their fingers at others who do not measure up. The whole point of this passage of scripture is to proclaim **THAT THERE IS NO ONE WHO MEASURES UP TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT!** Some pride themselves on how much of the law that they keep, but we must keep in mind that to break just one part of the law makes us guilty of breaking the entire law (James 2:10). There are those who always condemn certain people for doing certain things, but do not realize that in doing so that they are using the law unlawfully. While we may not do the thing that we are condemning others for, there are surely areas in our life which we do not measure up to the law of God. In essence, we become guilty of doing the very same thing that we are condemning that person of doing, for all have broken God's law in some area. Remember...For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, **HE IS GUILTY OF ALL** (James 2:10)...

All of this sure sounds very discouraging, doesn't it? It is very discouraging **UNTIL THAT WE SEE THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW.** If you think that by the keeping of the law you will attain to the righteousness of God, you will live a very frustrated life. As well, you will be seen by others as just another Pharisee. But if you see the law for what it is, then the law becomes very beneficial to your salvation experience and growth in God. It is, as we have stated, a mirror that causes a person to see their inadequacy, unrighteousness, sin nature, failure to measure up to God, fallen condition, and the fruit of their self-life.

The law definitely has a purpose. It is designed to show mankind that we are not capable of keeping it, pointing to something greater. That something greater is what we so desperately need. It is the...

GRACE OF GOD!



November 16

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 3

THE LAW WAS OUR SCHOOLMASTER

Galatians 3:24,25 states... Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster... This same thought is to be seen in John 1:17. It states... For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ...

The word "schoolmaster" means a child guardian. The idea is that the child guardian brings the child unto the teacher. The very purpose of the law is to bring us to something greater. This something greater is Jesus Christ Himself. We are being brought from law to grace. The guardian (the law) is bringing us to the teacher (grace). We are to see the grace of God as our teacher. So... This makes the law VERY IMPORTANT!

The law has a definite purpose. Its purpose is to show us that we are bankrupt (spiritually speaking), and that we are powerless to achieve the righteousness of God outside of His grace. THE LAW ACTUALLY DRIVES US INTO THE ARMS OF THE GRACE OF GOD. It is an instrument designed to bring us to something better and greater. It is impossible to walk this Christian walk without the grace of God.

The "grace" of God is His unmerited favor toward man in Christ, but let us not stop there, FOR IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT. The "grace" of God is actually speaking of the very nature of God that emanates through a person to enable them to overcome all things. It could be said that... Going from law to grace is the same as going from our nature to His nature. The next logical question would be, how is it that we access this grace (nature) of God?

Ephesians 2:8,9 states... **For by grace are you saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast... Not only are we brought from law to grace (from our nature to His nature), but we are also being brought from works to faith. Now we can see how important the law is when it is used lawfully. It is the very thing that is pushing us forward into the grace of God. It is actually designed by God for this specific reason. Remember... The letter of the law kills, but it is the Spirit of God that brings life (2nd Corinthians 3:6). When we realize this, recognizing the law as our schoolmaster, WE HAVE TAPPED INTO THE VERY GRACE OF GOD. WE ARE NO LONGER FRUSTRATING THE GRACE OF GOD! We thank God for the law that came by Moses, for it is good. But we thank God even more for grace and truth that came by Jesus Christ...

FOR IT IS A BETTER COVENANT!



November 17

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 4

I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR INWARD PARTS

Jeremiah 31:31-33 speaks to us concerning the purpose of the law. It states...Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, says the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the LORD, **I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be My people...

This passage of scripture gives us great insight into the purpose of the law. It tells us that the original covenant (the law) that God gave mankind (Israel) was a stepping stone to a better covenant. God knew full well that no one would be able to keep or fulfill His first covenant (except for the Son of God). The very purpose of the first covenant was to show man that he was inadequate in and of himself to achieve godliness. The first covenant was on the shoulders of mankind to perform that which God had commanded. The result was, is, and always will be failure. After that is established in your life (a realization that you can not keep the law), then the letter of the law has served its purpose, making you ready for the next step in God. The next step is to have the SPIRIT OF THE LAW WRITTEN ON YOUR HEART! This is the better covenant! This is why Jesus died. He did not come to do away with the law, BUT TO FULFILL IT!

Colossians 2:13,14 states...And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross...As a result of what Jesus accomplished we are no longer held captive by the letter of the law, but we are now introduced to a better covenant. This better covenant involves God doing in us what we could not do for ourselves. GOD HAS PROMISED TO WRITE HIS LAWS IN OUR INWARD PART (HEARTS)! This is accomplished by grace through faith. In essence, the spirit of the law is being written on our hearts. It could also be said that the spirit of the law is GOD'S DIVINE NATURE. So...We can see that we are no longer under the letter of the law, but we have made the transition into...

THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW!



November 18

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW - PART 5

CONCLUSION

According to Dr. Stephen Jones: “We know from Rom. 3:23 that “all have sinned.” Therefore, every man is a debtor in the eyes of the law. It is the law that has put us all into slavery because of our sin. But we have a Redeemer, Jesus Christ, Who came and paid the full penalty for our sins. Once the debt has been paid, we have been set free from the slavery imposed upon us by the law. We are now under grace. Does this mean, then, that we are now free to sin at will? Are we now free to “*sin that grace may abound?*” (Rom. 6:1) Of course not. Grace is not a license to sin. Sin is lawlessness. The law was not put away; the law was upheld. Jesus could have set us free by putting away His law, for this would have legalized sin. But He did not. He upheld the law and paid its full price. One of the most misunderstood verses of all time is found in Rom. 6:14, 15, where Paul wrote, **For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! Many people take Rom. 6:14 and interpret it to contradict Jesus, Paul, and John, saying that this means the law was put away. Paul says in Rom. 3:31, **Do we then nullify the law through faith? May it never be! On the contrary, we establish the law.** It is not right to pit Rom. 6:14 against Rom. 3:31. If they seem to be contradictory, it is because we do not understand Paul’s writing. It is our hope that this will give the reader a better understanding of Paul’s writings, so that we do not use him as an excuse to violate the law of Christ as given to Moses. One’s obedience to the law cannot be used to justify any man. Learning obedience is the process of sanctification, not justification. Jesus came as our Redeemer, so that we are redeemed from the slavery caused by sin. In paying the debt that the law demanded for sin, He sustained the law, bearing witness of its righteous standard. We who have been set free from the law are now free to be obedient to our Redeemer, as the law says in Lev. 25:53. Now that we have been set free from the taskmaster of sin (lawlessness), we have been set free to be bondservants of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.” (The Purpose Of Law And Grace, Dr. Stephen Jones)**

May we realize that we have been set free from having to perform the letter of the law, but that we are now made partakers of having the spirit of the law...

WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS BY GRACE!



November 19

LEADING MEN TO REPENTANCE

Have you considered that all men need to repent? We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). The word “repent” comes from a Greek word “*metanoia*”, which

means: a real change of mind and attitude toward sin itself and the cause of it (not merely the consequences of it), which affects the life and not merely a single act.

God desires all men to repent. As well, we should desire that all men would repent. When someone repents, in essence, **they turn from sin and turn to God**. Have you considered what causes men to repent? Have you considered how to lead men to repentance? Romans 2:4 tells us that...**THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS MEN TO REPENTANCE...What an interesting scripture!**

Why is it then that most preachers use *fear* to try to lead men to repentance? They especially use *fear of eternal torture in hell* as a means to try to “get people saved”. It is very sad that the true message of the goodness of God has been reduced by the traditions of men into...*repent...or God will torture you forever...*

The message of eternal torture has never been (nor ever will be) the true gospel. It came from the Dark Ages, more specifically, the Catholic Church. Let God show you His love, goodness, grace, and mercy for the whole creation. **THIS IS THE ONLY THING THAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO TURN TO GOD FOR THE RIGHT REASON** (with the right motive in their heart)! All else is wood, hay, and stubble.

1st John 4:18 states...There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment. He that fears is not made perfect in love...Tell men about God's love, goodness, grace, and His mercy. This is what will lead them to true repentance. You must also understand that His wrath, judgment, vengeance, and punishment are all a part of His love. **THEY ARE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CORRECTION!** Let us **STOP** using fear (especially fear of hell) to motivate people to repent and serve God. That message (eternal torture...which is not true) does not give a person a true foundation to start a relationship with the Lord! Remember...

THE GOODNESS OF GOD LEADS MEN TO REPENTANCE!



November 20

BORN AGAIN...WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Take some time right now to read John 3:3...Don't read it with your mind already made up! It would do you good to take a fresh look at this scripture! Many people read scriptures with their minds already made up, not even stopping to consider if they really understand what is being said.

No...It does not say...you must be born again to go to heaven. **LOOK AT WHAT IT SAYS...** Except a man be born again, **HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

The words “born again” mean: born (begotten) from above. The word “see” means: not the mere act of looking, but the actual **PERCEPTION** of the object. It means to perceive, grasp, or understand with the mind. John 3:3 could be more clearly stated as...Except a man be born again / begotten from above (have a spiritual awakening from God, being awakened out of the carnal mind to the mind of Christ), he cannot see (perceive, understand, or grasp with his mind) the Kingdom of God (the rule / reign of God from within...righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit).

THIS SCRIPTURE IS NOT ABOUT GOING TO HEAVEN OR HELL! IT IS NOT ABOUT GOING TO AN ALTAR IN A CHURCH TO SAY A SINNER'S PRAYER! **IT IS ABOUT BEING AWAKENED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO UNDERSTAND HIS KINGDOM!!! WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!** God is interested in you understanding His Kingdom. Furthermore, the born again experience is a lifelong process, not just a one time thing you do at an altar in a church building. Don't you want to see (perceive) His Kingdom? All that most people see is a religion or a particular denomination. Ask God to cause you to see (perceive) His Kingdom that is available to you in the here-and-now. He will awaken you to a glorious and marvelous Kingdom (that is in you...Christ, the hope of glory), awaiting to be experienced.

THINK ABOUT IT!



November 21

THE FOUR MOST POWERFUL FORCES

Here are what I believe to be the four most powerful forces:

1. THE TRADITIONS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN
2. KNOWING THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD
3. UNITY IN CHRIST
4. THE LOVE OF GOD

#1. The traditions and doctrines of men are so powerful that they (if believed) make the Word of God of none effect (Matthew 15:6-9 / Mark 7:7-13).

#2. The truth of God's Word (after it has been revealed to you) is so powerful that it is the only thing that can set you free from the traditions and doctrines of men (John 8:32).

#3. Unity in Christ (those who are in one mind and one accord) is so powerful that it only took twelve apostles to turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

#4. The love of God (which is more powerful than anything that we have just mentioned) is so powerful that it is the only thing that NEVER FAILS (1ST Corinthians 13:8).

Meditate on these forces and respect them for their power, understanding the part they play in the Kingdom of God. Remember...ALL POWER IS OF GOD (Romans 13:1)! It is God Who sends strong delusion, and it is God Who has the power to reveal His truth, causing someone to come out of the traditions and doctrines of men. It is God Who enables His people to come together in unity, and it is God (Who is love) Who has the power to love the human race back to Himself, every man in his own order!

AMEN!

November 22

WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE?

John 17:3 states...And this is life eternal, that they might know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You have sent...

What better definition can we get concerning the meaning of eternal life! This definition comes straight from the mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The word “eternal” (which describes the kind of life mentioned here) comes from the Greek word “aionios”, which means: age-lasting, age-abiding, or of the ages. It could be said that this life is the **LIFE OF THE AGES**.

God’s plan is a plan of ages, in which the life of the ages is available to us. This is God’s life inserted into the ages of time. God has no beginning and no ending. This is the true definition of that which is eternal. He created time and framed the ages to make man in His image. The ages have a beginning and an ending. To have God’s life in His plan of the ages is to have *the life of the ages*. This life has nothing to do with time, but is God’s life received and inserted into the ages of time. Remember...The word “eternal” speaks of something that has no beginning and no ending. **Eternal life is a quality of life, not a quantity or length of time.**

When the last enemy (which is death) is destroyed, there will be nothing left but life. True eternity is timelessness. So...Remember that this life of the ages is the quality of the Christ-life. What is the life of the ages? Jesus plainly told us that it is **KNOWING GOD AND THE ONE HE SENT!** The life of the ages is to **KNOW GOD!** Eternal life is not salvation from an eternal torture pit in hell, but rather, it is...

KNOWING GOD!



November 23

THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD

Romans 8:19-22 states...For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of Him Who has subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now...

This is one of the most amazing and informative scripture passages in the Bible. Have you considered these verses? Are you aware of what is being said? Do you know what its implications are? To understand this passage of scripture is to understand the purpose and plan of God for the **ENTIRE CREATION!** Let us look at the key words in this passage.

The key words are: earnest expectation, creature, manifestation of the sons of God, creature, vanity (not willingly), in hope, creature...delivered, the children of God, and whole creation. These

key words paint a beautiful picture of the purpose and plan of God. This passage implies that God is responsible for putting the whole creation into vanity (futility / failure), and that He did it in hope. It goes on to tell us that the creation is **ANXIOUSLY LOOKING WITH AN OUTSTRETCHED HEAD FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SONS OF GOD**. The creation is awaiting the hope that all (the entire creation) will be made alive in Christ, every man in his own order (1st Corinthians 15:22,23). We are told that God's people (the overcomers) will play a part in the deliverance of the entire creation, for it is the manifestation of the sons of God that is said to set the creation free! This is speaking of the fullness of God that is to be manifested through His sons (and daughters) for all the world to see. It is actually a manifestation of the Son of God through the sons of God, for we are His body. At this time the sons of God will be given their glorified bodies. It is an appointed time that is in the hand of the Father. This (the manifestation of the sons of God) is to be seen as the fulfillment of the **FEAST OF TABERNACLES**. **IT IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION!** Romans 8:19-22 tells us that the purpose of this manifestation is for **DELIVERANCE!** God's sons are going to deliver the creation from the government of man, bringing the nations into the government of God. **It is going to be glorious, wonderful, amazing, unspeakable, and astounding!!! The sons of God will continue to be used in the ages to come, bringing all people to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. ALL SHALL BE MADE ALIVE IN CHRIST!**

The hope of the whole creation hinges on the manifestation of the sons of God. This is (of course) a direct result of the saving work (the cross and resurrection) of the Lord Jesus Christ. The work of the Lord Jesus Christ **GUARANTEES** that there shall be a manifestation of the sons of God. Remember...The only reason there shall be a manifestation of the sons of God is because there was a manifestation of the Son of God. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

The creation is on its "tip toes" anxiously awaiting this great event. Don't you want to be a part of it? We must realize that this is what God is preparing us for. Remember...The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed...

IN US!



November 24

ANTICHRIST

According to Ray Knight: "Tradition has taught for years that an Antichrist will arise and sit himself in a temple in Jerusalem and declare that he is god. If that wasn't enough, great theologians have declared that any despot in the world is the Antichrist . . . we've had Hitler, Kissinger, Stalin, etc., not forgetting every Pope in his day! Again, when one looks at the Word of God, one will see that there is a difference.

ANTICHRIST means INSTEAD OF CHRIST — The Greek word is *ANTICHRISTOS* 500 . . . *anti* 473 = **instead of**, substitution; *CHRISTOS* 5547 = the anointed One. . . from *CHRIO* 5548 = to smear with oil. So the meaning of the word translated as '*antichrist*' . . . it is primarily

what is put **instead of** the anointing by the Anointed One . . . Christ. 'Anti', in our everyday language, means something that is *against* something. This is the effect every time a substitution is made for the true anointing. Many replacements for the anointing have been made and are being made by the church." (Antichrist, Ray Knight)

1st John 2:18-22 states... Little children, **it is the last time**: and as you have heard that antichrist shall come, **even now are there many antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. **They** went out from us, but **they** were not of us; for if **they** had been of us, **they** would no doubt have continued with us: but **they** went out, that **they** might be made manifest that **they** were not all of us. But you have an unction from the Holy One, and you know all things. I have not written unto you because you know not the truth, but because you know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denies the Father and the Son**... 1st John 4:3 states... And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and **this is that spirit of antichrist**, whereof you have heard that it should come; **and even now already is it in the world**... 2nd John 1:7 states... For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. **This is a deceiver and an antichrist**... 2nd Thessalonians 2:3,4 states... Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God...

Are you ready for a revelation? THE MAN OF SIN IS INSIDE OF YOU! YOU ARE THE TEMPLE THAT IS BEING TALKED ABOUT IN 2ND THESSALONIANS! Remember... Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1st Corinthians 6:19). STOP LOOKING TO JERUSALEM OR SOMEWHERE OVER IN THE MIDDLE EAST! YOU ARE THE TEMPLE OF GOD! LOOK TO YOURSELF! LOOK IN THE MIRROR! YOU HAVE JUST DISCOVERED THE ANTICHRIST!!!

Let the Lord consume the man of sin (the spirit of antichrist) inside of you with the brightness of His coming (presence). STOP LOOKING TO SOMETHING EXTERNAL!

LOOK TO YOURSELF!



November 25

IF I BE LIFTED UP

John 12:32,33 states... And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. This He said, signifying what death He should die...

What part of this passage do we not understand? Was Jesus lifted up from the earth?... YES! Will Jesus draw all men unto Himself?... YES!

As we have stated in previous teachings, the word "draw" that is used in verse 22 comes from the Greek word "helkuo". It means to draw with love, but it can also mean to DRAG WITH FORCE! Jesus clearly stated... that if I am lifted up from the earth (speaking of His death on the

cross), I WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME...HOW PLAIN CAN IT BE! JESUS WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO HIMSELF! BELIEVE IT! PROCLAIM IT!

This declares that the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ was an absolute universal victory!!! He really is...THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD! You can voluntarily come to the love of Jesus, or He will *drag* you in to know His love. He loves each and every one of us SO MUCH! He will stop at nothing! HE WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO COME TO HIS LOVE AND FORGIVENESS!

Did your parents ever *drag* you into something that you did not want to do? Well...Sure they have. As we get older we realize that the things that our parents *made us do* were for our benefit. We have all learned valuable lessons from things in life that we did not want to do. Why would your parents *drag* you into something that you did not want to do? BECAUSE THEY LOVE YOU! BECAUSE THEY WANT YOU TO LEARN! BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU! BECAUSE WE NEED TO BE CORRECTED! In the same sense, God is going to draw all men unto Himself.

God will not allow His love to be defeated by any person! HIS LOVE WILL CONQUER ALL! He was lifted up from the earth. He will draw all men unto Himself! Jesus is a ransom for all, to be testified in *due time*...

HALLELUJAH!



November 26

THE MARK OF THE BEAST

Revelation 13:16-18 states...And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him that has understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six...

Many people down through history have come up with a bunch of crazy ideas about this passage of scripture. They lean on intellect and the natural mind to try to discern the things of God. This causes people to *literalize* things that are to be understood spiritually.

It is not a matter of taking the mark of the beast, but rather, it is an issue of getting rid of the mark (of the beast) that we already have, for we were born with the mark of the beast. WE HAVE THE MARK! It is not a literal mark, but a spiritual one. We are marked from birth with the beast nature (or Adamic Nature) that we inherited from Adam. In essence, it is the name of the beast that we have. The word "name" means **nature**. So...As we have stated, WE HAVE THE NATURE OF THE BEAST! Ephesians 2:3 states... we are by **nature** the children of wrath...Ecclesiastes 3:18 states...I said in my heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, **and that they might see that they themselves are beasts...**

We must realize that we are marked with the beast nature in our right hand and forehead. The words "right hand" speak of everything we do. The word "forehead" speaks of our mindset (the

carnal mind), including everything we think and say...As we can see, it is our whole being that is marked with this fallen nature.

So...What is the solution? How do we get rid of (overcome) this mark? The answer is to be found in Revelation 14:1. It states...And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand, **having His Father's name written in their foreheads**...Can you grasp the spiritual implications of this? We must have the Father's name written on our forehead!

The solution to the mark of the beast is to be found in pressing toward the MARK for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). It is the mind of Christ that we need to replace the carnal mind. As well, it is the divine nature of our Heavenly Father that we need to replace our beast nature. The number six is the number of man and his achievements. With this being said, we can now see the significance of the number 666. It speaks of the full manifestation of the carnality of man. Can we see that God is bringing us from the carnal mind to the mind of Christ? This is our salvation process! Thank God that we are being delivered from the...

MARK OF THE BEAST!



November 27

TORMENTED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB

Revelation 14:10 states...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb...

This is quite an interesting scripture. Let us look at some of the key words in this verse and their meanings. The words "fire and brimstone" clearly speak of DIVINE PURIFICATION. This fire (which is a spiritual fire) is the fire of God Himself. Its purpose is to consume wood, hay, and stubble (the carnality in man). Remember...GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE!

According to Louis Abbott: "There is an interesting rock used in Biblical days to test the quality of precious metals called a touchstone. It is quite unfortunate that most translations following the King James tradition have hidden the Biblical references to this stone from us. The King James Bible Concordances have also hidden its meaning. Using the Strong's or Young's Concordances, when looking up the English word "torment," we discover that the noun for one of these Greek words is *basanoj* "basanos," Strong's number 931. Strong's number 928 "torture," and 929 "torment" are derivatives of this noun, "basanos," which Strong's Concordance says is a "touchstone." Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 5th Edition, tells us that a touchstone is "1. A black siliceous stone allied to flint; -used to test the purity of gold and silver by the streak left on the stone when rubbed by the metal. 2. Any test or criterion by which to try a thing's quality." Those of us who dig deep enough will discover why the early believers did not see the lake of fire as a place of "eternal torment." They knew that the wording in this passage referred to a place of divine testing and not a place of "eternal torment." The Greek word for "sulfur" is *qeiou* "theeion" which is akin

to “theos,” which means god. Sulfur (brimstone) was used to purify temples in ancient days. It was also used for healing purposes. The fact that this passage of scripture speaks of “day and night” proves that “aionas ton aionon” in this passage should not have been translated “forever and ever.” Divine fire will test the works of men and angels.” (*An Analytical Study Of Words*, Louis Abbott)

We are now able to see that the word “torment” means testing. (A stone used to test the purity of gold.) Remember...Gold is symbolic of divinity, or that which is divine (God-like). The words “tormented” and “lake of fire and brimstone” clearly speak of a severe time of testing. This testing is for the purpose of purifying the person. The goal of God is to burn up the carnal nature in man, bringing him to the place where he is possessed by the divine nature. Notice where the testing is taking place. **IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB! THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD IS A PURIFYING LAKE OF FIRE!** This torment (severe testing), although severe, is not to torture the person forever, but rather, it is to correct, purify, and restore the person. It is to bring them to the place where they can embrace...

THE PRESENCE OF THE LAMB!



November 28

WHY DID JESUS DIE? / THE ATONEMENT

Romans 5:11 states...we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have now received the **atonement**...

The word “atonement” means: the reconciliation of humankind to God through Christ. The word “reconciliation” means: to restore to a friendly or peaceable state, at one in harmony, *at onement*, unity, and to make amends for wrong or injury. Here is a list from A. P. Adams that addresses the atonement. It addresses the question...Why did Jesus die?

According to A. P. Adams:

1. **The atonement was not to satisfy God’s Justice, but to reveal His Love.**
2. **The justice of God is not against the sinner, demanding his condemnation, but for him, insuring his salvation.**
3. **God is not in contrast with, much less in opposition to Christ in the atonement, but in perfect harmony and accord.**
4. **The atonement is not the exclusive work of Christ in order to reconcile God unto the world, but it is the work of “God in Christ” to reconcile the world unto Himself.**
5. **Christ does not have to plead with God in order to make Him willing to pardon the sinner, but God, by His ministers, “beseeches” (II Cor. 5:20) the sinner to make them willing to be pardoned.**

6. Hence the atonement is not to propitiate God, but man; not to make God favorably disposed toward man, but to make His already existing favor known to man.
7. Christ did not die as our substitute, but as our companion and associate; not instead of man, but with him and for him.
8. Christ did not die to save us from the penalty of sin, but from sin itself.
9. Christ did not die that we might not die, but to deliver us out of a death in which we were already involved.
10. The sinner is not redeemed because he repents, but he is called upon to repent because he has been redeemed.
11. The atonement is not the cause of God's love to man, giving rise to that love, but the effect, flowing out of that love.
12. The final outcome of the atoning scheme is not a partial success, but a perfect, absolute, and universal triumph! (The Atonement, A. P. Adams)

Each one of these lofty statements carries with it a tremendous thought worthy of much meditation. As you dig deep (past the traditions of men) you will find every statement to be 100% correct. This is what the Bible teaches about the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are indebted to such a great man of God as A. P. Adams! He, in spite of having to go against the traditional teaching of his day, spoke the truth concerning the atonement. Read over each one of these statements again carefully, studying each one for the truth that it contains.

ENJOY YOUR SEARCH!



November 29

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN “?”

Mark 3:29 states...But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost has never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation...

According to Gary Amirault: “We have all heard of the term “the unpardonable sin.” You will not find this term in the Bible, at least not in the Greek text. Some Bibles, such as the New Open Bible New American Standard puts headers into the text such as “Scribes Commit the Unpardonable Sin.” These headers are not in the Greek text. They have been added by the editors of that particular translation. This is one reason why so-called “study Bibles” often are a detriment rather than a help. The Scofield Reference Bible was among the first to use such techniques. The Pre-trib Rapture teaching was greatly aided by these kinds of additions into Bibles such as Scofield’s. They clearly “add to the Word of God” as do most “study Bibles.” (The Power Of Life And Death In A Greek Four Letter Word - Aion, Gary Amirault)

Let us take a look at what this passage is actually saying. The correct translation of this passage should read as follows: But whoever may speak evil in regard to the Holy Spirit has not forgiveness - to the age, but is in danger of age-during judgment; (Young’s Literal Translation)...

Yes...This scripture definitely speaks of judgment and correction (because the Pharisees said that Jesus performed miracles by the power of Satan), but the judgment is not eternal, but age-during (of the ages, or...within the ages of time). The Greek word "aionios" should always be translated age-during (or...of the ages), but not eternal or everlasting. So...All of God's dealings with man are to be seen as within the ages of time ("aionios"). Having a knowledge of this helps us to be able to discard silly teachings such as eternal torture. God is not going to eternally torment any of His creation. He is a loving Father Who wants to correct (judge), not torture. After understanding that God's plan is a plan of ages, you can then see how that age-during judgment fits within His plan of the ages, but does not go beyond the ages.

Yes...There is a consequence for sin, but thank God that our Heavenly Father seeks to correct for the purpose of restoration, rather than subjecting someone to vindictive and endless torture. This (endless torture) could never serve any redeeming purpose!

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN UNPARDONABLE SIN. REMEMBER...LOVE NEVER FAILS!



November 30

THE RAPTURE "?"

Many Christians believe in a *rapture* of the church. They teach that the body of Christ will be physically caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air (literally). Let us examine this teaching to find out if it is truth or tradition. Let us also examine the scripture that is used for this doctrine to see if it is being rightly divided. We will now turn our attention to the words of J. Preston Eby...

According to J. Preston Eby: "It wasn't until the early or mid 1800's that there was any significant group of believers around the world that looked for a "rapture" of the church prior to a seven-year tribulation period. It may come as a shock to some who read these lines, but it is a fact nonetheless, that the "rapture" teaching was NOT taught by the early church, it was NOT taught by the church of the first centuries, it was NOT taught by the Reformers, IT WAS NOT TAUGHT BY ANYONE (except a couple Roman Catholic theologians) UNTIL ABOUT THE YEAR 1830! It began as a Roman Catholic invention! The Jesuit priest Ribera's writings influenced the Jesuit priest Lacunza, Lacunza influenced Irving, Irving influenced Darby, Darby influenced Scofield, Scofield and Darby influenced D. L. Moody, and Moody influenced the early PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT. How? you ask. The Assemblies of God is today by far the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world. When the Pentecostal movement began at the turn of the century and the Assemblies of God held their first General Council in 1914 in Hot Springs, Arkansas they were a small movement and didn't have their own Publishing House. They needed Sunday School and study materials for their churches - so where do you suppose they got it? They bought it from Moody Press and had their own cover stitched on it! So what do you think the Assemblies

of God people believed? They believed what Moody Bible Institute taught! This had its impact on Pentecostal theology, because in the early years there were practically NO PREMILLENIALISTS IN THE PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT! Most of the ministers in those early days came from Presbyterian, Methodist, or other historic denominations - men who, being baptized in the Holy Spirit and leaving their denominations, joined themselves to the Assemblies of God or one of the other emerging Pentecostal denominations. That is how the Pentecostal movement became influenced and saturated with the "Secret Rapture" doctrine - by a direct chain right back to the Roman Catholic Church! And now, my friend - you know the REST OF THE STORY! "Rapture" is not a biblical word. Let all of God's people stop speaking of the "rapture." The word "rapture" is not in the scripture and is at best very misleading. If instead of the "rapture" we speak of being caught up in the spirit (Acts 8:39; II Cor. 12:2-4; Rev. 4:1-2), translated into the Kingdom (Col. 1:13), raised up into the heavenlies with Christ (Eph. 2:5-6), and caught up into the throne, the spiritual dimension of the Christ's authority, power and glory (Rev. 4:1-2; Rev. 3:21; Rev. 12:5) we will rid ourselves of much confusion and carnal delusion, and we will have a much better understanding of present spiritual realities and the immediate program of God." (Looking For His Appearing, J. Preston Eby)

Let us look at the scripture that many misinterpret and turn into a *rapture doctrine*. 1st Thessalonians 4:17 states...Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord...The word "rapture" is not to be found in the Bible, but it is in the dictionary. It means: a strong feeling that absorbs the mind; very great joy, lifted high in mind and spirit. It is not so much a physical catching up, but it is a spiritual catching up. The word "clouds" in 1st Thessalonians speaks of PEOPLE, not literal clouds that are in the sky. Remember...The apostle Paul referred to God's people as a GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES (Hebrews 12:1). The word "air" speaks of a place or seat of authority. Satan, at this present time, is the PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR. 1st Thessalonians 4:17 speaks of the RESURRECTION, not a *rapture*. The sons and daughters of God (the overcomers) shall come forth (at the first resurrection) with glorified bodies. They will be elevated to the place and position of THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, bringing down the principalities and powers that are now in position as the prince of the power of the air. Those who have gone to be with the Lord are COMING (not going) with their glorified bodies. Then those which are alive and remain shall be caught up (put on immortality) together with them in the clouds (speaking of the great cloud of witnesses...God's people) to meet the Lord in the air (the place and position of authority that He occupies); and so shall we ever be with the Lord (we shall ever remain in complete and total oneness with Him)...

As well, it is correct to say that there is a spiritual catching up of the body of Christ going on at this present time. Remember...God has quickened us together with Christ, and has raised us up together, AND MADE US TO SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES IN CHRIST JESUS (Ephesians 2:5,6)...

COMFORT ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS!

