

A wooden cross stands on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water and sky. The cross is positioned between the words "Behold" and "The Lamb".

Behold The Lamb
Publications

A sunset over a body of water with waves crashing onto a rocky shore. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the water and sky. The waves are breaking onto a shore covered in dark, smooth rocks.

**Rocks
in a Pond
Volume III**

by Leroy Surface

Rocks in a Pond - III

“If you will say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and the ripples will wash up on the shores of every nation.”

God spoke those words in a dream He gave me in 1992. He had already given me understanding of *“The Cross and the Blood”* in the spring of 1991, and the “blood” of Jesus Christ had purified my heart from all sinful thoughts and imaginations in a moment of time.

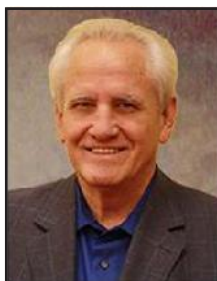
During the next twenty years, I wrote and preached everything I understood about the cross and the blood, with mixed results. I told someone, “I know the answer to the sin problem in the heart of man, but it would take ten years to preach it.” My mind began to be drawn to the words of the apostle Paul; *“I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”* II Corinthians 11:3. My prayer became, *“Oh God, please give me the simplicity that is in Christ.”*

When God answered my prayer I saw that the *“simplicity that is in Christ”* was the **“rock”** God had instructed me to “throw into a pond” so many years before. This “rock” is the simple “revelation” Peter expressed in the words ***“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”*** Revelation 16:16. Jesus told Peter, ***“upon this rock I will build my***

church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”

Matthew 16:18.

To “throw the rock” we must preach the simplicity of **1.** Who Christ is. **2.** What He came into the world to do. **3.** How He accomplished everything He came to do through His death on the cross.



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

In only the past couple years, as we began to unashamedly proclaim this simple revelation of **“The Christ,”** the outreach of this ministry through Behold the Lamb Books has expanded to believers in over one hundred twenty nations. Almost daily we hear from those around the world who rejoice in the peace with God, rest for their souls, and freedom from sin they have received through simply believing this truth and trusting in Jesus.

“Rocks in a Pond”

Volume III

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The Gospel of Christ

The Rock, the Key, and the Weapon

Published January, 2018

The Rock: *“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”*

Matthew 16:16. With these words, Peter established forever what the “*gospel of Christ*” would be. Jesus confirmed Peter’s statement; “*Flesh and blood hath not revealed this to you, but the Father which is in heaven*” verse 17. “*...upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*” Matthew 16:18. With these words, Jesus established that the revelation of who He is, is the rock He builds His church upon. The apostle John confirms the gospel message many years later; “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*” 1 John 5:1. Paul would tell us in his “revelation” of Jesus Christ, “*...other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus (the) Christ*” 1 Corinthians 3:11.

The Key: *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven...”* Matthew 16:19. The Greek word “kleis,” which was translated “keys,” is properly defined as “a key (as shutting a lock), literally or figuratively” Strong’s Greek Dictionary. There is a single “key” to open the Kingdom of heaven for lost humanity. It is found in only four words; “*Jesus is the Christ.*” He who was “*in the beginning with God*” and “*was God*” became a man to take away “*the sin*” that entered into the world through the first man, Adam. Only the one “*by whom*” and “*for whom*” all things were created Colossians 1:16, could “*take away*” the sin that destroyed the first creation, and bring in a “*New Creation.*” In the New Creation, there is no serpent (the devil), and no sin. The apostle John testifies to this, saying, “*And ye know that He was manifested to take away our sins; and in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not...*” 1 John 3:5-6. Jesus said, “*Preach the gospel (Jesus is the Christ) to every creature.*” It will open the kingdom of heaven to everyone who believes it.

Jesus said “*But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.*”

Matthew 23:13

The “scribes and Pharisees” were the most devout of all Jews. They had so perfected themselves outwardly that Jesus said, “...ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity” Matthew 23:28. They did not believe the gospel (Jesus is the Christ), and they rejected those who did, thus they “*shut up the kingdom of heaven against men.*”

The Weapon: “*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;*” II Corinthians 10:4. The word “*weapons*” was translated from the Greek word “*hoplon*,” which is defined as “*an implement or utensil or tool (literally or figuratively, especially offensive for war)*” Strong’s Greek Dictionary. Again, as with the “*key*,” we have only one “*weapon*,” which is “*mighty through God*” to pull down strongholds. The apostle continues in the next verse to define the “strongholds” which our “weapon” will pull down: “*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*” II Corinthians 10:5.

The modern religious thought is so confused on this issue of “spiritual warfare,” foremost because they do not know the battle is over, and the victory is won. It is God who “*giveth us the victory...*” I Corinthians 15:57 and “*always causeth us to triumph in Christ*” II Corinthians 2:14. God is not “looking for a man” to “raise an army” to “win the victory over sin and Satan.” That “man” was God’s own Son, and He did not need an army to utterly destroy the devil Hebrews 2:14.

God sent Christ into this world on a “rescue mission.” Through the death of His Son on the cross, God has “*...delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son*” Colossians 1:13. That “kingdom” is Christ. The apostle John says, “*...in Him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not...*” I John 3:5-6. As there will be no sin and no devil in the “the new heavens and the new earth,” there is no sin or devil in the “*kingdom of God’s dear Son*,” which is Christ, our dwelling place.

The “*weapon of our warfare*” is the gospel of Christ (Jesus is the Christ). If the devil can keep you busy “fighting the devil,” you will never experience the “*righteousness, peace, and joy*,” that is ours in the kingdom of God Romans 14:17. If we will “pick up” our weapon,

however, and preach the gospel, every stronghold of the enemy will be cast down. Isaiah spoke of a time when men “*walk in darkness... groping as if they had no eyes...*” and looking for salvation, but it was “*afar off*” Isaiah 59:10-11. Truth was “*fallen in the streets*” and justice was “*standing afar off*” Isaiah 59:14. We who “*know the truth*” hold the answer for a lost and perishing world. Dust off your bible KJV, and preach the gospel. Come out of the foolishness of man’s religion, and preach to the entire world around you that “*Jesus is the Christ*” who came into the world to “*make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:27. Do not be moved by “the roaring” of those who fight against the truth of the gospel. Preach the gospel, stand upon it, and God Himself will stand with you.

Salvation worth Boasting About

Published February, 2018

Recently an inmate in a local prison was rejoicing that he had “heard the truth” and all his sinful desires had been taken out of his heart, including his addiction to pornography. A minister who was scheduled to preach later in the service openly corrected him. “No, my brother! We are all sinners! I am a sinner just like you! I sin every day that I live.” The inmate did not argue, but reached out and took the minister’s hand, saying, “Can we pray right now?” Confused, the minister said, “Yes, but what do you want to pray about?” The answer was immediate, “For your salvation.”

Without entering an argument of whether the inmate was right or wrong in this incident, it does raise a valid question. If “believers” are still “sinners” who must “sin every day,” what is the advantage of becoming a “believer?” Sin-laden Christians not only bring shame upon themselves, but upon God also. When Israel was scattered throughout the nations because of their iniquities, God said, “*they profaned my holy name, when they said to them, These are the people of the LORD, and are gone forth out of his land.*” Ezekiel 36:20. God was insulted that these were still being called his people. He told them “*...be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.*” Ezekiel 36:32. If we rejoice in a “salvation”

that leaves us in sin, aren't we boasting in something God would be ashamed to be identified with?

The apostle Paul addressed this issue in his epistle to the Hebrews; *"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats (doctrines), which have not profited them that have been occupied therein"* Hebrews 13:9. The doctrine of the modern "church" has deteriorated from the truth to the extent the gospel which was preached by the apostles sounds "different" and "strange" in this twenty-first century. It seems we have arrived at a time in which many in the churches are neither "believers" nor "unbelievers;" they are what I call "unbelieving believers." They proudly raise their hands to indicate "I am a believer," but when the truth of the gospel is preached, they cry with one voice, "I don't believe that!"

Salvation is "by grace," which means it is a "free gift." It is received *"through faith,"* which tells us that "believing the truth" is the channel through which the salvation of God comes to us. Salvation is *"not of ourselves,"* meaning we cannot save ourselves. Salvation is *"the gift of God,"* which means we cannot purchase it. Finally, salvation is *"not of works, lest any man should boast."* This last phrase offers proof that our *"salvation"* is something to be highly admired and greatly desired. It is the greatest cause for boasting a person will ever know, yet it gives no place for boasting in ourselves.

Many years ago as a very sincere young minister, I would fast for thirty days at a time specifically seeking "crucifixion" or "sanctification." There were three years in which I fasted more days in the year than I ate, but I never received anything I could boast in. The truth is, in the eyes of onlookers, I had much to boast in, because they had never seen anyone "fast and pray" as much as I, but it never brought me what I was seeking, and in time I was back in open sin. Twenty six years ago, when the knowledge of the truth concerning the shed blood of Jesus shined into my heart, I received in a moment what I had failed to attain in years of fasting and praying. I was free! My heart was purified, my mind was washed, I was made *"free from sin"* in a moment of time, but I could not boast in anything I had done because I had done nothing except believe the truth of the gospel. It was not that I had "finally arrived," because the path I

traveled so many years before did not lead to sanctification, but only to more self-righteousness.

This freedom and sanctification was the work of Christ alone and my boasting could only be in him. Many teach “who” and “what” we are “in Christ Jesus.” Most often, such teaching leaves the student trying to be what they are told “they are.” Oh what a confusing trip to take. The real revelation is “who” and “what” Christ is “in you.” The apostle has previously revealed that God has chosen the “foolish,” the “weak,” the “base,” the “despised” and the “nothings” I Corinthians 1:27:28 of this world to “*destroy the wisdom of the wise*” and “*bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.*”

I Corinthians 1:19

Only those who truly understand they “are nothing” without Christ and can “do nothing” without the Holy Ghost, can Christ be fully glorified in. They have nothing of themselves, but only Christ to boast in. Unto them, He is “*wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*” Therefore, because of him, they are “wise, just, holy,” and “redeemed.” So far from being “sinners,” the “redeemed” are “as He is” I John 4:17, even in this present world, and Christ “is glorified in them” II Thessalonians 1:10-12. Oh, let the rejoicing begin!

The Battle is Over

Published March, 2018

In 1974, almost thirty years after the end of World War II, a Japanese soldier was found in the mountains of the Philippines, still keeping his post and fighting a war that had ended many years before. My emotions were mixed as a young minister when I considered the dedication this man had to a cause which he refused to believe had been lost. He refused to leave his post until the Japanese government sent his WWII commander to relieve him from his duties. I also felt very sad for him when I considered the lonely years he had spent pursuing a cause that was long since lost.

Today, many years later, I feel the same sadness for those in the church who do not know “the battle is over,” and “the victory has

been won” almost two thousand years ago on a hill called Golgotha, where the Son of God gave His life to destroy the devil Hebrews 2:14, and deliver the people from their sin Matthew 1:21.

I am saddened every time I hear of another man who rises to some degree of prominence and declares that God has told him to “raise an army for God.” I know they are not who they think they are, because they do not know the victory has been won at Calvary for everyone who believes the gospel. Romans 1:16. This is not a new phenomenon. It has happened many times in the past, always with disastrous results. Invariably their belief in “The Army of God” is based on an Old Testament prophecy in the second chapter of Joel.

“They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded. They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief. The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for he is strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?” Joel 2:7-11

“Joel's Army,” as it is called, is an army of “spiritual locusts,” which is prophesied to cover the land in the last days before the return of Jesus Christ. It is “The Army of God,” in that it is His instrument of judgment against the ungodly nations, but it is not made up of the people of God. In fact, it is the demonic, devil possessed locust army described by John in the ninth chapter of Revelation. The prophet Joel called for the nation to repent because of this coming “Day of the Lord.” He also told of a different result if there was true repentance. God promised to bless them, and take away their reproach Joel 2:18-19. He promised to remove the “army” into a dry and desolate land, and cause its “ill savor (stink) to come up” Joel 2:20. Finally, God promised restoration: *“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among*

you” Joel 2:25. God tells us clearly that He is the one who “commands the locusts to devour the land” II Chronicles 7:13, but when there is repentance, He is the one who “hears from heaven” and “heals the land” II Chronicles 7:14.

It must be the result of “seducing spirits and doctrines of devils” I Timothy 4:1 when church leaders decide they are the one called to raise up the last day “Army of God.” The “Latter Rain” movement of the past century believed they were being prepared as “Joel's Army.” Many of them did not believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ, but rather believed there would come a day in which they would receive immortality, and be transformed into “Manifested Sons of God” Romans 8:19 to prepare the way for Christ to return. This movement faded into virtual obscurity in the late 1950s and 60s, making way for the Charismatic movement which followed.

The ugly head of this religious deception (Joel's Army) has raised up several times during the past fifty years, but each time it has ended in the shame of immorality and even perversion. One claimed to be the “captain of Joel's army” in the 1970s. A “company of prophets” arose in the 1990s, and a “worker of miracles” who claimed many “resurrections from the dead” arose in the first decade of this century, but these all ended with the shame of immorality and perversion in their ranks. Each of these had their own “ill savor” in the end.

There are keys to understanding who Joel's “Army of God” actually is. Remember, it cannot be God's people, it is only His army of judgment. Joel told us, “...*when they fall on the sword, they shall not be wounded* (Hebrew text: 'shall not be stopped').” Joel 2:8KJV. To “fall on the sword” has forever spoken of suicide. Joel was seeing the “suicide bomber” in his visions from God. John saw a locust army of 200,000,000 having “breastplates of fire, jacinth, and brimstone” Revelation 9:16:17. That is a perfect description of a suicide belt. The scripture says they are “prepared to slay the third part of men” Revelation 9:15. The locusts are swarming even now, and only God can stop them.

The people of God are not “Joel's Army,” and God needs no army. We are the “church.” There are no Captains or Generals in the church, and there is only one “head,” which is Jesus Christ. Ephesians

1:22-23. The enemy has been destroyed by Jesus Christ on the cross, and we are sent forth, not in “ranks” to “win the victory,” but as ambassadors of peace carrying the news of Christ’s victory. Neither Satan nor Sin can hold anyone who will believe the truth of the gospel, because the Battle is over, and the victory has been won!

The Challenge

Published April, 2018

If you could preach a message that would save everyone who believed it, would you preach it? If you could preach a message with a guarantee that everyone who believed it would be so completely transformed that Christ would be “*glorified in them,*” and “*admired in everyone who believed it*” || Thessalonians 1:10, **would you preach it?** If you could preach a message that the same message would work in every nation, every culture, among every race, and every religion, everywhere in the entire world, bringing the same “radical salvation” in every place, to everyone who believed it Colossians 1:6, **would you preach it?** Finally, if you could preach a message that is so simple it can be contained in only four words, yet it guarantees that everyone who understands it will be “*born of God*” | John 5:1, and “*overcome the world*” | John 5:4, **would you preach it?**

The “message” I speak of is that which was first revealed to Peter concerning Jesus of Nazareth; “*Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16. It is the same message revealed to Saul of Tarsus when he heard the voice from heaven saying, “*I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest*” Acts 9:5. Only days later, Saul was preaching Christ in the synagogues of Damascus, “*...that He is the Son of God*” Acts 9:20, and “*...this (Jesus) is very Christ*” Acts 9:22.

Twenty years later, as the Apostle Paul, he is still preaching the same message in the synagogue of Thessalonica; “*...opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ*” Acts 17:3. Paul had to flee by night after only three Sabbaths because

of the uproar caused by the unbelieving Jews, yet the scripture tells us a “*great multitude*” of the devout Greeks believed. A great church was established in that city. It was to these believers Paul said Christ would come “*...to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed)...*” II Thessalonians 1:10.

The “*simplicity of Christ*” which Paul feared the church would be moved away from, is simply stated in only four words, “*Jesus is the Christ.*” In order to preach it, however, the minister must understand who “*the Christ*” is. John said, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*” John 1:1. This “*Word*” is “*the Christ.*” John continued, “*And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us...*” John 1:14. This “*Word, made flesh*” is Jesus, the only begotten Son of God.

Christ came into the world as “*the seed of the woman*” to “*bruise the head of the serpent*” Genesis 3:15. He died on the cross as “*the Lamb of God,*” which Abraham prophetically declared “*God will provide...*” Genesis 22:8. John the Baptist told us this Lamb of God would “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. Those who “*believe*” and “*trust in Him*” are “*freed from sin*” Romans 6:22, with all sin washed out of their hearts at the moment of saving faith. Acts 15:9

Christ is “*Immanuel*” (God with us) who was born of a virgin Isaiah 7:14. He is “*the holy arm of the Lord*” Isaiah 52:10, 53:1, and “*the servant of the Lord*” whose “*visage (face) was so marred more than any man, and his form (body) more than the sons of men*” Isaiah 52:14. Isaiah explains why, saying, “*So shall He sprinkle many nations....*”
verse 15

Christ is “*the redeemer*” whom God promised to “*come unto Zion*” Isaiah 59:20. Of most importance, He is “*the Messiah, the Prince,*” whom God promised to send into the world “*to make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25. Both David Psalms 22 and Isaiah Isaiah 53 reveal how He accomplished all this through His death on the cross.

Jesus said, “*It is finished!*” Satan has been destroyed Hebrews 2:14; sin has been “*put away*” Hebrews 9:26; and everyone who believes this truth goes free from sin to live their lives in “*righteousness, peace,*

and joy” Romans 14:17. Stop the foolishness! Preach “*Jesus is the Christ*,” understanding who Christ is, and what He came into the world to do. The world was not “*turned upside down*” in the first century by those who “raised an army,” or by those who built “super-churches.” Instead, these words were spoken about two men, Paul and Silas, who went everywhere preaching “*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world*” John 11:27. Often they were driven out by angry mobs after a very few services, but wherever they went, churches sprung up from the incorruptible seed they planted.

We can “*turn the world upside down*” in our generation if we will preach the same message Paul and Silas preached. It is the only message that comes with a “guarantee” that it will work for everyone who believes it Romans 1:16.

Pentecost Lost

Published May, 2018

How is the faithful city become a harlot?” Isaiah 1:21. God posed this question to His prophet about a hundred years before Jerusalem was destroyed. “I loved her...I was a husband to her...how did she become a harlot?” Even God seems to not understand. A generation later, He speaks to Jerusalem through yet another prophet; “*I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into **the degenerate plant of a strange vine** unto me?*” Jeremiah 2:21

Why is it that every true move of God seems to degenerate into something God cannot accept? Case in point: only sixty years after the Day of Pentecost, five out of seven churches received a message from Jesus to “repent, or else...” Revelation 2:5, 2:16, 2:22, 3:3, and 3:19. Three centuries after the Day of Pentecost, the “church” had entered the dark ages, absolutely controlled by the spirit of antichrist. The sixteenth century brought the “reformation” and the “protestant revival.” The eighteenth century brought the Wesleyan Revival, and

the sanctified revival of the nineteenth century. God began to pour His Spirit upon those who were truly sanctified, and the great Pentecostal revival began at the very beginning of the twentieth century. Each of these great “revivals” began to degenerate with each succeeding generation because the “children” became “imitators,” but not “possessors” of what their parents had. Neither Luther nor Wesley would recognize the movements that came out of their revivals. So it is with the Pentecostal revival. Only the very aged among us can remember the “glory” of the Pentecostal revival. What is left of it is only the “*degenerate plant*” of what was once “*the planting of the Lord*” Isaiah 61:3.

In 1965, in only the second year of my ministry, I heard the first of many prophetic warnings from God: “*In the last days, a harlot will arise out of Pentecost and will be more vile in her affections than the Roman Catholic Church of the dark ages.*” It was not a message I wanted to hear, because I was very proud of my “Pentecostal heritage.” In 1969, I saw in a vision from the Lord that another spirit would come to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, and many of the churches would receive this “strange spirit” and begin to exalt themselves to the world. I did not know it had already begun. It is with great sadness that I say I have seen these things unfold in the churches exactly as the Lord said.

A “degenerate plant” does not know it is “degenerate.” Those who have partaken of a “strange spirit” do not know what they have done. Only those few remaining who have seen and partaken of the true can recognize the false. Because I was forewarned by God, I recognized the “strange spirit” immediately when seekers began to “learn how” to speak in tongues. Before that time it was never heard that any person could “learn how to speak in tongues.” The “initial (first) evidence” of the Holy Ghost had always been the same; they “*...began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” Acts 2:4.

It is a dangerous thing to “learn how” to speak in tongues. It is even more dangerous to learn how to prophesy. Many have unwittingly opened themselves to unclean spirits to speak through them. The scripture is very explicit concerning the operation of the “gifts” of the Spirit. “*...all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit*” 1 Corinthians 12:11. The supernatural manifestation of God’s Spirit has

been traded for something that is fleshly, carnal, and sometimes demonic.

Simon the sorcerer so bewitched the people of Samaria that they believed he was “*the great power of God*” Acts 8:9-10. When Phillip came preaching Christ, the scripture says, “*Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip*” Acts 8:13. Then Peter and John came and prayed for the believers and the Holy Ghost fell upon them. When Simon the sorcerer saw this he offered them money, Saying, “*Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.*” Peter responded, “*Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for **thy heart is not right in the sight of God***” Acts 8:21. Those who believe they can impart the Holy Ghost or the manifestations of the Spirit to whoever they choose are “Simons” and not “apostles of Christ.”

We often hear that God uses “*flawed (sinful) vessels*” for His glory. **NO!** Paul spoke to Timothy about various vessels, “*some to honour, and some to dishonor.*” II Timothy 2:20. He makes it clear, it is the “*vessel unto honour, **sanctified**, and meet for the master’s use, and **prepared** unto every good work*” II Timothy 2:1 that God uses, and never the vessel which is “*flawed with sin.*” The idea that God will pour Himself into an unclean vessel is far from the truth. Only those whose hearts have been “*purified*” by the blood of Christ are filled by God. These have not only “*pure hearts,*” but “*clean hands*” also. Psalms 24:3-4

The End of Sin

Published June, 2018

SIN is God’s number one enemy. It is an “invading force” that polluted and cursed everything God created. It is the nature of the “Serpent” that found a home in the hearts of fallen humanity. The “serpent” that deceived Eve had once been “*the anointed cherub that covereth*” Ezekiel 28:14, who was “*perfect in his ways*” until iniquity was found in him Ezekiel 28:15. His name was “Lucifer,” which means “the shining one.” Iniquity was discovered in Lucifer when he said in his heart: “*I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ...I will be like the most High***” Isaiah

14:13-14. Self-exaltation was the iniquity which destroyed God's "*anointed cherub.*"

Lucifer (the serpent) came to Adam and Eve with the promise, "...*your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil*" Genesis 3:5, if they would simply disregard the command of God and eat the forbidden fruit. Eve believed the serpent's lie, ate of the fruit, gave it to Adam, and "*their eyes were opened.*" Instead of becoming "*as gods,*" however, they saw they were naked and they were ashamed, because "the glory of God" had departed from them. Adam's disobedience opened the door for Sin (the nature of the serpent) to become his master, and Lucifer (the serpent, the devil) became "*the god of this world*" II Corinthians 4:4. Every descendant of Adam for all time would be born with Sin in their heart and nature.

Lucifer's quest to exalt himself into the throne over men was amazingly successful. Even though God beckoned, called, and chastened mankind, very few actually served him. In the days of Noah, however, God said, "*My spirit shall not always strive with man*" Genesis 6:3. One hundred and twenty years later, God destroyed every living person with the exception of Noah and his household. Millions of sinners died in the great flood, but sin came through untouched, hidden in the nature of Noah and his family.

The great flood did not make an "*end of sin*" upon the earth. Sin in the nature of only eight people survived the flood and again "contaminated" the whole earth. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but it did not bring an end of sexual perversion any more than the destruction of Jerusalem brought an end to abominations among the children of Israel. Sin must be destroyed, but destroying sinners proved not to be the answer to the sin problem. Somehow, at any cost, Sin itself had to be eradicated. The "cost" to do so was both "infinite" and "eternal" when Christ, who was in the beginning "*with God*" and "*was God*" John 1:1, became a man to die on a cross Philippians 2:5-8, to "*take away the sin of the world*" John 1:29.

The death of Jesus Christ at Calvary was not a "punishment for sin." It was not a "penalty taken" or a "debt paid." His death was as a "*lamb without spot or blemish,*" the "*Lamb of God*" offered to "*take away the sin of the world*" John 1:29. God was not seeking to

“punish” us when He sent Christ to the cross. His purpose was to “redeem us.” We were all slaves to sin through no fault of our own. Everything we were without Christ was the result of the one sin Adam committed when he disobeyed God. Why would God punish us for what Adam did? ...and why would He punish Jesus for what we did?

We were all born into this world as sinners because of Adam’s sin, and we all sinned because we were sinners. It was not our sin that made us to be sinners. It was Adam who “sold us under Sin” Romans 7:14, and being “under Sin,” we were “slaves to Sin.” John 8:34-36. We did not “owe a debt” any more than the slaves in America owed a debt. And as the American slave owners were not “paid” to release the slaves, neither did Christ “pay a debt” for our release. Instead, He destroyed the “slave master.” The Bible says He “bruised the head of the serpent” Genesis 3:15, “...destroyed the devil” Hebrews 2:14, and “...destroyed the works of the devil” I John 3:8 for all who would believe and trust in Him. In the flood, God destroyed the sinners, but at Calvary he destroyed the Sin!

When God considered the plight of a world filled with sinners, He considered that it was “by one man” that Sin “entered into the world” Roman 5:12. God determined, if He were to be just Romans 3:26, there had to be a “second man” to “take away the Sin” that entered into the world by the “first man.” The “second man” must be born of a woman, yet be of a Spirit that transcends humanity. Who better to be the “second man” than the creator Himself? The apostle Paul said of Adam, “the first man is of the earth, earthly...” I Corinthians 15:47, but he said of Jesus Christ, “the second man is the Lord from heaven.” He was “the WORD, made flesh” John 1:14. So the eternal Christ became a man and was offered as a spotless lamb in order to “take away the sin of the world.”

Everything sin contaminated that has not been “redeemed from all iniquity” Titus 2:14 will be destroyed. The curse that sin brought on God’s creation was such that even the heavens and earth must “pass away” to make place for “a new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness” II Peter 3:13. The “heavens and earth” as we know them will “pass away” Revelation 21:1, being burned with “fervent heat” II Peter 3:10. Only those who are “born of God” and thus “washed from sin” Revelation 1:5 will enter the “the new heavens

and the new earth.” At the judgment, everything in which Sin remains will be cast alive into the lake of fire with the devil and all his angels, there to be contained forever, separated from God and His new creation.

The Gospel Case for the KJV Bible

Published July, 2018

If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:” II Corinthians 4:3

I do not believe the Kings James Bible is a perfect translation. Due to this position I have been attacked by more than one “King James Only” person for pointing out weaknesses in the KJV. That being said, I still believe the KJV is the English Bible we should use if we desire the truth of the gospel to be clearly seen by all.

For over a thousand years, during what is known as the “Dark Ages,” the Catholic Church did everything in its power to keep God’s word out of the hands and language of the common man. Yet early in the sixteenth century, a Catholic priest named Desiderius Erasmus gathered the available texts and fragments of scriptures, collated and compared them and gave us a complete New Testament in the Greek language. This text, which later became known as the “*textus receptus*,” became God’s instrument in causing the light of His word to break forth upon a world filled with darkness. The “*textus receptus*” was used by Martin Luther to translate his German bible, by William Tyndale for his English New Testament, for the Geneva Bible of 1560, and finally for the KJV of 1611. The enemies of the reformation said, “Erasmus laid the egg, and Luther hatched it.”

“...the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ ...should shine unto them.” II Corinthians 4:4

Satan is the god of this world. He succeeded in bringing the thousand year “dark ages” by taking the word of God away from the common man. The reformation ended that, and with the Bible translated in many languages, came the greatest missionary movement in the history of the world. By the early nineteenth century, many believed we were on a trajectory that within a hundred years, the entire world would be Christian. Satan’s “counter-attack” came in the form of seemingly small changes in an ever increasing number of translations of the scriptures.

“And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.” II Timothy 4:4

The differences between the KJV and many other Bible translations seem to be insignificant, but the slightest curve from the plumb line of truth Amos 7:8 will eventually take all who follow it to a terrible place they had no intention of going. An example of what I say is found in Paul’s epistle to the Corinthians. The KJV says, *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us **which are saved** it is the power of God”* I Corinthians 1:18. Many of the Bibles used today, including the NKJV, say, *“...unto us **which are being saved**...,”* which presents a salvation in progress, instead of the finished work of Christ on the cross for all who believe.

Another example of the corruption of the scripture is found in the translation of I John 3:9. The KJV rightfully translates the phrase *“Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**...”* but many versions translate this to say *“...**do not practice sin**.”* “Commit” comes from the Greek word “poieo.” “Poieo” means *“to make or do”* and refers to a single act. If John wanted to say *“practice”* he would have used the Greek word “prasso” which means *“perform repeatedly or habitually.”* The difference between these words is like the difference in “night and day.” A person does not have to kill more than once before they are a murderer. Neither must one rape multiple victims before they are a rapist. A person who lies once will lie again. A person who cheats once will cheat again. These are things that those who abide in Christ simply DO NOT DO, because they “CANNOT do them!” I John 3:9.

Many of the Bibles used today are philosophical in nature. In a philosophical gospel, neither Christ, His death, His shed blood, nor His resurrection are sufficient of themselves. Salvation is presented as a process, as is sanctification. To those who believe the revisions, we are *“being sanctified”*, but the KJV says we *“are sanctified”* Hebrews 10:10 through the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary. To the revisionist, the gospel of Christ is never enough. It must be supplemented by keeping principles and following step plans, because there is no power in the gospel they preach to make a “new creation in Christ.” To these, if you believe Christ died to *“take away the sin of the world”* John 1:29, I John 3:5, and you “sin no more” John 8:11, you are condemned as a liar simply because you believe the truth of God’s word.

At the turn of the 20th century, the church stood at the precipice of winning the entire world for Christ. The “sanctified revival,” which had swept the world for 150 years was being approved by a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God upon those who were sanctified. The “Wales revival,” Topeka Kansas, North Carolina, “Azusa Street,” across the nation and around the world, a second “Day of Pentecost” was happening. In the middle of the twentieth century, the revisionist bibles took the place of the KJV. Less than seventy years later, we have a “church” that proudly proclaims, “We are all sinners,” ...and it has become true. Some statistics show 68% of men in the churches are on pornography along with 54% of the pastors. This is the direct result of believing those revised scriptures that have *“hidden the gospel to them that are lost”* II Corinthians 4:3. We desperately need revival, another “reformation,” a “great awakening,” but it cannot come through the present belief system of the church. **I urge you who** are hungry to *“know the truth”* which will *“make you free,”* to get a King James Version of the bible and study it diligently along with an original Strong’s Concordance and much prayer.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” Colossians 2:8.

Man of Sin Revealed

Published August, 2018

The apostle Paul was straightforward and clear. Jesus Christ will not come before *“the man of sin is revealed!”* It is important to note that the apostle Paul did not speak of the “arising” of the man of sin, but of his “revealing.” The Greek word Paul used for “revealed” means to *“take off the cover.”* The “man of sin” has been *“sitting in the temple of God, as God”* for most of the time since the apostles were *“taken out of the way.”* Paul said in his day, *“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (hinders) will let (hinder), until he be taken out of the way”* II Thessalonians 2:7. It was Paul, Peter, John, and the other eyewitness apostles who hindered the antichrist spirit in their day.

The apostle John is the only writer in the Bible who uses the term “antichrist.” About 20 years after the death of Peter and Paul, John wrote, *“...as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are **there many antichrists**”* I John 2:18. Notice he was not speaking of political leaders, but false teachers, false prophets, and false apostles. John, when warning against false prophets, said *“...this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and **even now already is it in the world**”* I John 4:1-4.

Certainly there have been political leaders who were of the spirit of antichrist. Yet more dangerous, however, are those with the spirit of antichrist who are working in the church. It is not a man who will declare himself to be god in some future “temple;” it is our adversary, the devil, who is called Satan and that old serpent. Isaiah revealed him to be “Lucifer,” the “shining one.” Lucifer had been God’s *“anointed cherub that covereth”* Ezekiel 28:14, of whom God said, *“thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee”* Ezekiel 28:15. The prophet Isaiah revealed the “iniquity” that was in Lucifer. *“...thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God: **I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north**”* Isaiah 14:13.

Notice the words of Lucifer, *“I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation....”* That is where the Temple of God was located. Yet

from the moment Christ died on the cross *“to make an end of sins”* Daniel 9:24 the “temple in Jerusalem” has never again been “The Temple of God.” The apostle Paul speaks of the church which Christ built as the temple of God, saying, *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God...?”* I Corinthians 3:16; *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...?”* I Corinthians 6:19, and *“...ye are the temple of God”* II Corinthians 6:16. The ambition of Lucifer was never to be “the god of the drug house;” his ambition is to be “god in the church” and to receive the worship of the people.

Our text says he *“...exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God”* II Thessalonians 2:4. That is exactly what Lucifer said he would do. He succeeded in leading the church into “the dark ages,” which were brought to an end only when men of God began to once again preach the gospel of Christ. Today, we are living in the prophetic time of *“the false prophet.”* Exactly as “antichrist” is not one individual, but many with the “spirit of antichrist,” so “the false prophet” is not one, but many with a “false anointing.” Jesus gave the sign of *“great tribulation”* Matthew 24:21 when He said, *“For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect”* Matthew 24:24. It is happening all around us.

In 1994 I saw a vision of a famous preacher who continually twisted the scriptures to exalt and enrich himself from the offerings of God’s people. In the vision, I challenged the man with the simple words, **“but the scripture says.”** At first he ridiculed me as a “nothing,” but I continued, with the bible open in my hand, to say “but the scripture says.” Soon, when he could no longer deny the scriptures, he fled into a dark alley and took refuge in a manhole. At the end of the vision, I saw the man standing waste deep in sewer, as a drunk man pouring sewer over his head with his hands, and laughing uncontrollably. A short time later, when I first saw the “laughing revival,” I knew where it had come from. Since that time, the “fad revivals” have become increasingly demonic in nature, while being promoted as “the great endtime revival.” Gone are the great gospel hymns of the past. Gone is the powerful preaching of *“Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.”* In their place has arisen what God calls *“...the*

noise of thy songs” Amos 5:23, a cultural gospel, and a “new spirituality” that is often more “Hindu” than “Christian. The truth has *“fallen in the streets”* Isaiah 59:14, with none to *“plead for the truth”* Isaiah 59:4. This “new wave” will continue to devour our youth and our nation until such time as those men and women who know the truth and are willing to be ridiculed as “nothings” II Corinthians 12:11, begin to challenge the lie with the truth, saying exactly what God says in the scripture. When this happens, the “strongholds of the enemy” will fall, and the “imaginations of men” will be “cast down” II Corinthians 10:11. These cannot stand before the man or woman who knows the truth and is willing to confront the lie with “...but the scripture says.”

Born of God

Published September, 2018

Nicodemus was a good man and a religious teacher in Israel, but Jesus said to him, *“you must be born again”* John 3:1-7. In fact, without being born again, none of us can either “see” or “enter” the kingdom of God. This new birth is our entrance into the family of God where we abide in Christ. Peter established that we are *“born again”* of an *“incorruptible seed”* I Peter 1:23 through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:3. This incorruptible seed is the eternal *“Word”* which was *“in the beginning with God...”* John 1:1 and was *“made flesh”* in the person of Jesus Christ. It is the Apostle John, however, who tells us the most concerning how we can know whether we are *“born of God.”* He gives six ways anyone can recognize a child of God. We will look at these one at a time.

1: *“If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him”* I John 2:29.

John gives a qualifying statement along with almost every claim he makes concerning those who are *“born of God.”* In the first statement, *“everyone that doeth righteousness is born of Him,”* the qualifying statement is *“If you know that He (God) is righteous.”* The word *“righteous”* does not define what God is, but “what God is” defines righteousness. Even a single act of “the righteousness

that God is” proves a person is “born of God,” and Christ is living in them Galatians 2:20. God is the only source of this kind of righteousness.

2: “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...” I John 3:9.

Certainly John’s words are direct and very clear in their meaning. His qualifying statement follows in the same verse: “...*for His seed remaineth in Him: and he cannot sin because he is born of God.*” The term “*His seed*” speaks of those who are born of God. David foresaw this “*seed*,” saying, “*A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.*” Psalms 22:30-31. The children of God are “*His seed*,” and they “*abide in Christ.*” John said, “*Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not*” I John 3:6. The apostle confirms this again as he concludes his epistle, saying, “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not...*” I John 5:18. Again, the only qualifying statement that can be given for those who do not sin is they are “*born of God.*”

3: “...every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.”

I John 4:7

John’s qualifying statement for this verse is found in the next verse; “*God is love.*” Again, “*love*” does not define what God is, but “*what God is*” defines love. Human love does not qualify. Paul tells us that if he did not have “*the love that God is*,” he could bestow all his goods to feed the poor, and give his body to be burned, yet it would profit him nothing. I Corinthians 13:3. Human love could cause us to give our life to save a friend, but “*the love that God is*” caused Jesus Christ to give His life to save His enemies Romans 5:7-8, and Stephen to forgive those who stoned him to death. Acts 7:59-60.

4: “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God....”

I John 5:1

God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell of the coming of “*The Christ.*” into the world. He foretold His mission would be “*...to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24. He would be “*cut off, but not for Himself (rejected and crucified)*” Daniel 9:26. We profess to believe “*Jesus is the Christ*” and that He “*made reconciliation for iniquity*,” but do we believe

Jesus “*made an end of sins*” through His death on the cross? Consider this carefully. If Christ’s mission was to “*make an end of sins*,” but we do not believe Jesus made “*an end of sins*,” how can we say we believe Jesus IS the Christ? To go through life proclaiming “We are all sinners” is to deny that Jesus is “The Christ” which God promised would come into the world. Jesus said, “...*if ye believe not that I am he (the Christ), ye shall die in your sins.*” John 8:24.

5: “*For whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world...*” 1 John 5:4.

The word “*whatsoever*” was translated from the Greek word “*pas*,” which was translated “*whosoever*” in verse one. The “qualifying statement” for those who “overcome the world” is in this same verse; they are “*born of God.*” The definition of “*pas*” is “*all, any, every, the whole*” Strong’s Greek Dictionary. There can be no exceptions; everyone who is “*born of God, overcometh the world.*”

While many in the modern church are offended by these statements made by the apostle John, he actually wrote these things to confirm those who are born of God. He said “*These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...*” 1 John 5:13. Again he says, “*These things write we unto you, that (in order that) your joy may be full*” 1 John 1:4. If we believe the things John wrote in his epistle, we will overflow with the joy of “knowing Christ.”

The “Sound from Heaven”

Published October, 2018

“...*suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind...*” Acts 2:2

A “new wave” of carnality is crashing upon the shores of the nations. Strangely, it is coming in the guise of “spirituality” to deceive the masses of people who believe and trust in those who perpetrate the error. I speak of a “new method” which is being taught to receive “the baptism with the Holy Ghost.” This is a method that seems to have swept into the ministries across America before I was aware of

it. It is the idea that a “believer” can receive the Holy Spirit of God simply by repeating the sounds and/or words they hear inside. This is not an issue I can deal with gracefully. If it would cost me everything, I must speak out. We saw the horrible end result of the “charismatic revival” of the past which taught the people they could “learn how” to “speak in tongues.” Reflecting off of the error of “repeating words” given to them by a minister, the new teaching is that God will “give you words to repeat.” We are told these “words,” which a person might hear in their “heart,” are the “sound from heaven” which came as a “rushing, mighty wind” on the Day of Pentecost.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost...” Matthew 3:11

A minister, man or woman, can baptize you with water, but only Jesus, the Christ of eternity, can baptize you with the Holy Ghost. A common error is to believe we can “receive the Spirit by faith,” exactly as we “received salvation by faith.” This is not true. Only those things which were finished through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can be “received by faith.” These include justification and sanctification, which are both works of the cross and blood of Jesus Christ. These we receive immediately “by grace, through faith” Ephesians 2:8. The ministry to “baptize with the Holy Ghost” belongs to Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who sits at the right hand of the Father, and it is not a “finished work” to be received “by faith.” To “repeat words” and believe you have received the Holy Spirit is as dangerous as “eating rat poison,” and believing it is only “powdered sugar.” Those who do this become locked into a carnality from which few ever escape.

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” Acts 2:4

The great error which is being perpetuated on the people is made through twisting the meaning of the word “utterance.” Notice it was “the Spirit” who “gave them utterance.” I heard a famous faith teacher of the last generation say the word “utterance” means “the desire to speak.” He said if you have the “desire” to “speak in tongues” you can do it. Just “practice” until you “develop your

language.” More recently another prominent minister said the “utterance” the Spirit gives is in the form of “words” which you hear inside and repeat in faith. Both of these are far from the truth.

The definition of “utterance” as given by “Strong’s Greek Concordance” is “to enunciate plainly.” To “enunciate” means “to pronounce, articulate,” and to “articulate” means “to produce or make speech sounds” American Heritage Dictionary. It is the Holy Spirit of God Almighty who “gives utterance” when He comes into a purified vessel Acts 15:8-9. He “enunciates plainly;” He “pronounces and articulates;” it is He who “produces and makes speech sounds.” He uses our breath, our vocal cords, our mouth, our lips, and our tongue, but it is “He” who forms the words we speak. The one who is baptized with the Holy Ghost is most often so overwhelmed with the experience, they often do not realize they are speaking in other languages. No one can be filled with the Spirit of God Almighty and not be broken, shaken, and overwhelmed with love and joy.

A businessman recently told my son, “I went to a revival meeting and received the Holy Ghost, but there wasn’t much to it.” Keith ignored the last comment and began telling him about the wonderful works of the Spirit he had experienced firsthand. After a few minutes the man said to Keith, “I didn’t receive the Holy Ghost, did I?” This man was deceived by a minister who wanted nothing more than what the apostle Paul called “a fair show in the flesh” Galatians 6:12.

“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” Acts 15:8-9

Salvation is for sinners, the ungodly, and for the enemies of God who will hear and believe the gospel. Thus salvation is “*by grace, through faith*” Ephesians 2:8. The Baptism with the Holy Ghost, however, is only for those whose hearts have been purified by the blood of Jesus. God, who “knows the hearts,” bore witness of Cornelius that his “heart” had been “purified by faith,” and gave Him the Holy Ghost exactly as he did the hundred and twenty disciples on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit of God did not come into Cornelius to “help him overcome sin;” instead, the Holy Ghost “fell” on him because the blood of Jesus Christ had “washed

his sin away.” He was a “... vessel of honor, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use...” and now, being full of the Holy Ghost, he was “...prepared unto every good work” II Timothy 2:21. We should understand, Cornelius was a lost man when Peter came into his house, but he received “full salvation (washed, sanctified, justified I Corinthians 6:11)” in the moment he heard and believed, and “while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word” Acts 10:44.

Another trap for the people of God is the continual urging by others to “pray in your prayer language.” If you have received the baptism which Jesus gives, you cannot speak in tongues at your will. Only when the Spirit of God comes upon you and gives utterance through you can you speak or pray in tongues. If you follow those who urge you to speak at your will without the Spirit of God upon you, you will end up with a “prayer language,” but without the presence of God. Do not seek to pray in tongues! Instead, worship God and rejoice in Jesus until the Spirit of God comes upon you to the extent you can no longer speak in your native language. At this point, you will be edified by the free flow of the Spirit of God through your entire being.

Sinners in Zion

Published November, 2018

“The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?” Isaiah 33:14.

The words “everlasting burnings” identify what Isaiah speaks of. It is such a horrible prospect that he waited until the last verse of his writings to tell us about it. He wrote, “And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh” Isaiah 66:24.

Jesus said it would be exactly as Isaiah described. He quoted Isaiah three times in only six verses, warning his twelve disciples against

that place, *“Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched”* Mark 9:43-48. This is “the lake of fire” which John speaks of five times in his book of Revelation. He describes it as a place where the wicked shall be *“tormented day and night for ever and ever”* Revelation 14:11, 20:10. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* II Corinthians 5:10. It is commonly taught that those who “believe in Jesus” will never be judged for their sins; that this judgment is only to “judge our works to determine our rewards.” Someone should have informed the apostle Paul. He said in the next verse, *“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”* II Corinthians 5:11.

Paul did not fear for himself, but he was “terrified” for the sake of the Corinthian church, which was both “carnal” I Corinthians 3:3 and “lascivious” I Corinthians 5:1. They thought they were very spiritual, possessing many spiritual gifts. They prophesied and did many wonderful works, all “in the name of Jesus,” but they were among those to whom Jesus would say at the judgment seat of Christ, *“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* Matthew 7:22-23. The discovery that they have been lied to by their teachers is why Isaiah said the “sinners in Zion” would be “afraid” and “surprised” by fear when they stand before Christ at His judgment. It will be too late for them to believe the truth which Jesus said would “make you free” John 8:32. They came expecting to hear “Well done...,” but they heard “Depart from me into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” Matthew 25:41.

One of the most prevalent teachings of the modern church is “We are all sinners.” This may appear to be true because statistics say 68% of men in the churches regularly view pornography, along with 54% of their pastors. Recent studies show those numbers are increasing rapidly, because they are told it is merely a “chemical imbalance,” and not a “sin.” But we are NOT all sinners. God still has his people who have been washed from their sins through the blood of Christ. I recently came across an article from several years ago that spoke of “forty years that changed the world.” It is an undeniable fact that “the world” was changed during those forty years from 1975 through 2015, but sadly, it was for worse. Today, in the midst of a nation that is terribly divided, we have an

opportunity to see a great harvest of souls, but it cannot come through those who believe “we are all sinners.” If it is true we are “all sinners,” it is also true that we are “all lost.” One of the evangelists from the great sanctified revival of the nineteenth century said the revival did not begin with the “sinners” in the world. The men of God preached against sin until the members of the church ran into the altars, crying to God in repentance. Only then did the sinner in the world want Jesus Christ. Jonathan Edwards preached the message “Sinners in the hands of an angry God.” He painted a picture of sinners hanging over the fires of hell, supported by only a rotten cord, which could break at any time. It was in the churches that men fell out of their seats onto the floor, crying, “My God, Mr. Edwards, what can we do?”...and revival came. If Jesus Christ were to return today, it would be the greatest of all calamities for “the church” of this generation. It is no wonder Peter said, *“Judgment must begin at the house of God”* 1 Peter 4:17. It began in the temple when Jesus drove the “money changers” out, calling them “a den of thieves” Matthew 21:13. The “big business” of Christian religion began a little over forty years ago. The lust for money became the driving force for many preachers. Their multi-million dollar houses and their private jets will be a witness against them in the Day of Judgment. They refused to preach against sin because it might offend the people. Instead, they chose to offend God almighty and His Son, Jesus Christ. Their doctrines have deceived untold millions of people into believing sin doesn’t matter. I call your attention to something Jesus said in the parable of the foolish virgins. When they were not ready “with oil in their lamps,” they were told by those who had oil, “go to them that sell” Matthew 25:9. They had trusted in “them that sell” in the past, see if they could help them now. They went, and they spent their money, probably on another sensational, must-have book, but they were not ready when the bridegroom came. They knew about the “hidden mysteries,” but they knew nothing about “the Christ” and why He suffered the cross. They thought they were “covered by the blood,” but discovered too late, they were never “washed from their sins” Revelation 1:5,

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend

money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live.”

Isaiah 55:1-3

Satan's Stronghold

Published December, 2018

Satan is a master theologian. His knowledge of the scriptures is beyond question, and his ability to twist them into something different is unmatched. The apostle Paul warned against those who were “...*false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming themselves** into the apostles of Christ*” II Corinthians 11:13. “*And no marvel; for **Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light***” II Corinthians 11:14. Paul warned the Galatians, “*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 would pervert the gospel of Christ*” Galatians 1:6-7. Before the first generation of the church ended, Jude gave his warning concerning how men were already twisting the gospel message: “...*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...*” Jude 1:4. It is in this perverted understanding of grace that Satan successfully holds millions of sincere people in bondage to sin, even though they “*believe in Jesus.*” Sadly, this view of grace is perpetuated continually from the pulpits of many churches with the saying, “*We are all sinners! We sin every day.*” How can we account ourselves to be sinners when the apostle Paul said “*reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord?*” Romans 6:11,

If we are “*all sinners*” we are “*all lost,*” because Christ did not leave those in sin, who trust in Him. Jesus told some Jews, “*If you **believe not that I am He**, you shall die in your sins*” John 8:24. During the same day, He told the same Jews, “...*you shall **know the truth**, and the truth shall make you*

free (from sin)” John 8:32. The “truth” which we must know is who the “He” is, of whom Jesus said “I am He.”

Many people attempt to twist these words (*I am HE*) into proving certain “godhead doctrines.” In doing so, they blind themselves and others to the power and truth of what Jesus was saying. He was referring to those who refused to believe that he was in fact the Messiah (the Christ) who was prophesied to come in their generation.

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness....” Daniel 9:24 KJV

God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell him about one called **“the Messiah the Prince,”** who would come into the world *“to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins...”* Daniel 9:24-27. The date of his coming was established as the same year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus of Nazareth at John’s baptism verse 25, which allowed Him seven years (the seventieth week) to accomplish what He came into the world to do verse 25. Verse 26 says the Messiah would be *“cut off, but not for himself,”* and verse 27 shows this would happen in the exact middle of the seven years. His death would be the perfect sacrifice He would offer to end all sacrifices, and thus *“confirm the covenant”* which God gave to Abraham when he offered his son, Isaac Genesis 22:16-18, Galatians 3:17. This *“Messiah the Prince”* is the *“He”* which Jesus spoke of when He said, *“If you believe not that I am He, you shall die in your sins”* John 8:24. The apostle John said, *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah the Prince) is born of God”* I John 5:1.

“...he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” I John 5:10

The record God gave of His Son was given through the prophets hundreds and even thousands of years before Jesus was born to Mary. The “record” says He would *“bruise the head of the serpent”* Genesis 3:15 and *“make an end of sins”* Daniel 9:24, which is exactly what Christ came into the world to do. John the Baptist said He is *“the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. The apostle John gives witness, saying, *“We know He was manifested to take away our sins...”* I John 3:5. The apostle Paul said Christ partook

of flesh “...that through death, he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” Hebrews 2:14. These are the things the prophets said he would do. These things are the reason He who was “with God and was God” John 1:1, became a man to die on the cross Hebrews 2:9. He came, He lived, He died, and He rose again.

There can be no doubt that Christ accomplished what He came to do. The Apostle John said, “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not*” I John 5:18. He also said, “...whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not” I John 3:6, “Whosoever is born of God doeth not commit sin...” I John 3:9, and “Whatsoever (whosoever) is born of God overcometh the world” I John 5:4. The apostle Paul said, “*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness*” Romans 6:18, and “...**being made free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” Romans 6:22. All these passages confirm that Christ accomplished for us exactly what the prophets declared that he would do.

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” Colossians 2:8

Philosophy is the great enemy of the gospel of Christ. To the philosophical preacher, Christ alone is never enough. In fact, they believe you cannot make it without their philosophy. They are the propagators of the great deception, that we are “all sinners” who have been forgiven our sins “past, present, and future,” before we commit them. Their “philosophy” denies the possibility of a believer being “*made free from sin*” by the atonement of Christ, and thus they deny “...the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” Jude 1:4. They refuse to preach “*Christ-crucified...the power of God and the wisdom of God,*” thus they become the agents of Satan to hold the people in bondage to sin with their vain words. This is “Satan’s Stronghold” in the modern church, from which only “the truth” can “make you free” John 8:32-36.

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