

# Modern Religious Voices

*“...It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you  
that ye should earnestly contend for the faith  
which was once delivered unto the saints.  
For there are certain men crept in unawares,  
who were before of old ordained to this condemnation,  
ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness,  
and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Jude 1: 3,4*

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# LESSON ONE

## DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHAT WE BELIEVE?

### PART I—HOW DOCTRINE AFFECTS PRACTICE

#### Introduction

We live in a day when experience is exalted and doctrine is de-emphasized. We are told that doctrine divides believers into little denominational partitions, subtracts from true love for Christ, and is unnecessary for the ordinary believer. We are encouraged to lay down doctrinal differences, and simply celebrate the salvation we all enjoy in Jesus Christ.

One day, in preparation for his studies, a minister and his wife went into a Christian Bookstore to purchase a handbook of theology. As they stood waiting for change at the counter, the clerk injected.

"Yuck, a book on theology. I don't have any time for theology."

Taken aback the minister replied, "Well, maybe you think you don't have time for theology, but you do **have** a theology anyway,"

"No," he responded, "I don't believe in theology. I use my quiet time to love Jesus, and to love God. I just read in Colossians where Jesus is more important than philosophies and theologies. We just need to love God with all our hearts. And its very important that we do not go around judging others. What we believe is not that important," he continued "because the Bible may not say the same thing to everybody. You may interpret it one way, and I another."

"The Bible does not say different things to different people," the minister responded, "What it says is truth, and that is the standard for all men." But in an effort to be agreeable, he continued, "It certainly is important to love God with all your heart. That is part of our theology. Love for God is our first command."

"And when I speak of the importance of theology, I'm not judging you. I'm speaking to myself. I have discovered from what the Bible says that I cannot believe wrong, and still expect to go to heaven. If I believe wrongfully, then I will live in error. If I believe and live wrongfully, then I forfeit my home in heaven."

"Well I'm using my private time to love God and Jesus, and I don't think anyone should go around judging others. I have been reading in Psalm 82, and it says there that God is the only one who is supposed to judge. That is what the Pharisees did, and Jesus said they were wrong."

"Do you really understand judging?" the minister asked. "Jesus taught us we do not really love Him if we do not love His sayings. We all show our love for Christ by how much we love His Word."

"Besides" the pastor's wife joined in. "Didn't Jesus also say 'By their fruits ye shall know them?' and wasn't that in the context of not judging one another? From that we can conclude we are not to judge each other's motives but we need to examine lives and doctrines and determine whether men are following truth."

There was a line waiting and the minister needed to go home, so he and his wife moved on. Afterward as he reflected on what the young man had said, he thought about the three things that came through. If one would analyze the trends of "Christian" thought in America, these would sum up much of what is believed.

**First**, theology is not important. What is important is that we love Jesus.

**Secondly**, theology tends to make us judge others who believe differently, and then we become proud. Then we act like we think we are the only ones who are going to heaven.

**Thirdly**, truth is relative. Scriptures may say one thing to one person, and something entirely different to other persons.

These questions and a few related ones are the reason for a class on "*Modern Religious Voices*". Are

these ideas and prevailing thought patterns true according to the Bible?

There are at least two other reasons for raising the question "Does it matter what we believe?"

There are many programs which feature interdenominational gatherings involved in worthwhile projects. One of the more recent ones is the "Promise Keepers". All denominations are encouraged to join together for a good common goal. This especially appeals because it only makes sense that we should stand together where we agree when the American culture is so far off track. Should we not join in and help these people in their goals? Does the Bible teach that we should stay away from "Christian" seminars?

The last relates to how much we stick out in society today. Do we really have to be so different in the way we dress and act when different issues come up? Couldn't we fit in a bit better in America today, and still go to heaven? Aren't these other people Christians too? Aren't they going to heaven?

Is it true that people may believe different things and still come out right? Why should we hold fast to doctrines when it is obvious so many feel we are hopelessly old fashioned. Couldn't we lay them aside to fit in?

### **What does the Bible say?**

The following verses relate to what the Bible says about truth in doctrine. Fill in the blanks each blank stands for one word, and shorter blanks mean shorter words. If you need to look the verse up the reference is provided.

*But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: \_\_\_\_\_ to worship him. (John 4:23)*

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth \_\_\_\_\_ . (John 8:32)*

\_\_\_\_\_ *them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17)*

*Also of your own selves shall men arise, \_\_\_\_\_ , to draw away disciples after them. (Acts 20:30)*

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ in unrighteousness; (Romans 1:18)*

*Who changed the \_\_\_\_\_ into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. (Romans 1:25)*

*But unto them that are contentious, and do not \_\_\_\_\_ , but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, (Romans 2:8)*

*Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 5:8)*

*But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. (2 Corinthians 4:2)*

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ of light. Therefore*

it is no great thing if his \_\_\_\_\_ also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and \_\_\_\_\_ of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Ephesians 4:14)

Stand therefore, having \_\_\_\_\_ about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (Ephesians 6:14)

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_, that they might be saved. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)

That they \_\_\_\_\_ who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, \_\_\_\_\_ the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will \_\_\_\_\_. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and \_\_\_\_\_ of some. (2 Timothy 2:15-18)

And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness \_\_\_\_\_ themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of \_\_\_\_\_ of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will. (2 Timothy 2:24-26)

For the time will come when they will not endure \_\_\_\_\_; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Brethren, if any of you do \_\_\_\_\_, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way \_\_\_\_\_ from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. (James 5:19-20)

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, \_\_\_\_\_. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (2 John 1:9)

I have no greater joy than to hear that \_\_\_\_\_. (3 John 1:4)

As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own \_\_\_\_\_. Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being \_\_\_\_\_ with the error of the wicked, fall from your own

\_\_\_\_\_ . *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:16-18)*

### **How Shall We Apply the Scripture?**

**True or False.** Use the verses stated above to determine whether the statements given are true or false. After you write T or F, also write the reference you would use to support your answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ You can usually tell when a person is a false teacher, because they give it away by the mean or greedy look in their eyes.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Persons who believe false doctrine should not be allowed to commune in our fellowship.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Even if you do not believe right you can still worship God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ As you grow in your Christian life and understand more about Bible doctrines you will be less likely to be deceived by false teachers.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Generally persons who are ignorant of the Scriptures or are restless in their personal lives, or resent the church are more likely to fall for false teaching than those who are learned and stable.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ If you believe right doctrine and have true thinking patterns you will live in true liberty.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ When persons believe what is right their lives are made holy.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ We may not allow any falsehood about our personal affairs because among other things it will mar our witness to the unsaved.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ God would never punish a person or show his wrath against him just because he did not believe right.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Often times a person will use false doctrine to get other people to follow him.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ As we get closer to the end of the age more and more people will be seduced by false teaching.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ If a person ignores truth or believes false doctrines it inevitably causes him to live in a wrong way.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Many times a person falls for a false doctrine because they secretly resent the way they have to give up carnal pleasures to abide by the truth.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ There is nothing that brings a church leader or a parent more joy than to know their youth and children are believing and practicing the truth.

15. \_\_\_\_\_ If you help a person change in his thinking and he chooses to believe the truth and live in holiness you have spared his soul from eternity in hell.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ God will allow some people who refused to believe and do right to still go to heaven.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ People who believe false doctrine in many aspects make it harder for themselves.

# LESSON TWO

## DOES IT MATTER WHAT WE BELIEVE?

### (CONTINUED)

This is a day of many religious voices. All around the world there are many voices speaking and each one claims to have the truth. Even within Christianity, there are many different interpretations.

This course is not intended to focus on the false religions around the world, but on the various voices which are claiming to be the truth within the Christian context. Even limiting ourselves to within Christianity we will need to restrain the scope of our study to only a few of the various doctrines. Hopefully these will whet your appetite to further study of God's Word.

Some teachings are considered outside the mainstream of Christianity, and are called **cults** by other denominations. Others are so widely accepted they are simply considered a part of a particular denominational teaching. We have discovered in Lesson One that every teaching which is not truth has the potential to bring us under the wrath of God. Therefore we must know the TRUTH!

But where do we go? Where shall we begin our search?

This course is built on the foundational trust that the Bible is the Word of God and will tell us where to find truth.

### WHAT IS TRUTH?

The following verses tell us where truth is found. Fill in the blanks either from memory or by looking up the reference.

#### What does the Bible Say?

*The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ altogether. (Psalms 19:9)*

*Concerning thy \_\_\_\_\_, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.  
(Psalms 119:152)*

*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy \_\_\_\_\_ is truth. (John 17:17)*

*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee \_\_\_\_\_ through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_ in righteousness: That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, throughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:14-17)*

*For we have not followed \_\_\_\_\_, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more \_\_\_\_\_ of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that \_\_\_\_\_, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of*



any \_\_\_\_\_ . For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:18-21)

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to \_\_\_\_\_ . (James 1:21)

Since we will have a lesson, Lesson Three, on errors related to the Scriptures, we will save most of our discussion related to how we look at the truth for that lesson.

## HOW SHALL WE RELATE TO THOSE WHO ARE IN ERROR?

This is one of the questions Christians often struggle with. Many of us often relate to persons who do not maintain right beliefs and practices of the Word of God. It seems harsh and un-Christ-like to believe they are lost, take a firm stand, and confront them in their error. It is much easier to avoid our differences and to act like every thing will turn out all right.

But what does the Bible say? How are we to relate those whose doctrine contradicts the Word of God and may be influencing others toward deception? The following verses help define what our responses should be when we meet those who do not receive the love of the truth but obey unrighteousness.

### What does the Bible say?

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and \_\_\_\_\_. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 16:17-18)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto \_\_\_\_\_: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, \_\_\_\_\_. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, \_\_\_\_\_. (Galatians 1:6-9)

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and \_\_\_\_\_ silly women \_\_\_\_\_, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of \_\_\_\_\_, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. (2 Timothy 3:4-9)

But \_\_\_\_\_ foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition \_\_\_\_\_; Knowing that he that is such is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, being condemned of himself. Titus 3:9-11

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into \_\_\_\_\_, neither

bid him \_\_\_\_\_: For he that biddeth him God speed is \_\_\_\_\_ of his  
\_\_\_\_\_. (2 John 10-11)

### **How shall we apply the Scripture?**

According to the above mentioned scriptures, what would our response need to be if:

1. Brother A, a minister in our church, began to teach it is permissible for a couple with marriage troubles to be divorced and remarry someone they could get along with. Or in meeting someone already divorced and happily remarried would teach they should repent, but could stay in that state. After all, God doesn't want us to spend our lives being unhappy, and if a marriage is bad, no one is really happy. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Brother B, a well liked Sunday school superintendent begins to share that our Bibles really do not contain the whole Word of God. He maintains there is value in accepting the Book of Mormon as an additional Gospel, but he feels the Mormons are wrong in that they do not practice the headship veiling. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Your next door neighbors are members in your local town's New Covenant Church. They are really nice people, and used to be Mennonites years ago, but they don't see anything wrong with the TV, or going to the beach. (As examples) They have invited your family to go with them on a camping trip to the mountains. "We will be careful not to do any thing your church doesn't allow," they say. How should you respond? \_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Your best friend growing up has suddenly come under the influence of the teaching that it is impossible to lose one's salvation. The ministry has met with him several times, and he refuses to give up his beliefs, even though they have shown him many verses that warn the believer not to depart from the truth. The ministry has decided he should be excommunicated. Explain whether you believe they are doing the right or wrong thing and why you believe that way. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. You hear the doorbell ring and answer it. There standing in the cold is a man and a woman who want to discuss the new heaven and the new earth that are promised. In just a few moments you figure out they are JW's. What should your response be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. You have a friend in a distant state, and you learn their church is going through a congregational division. Finally you receive the word, yes, as you expected your friend's family is going with the group who is

leaving your church group. How should you relate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## HOW SHALL WE RELATE TO ERROR?

One more question for this lesson. Is it even right to study error? Shouldn't we stay with the truth only? Then when the truth comes along we will know it, right? The following verses give us a balance in relating to the study of error and truth.

### What does the Bible say?

*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the \_\_\_\_\_. For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and \_\_\_\_\_ concerning evil. (Romans 16:17-19)*

*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to \_\_\_\_\_ to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1Peter 3:15)*

### How shall we apply the Scripture?

1. Look up the two words you supplied in Romans 16. They come from different Greek words. What is the difference in what they mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you think it would be safe to attend the Mormon church for a while so you learn what is wrong with their doctrine first hand? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT ARE SOME COMMON WAYS MEN WREST THE SCRIPTURES?

As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. (2 Peter 3:16)

There are two common mistakes made with the Scripture which we must discuss here. Others will be discussed in the next lessons.

From our discussion in class, write a definition for the following terms:

Proof texts: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Taking Scripture out of context: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON THREE

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO WRESTING THE WORD OF GOD

### ELEVATING THE CHURCH ABOVE THE BIBLE

Years ago a brother from a Bible church and a Catholic acquaintance were discussing some issues where the Catholic church differs from Scripture. The Brother finally felt led to ask him a question.

“How can you believe that the Pope or your Catholic church has the authority to give teaching that does not agree with the New Testament?” Brother Sam asked.

“Well” Mr. Simmons responded, “Where did the Scriptures come from?”

This took Brother Sam a bit to digest, but soon he replied, “The New Testament teaches us holy men of God were moved by the Holy Ghost, and thus the Scripture is the inspired Word of God.”

“That’s not what I meant,” Mr. Simmons said, “Back in the early centuries, who decided what writings belonged in the Canon of Scripture and which writings were but the writings of men?”

“Oh,” puzzled Brother Sam, “I’m not sure I know...”

“The Catholic Church made that decision,” Mr. Simmons said. “They decided what was right and what was wrong. Today they still decide what is right and what is wrong.”

From a Catholic Handbook we quote:

“**Canon of the Bible.** Right away you should discuss how the Bible was put together by the Catholic Church. Stress that Christianity was around for 400 years before the canon of the New Testament was determined.” and

“Logically, the Church with the authority to determine the infallible Word of God, must have the infallible authority and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As we have seen, apart from the declarations of the Catholic Church, we have absolutely no guarantee that what in the Bible is the genuine Word of God. *To trust the Bible is to trust the authority of the Church which guarantees the Bible. It is contradictory for Protestants to accept the Bible and yet reject the authority of the Catholic church.* (Italics and bold in the original)

“Logically, Protestants should not quote the Bible at all, for they have no way of determining which books are inspired—unless, of course, they accept the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.”<sup>1</sup>

What would you say to that?

### BELIEF IN A THIRD COVENANT

On another occasion, a sister from one of our churches was confronted by two very clean looking young men with Bibles. Their conversation soon led her to realize they represented the Mormon church, and they were presenting things which were not in her Bible. Listen to what they puzzled her with.

“But the Book of Mormon is not part of the Bible” sister Jane insisted.

“Your Bible already has an Old Testament, right?” the taller man queried

“Yes” replied Jane hesitantly, not sure what was the point to such a question.

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<sup>1</sup>Beginning Apologetics: How to explain and defend the Catholic Faith. P13

“And then you have added to that a New Testament... or a New Covenant could be another name too?”

“Well, Yes,” Jane replied. She felt like this man had her in a noose, and was leading her where she didn’t know where.

“Well, just as you believe the New Testament is added to the Old, so we believe the Book of Mormon is a third Covenant that is added to them both. We have as much reason to believe this is the Word of God, as what you have to tell a Jew you have something to add to his Scripture.

Sister Jane wasn’t sure how to respond. What would you have said?

## **THE POSTPONEMENT THEORY AND HYPER – DISPENSATIONALISM**

Brother Jess was a carpenter who hired a few people from a local independent Baptist church. There were many things Jess appreciated about Larry, especially since he made so much over his belief that the King James Version was accurate. One day they were involved in a conversation about involvement in war. As they talked the discussion went to what Jesus taught on the Sermon on the Mount.

“Oh,” Larry countered, “This part of the Bible is not for us today. Jesus gave this part when he was planning to set up his earthly kingdom. When the Jews rejected him he postponed his Kingdom until the Millennium. That is not for our dispensation, it will be for the next.”

“Dispensation” echoed Brother Jess, “What do you mean by dispensations?”

“Well,” Larry offered, “You believe in an Old Dispensation and a New. What is given in the Old you don’t put on the same level as the New. In Timothy we are told to rightly divide the truth. When you study scriptures you will find that God actually has related to man or will relate to man in seven different dispensations. When you read the Bible, you must first decide which dispensation is in focus. If it is for a different dispensation, it still is the Word of God, it just doesn’t apply to us today.”

“Well what does apply to us?” Brother Jess wondered.

“Only what is written in the New Testament, and what is addressed to gentile Christians. The rest applies to whom is addressed. But what Jesus spoke to the Jews doesn’t apply to us. When James wrote to the twelve tribes scattered abroad, that isn’t us. When Peter wrote to the strangers scattered abroad, that was Jews dispersed through Asia Minor. None of that applies to us.”

It is hard to explain the let down feeling Brother Jess experienced, as he puzzled over this new theology. “Well,” he finally mused “You end up doing just what King Zedekiah did when he didn’t like what Jeremiah wrote about God’s judgement. He took his pocketknife and cut out most of the prophecy. With your theology you have destroyed almost all the New Testament!”

What would you have to answer to an argument like that?

## **THE INSUFFICIENCY OF THE SCRIPTURES**

One evening, Daryl and Simon, two ministers from different groups within the conservative Mennonite church, sat discussing points of view related to faith and practice. Eventually, the conversation shifted to some of the writings of Brother William, Daryl’s uncle. Brother William was an elderly and much respected bishop in the church, but he had chosen to use and sell Chinese herbs for health problems. Eventually he had written a pamphlet related to health practices, in which he enumerated on various Taoistic health practices, and advocated them as a means for better health.

“How can your uncle spread these teachings which are the proponents of a pagan religion?” Simon asked.

“Well there are many things man has learned that are true that are neither right nor wrong,” Daryl

responded. “The Chinese studied health for centuries and learned many things about herbs and health which are true. Now these things are being made available to the western world. The western world put more emphasis on man-made drugs and medicine. The Chinese worked more with nature, and the whole man.”

“The Bible says that herbs are given for man.” Simon agreed. “I don’t think there is any question that God made the natural world, and many things can be learned as man continues research. But much of what your Uncle William wrote deals with philosophies, and many of them are not able to be proven from research. These are teachings like the Yin and the Yang, or the Chi energy. These teachings come from Tao. That is an ancient religion which sought to achieve immortality through perfect health.”

“Just because it was something taught by a pagan religion doesn’t make it wrong.” Daryl asserted. “We have many things we have learned about man’s needs, both natural and emotional that the Bible doesn’t deal with. Take psychology for an example, or the temperaments like melancholy, sanguine, choleric, and phlegmatic for illustrations. Many, many things have been discovered that are true that are not presented in the Scriptures. We need these things for our all around good. The only things we need to reject about these teachings are things which contradict the Bible.”

Simon wondered aloud, “Do you mean psychologists can teach us truths about the human psyche that the Bible doesn’t give?”

“Sure,” Daryl stated. “The Bible deals with Spiritual issues. How man has sin to relate to, and how to be saved. It deals with God, and the future life. But it doesn’t deal with issues like phobias and neurosis. It doesn’t answer chemical imbalances in the brain. Only modern psychiatrists with their work with pharmaceuticals can do that. Every one understands that. All my Uncle William did was give some other help of a similar nature from a different source...”

What do you think about this subject? Are there true facts outside Biblical revelation? Where is the place to draw the line in what we will accept from sources outside Scripture?

## **What does the Bible Say?**

*Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not \_\_\_\_\_ unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye \_\_\_\_\_ from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. Deuteronomy 4:1-2*

*Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? Every word of God is \_\_\_\_\_: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. \_\_\_\_\_ thou not unto his words, lest he \_\_\_\_\_ thee, and thou be found a \_\_\_\_\_. (Proverbs 30:4-6)*

*Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have \_\_\_\_\_, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people \_\_\_\_\_ their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they \_\_\_\_\_ according to this word, it is because there is no \_\_\_\_\_ in them. Isaiah 8:18-20*

*And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but*

my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ I will build \_\_\_\_\_; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give  
unto thee the \_\_\_\_\_ of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
shall be \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_: and whatsoever thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ on earth shall be loosed  
in \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 16:16-19)

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have  
five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith  
unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them \_\_\_\_\_ them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham:  
but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they \_\_\_\_\_ not  
\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.  
Luke 16:27-31

These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy  
Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall \_\_\_\_\_, and  
bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:25-26)

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth,  
is come, he will \_\_\_\_\_: for he shall not speak of himself; but  
whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you \_\_\_\_\_. (John  
16:12-13)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:  
Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than  
that which we have preached unto you, \_\_\_\_\_. As we said before, so  
say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be  
accursed. (Galatians 1:6-9)

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast  
learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee  
\_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All \_\_\_\_\_ is  
given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for  
instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ furnished  
unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:13-17)

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According  
as \_\_\_\_\_ hath given unto us \_\_\_\_\_ things that \_\_\_\_\_ unto life  
and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto  
us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having  
escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Peter 1:2-4)

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye \_\_\_\_\_, as unto  
a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this  
first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any \_\_\_\_\_. For the

prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:19-21)

But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. For if that \_\_\_\_\_ had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new \_\_\_\_\_ 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 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. For this is the covenant \_\_\_\_\_ 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. (Hebrews 8:6-10)

And for this cause he is the mediator of \_\_\_\_\_, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. For where a testament is, there must also \_\_\_\_\_ be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. (Hebrews 9:15-20)

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall \_\_\_\_\_, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall \_\_\_\_\_ out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

## **How shall we apply the Scripture?**

### **Elevating the church above the Bible.**

1. What reasons can you think of why the Bible should be considered more reliable than an earthly organization even if it would be true that the Catholic church originally decided what should be included in our canon? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Is it true that the Catholic church was the group who decided which writings are worthy of being called Scriptures? Use a Bible handbook such as the Unger's Bible Handbook to find out. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. The Catholic Bible includes the Apocrypha. What is the Apocrypha and why is it not found in our Bibles? (Hint, again refer to a Bible Handbook) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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4. In reference to Matthew 16, where Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom, answer the following questions:

1. Is Peter the rock upon which the New Testament church is built? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain why you believe this way. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did Jesus teach that Heaven is now obligated to whatever the church binds on earth? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What authority did Jesus give to the church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Belief in a third covenant**

1. Find an Old Testament scripture which promises there would be a New Testament. (Hint, look for the phrase “new covenant” or check your cross references at Hebrews 8:8) \_\_\_\_\_
2. From the scriptures given above, what proof do we have that the New Testament meets the requirements for a New Covenant and that the Book of Mormon does not? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Postponement Theory and Hyper – Dispensationalism**

1. How can you explain that there is a difference between how we regard the Old Testament and the New? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you believe there is something to the idea of dispensations? Compare Eph 1:10 with Eph 3:2-6. \_\_\_\_\_
3. What basis do we have to believe Christ intended for us to follow all his teachings and to not exclude any? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What basis do we have to believe that all the apostles and those who knew Jesus wrote is intended for us to follow today? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Insufficiency of the Scripture**

1. Is there any truth that man needs for his soul or mind that is not in the Word of God ? How do we know?

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2. What should be our response to theories of man like the theory of the four temperaments? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How should we respond to new teachings about health, such as that we should not eat bread and meat in the same meal? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Who is the mastermind behind the teachings of the pagan religions? How quick should we be to place confidence in something they advocate which has no Biblical basis? \_\_\_\_\_

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# LESSON FOUR

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO THE TRIUNE GODHEAD

Controversy related to the Godhead has plagued the church ever since its earliest days. How can God be One, and yet Christ be divine? History records that various Church leaders sought to answer this question in different ways, and some ended up with some very strange doctrines.

### DENYING THE DEITY OF CHRIST AND THE TRINITY

The most serious of these was **the philosophy that Jesus was not Divine**, but only a very good man, or an incarnate angel. Let us listen to one of these proponents describe his philosophy today.

Brother Paul was distributing the Star of Hope one day when he encountered a Russelite, otherwise known as a Jehovah's Witness. As they shared, the discussion turned to doctrine.

"Do you realize you get your idea of the trinity from the Catholics?" the man with the red beard asked. "And do you also know the term 'trinity' isn't even in the Bible?"

"It is true that the term 'trinity' is not in the Bible, but the concept of the trinity is there," Bro Paul insisted. "There are many verses where the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are each mentioned in the same verse, and sometimes interchangeably. But I have another question, Is it true that you do not believe that Jesus is Divine?"

"Your Bible says in Revelation 3:14, that Jesus was the beginning of the creation of God. It also says that Jehovah our God is one God."

"What then do you believe about Jesus?" Brother Paul wondered.

"We believe God created Jesus as the angel Michael. At the time of Jesus' birth, he was Jesus until he died. When he died on the cross, then he became a spirit and is known as Michael again."

This doctrine brought about great controversy in the early church because one of the presbyters at Alexandria in Northern Africa named Arius promoted the idea that to affirm Christ was eternal would be to affirm two Gods. He proposed that the Son had a beginning, that he was made of different substance than God, and He was the one through whom all the rest of Creation had its beginning. But being created, he thought Christ was subject to change.

This heresy finally caused a church wide council in A.D. 325, the Council of Nicea. There, some 300 bishops, led by the bishop of Alexandria Athanasias, drew up a statement which defines belief in Jesus as the begotten Son of God. The church continued to debate the issue for about 50 years before it became more settled in people's minds. Athanasias was banished from time to time because of his beliefs, but finally the church agreed on the teaching.

### What does the Bible say?

#### The Deity of Christ

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a \_\_\_\_\_: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The \_\_\_\_\_, The \_\_\_\_\_, The Prince of Peace. (Isa 9: 6) Read also Isa 7:14*

*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Mic 5:2)*

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_. (John 1:1)*

*Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn 5:18)*

*Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn 8:56-58)*

*And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, \_\_\_\_\_ hath sent me unto you. (Ex 3:14)*

*And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the \_\_\_\_\_ which I had with thee \_\_\_\_\_ the world was. (Jn 17:5)*

*And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_. (Jn 20:26-28)*

*Who being the brightness of his glory, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (Heb 1:3)*

*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is \_\_\_\_\_, to the glory of God the Father. (Php 2:9-11)*

*For in him dwelleth all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ bodily. (Col 2:9)*

*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which \_\_\_\_\_, and which \_\_\_\_\_, and which is to \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_. (Rev 1:8)*

*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of \_\_\_\_\_ and of \_\_\_\_\_. (Rev 1:17-18)*

1. Compare Col 1:14-16 with Genesis 1:1. How does a comparison of these two verses prove that Jesus is Divine? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read Acts 20:28. Explain how the three entities of the Godhead are described in this verse. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Give four Scripture references which state the Jesus is God. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give two references that prove Jesus inhabited eternity past with God. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Give two references which prove Jesus is worthy of human worship as Divine. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think might be the reason why cults would wish to try to prove Jesus is not Divine? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **The Unity of the Triune Godhead**

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_: and these three are \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Jn 5:7)*

*And we are \_\_\_\_\_ witnesses of these things; and so is also the \_\_\_\_\_, whom \_\_\_\_\_ hath given to them that obey \_\_\_\_\_. (Ac 5:32)*

### **THE “JESUS ONLY” DOCTRINE**

Another of these controversies is **the Jesus only doctrine**. This philosophy is very old in history, but was not around for very many years up until recently it has surfaced again. Quoting from “The Moody Handbook of Theology”

“The designation *modalistic* stressed the idea that God was one God who variously manifested Himself as Father, other times as the Son, and other times as the Holy Spirit. Even though modalistic monarchianists spoke of three persons, they nonetheless believed that there was but one essence of deity who variously manifested Himself in three different modes. Hence, the Father was born as the Son, the Father died on the cross and the Father also raised Himself from the dead. In fact, Praxeas, the probable originator of modalistic monarchianism, said the Father became His own son.”<sup>2</sup>

One day Brother David was shoveling some fill into the ditch at a construction site, when Harold, a local salesman came to pay a visit. Since church life was a prominent part of the life of each, the

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<sup>2</sup>Moody Handbook of Theology

conversation naturally turned in that direction.

“By the way, how does your church baptize? Harold asked. “Do you baptize the way the Bible teaches?”

“Yes,” Brother David responded. “We baptize by pouring and the Bishop uses the phrase, ‘I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost’”.

“You mean to tell me you don’t baptize in the name of Jesus?” Harold asked.

Brother David could tell he seemed shocked. “Well, Matthew 28: 19 teaches us to baptize in the name of the Father and the name of the Son and in the name of the Holy Ghost, so that’s the way we do it.”

“You didn’t quote that verse right,” Harold challenged. “The verse says ‘In name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. There is only one name for all three. Do you know what it is?’”

“I guess I don’t know what you are getting at,” Brother David confessed after looking the verse up, and finding out he had misquoted it. “What are you trying to teach?”

“The name for each is Jesus. Each time you find a baptism in the New Testament, and it records the formula, it says it was in Jesus’ name. If you weren’t immersed in the Name of Jesus, you were not even baptized! which means you are not saved.”

This caused Brother David to do some deep thinking. He remembered his baptism, and the sincere desire of his heart to serve the Lord in Spirit and in truth. He remembered the changes he had made in his effort to serve the Lord with all his heart. Finally he spoke to Harold again.

“Harold, If the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is Jesus, when the Bishop used that formula, then I was baptized in Jesus’ name, right?”

Harold had no answer. His point was that the right formula was the means of access to salvation. Further discussions between the two revealed more about what Harold believed.

One day Brother David asked, “Do you mean that when Jesus prayed in the High Priestly prayer of John 17, that what He was doing was praying on earth to Himself in Heaven?”

Harold replied, “That’s exactly what he was doing.”

What is your response to this teaching?

## **What does the Bible say?**

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)*

*Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that \_\_\_\_\_ also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the \_\_\_\_\_ descended in a \_\_\_\_\_ like a dove upon him, and a \_\_\_\_\_ came from heaven, which said, \_\_\_\_\_ art my beloved \_\_\_\_\_; in thee I am well pleased. (Lu 1:21-22)*

*But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the right hand \_\_\_\_\_, And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (Acts 7:55-56)*

*Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the throne of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the heavens; (Heb 8:1)*

1. It is true that of all the baptisms recorded in the book of Acts, none of them give the exact formula that Jesus taught. Why do you think is the reason for this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you think might be the point behind the emphasis that since we use a different formula then our baptism is not really valid? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How would you explain the Trinity? Is He three Gods? Or are They one God? Compare these and any other Scriptures and put into writing what the Doctrine of the Godhead is.

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# LESSON FIVE

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO SALVATION

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

The question the Philippian jailor cried in desperation is receiving a multitude of answers in our day. While the doctrine of salvation is one of the most basic doctrines of the Bible, it is also perhaps the most disagreed over. Let us listen to how different groups would answer this question.

- (1) There are some who maintain that salvation is all up to God. If He wants to save you, He will, whether you want to be saved or not. You can do nothing to make it happen, and you can do nothing to resist it. This viewpoint is defended by those who believe in the teachings of John Calvin. They are called Calvinists. Their arguments often end up by saying that of course this does not take away from personal responsibility and you can tell when a person is one of the elect because he will live a devout life. Some of the denominations that maintain this as their official position are Presbyterians, Reformed, and Hard Shell Primitive and Missionary Baptists. Some of their proof texts are:

*No man can come to me, except the \_\_\_\_\_ which hath sent me \_\_\_\_\_ him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44)*

*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to \_\_\_\_\_ might stand, not of \_\_\_\_\_, but of him that \_\_\_\_\_;) So then it is not of him that \_\_\_\_\_, nor of him that \_\_\_\_\_, but of God that sheweth mercy.*

*Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he \_\_\_\_\_.*  
(Romans 9:11,16 &18)

*Having \_\_\_\_\_ us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (Ephesians 1:5)*

- (2) Other people teach that God will save you if you believe in Him, but if you try to do anything to obey Him in salvation, then His grace is frustrated, and He will not be able to save you. They maintain salvation comes by faith plus nothing. A favorite saying is “Salvation is by faith and faith only.” This is a watered down form of Calvinism because only a few of Calvin’s doctrines are accepted. These people argue forcefully against “Lordship salvation” because they believe once you call Jesus “Lord”, then you are saying there is merit in obedience, and are depending upon works for salvation. Many Baptists defend this position, and are quite ardent in the twin doctrine that you cannot lose your salvation once you believe, even if your faith was only for one nanosecond (the smallest fraction of a second measurable to mankind).

*Knowing that a man is not justified by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, but by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ, even we have \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall \_\_\_\_\_ be justified. I do not \_\_\_\_\_ the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*  
(Galatians 2:16,21)

- (3) The next view is that salvation comes by faith and faith only, but a person keeps his salvation by



being obedient to the commands of the New Testament. They feel a person gets saved one way through faith, but shows and maintains his salvation in another way, by his works. This teaching rests much upon verses such as Eph 2:8, and Titus 3:5 for its basis. "Not of works," and "Not by works of righteousness" are used to show we don't do anything to become saved, but then "Work out you own salvation" is used to show we work to stay saved. Many of the "free will" take this position, including Methodists, Assemblies of God, and most Mennonites.

*For by \_\_\_\_\_ are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of \_\_\_\_\_, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto \_\_\_\_\_, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)*

*Not by \_\_\_\_\_ which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to \_\_\_\_\_ . These things are good and profitable unto men. (Titus 3:5-8)*

- (4) A close variation to this view and yet distinct is that salvation is by faith and obedience together. In fact, faith in Christ is considered one of the first works of obedience, along with repentance, confession of sin, baptism and all the other commands of the New Testament. These people believe they stay saved the same way they become saved, through being obedient to Christ. They understand when the Bible says salvation is not of works, it is referring to "provisional, moral, or civil works". Their defense includes the thought that every time a person wanted to become saved he asked something like, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer always was something they needed to do. They were never told to do nothing, just believe, but they were always instructed to believe along with whatever else they were directed to do. It is also important to note that every time there is a judgement recorded, whether of the righteous or wicked, the judgement is always based on the works of the individual. Other verses include:

*Remembering without ceasing your \_\_\_\_\_, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; (1 Thessalonians 1:3)*

*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having \_\_\_\_\_ in the Spirit, are ye \_\_\_\_\_ made perfect by the flesh? (Galatians 3:1-3)*

*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is \_\_\_\_\_, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my \_\_\_\_\_ by my \_\_\_\_\_.*

*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is \_\_\_\_\_? Was not Abraham our father justified by \_\_\_\_\_, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by \_\_\_\_\_. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without \_\_\_\_\_ is dead also. (James 2:17-26)*

- (5) Some teach we must be obedient to the Old Testament law too for our salvation. They believe faith in Christ is important, but avoiding eating pork, worshipping on the Sabbath, keeping the feast days,

etc are also necessary for salvation. They base their beliefs on Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount, that He did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. Groups which hold to these teachings include Seventh Day Adventist, Armstrong Radio Church of God, the Assemblies of Yahweh etc. Some of the Scriptures they use are:

*For whosoever shall keep the whole \_\_\_\_\_, and yet offend in one point, he is \_\_\_\_\_ of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. Ye see then how that by \_\_\_\_\_ a man is justified, and not by faith only. (James 2:10-11, 24)*

- (6) Others believe obedience to church regulations are what is essential for salvation. The church is compared to Noah's Ark. The folks who were in the boat were saved. They showed they had faith by being there. Persons who join the church and obey the regulations will be saved. Many Old Order groups gravitate toward this position, and this is how a strong loyalty to church regulations are maintained. Most of these groups teach you cannot know if you are saved, logically so, for who can know if they are being obedient enough and righteous enough to get to heaven?

*Which sometime were \_\_\_\_\_, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were \_\_\_\_\_ by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: 1 Peter 3:20-21)*

- (7) Another perspective is that there is merit in keeping the sacraments, and when a person participates in a sacrament, then saving grace is conferred to that person. The two most important sacraments are baptism (which is the new birth) and communion (which means literally eating Christ's body) save the person. After all, how can one who is born again and has the life of Christ within be lost? The groups which hold this viewpoint are mostly confined to Pre-reformation groups such as Orthodox and Catholic churches. This view will be studied more closely under the subject of Baptism and the ordinances.

*I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall \_\_\_\_\_: and the bread that I will give is my \_\_\_\_\_, which I will give for the life of the world. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath \_\_\_\_\_; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:51, 53-54)*

### **What does the Bible say?**

1. Choose one of the above positions which you believe to be in error and use Scripture to explain why that view is not correct. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Which viewpoint best describes the way the Bible portrays our way to salvation? \_\_\_\_\_  
Give two reasons why you believe this way. \_\_\_\_\_

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## WHAT PLACE DID JESUS FILL IN THE ATONEMENT?

A second highly debated area that relates to salvation is what really happened when Jesus died on the cross. One major school of thought (a derivative from Calvinism again) begins with the thought that Jesus became a substitute for us. They teach that when Jesus hung on the cross, all the sins of the world came into his soul, and He became the worst sinner the world has ever known. In fact he became such a sinner that God in His holiness could not look at Him any more, and turned His Holy face away from Him. After He died, Jesus was sent to hell to suffer for these sins, and He paid the penalty for sins. Now because the penalty is all paid, when God looks at a person who accepts Christ, He doesn't see the person at all. Instead he sees Jesus' righteousness as a cloak and all the iniquity of the life is hidden from view. We are still sinners and sin every day but God cannot see any of that. Along with this, all our sins are forgiven, past present and future. Our redemption is already sealed and we are actually already in heaven, we're just waiting for our body to get over there!

### What does the Bible Say?

Find the verse(s) in the Bible which teach(es):

1. Jesus came to "bear the sins of many" not as a substitute but by "the sacrifice of himself". \_\_\_\_\_
2. Christ came to pay not the penalty, but gave his life "a ransom for (the) many". \_\_\_\_\_
3. God did not turn His face away from Christ on Calvary, but "saw the travail of his soul" and was satisfied.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Christ "bore our sins in His own body on the tree" and did not become sinful in His soul. \_\_\_\_\_
5. After His death, Christ journeyed to "spirits in prison" \_\_\_\_\_ to announce the culmination of redemption. For some it was a pronouncement of doom, but for others he led "captivity captive and gave gifts unto men." \_\_\_\_\_ After His resurrection the "graves were opened and many of the bodies of the saints which slept arose" \_\_\_\_\_ and these people appeared to many, apparently as they were on their way with Christ to His Father in Heaven.
6. Christ's sacrifice on our behalf is "for the remission of sins that are past" \_\_\_\_\_ and if we again find ourselves having committed a sin we must "confess our sins" in order to find Him just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON SIX

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO

### BAPTISM

#### INFANT BAPTISM

The summer sun scorched over head and Mr. Richards mopped the sweat out of his eyes. “Whew!” he said, “It is hot today.”

“Yes,” Brother Vernon replied, “It is a warm day on earth all right. What one has to think about is how hot it is in hell for eternity, for all those who rejected Christ!”

Mr Richards was a member of the conservative part of the Presbyterian Church, and as one of the elders, enjoyed discussing religion when he came to the job where Brother Vernon worked.

“Say, speaking of hell, is it true that Calvinists believe there are babies in hell?” Vernon asked?

“Yes,” the older man hesitantly responded, “We believe the non-elect spend eternity in hell, regardless of their age.”

“What do you mean by the ‘non-elect’?” Brother Vernon questioned. Any doctrine that held that babies were eternally damned was repulsive to him. All of his life he had absorbed the teaching that little babies were safe because of Jesus’ death. “Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven” was already going through his head.

“Why, that is the reason we baptize babies,” Mr Richards shared. “Babies who are baptized are saved. Baptism is their initiation into the new covenant. Babies that are not baptized are not a part of the Christian covenant. Thus they are lost.”

Another similar defense for infant baptism is given in a book on Catholic Apologetics

“Why do Catholics baptize infants?”

“Fundamentalists believe that baptism is only a symbolic washing signifying that a person has accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. According to Fundamentalists, since an infant cannot accept Jesus as Lord and Savior (because he does not have the use of reason), baptism is meaningless for him.

“However, Jesus requires baptism for entering heaven (Jn 3:5; Mk 16:16). St Paul tells us that all are born with Adam’s sin and thus need baptism (Rom 5:18-19). Jesus makes clear that children are not to be kept away from Him (Mk 10:14). The Apostles baptized “all the people” (Lk 21) and entire households (Acts 16:15; 1 Cor 1:16). Certainly this included infants. No Bible passage prohibits infant baptism.

“The early Church Fathers were clear that the baptizing of infants was a practice that came from the Apostles themselves. The fact that infants lack the use of reason does not prevent them from becoming part of the New Covenant through baptism. In the OT, a child became part of the Old Covenant through circumcision, which was done eight days after birth, long before the child could choose for himself whether or not to be part of the Chosen People. Just as parents in the OT supplied the decision for the child’s circumcision until he could confirm this decision at the age of reason, so in the NT parents can stand in for the child at his baptism until he can confirm this decision at the age of reason.”<sup>3</sup>

Find the verses and write the reference where the following truth is found.

1. Jesus taught about children “of such is the kingdom of heaven” \_\_\_\_\_ a n d J o h n \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>3</sup>Beginning Apologetics: How to explain and defend the Catholic faith. Page 36

comments that “this is the light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” \_\_\_\_\_ t h u s indicating children are safe through the blood of Christ.

2. Write several references which teach that faith or believing is essential before baptism. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. The Old Testament rite of circumcision is compared to baptism as a defense for infant baptism. Why is this an unfair comparison? \_\_\_\_\_

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### **BAPTISMAL REGENERATION**

There are basically two ways this teaching surfaces. See if you can find them in the following conversation between two friends.

One day Henry, a Mennonite, and his friend George from the Church of Christ denomination found themselves discussing the baptism of another one of their friends, Larry.

“So, Larry was baptized at your church last night?” Henry asked.

“Yes, he repented at the invitation in the morning service, and last night he had his sins washed away.” George replied joyfully.

“I didn’t know he even made any profession,” Henry shared, “He had seemed closed to any idea of faith or salvation when I spoke with him last.”

“Well, I know he hadn’t a lot of forethought, but I think the accident last week shook him up quite a bit,” returned George.

“Don’t you think it would have been better to wait a bit to see if his experience was genuine, and if he would weather the tests of a Christian life?”

“Oh no! We wouldn’t want to run the risk of him dying unbaptized, and not making it to heaven.”

“That reminds me” Henry suddenly recalled, “Didn’t you have an elderly man pass away the other month who repented but wasn’t able to be immersed because he was sick in bed?”

“Yes, we did,” George said, “And we have to leave his soul in God’s hand, but it is true, he never had his sins washed away...”

What are two teachings of Baptismal regeneration that you can identify?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

The advocates of this doctrine build their arguments on a few Bible passages at the expense of their true meaning and other related passages. Let us consider these "key" passages and other related scriptures.

#### **What does the Bible say?**

*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of \_\_\_\_\_ and of the \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)*

*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)*

*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and \_\_\_\_\_ thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (Acts 22:16)*

*He that believeth and is \_\_\_\_\_ shall be saved; but he that \_\_\_\_\_ not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)*

1. What was the purpose of the first water baptism recorded in Scriptures? (See 1Cor 10:1-4, Psa 77:17-20)

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2. Relating this to Acts 2:38, what did the early Jewish believers reveal by their being willing to be baptized by the apostles? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. In reference to Acts 22:16, are sins washed away by baptism or by calling on the name of the Lord?

If sins are washed away by the water of baptism, how are sins removed after a person is a Christian? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. If water can wash away our sins, what is the need for the precious blood of Christ? (See 1Peter 1:18-21)

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5. How do you know water baptism does not necessarily save everyone? See Acts 8:18-23 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What are some other Biblical understandings as to what the water might be in John 3:5? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. In Mark 16:16, what is the test that if failed marks a man for eternal damnation? \_\_\_\_\_

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# LESSON SEVEN

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO SIGNS AND WONDERS

### IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES DIVINE OR DECEPTIVE?

For an introduction to this subject, we will use a section of an article from the 1988 World Book Encyclopedia.

“Pentecostal Churches base their faith and practice on certain religious experiences that are recorded in the New Testament. Pentecostal churches teach that every Christian should seek to be “filled with Holy Spirit”. The proof of this occurrence comes when the person speaks in tongues. That is, the person will speak in a language that he or she has never learned. The New Testament refers to the disciples speaking in tongues on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), and mentions speaking in tongues elsewhere.

“Pentecostals also believe that they can receive other supernatural gifts. For example, they believe they can be given the ability to prophesy, to heal, and to interpret what is said when someone speaks in an unknown tongue. The New Testament refers to these gifts in 1 Corinthians 12-14...

“Pentecostal churches trace their origins to revivals of tongue-speaking that occurred at Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas, in 1901, and at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles in 1906. Similar revivals also took place in Great Britain and in Europe, Asia, and Latin America during the early 1900's. Since the 1930's the Pentecostal denominations have grown rapidly. The Pentecostals are sometimes called Christianity's “Third Force” alongside Roman Catholicism and traditional Protestantism.”

While it is true the speaking in tongues movement originated in Pentecostal type churches, the movement has spread until almost all mainline religious groups have now been affected. Until the late 1950's it was confined mostly to the Pentecostal churches, but since that time the Charismatic movement (a second wave) has touched most denominations. More recently we have the third wave, called the Laughing Revival, or Signs and Wonders movement which has taken many churches which look for an experience based phenomena.

Since most of the focus starts with speaking in tongues, this is where we shall begin. Is this movement of God? What is the purpose of speaking in tongues? Does it correspond with the Scriptures? Those who speak with tongues have a glowing testimony of a new dimension of life. Does this prove the case? Why did they speak in tongues in the book of Acts? Is it for us today? These and many other questions may come to our mind, especially if we have friends or associates who endorse this movement.

### **What does the Bible say?**

#### ***Understanding the Plan for Tongues.***

We all agree that on the day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues. This expression was of Divine origin. It is clear the disciples did not choose this phenomena on their own. But why did God choose tongues? The Apostle Paul addresses this question in a discourse he had with the Corinthian church as he endeavored to help them relate to the tongues question.

*Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. In the law it is written, With men of \_\_\_\_\_ and other lips will I speak unto this*

people; and yet for all that will they not \_\_\_\_\_ me, saith the Lord. Wherefore tongues are for a \_\_\_\_\_, not to them that \_\_\_\_\_, but to them that \_\_\_\_\_: but \_\_\_\_\_ serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. (1 Corinthians 14:20-22)

1. Read Deuteronomy 28:45-49. In this passage the Jews were told what sign unknown tongues that they could not understand would be for. What was it? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Use your center column reference to find where the verse quoted above in 1 Corinthians 14:21 is taken from the Old Testament. \_\_\_\_\_ As you study this verse you will discover what strange tongues they could understand would be for. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Sometimes we hear that the purpose of tongues is so that a missionary can communicate with those who do not understand his language. What do you think of this idea? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Who spoke in tongues in Acts 2? \_\_\_\_\_ Who were those who did not believe that the gift of tongues was to convince? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who spoke in tongues in Acts 10? \_\_\_\_\_ Who were those who did not believe that the gift of tongues was to convince? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In 1 Corinthians 1:22, what general observation is made about what the Jews needed to convince them of the validity of the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Understanding the Pattern of Tongues***

From *Acts 2:1-13* answer the following questions.

6. What three supernatural activities were associated with the birth of the church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do we know the tongues speaking was intelligent languages? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the theme of their message in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why is this speaking in tongues considered a miracle? \_\_\_\_\_

About seven years after Pentecost, a second occurrence of speaking in tongues is cited. This first time event of Gentiles accepting the claims of the Gospel has a direct parallel to the Holy Spirit being poured out on the Jewish Christians at Jerusalem. Read *Acts 10:44-48*.

10. In what way was this incident a turning point in the ministry of the Early Church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



11. How do we know this speaking in this experience those who listened were able to understand those who spoke in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What was the theme of their message in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Some time later, Paul met twelve disciples of John in Ephesus. They accepted the updated New Testament Gospel message of Christ and His continuing work through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 19:1-8.

13. How do we know the speaking in tongues was not a babbling? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. From these occurrence of tongues, give as many things they share in common as you can.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

#### ***The Problem of Speaking in Tongues - 1 Corinthians 14***

The Corinthian Church had various problems that needed to be addressed. Among them was the speaking in tongues issue. The modern tongues speaking movement tends to base its validity in the problem account of the early church rather than understand the correcting of that problem in light of the three accounts in Acts which were problem-free.

15. What spiritual activity did Paul emphasize above speaking in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

16. What illustration does Paul use to indicate the importance of speaking with intelligent forms of communication? \_\_\_\_\_

17. What are the guidelines for speaking in tongues in a church service? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Would God violate these guidelines when infilling a person with His Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Some people claim that the ability to speak in tongues indicates a person is saved. If this theology is correct, then all Christians should speak in tongues.

19. According to 1 Corinthians 12:30, does Paul expect all Christians to speak in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:15-18 includes speaking in tongues as an activity that will follow them that believe.

20. Which of the activities in these verses are for Christians today? \_\_\_\_\_

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How do we explain modern speaking in tongues? (1) It could be purely a pretended experience. (2) The possibility of a demonic origin must certainly be reckoned with. Satan can come as an angel of light to deceive the very elect. (3) It is highly possible that it is only a psychological based experience. Man is able, under favorable conditions, to work himself into an emotional state wherein the speech mechanism is unable to handle the vocal expression of it in a rational way. Such a delusive experience may bring a certain satisfaction but our spiritual needs can only be fully satisfied in a complete submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, a life of obedience to His Word and an fellowship with His people.

## ARE MIRACLES OF HEALING DIVINE OR DECEPTIVE?

The miracle of healing in a supernatural way has always received a lot of attention. The Scriptures have many accounts where God healed in a miraculous way. Why were the Apostles given this ability along with other mighty works? Is it a gift that is still given to individuals in the church today? Will there be another time when people are given this ability? Do we have any way of knowing what power source is behind a supernatural healing campaign?

### What does the Bible say?

#### Signs and wonders, proof of Apostleship

*Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they \_\_\_\_\_ not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that \_\_\_\_\_; In my name shall they \_\_\_\_\_; they shall speak with \_\_\_\_\_; They shall take up \_\_\_\_\_; and if they drink any \_\_\_\_\_ thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere, the Lord working with them, and \_\_\_\_\_ the word with \_\_\_\_\_. Amen. (Mark 16:14-20)*

*And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. (Acts 4:29-30)*

*And by the hands of the \_\_\_\_\_ were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. (Acts 5:12)*

*Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to be done by their hands. (Acts 14:3)*

*I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing. Truly the \_\_\_\_\_ of an*

\_\_\_\_\_ were wrought among you in all patience, in \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ . (2 Corinthians 12:1)

*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was \_\_\_\_\_ unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to \_\_\_\_\_ ? (Hebrews 2:3-4)*

1. Why did God give the apostles the ability to works miracle works of healing? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Where does the New Testament record that Paul needed to leave one of his fellow workers in Miletum because he was sick? \_\_\_\_\_  
Where did Paul teach one of his ministers to drink no longer water, but grape juice because of his health problems? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does this indicate? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Signs and wonders, a mark of end time deception.**

*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 24:24)*

*And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all \_\_\_\_\_ and signs and \_\_\_\_\_, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong \_\_\_\_\_, that they should believe a \_\_\_\_\_: That they all might be damned who believed not the \_\_\_\_\_, but had \_\_\_\_\_ in unrighteousness. (2 Thessalonians 2:8-11)*

*And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed. And he doeth great \_\_\_\_\_, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those \_\_\_\_\_ which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. And he had power to give \_\_\_\_\_ unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed. (Revelation 13:11-15)*

3. Why would God allow Satan to demonstrate such a power as described here? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What group of people in particular are going to be susceptible to his deception? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What safeguard against deception is given in 1 Thessalonians 5:12&13? \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON EIGHT**  
**ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO**  
**CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE**

**ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED**  
and  
**YOU SIN EVERY DAY**

Brother Howard was a minister in the Mennonite church who worked in the construction trade. In his work he encountered many different individuals, whom he loved, and endeavored to leave a consistent testimony with. Two brothers who were brick layers he felt a special interest in. They were twins, Willis and Wallace Daniels.

Of the two, Willis was more quiet spoken, and Howard found himself drawn to this individual as one who was thinking deeply about life, rather than just out to have a good time. From time to time they discussed spiritual issues, and Howard pled with him to repent of his sins and attend a Biblical church in order to find peace with God.

One bright spring day, they met again. Willis seemed to have a special peace about his countenance. "Guess what, Brother Howard, yesterday I went to altar, repented of my sins and got saved!" Willis glowed.

"Praise the Lord!" Howard rejoiced, and on impulse reached out and warmly shook Willis' hand. "Tell me all about it, how did it happen?"

"Well, you know you had been speaking to me about my need of Jesus. And it was true. I could sense it in my bones, that I was a sinner and didn't have peace with God. When I spoke to my wife about my struggles, she wanted to go to the Beulah Baptist church. Well, we went there several Sundays, and as I listened to the preaching and studied my Bible I knew what I needed to do. Yesterday they gave the invitation, and I responded."

"Did you find peace?" Howard asked, even though he already knew the answer.

"Yes!" Willis answered, and the way he said it there was no question.

As they shared further about the Christian life Howard endeavored to help Willis understand what it takes to maintain a close fellowship with God..

Later, as Howard prayed alone for Willis, he felt an increased burden about something that he felt he should share with Willis.

"There's something I want to say, Willis, that I don't want to be taken wrong. I'm not interested in running down any church, and I'm not saying all other churches beside ours are all wrong."

"I'm listening," Willis responded.

"In the Baptist church where you are attending they will teach you that once you are saved, you cannot lose your salvation. They like the phrase, "Once a son always a son." If you are born again, you cannot be unborn. If you have eternal life, then you can never give it up." Howard warned.

"No way!" Willis replied staunchly. "I could never accept teaching like that. Any one knows if a man turns his back on God, he won't stay saved."

"But that is what the church you are attending teaches," Howard maintained.

"Well, I've never heard it and I'll never believe it!" Willis replied. He was very clear in his mind

what he thought to be true.

Several months passed. From time to time the men found themselves on the same job site, and naturally the discussion turned to spiritual matters. One day Willis asked.

“Howard, do you remember our discussion about once saved always saved?”

“Sure I do,” Howard replied, “Why, have you heard more about it?” His heart yearned over his friend whom he considered a brother in the Lord.

“Yes, you were right, my church does teach this.”

“I knew it was part of their official position,” Howard replied, “and I thought it would show up sooner or later. Well, what do you think by now?”

“I guess I’m a little confused...”

To shorten the story, Willis continued to attend this church for a while, and eventually returned to many of his old habits, including smoking. He lost the joy of his countenance, even though he continued to attend the Baptist church for many years. When he was challenged about his sinful habits, he responded that no one is perfect, we all sin every day. He maintained that all sins were the same. If Brother Howard didn’t pray as much as he should, that was just as bad as Willis choosing to smoke. God couldn’t see him any way, but only saw Jesus, so it didn’t matter too much how he lived. At the most he would lose some rewards, and some of his bad deeds would be burned up, but he would still be saved.

Later when a division split the congregation where he attended he stopped going to church altogether.

As Bro Howard looks back, he wishes Willis could have been helped to see that he should have left a church where this doctrine was taught, before it affected his spiritual life. It is true, if we remain in a situation where a doctrine we know is false is being taught we will eventually lose our convictions and become like those we fellowship with.

## **What does the Bible say?**

### **Verses that seem to support once saved always saved otherwise known as unconditional eternal security**

No person can take us away from the Father.

*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them \_\_\_\_\_ life; and they shall \_\_\_\_\_, neither shall any man \_\_\_\_\_ them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able \_\_\_\_\_ them out of my Father's hand. (John 10:27-29)*

*Who shall \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are \_\_\_\_\_ through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to \_\_\_\_\_ us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:35-39)*

*And this is the record, that God hath given to us \_\_\_\_\_, and this life is in his Son. (1*

John 5:11)

Our judgement may affect our rewards, but not our salvation.

*Every man's work shall be made \_\_\_\_\_: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_; and the fire shall \_\_\_\_\_ every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a \_\_\_\_\_. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer \_\_\_\_\_: but he himself shall be \_\_\_\_\_; yet so as by fire. (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)*

1. Does the Bible teach that when a believer is given eternal life, then he can never die in his relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

Find the verse which explains that this eternal life is in His son, and "he that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." \_\_\_\_\_

2. How can you explain that if a person can never be plucked out of the Father's hand that he can still fall from grace? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Explain what it is that will be burned up if it be found of inferior quality in the day of Judgement here in 1 Corinthians 3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Find the verse in the Bible which:

1. Warns that if we do not abide in Christ we will be cast forth as a branch, withered and burned? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Shares Paul's testimony of needing to keep his bodily appetites under subjection lest he himself should end up a castaway? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Identifies two who concerning the faith have made shipwreck? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Warn that if persons who once were made partakers of the Holy Ghost but have fallen away that it is impossible to renew them to repentance if they keep rejecting Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Likens those who knew but have fallen away to pigs returning to wallowing in the mire or dogs returning to their vomit? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Which encourages Christians to reach out to those who were once saved but have erred from the truth so they can save a soul from death and hide a multitude of sins? \_\_\_\_\_

7. How do you think a doctrine like "once saved always saved" affects the daily lives of those who believe it? \_\_\_\_\_

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## **BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST AND SECOND WORK OF GRACE**

To look at this doctrine we will simply present a quote from a book evaluating various religious beliefs. In some ways this belief goes to the other extreme opposite of Unconditional Eternal Security. As you read, see if you can identify this extremely opposite position and why it is accepted.

“The second consists of those who have come to be called “eradicationists.” They believe in justification following upon repentance and conversion as an experience of Sins’s forgiveness; but they look to sanctification as the experience of a “second blessing,” a “second cleansing.” They see not causative relation between justification and sanctification, as the conservative Reformation did. A leading writer in this direction, years ago was A.B. Simpson, and an outstanding writer of this present day on the same subject is A.M. Hills. They stress sanctification as an instantaneous and complete deliverance from all inbred sin. It is not an “attainment” but an “obtainment”. (Simpson) Even “the inclination to sin” is removed (Hills). This eradication of sin in the believer is effected through the experience of a baptism with the Holy Ghost. Hills describes it as follows: “the Early Church remained in prayer ten days for God’s sanctifying Spirit to come. Suddenly He came and from that moment they were sanctified men.” It would seem that there can be no growth or progress in this kind of sanctification... Hills does not claim for this experience “absolute perfection,” because this can be ascribed to God only. This new life of the believer is spoken of as a kind of physical, mechanical or magical change. Simpson characterizes it as a “transfusion of Christ’s life through our being.” The “living physical Christ comes into our life, sharing his physical life with ours...” One can see that such a conception can become a basis for practicing “divine healing.”<sup>4</sup>

### **What does the Bible say?**

#### **When does a person receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

*For by one Spirit are we all \_\_\_\_\_ into one \_\_\_\_\_, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)*

*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, he is none of his. (Romans 8:9)*

When does a person receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost? \_\_\_\_\_

#### **When is a person sanctified?**

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<sup>4</sup> Churches and Sects of Christendom by J. L. Neve p443



Sanctify them through \_\_\_\_\_: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the \_\_\_\_\_. (John 17:17-19)

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by \_\_\_\_\_ that is in \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 26:18)

That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 15:16)

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, and by the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Corinthians 6:11)

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_: (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

If a man therefore \_\_\_\_\_ from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. (2 Timothy 2:21)

By the which will we are sanctified through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:10)

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 1 Peter 1:2

But sanctify the Lord God in your \_\_\_\_\_: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

1. Do any of the above verses teach that it is part of the Godhead which sanctifies the individual? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, which verses? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do any of the above verses teach that the individual has some responsibility to sanctify himself? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, which verses? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do any of the above verses teach the individual is sanctified at the point of conversion? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, which verses? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do any of the above verses teach the individual is sanctified after conversion? \_\_\_\_\_  
If so, which verses? \_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON NINE

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO APOSTASY AND DISOBEDIENCE

Definitions:

Apostasy – an abandonment or falling away from what one believed.

Disobedience – neglect or refusal to obey, failure to do that which is commanded to be done, or the doing of that which is forbidden

“Are you feeling a bit nervous about meeting all these new people?” Marcus questioned as he and Marianne stepped inside the large school entrance.

“Yes, I am,” admitted Marianne.

“There were ten children in Grandpa and Grandma Stutzman’s family. They have become quite scattered from Canada to South America, so a lot of them will be seem almost like strangers to me also.” Marcus told Marianne as he opened the door to the auditorium. “I think almost everyone has come to Virginia for Grandpa and Grandma’s seventieth anniversary occasion.”

Scanning the gathering crowd, Marianne suddenly felt self-conscious. *“I wonder how these relatives will relate with us? I know Marcus said not many in the family are choosing Biblical obedience for their lives. But I was not quite prepared for this. I must look quite simple in my unadorned dress, unfashionable hair arrangement and...”*

Marianne’s thoughts abruptly ended as Marcus introduced her to one of his cousins.

“Mom just told me about the engagement announcement they got in the mail this week,” Lori smiled, extending her hand. “Welcome to the larger Stutzman family. You will find us to be a jovial bunch.”

“Thank you,” Marianne quietly responded, noting Lori’s jewels and softly painted face.

Marianne returned the warm smile as she spied Marcus’ mother across the room. *“I find it hard to believe many of these brothers and sisters once looked like her. When Grandpa Stutzman’s raised their children about 30 years ago it would have been a separated Mennonite setting like ours. I wonder why the broad differences today...”*

“Marianne,” Marcus said, breaking into her thoughts, “I want you to meet Kayla, Megan and Gary. Their mother, Evelyn, is mom's oldest sister.”

After exchanging greetings, the three cousins turn to Marcus. “Remember the fun times at our house when we were kids?” Gary began.

Megan interjected, “Yeah, I wanted to read your palm one time and you wouldn't let me!”

Marianne's mind was soon spinning trying to remember names and the different family connections. Many would still consider themselves ‘Mennonite’ but with little or no separation. Others have no Mennonite connection at all anymore. Uncle Jonas was a minister, now he's divorced and remarried. Aunt Lucinda has made similar choices and has now married what was once her husband's best friend. This aunt and uncle didn't seem to care much about the things of the Lord. Life is jolly as stories are told and retold. Some of the family mingled freely with them, others are friendly but reserved in their relationship throughout the day.

“Aunt Kathryn brought an old photo album along,” said Roseanne, Marcus' sister. “Come, let's go look at it,” she continued, beckoning toward a side table.

Marianne found her heart strings touched at the faded pictures of little innocent children and sturdy

youth. These were the school pictures of the aunts and uncles as the years went by, and the couples as they courted and married.

“I wish my aunts would have stayed consistent,” Roseanne spoke wistfully. “They look so beautiful and nice in their humble, simple clothes and covered heads...” Her voice trails off.

“Roseanne!” exclaimed a new face Marianne had not yet seen. “I have been looking for you.” The young woman bent over, giving Roseanne a loving embrace.

Introductions are again in order. This time Marianne learned Uncle Stan's live in Chili as missionaries with a Charismatic group. This is their daughter, Melody.

“Do you mind if I join you?” Melody asked, nodding toward the photo album.

“Have a chair,” welcomed Roseanne, flipping the album to the front.

After a few pages, Melody began a conversation. “You know,” she commented, “Dad and especially some of his sisters sure look quaint in their old fashioned clothing. It's wonderful to know that we serve a God of love. Today,” she sweetly stated, “one wouldn't think that God cares about something so insignificant as dress.”

Not giving any time for comment, Melody chatted on about their work in Chili. “Dad says he changed his mind about dress when they got the baptism of the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues. That's when he began to realize God doesn't care about things like that. Of course a lot of his ideas have changed. Imagine, he says they were really tested in their faith when they first moved to South America. He truly believed that he would speak in English and the Chilean people would understand the Gospel like in Acts. He was devastated when that did not happen...”

*“So they were Mennonite too twenty five years ago,” mused Marianne. “but they went along with the tongues movement and accepted those teachings as proof of God's blessing on their lives. Melody's hair is not cut as the many I see today; her clothes are not what you call stylish, but there are frills. Her face is free from make up, but her wedding band is to tell us she is married. And she says she loves the Lord and enjoys living in Chili sharing the Gospel...”*

“Are you ready to join me for a bite to eat?” Marcus asked Marianne walking toward the table. “The cafeteria style lunch is ready whenever we are. Maybe we can visit with some of the aunts and uncles.”

“How are you handling all this?” he questioned as they walked toward the lunch table.

“Well,” Marianne began, “It's lots different than I have been used to. In my family, certain Mennonite ways are more ingrained. The aunts and uncles would have their plain dress but they wouldn't be talking about the Lord. The subjects would be business and making money. The men would have their cigars or pipes, the little children would be dressed much like the world, but the girls wouldn't have shorts. There would be no divorce or remarriage. That would be strongly shunned.”

“Do you ever wonder which is right?” Marcus queried.

“Yes,” Marianne sighed, “I ponder these things a lot. There have been times in my life when the worldly Mennonite life pulled strongly. I wasn't so sure I wanted to be part of a church body that taught such a separated life from the world. There's so much one could pursue. Education. Entertainment. Beauty through fashion. Feminism. The list could go on. Some of the things we have learned, like 'you are no more spiritual that you are scriptural' and that you are 'separated unto God, rather that separated from the world' are helping me find my way thorough these questions. I would say my daily Bible reading has been the most help, because it helps me see God as He really is.”

“This is something we will surely want to talk about later” stated Marcus as he reached for the tray at the lunch table...

How would you answer all these questions? Are there Bible reasons for the conservative Mennonite life style? Or is this life merely an expression of a quaint and dying culture? Could we make adjustments

in our applications so we would blend in better with society and still be in God's will? Could you go to a more liberal Mennonite Church and be just as good of a Christian?

This are an issues you will face directly or indirectly as you come to adulthood. More and more you will need to make your own decisions, and your parent's will have less and less direct influence. The following questions are raised with for you to give Bible answers to. Do not answer these with "Because the church says so" or "That's just the way I was taught."

**What does the Bible say?**

1. What are some Scriptures which teach the importance of obedience to the Word of God in every point? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Where would you turn to answer someone who maintained obedience is not important, we only need to have faith? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Where does the Bible teach men and women are to dress in a way so as to modestly cover their bodies? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Where would you look to find teaching that divorce and remarriage are wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What Bible passages teach church leaders are responsible to take Biblical principles and give practical direction for their people. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What Scriptures teach the church should excommunicate anyone who does not meet Biblical standards of holiness? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Where would you find the teaching that the Christian woman will refuse to wear ornaments or ornamental extras? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Where does the Bible teach that women are to have their heads covered, and the sign of a Christian man is an uncovered head with short hair? \_\_\_\_\_

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# LESSON TEN

## ANSWERING ERRORS RELATED TO ETERNAL DESTINIES

### HELL WILL BE A BIG PARTY WITH FRIENDS

Brother John was taking Evangelist Paul on visitation work while he was holding revivals in the community.

“You will have no problem getting to know Bill,” John sighed, “Sometimes I wonder if we waste our time visiting him the way he makes a joke out of everything, but on the other hand while he lives we should give him hope.”

“You have visited Bill before I take it,” the evangelist probed?

“Yes, we once bought land from him and his wife, and now she has passed on and he lives alone” John responded. “But now we are here,” John nodded to the tin roofed shanty with green asphalt siding.

Stepping around the chickens they climbed the rickety steps to the front door. Upon rapping, they heard a raspy “Come on in,” so in they went.

After introductions and generalities, Evangelist Paul turned the discussion to death and the hereafter. He asked Bill if he had ever made peace with God, and if he was ready for the time when he would be called out of this world.

“I reckon I’ll find my place in hell” Bill chuckled. “I never had no time for God, and I don’t expect to come beggin’ for no special favors now!”

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life” Paul quoted, and “God is ‘not willing that any should perish’. Why don’t you repent and escape the torments of hell?”

“And miss out on all the fun my friends and I are going to have there? Why we’re gonna have a blast when we all get over there. Ther’ll be no repentin out of me...”

### THE WICKED WILL BE BURNED UP AFTER A WHILE

Sam wiped a greasy hand on a rag as he stepped back from the lawn mower. “It’s something how everything can go wrong, when you think you are in a hurry” he mused as he looked at the half mown lawn. “And now look who comes?”

Two neatly dressed strangers walked up the driveway. “Looks like Russelites,” Sam thought, “Their books give them away every time. They call themselves Jehovah’s Witnesses, but they don’t know the Jehovah I know...”

The older of the two spoke first, “Good morning!, Do you have time to visit a bit?”

“And a good morning to you too,” Sam replied, “Yes I can visit, but I take it you are J.W.’s, Is that right?”

“We are Jehovah’s Witnesses,” the graying man replied, “We want people to know about the true God.”

“I love the Lord,” Samuel testified, “But I cannot agree with your doctrines. We must believe the teachings of God’s Word, the Bible, not the reasoning of men.”

“We believe the Bible, but what are you referring to?”

“Well, one issue is that God’s Word teaches the wicked will be cast into everlasting torments. Your doctrine teaches the wicked will be soon burned up, not?” Sam queried.

“Yes, we take the Scripture from Malachi 4:1, where it says the wicked will be burned up for their belief. And besides, why would a God of love make people suffer forever?”

This teaching that the wicked will be burned up after a time of punishment is shared by Jehovah’s Witnesses, the Seventh Day Adventist, and a number of other cults. The following is a statement from the Seventh Day Adventist doctrines.

#### VII Punishment of the Wicked

1. “In the expression ‘eternal punishment,’ just as in ‘eternal redemption’ and in ‘eternal judgement’, the Bible is referring to all eternity — not as of process, but as of result. It is not an endless process of punishment, but an effectual punishment, which will be final and forever.”

2. “We reject the doctrine of eternal torment for the following major reasons: (1.) Because everlasting life is a gift of God. (Rom 6:23). The wicked do not possess this—they ‘shall not see life’ (John 3:36); no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him’ (1 Jn 3:15). (2) Because eternal torment would perpetuate and immortalize sin, suffering, and woe, and contradict, we believe, divine revelation, which envisions the time when these things shall be no more (Rev 21:4). (3) Because it seems to us to provide a plague spot in the universe of God throughout eternity, and would seem to indicate that it is impossible for God Himself ever to abolish it. (4) Because in our thinking it would detract from the attribute of love as seen in the character of God, and postulates the concept of a wrath which is never appeased. (5) Because the Scriptures teach that the atoning work of Christ is to ‘put away sin’ (Heb 6:9) — first from the individual, and ultimately from the universe. The full fruition of Christ’s sacrificial, atoning work will be seen not only in a redeemed people but in a restored heaven and earth. (Eph 1:14)<sup>5</sup>

## **THOSE WHO ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HEAVEN SUFFER A WHILE IN PURGATORY**

Leroy and Jonathan stopped in on afternoon visitation with Harvey Jackson...

“Good afternoon, boys” the elderly gentleman addressed the youth, “How are you all doing today?”

“We have much to be thankful for,” Leroy responded, “God is good. We are out visiting folks today trying to help them prepare for eternity, How are things with your soul?”

“I’m doing great!” Harvey responded. “Since I met you last I have decided to join the Catholic’s. I decided since they are the oldest church around they must be right. Their church is older than yours you know.”

“As an organization, yes they are older,” Leroy agreed.

“I’ve been attending a class the priest has, and I’ve been learning lots,” Harvey enthused, “I especially like the teaching about purgatory.”

“What is that?” Jonathan queried, “I don’t think I know much about that.”

“We believe that when someone dies who isn’t good enough for heaven, then he goes to a place where he suffers a while for his sins. Once he has paid for all his sins, then he gets to go to heaven. I really like this teaching, because it makes such good sense. I know I’m not bad enough to go to hell forever, but I’m not really good enough to go to heaven either. It just makes sense.”

So what would you have to say? Is hell a party? Do the wicked only burn for a while, and then all is over? Can the people who are not really good enough for heaven suffer a while and then become candidates for heaven? What does the Bible say?

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<sup>5</sup> Questions on Doctrines: The official position of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

## What does the Bible say?

Verses used to support annihilation of the wicked.

*For, behold, the day cometh, that shall \_\_\_\_\_ as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be \_\_\_\_\_: and the day that cometh shall \_\_\_\_\_, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_. (Malachi 4:1)*

Verses used to support purgatory

*Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be \_\_\_\_\_. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast \_\_\_\_\_ the uttermost farthing. (Matthew 5:25-26)*

Verses that clarify the doctrine of eternal punishment.

*The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the \_\_\_\_\_ fire? who among us shall dwell with \_\_\_\_\_? (Isaiah 33:14)*

*And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of teeth. (Mat 8:11-12)*

*And shall cast them into a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13:42)*

*So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 13:49-50)*

*Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into \_\_\_\_\_; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matt 22 :13)*

*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into \_\_\_\_\_, prepared for the devil and his angels: And these shall go away into everlasting \_\_\_\_\_: but the righteous into \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 25:41,46)*

*And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea. And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, into the fire that \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_. Where their \_\_\_\_\_ not, and the fire is not \_\_\_\_\_. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not \_\_\_\_\_. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into \_\_\_\_\_: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:42-48)*



Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will \_\_\_\_\_ in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath \_\_\_\_\_ the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know \_\_\_\_\_ whence ye are. Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye \_\_\_\_\_. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. (Lu 13:24-28)

In flaming fire taking \_\_\_\_\_ on them that \_\_\_\_\_ not God, and that \_\_\_\_\_ not the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with \_\_\_\_\_ from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)

These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is reserved \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Peter 2:17)

Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the \_\_\_\_\_ of darkness \_\_\_\_\_. (Jude 1:13)

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his \_\_\_\_\_; and he shall be \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; and they have no \_\_\_\_\_ day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Rev 14:9-11)

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: which is the second death. (Revelation 21:7-8)

1. What answer would you give if someone argued the punishment of the wicked is just for a brief time?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How do the words used to describe the duration of heaven compare with the words describing the duration of eternal punishment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do we know Hell will not be a place of socializing and merry making? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do a works religion and the doctrine of purgatory usually go together? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the passage really teach when it says we will not get out of prison until we have paid the utmost farthing? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In what ways is God justified in consigning unbelieving men to an eternal lake of fire? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What impact should believing in eternal torments in hell have on us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the best method we can use to convince the ungodly of their need to turn to God in repentance in order to escape an eternal hell fire? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## VARIOUS CHARTS OF COMPARISON OF DOCTRINES

### REFORMERS' VIEWS ON THE CHURCH AND THE ORDINANCES

View	Church	Baptism	Lord's Supper
Lutheran	All believers on earth constitute the one invisible church. Visible church observed through ministry of Word and Sacraments	Necessary for salvation. Effects salvation. Infant baptism necessary; God works faith in them.	"Consubstantiation" - Christ is bodily present "in, with, under the elements.
Reformed	Universal church completed at Christ's return. Salvation possible outside the church.	Sign of believer's faith. Infant baptism necessary and sign of covenant.	Christ is spiritually present and mediates grace to participant.
Anabaptist	Church composed only of believers. (Infants not part of the church) Emphasized church purity through discipline	Baptism only for believers. Infant baptism rejected.	Memorial only. Bread and cup symbolize Christ and His death. No grace is mediated.

### Five Points of Calvinism<sup>6</sup>

Doctrine	Explanation
Total Depravity	As a result of Adam's fall, the entire human race is affected; all humanity is dead in trespasses and sin. Man is unable to save himself.
Unconditional Election	Because man is dead in sin, he is unable to initiate response to God; therefore, in eternity past God elected certain people to salvation. Election and predestination are unconditional; they are not based on man's response.
Limited Atonement	Because God determined that certain ones should be saved as a result of God's unconditional election, He determined that Christ should die for the elect. All whom God has elected and Christ died for will be saved.
Irresistible Grace	Those whom God elected and Christ died for, God draws to Himself through irresistible grace. God makes man willing to come to Him. When God calls, man responds.
Perseverance of the Saints	The precise ones God has elected and drawn to Himself through the Holy Spirit will persevere in faith. None whom God has elected will be lost; they are eternally secure.

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<sup>6</sup> Moody Handbook of Theology Page 480



## Calvinism and Arminianism Contrasted<sup>7</sup>

Doctrine	Arminianism	Calvinism
<b>Depravity</b>	As a result of the Fall, man has inherited a corrupted nature. Preventive grace has removed the guilt and condemnation of Adam's sin.	As a result of the Fall, man is so totally depraved and dead in sin; he is unable to save himself. Because he is dead in sin, God must initiate salvation.
<b>Imputation of Sin</b>	God did not impute sin to the entire human race through Adam's sin, but all people inherit a corrupt nature as a result of Adam's fall.	Through Adam's transgression, sin was imputed—passed to the entire human race so that all people are born in sin.
<b>Election</b>	God elected those whom He knew would believe of their own free will. Election is conditional, based on man's response in faith.	God unconditionally, from eternity past, elected some to be saved. Election is not based on man's future response.
<b>Atonement of Christ</b>	Christ died for the entire human race, making all mankind saveable. His death is effective only in those who believe.	God determined that Christ would die for all those whom God elected. Since Christ did not die for everyone but only for those who were elected to be saved, His death is completely successful.
<b>Grace</b>	Through preventive or preparatory grace, which is given to all people, man is able to cooperate with God and respond to Him in salvation. Preventive grace reverses the effects of Adam's sin.	Common grace is extended to all mankind but is insufficient to save any one. Through irresistible grace, God drew to himself those whom He had elected, making them willing to respond.
<b>Will of Man</b>	Preventive grace is given to all people and is exercised on the entire person, giving man a free will.	Depravity extends to all man, including his will. Without irresistible grace man's will remains bound, unable to respond to God on its own ability.
<b>Perseverance</b>	Believers may turn from grace and lose their salvation.	Believers will persevere in the faith. Believers are secure in their salvation; none will be lost.
<b>Sovereignty of God</b>	God limits His control in accordance with man's freedom and response. His decrees are related to His foreknowledge of what man's response will be.	God's sovereignty is absolute and unconditional. He has determined all things according to the good pleasure of His will. His foreknowledge originates in advanced planning, not in advanced information.

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<sup>7</sup> Moody Handbook of Theology Page 491

