

Behold  The Lamb
Publications

Rocks in a Pond

Volume IV

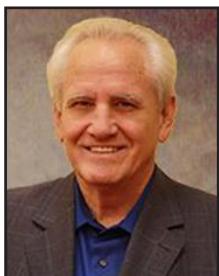
by Leroy Surface

Rocks in a Pond - IV

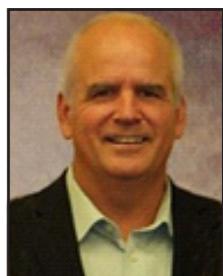
I had preached against sin for many years without understanding the answer for the sin problem that is in the heart of mankind. I looked in vain to others whom I thought surely understood the answer, but soon discovered they were also striving against sin without an answer. I knew some powerful “prophets” who could describe the problem with America and the “church” to perfection, but they also were soon proven to be groping in the dark with no answer. From the best of them, I heard “*repent more...pray more...fast more,*” but no answer beyond that. A little over 30 years ago, I began a desperate search for the answer to the sin problem in my own heart, and I found it in the blood of Jesus Christ; “*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*” Hebrews 9:14. The “light” of that scripture purged sin from my heart in a moment of time. Soon after that experience, God began telling me, “*Say what I say,*” which I understood to mean I should say exactly what He said through the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament Apostles concerning Jesus Christ. I soon discovered that what God says and what the modern church believes are actually opposites. Within a year, God spoke to me in a vision and said to me, ““**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.**” Even so, it was several years before I discovered the “rock” I was to throw. Peter said to Jesus, “**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God**” Matthew 16:16. Jesus said to Peter, “**upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**” Matthew 16:18.

The Apostle John said, “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*” 1 John 5:1. He also said, “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not*” 1 John 5:18. The Apostle Paul called it “*The Gospel of Christ,*” and with it he “*turned the world upside down*” Acts 17:6. That same “gospel,” if believed and preached by the church today will certainly do the same. This “gospel,” that “Jesus is the Christ,” is the rock we throw.

According to the promise which God gave if we would “*say what He says,*” the “ripples” from the rock we throw have reached into 150 nations of the world, and many around the world have been “*made free from sin*” Romans 6:22 to serve the living God. These are beginning to preach that same “truth” which Jesus said “*will make you free*” John 8:32, and you shall be “*free indeed.*”



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

“Rocks in a Pond”

Volume IV

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They cannot cease from sin!

Published January 2019

“Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:” II Peter 2:14

The apostle Peter describes some very wretched people in his epistle whom he says “*cannot cease from sin.*” He spoke of them, “*as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed...*” II Peter 2:12, who will receive the same eternal reward “*...as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time*” II Peter 2:13. In other words, these people, whoever they are, are no better before God than those who would stick a gun in your back and take your wallet, or those who riot in the streets, break store windows and haul off the “loot.” The secular world would call them “confidence men,” but Peter identified them as false teachers and false prophets. Those who trust in them always come out a “loser” in the end. Their target is the elderly and those whom Peter called “*unstable souls*” II Peter 2:14. Peter described their method of enriching themselves at the detriment of others in this way: “*...through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you*” II Peter 2:3. These lay awake at nights plotting their next scheme to get more money from those who trust in their lies. Peter said, “*an heart they have exercised with covetous practices*” II Peter 2:14.

For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.” II Peter 2:18

These seem to be natural leaders who have great persuasive powers over people. Through their “*damnable heresies*” they are “*bringing on themselves swift destruction*” II Peter 2:1, and Peter said, “*...many shall follow their pernicious ways*” II Peter 2:2. Jesus explained “*pernicious ways* (ways of destruction)” when He said,

*“... wide is the gate, and broad is the way, **that leadeth to destruction**, and many there be which go in therat”* Matthew 7:13.

These wretched creatures have chosen the “wide gate” and the “broad way” for themselves, but multitudes are following them to their own destruction. Considering the wretchedness of these and the detail with which Peter describes them, perhaps the best identifying label for these is **“those who cannot cease from sin.”**

As astounding as it is to consider that Peter warned of a group of people who *“cannot cease from sin,”* it may be even more shocking to consider that the apostle John speaks of another group whom he says *“cannot sin.”* Isn’t this amazing that from these two apostles we discover two distinct groups of people? The identifying mark of the one is **“they cannot cease from sin,”** but the other is identified as those who **“cannot sin.”** Now here is the problem we face in this discovery; every person on earth fits in one of these two groups. While it is true that not every sinner is as wretched in their ways as those described by Peter, it is also true that there has never been a “sinner” who could “cease from sin.” The reason John gave for those whom he said *“cannot sin”* is *“because they are born of God”* I John 3:9. He didn’t say it only once, however, but repeatedly: *“...whosoever abideth in Him (Christ) sinneth not”* I John 3:6; *“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...”* I John 3:9; and *“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not...”* I John 3:18.

When a pastor friend heard me preach on “Freedom from Sin,” he said, “I don’t sin, but I can sin!” I told him, “A person can only do what is in their heart to do.” If a sin is not in your heart, you cannot commit it. There are many who have been caught up in the mantra, “We are all sinners” who perhaps are not themselves sinners, but one thing is certain: Those whom the precious blood of Christ has purified their heart when they first trusted in Him, CANNOT continue in sin.

My question for everyone who reads this message is, “which of these are you?” Are you of those Peter spoke of who *“cannot cease from sin?”* Or, are you of those John spoke of who *“cannot sin?”* In a “church age” that constantly chants, *“We are all*

sinners; we sin every day...,” where do you fit? Many people say, “*We are all sinners,*” but somehow believe they can “cease from sin.” Those who believe they can cease from sin and have not ceased are twice guilty, obviously of “willful sin” Hebrews 10:26.

The fact is, however, no “sinner” can cease from sin, but there is “good news.” Christ, the creator of heaven and earth became a man to die on a cross to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. The Prophet Daniel said, “*The Christ* would “...make an end of sins...make reconciliation for iniquity...and bring in everlasting righteousness” Daniel 9:24-27. If you know you are a sinner and “*cannot cease from sin;*” if you know “*the wages of sin is death*” Romans 6:23; and if you know you are “lost” because of sin, there is good news for you. Jesus Christ died on the cross, not just to “forgive you” and leave you in a struggle with sin, but He died to “*make you free from sin*” Romans 6:18 and fill you with His life and righteousness. Jesus said, “*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” John 8:31-32. Turn your heart to see Jesus Christ, who “*loved you, and gave Himself for you*” Galatians 2:20. He will “*take your sin away.*”

The Record God Gave

Published February 2019

I was in a desperate search for the answer for the sin problem that is in the heart and nature of everyone who is born into this world. After three years of prayerful study of the scriptures, I found the answer in these words of Paul to the Hebrews.

“If the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Hebrews 9:13-14

If the blood of animals could ceremonially purify the outward flesh of a person, so much more would the blood of Christ purify the heart of everyone who would believe and trust in Him! My research of the scripture revealed the definition of “*conscience*” in this verse to be “*the innermost thoughts and imaginations of a person.*” I almost shouted, “*That’s my problem; not what I am doing, but what is in my thoughts and imaginations.*” The light of why Christ shed His precious blood on the cross burst through the darkness of my mind into my heart, and the filthiness of my imaginations turned off like a faucet. My heart was purified in a moment of time that day over twenty-five years ago.

I made a lot of people angry with my testimony; “*God doesn’t do that,*” was a common response. “*No one can be ‘free’ from sin.*” The first time I said to a good friend and man of God, “*Jesus didn’t take the penalty for our sins,*” I thought he would pass out. It’s true, Jesus did not take our penalty, punishment, or pay our debt. Instead, He died on the cross “*to take away our sin*” John 1:29, and thus “*purify our heart*” Acts 15:9. Yet in spite of all the scriptural evidence, I found myself in a continual argument against over five-hundred years of traditional teaching in the church. Finally one day I understood the scripture where the apostle John spoke of “*the record God gave:*”

“He that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” 1 John 3:10

It’s one thing to argue with another person about why Christ died for us. Most people have no problem even disputing the record of Paul, who spoke of “*crucified with Christ*” and “*freed from sin*” Romans 6:6-7, 18, 22, or the apostle John, who gave his record of Christ, “*...He was manifested to take away our sins...whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not...*” 1 John 3:5-6. Jesus told the Jews in His day, “*Had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me*” John 5:46. I understand very well that if the people do not believe the apostles Paul and John, they will never believe me. Today I understand that my job is to preach “*the record that God gave of His Son,*” and let God deal with those who hear.

“I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” Isaiah 46:9-10

God does not wait until after the fact to tell us what has happened; instead, He tells the entire world what He will do, and He does it in due time. For example, “*the record of His Son*” began the first day sin entered into the world through the disobedience of Adam, when God spoke of “*the seed of the Woman,*” who would “*bruise the head of the serpent*” Genesis 3:15. About thirty-three-hundred years later, God revealed a little more about this “*seed of the woman,*” saying, “*Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us)*” Isaiah 7:14. The “*seed of the woman*” would also be “*the Son of God*” Luke 1:35, and would be “*born of a virgin*” Matthew 1:23.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace...” Isaiah 9:6.

Isaiah speaks of the birth of Immanuel. He later speaks of His death; “*His visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: So shall he sprinkle many nations...*” Isaiah 52:14-15. “*He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed*” Isaiah 53:5.

The angel Gabriel told Joseph, “*thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*” Matthew 1:21. To the shepherds in the field, Gabriel said, “*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord*” Luke 2:11. “*Immanuel,*” which means “*God with us,*” is more commonly known as “*Christ, the Lord.*” Over five hundred years before the birth of Christ, God sent the angel Gabriel to foretell His coming into the world. The wonderful good news to Daniel was, Christ would “*...make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness...*” Daniel 9:24-25.

We know Christ died on the cross to make reconciliation for lost humanity. It was through His death on the cross that He also “bruised the head of the serpent” Genesis 3:15, “destroyed the devil” Hebrews 2:15, “destroyed the works of the devil” I John 3:8, “took away the sin of the world” John 1:29, I John 3:5, and “made an end of sins” Daniel 9:24. All the things Christ did through His death on the cross could never be contained in books written by man John 21:25, but Jesus rose again the third day and sits at the right hand of His Father in heaven to freely give these things to those who “believe the truth” and “trust in Him.” The “truth” we must believe is “*the record that God gave of His Son.*” It makes those who believe it “free from sin,” and “*free indeed*” John 8:32-36.

Comforting Sinners

Published March 2019

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD. They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.” Jeremiah 23:16-17

It is a sad day in the church when the emphasis of ministry changes from “saving sinners from their sin,” to “comforting sinners in their sin.” This is the case when the simplicity of Christ is no longer the message of the church. The apostle Paul warned against those who preach a philosophical gospel, because the only answer they have is based on “traditions of men” and “the orderly arrangements (rudiments) of the world” Colossians 2:8, and not “*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*” I Corinthians 2:2.

Nothing will change for the modern church until “something changes.” Does that seem strange to hear? When Jesus came into Galilee, He preached to the Jews in that region, “*Repent ye, and believe the gospel.*” The Greek word which was translated

“repent” actually means “to think differently.” His message to devout Jews was “change your mind and believe the gospel.” The church and the individual will never see any change in the sin problem, which only increases with time, if they do not “*change their mind and believe the gospel.*” It is almost universal in the churches today to believe, “*We are all sinners...we sin every day.*” That is only true in those places where the simplicity of Christ is not preached as the only answer to the sin problem. I see an endless flow of books and religious articles written to help “believers” overcome their addictions to everything from drugs, alcohol, pornography, and gambling, to how to manage their anger and abusive behavior. Perhaps these writings have a place in the wisdom of the world, but certainly not in the church of Jesus Christ. God has given but one answer for these “sin problems,” which is the death of His beloved Son, whose holy blood was shed for our sanctification Hebrews 13:8.

“*...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*” I John 1:7

The blood of Christ cleanses from all sin, but will never cover sin. The blood of animals, which were offered for a “covering,” could not cover sin if they were not offered in “godly sorrow.” David said, “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise*” Psalms 51:17. The prophet Isaiah said, “*He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations*”

Isaiah 66:3.

“*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron ...*” I Timothy 4:1-2

In every place of worship where a minister is compelled to continually tell the people, “We are all sinners; we sin

everyday...,” you can know that “seducing spirits” are at work to bring this “doctrine of the devil” into the thinking of the congregation. Those who submit themselves to listen to this “lie” are “*having their conscience seared with a hot iron,*” with the result that not even the Holy Ghost can convict them of sin. If you are a sincere believer who is also terrified by the thought of sin remaining in your heart, you are blessed, because your conscience has not yet been seared. The Spirit of God can use that “terror” II Corinthians 5:11 in your heart to bring you to godly sorrow, which also brings “*repentance unto salvation not to be repented of*” II Corinthians 7:10. According to Jesus, the same Spirit that convicts a sinner of sin, also convinces them of righteousness and justice John 16:8-11, if they will believe and trust in Him who “*loved us and gave Himself for us*” Galatians 2:20. He suffered and died on the cross to “*take away our sin*” I John 3:5.

“*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world...*”

Romans 5:12

None of us were sinners by choice. We were born with sin polluting our heart and nature. We were not sinners because we sinned, but we sinned because we were sinners. Traditional theology teaches that “justice” demanded punishment for sin, and Jesus died to take our punishment. That is a foolish concept of a god that is not “just.” Our God is just, and “justice” demanded our redemption from sin. Adam was the offender Romans 5:18, and we, the descendants of Adam were the victims of sin who would suffer eternal damnation if there was not a “*second man*” I Corinthians 15:47 to undo what the first man did. In the justice of God, He sent Christ to be that “*second man*,” that through His death He would “*destroy the devil*” Hebrews 2:14, and “*reconcile us to God*” Romans 5:10. God “*so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son*” John 3:16, and Christ so loved us that He “*washed us from our sins in his own blood*” Revelation 1:5. We are “*saved by grace*,” and thank God, we who are saved by grace are no longer sinners. We cannot save ourselves, but if we know... **1.**Who Christ is John 1:2; **2.**That He came into the world “*to make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24; **3.**And He died on the cross to make those who believe and trust

in Him, “*free from sin*” Romans 6:18, 22, thank God, we are “*free indeed!*” John 8:36. Let the rejoicing begin.

“*For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*”

Romans 5:19

Passover and Pentecost

Published April 2019

When we think of “The Passover,” our minds go to the lamb that was slain in Egypt, whose blood, sprinkled on the doorpost of their house, saved every Hebrew family from the wrath of God against Egypt in the night the death angel passed through the land. When we think of “Pentecost,” however, our minds go to the hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus who were filled with the Holy Ghost on “The Day of Pentecost.” We may be unaware of the fact that between the “Passover” in Egypt and the “Day of Pentecost” in the book of Acts, there had been almost 1500 “Passovers” celebrated, every one of them followed by an uneventful “Day of Pentecost.” Why was “the Day of Pentecost” in the book of Acts different from the many hundreds that had come before? ^{Acts 2:1-4} The answer is found in “the blood” of the Passover lamb.

The blood of the Passover lamb which was offered in Egypt was sufficient to deliver the people from the bondage of Pharaoh in Egypt, but it could not save them from the bondage of sin in their heart and nature. Fifty days after the Passover, which is the definition of “Pentecost,” the children of Israel stood at the foot of Mount Sinai to hear the voice of God when He spoke to them. They had the promise, if they would “*obey His voice, and keep His covenant,*” they would be God’s “*peculiar treasure,*” His “*kingdom of priests,*” and His “*holy nation*” Exodus 19:5-6.

A year before this day, God had spoken to Moses out of a “*burning bush,*” and now He would speak to the children of Israel out of a “*burning mountain.*” I believe God’s purpose in bringing

them to Sinai was to pour His Spirit into them exactly as He did the hundred and twenty almost fifteen hundred years later, and they would become His “*kingdom of priests*,” and His “*holy nation*” Exodus 19:6.

Something went horribly wrong that day at Sinai. They refused to even listen to God when He spoke. They cried to Moses, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” Exodus 20:19. They chose to obey Moses if only God would not speak to them again Deuteronomy 5:27. This “choice” gave them “The Law of Moses,” which was imposed upon them as punishment for their refusal to hear God. The apostle Paul confirmed, “*the Law ...was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made*” Galatians 3:19. This was not the will of God for His people, as He said to Moses, “*O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!*” Deuteronomy 5:29. Less than two months later, Aaron, their “*high priest*” under the Law of Moses, fashioned a calf of gold for them to worship, saying, “*These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt*” Exodus 32:3-6.

Each year, for the next 1500 years, the children of Israel offered another “Passover lamb,” and fifty days later, there followed another “Day of Pentecost,” both of which were nothing more than a time of memorial of things past. The young king Josiah offered 30,000 lambs and 3,000 bullocks at what was called the greatest Passover feast ever in Jerusalem, but not one drop of that “river of blood” could cleanse the heart of man. The sole reason the children of Israel could never consistently please God is revealed in the words of the apostle Paul; “*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins*” Hebrews 10:4.

Jesus Christ is “*the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. He is our “*Passover Lamb*” 1 Corinthians 5:7. His “blood” is “holy blood,” which was shed for our sanctification Hebrews 13:12. The hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost

on the Day of Pentecost were those whose hearts had been “*purified*” Acts 15:8-9 by faith in Jesus Christ and His precious blood. These were the first to become God’s “*kingdom of priests*” and “*holy nation*” I Peter 2:9-10.

“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.” Hebrews 10:11-12

Consider the futility of being a priest serving under the Law to offer daily sacrifices which “**can never take away sin.**” Jesus Christ offered “*one sacrifice for sins forever,*” because His blood “*takes away sin*” and “*purifies the heart.*” The problem in the modern church is not in the sacrifice which was offered; it is that the sacrifice is not preached. Consider the futility of preaching for years, a message that cannot deliver those who believe it. God will never, ever, “*pour out of His Spirit*” upon a church whose message is “*We are all sinners, who sin every day.*” For these, Christ died in vain. They will be lost, because they have never trusted in Him who “*loved us, and gave Himself for us*” Galatians 2:20, to “*wash us from our sins in His own blood*” Revelation 1:5.

Many in the modern church are predicting a great last day outpouring of the Spirit. It will never come upon those whose hearts have not been “*purified*” by the washing of the blood of Jesus. God promised the Day of Pentecost, but it was 1500 years before He could send the promise upon the people. It was the holy blood of the Son of God, offered to make the people pure and holy, which made the difference. As long as we “offer” philosophy, principles, step plans, and countless religious “things” that “*can never take away sin,*” there will be no harvest, and no outpouring of the Spirit of God. There is a guarantee of a great “*Pentecost,*” however, when we preach the precious and holy blood of Jesus Christ as the only answer for the sin of man. When the true “*Passover*” is offered, the true “*Pentecost*” follows!

Did God want animal sacrifices?

Published May 2019

“Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come ...to do thy will, O God.” Hebrews 10:5-6

The passage above speaks of when Christ came into the world. This is the “*incarnation*,” when “*The Word*,” who was “*with God*” and who “*was God*,” was “*made flesh, and dwelt among us...*” John 1:1-14. Who would know the attitude of God toward animal sacrifices better than He? The absolute failure of such a system was the reason Christ came. “*A body hast thou prepared me*” speaks of the infant body, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger. This was “*Christ, the Lord from heaven*” Luke 2:11, who was “*come into the world*” both to “*take away the sin of the world,*” and to “*redeem them that were under the law*” Galatians 4:4-5.

The Law of Moses with its sacrifice system was “*imposed upon*” Hebrews 9:10 the children of Israel as punishment for refusing the voice of God at Sinai. As a parent, did you ever have to discipline your child severely, when it had been in your heart to bless them beyond measure? God’s will for the children of Israel, when He brought them out of Egypt, was to make them “*a kingdom of priests*” and “*a holy nation*” if they would simply “*obey His voice*” and “*keep His covenant.*” We can remember their protest to Moses when God began speaking to them from the mountain, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” Exodus 20:19. Out of this sad incident “*the Law of Moses*” was born, and the first commandment to Moses was “*An altar of earth thou shalt make unto me, and shalt sacrifice thereon thy burnt offerings, and thy peace offerings, thy sheep, and thine oxen...*” Exodus 20:24. The children of Israel had agreed to “*obey the voice of Moses*” Deuteronomy 5:27, if only God would not speak to them again. What a poor choice they made! They would have

been blessed beyond measure if they had chosen God instead of Moses. The apostle Paul tells us the Law of Moses “...was added because of transgressions till the seed (the Christ) should come...” Galatians 3:19.

There were those who loved God and “endured His chastisement” Hebrews 12:7, by keeping the commands and ordinances of Moses, and they were blessed by God. Yet there were others who saw the sacrifices as “permission to sin.” As long as they offered another lamb, they believed their sin was covered. As in every age, those who believed God were righteous. Those who thought to “cover their sins” eventually suffered the wrath of God.

God gave a clear record of his feelings concerning animal sacrifices. We see the record in the writings of several of His prophets.

Jeremiah: “*Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh. For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God....*” Jeremiah 7:21-23

Isaiah: “*To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats.*” Isaiah 1:11

“*He that killeth an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrificeth a lamb, as if he cut off a dog's neck; he that offereth an oblation, as if he offered swine's blood; he that burneth incense, as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delighteth in their abominations.*” Isaiah 66:3

Samuel: “*Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*” I Samuel 15:22

David: “*For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*” Psalms 51:16-17

Amos: “*I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.*” Amos 5:21-24

It seems an incredible thought, but, as Jude said they did to the grace of God, ungodly men had also “turned the Law of Moses into lasciviousness.” They believed they could sin with abandon as long as they covered it with another sacrifice.

“*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.*” Hebrews 10:4

Contrary to popular opinion, the blood of animals could not “cover” the sins of those who did not “*repent with broken spirits and contrite hearts*” Psalms 51:17. Still, in any circumstance, it could not wash a single sin from the heart of any person.

The blood of Jesus was not shed as a covering for sin. It was shed to wash us from our sins. The Bible tells us, “*Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.*” Hebrews 13:12

Christ came into the world “*to make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25. The apostle John said, “*...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*” 1 John 1:7. Those who are not “*cleansed*,” yet seek a “covering” in grace to “*continue in sin*” will meet the same fate as those who “continued in sin” under the Law Romans 2:12.

Saul of Tarsus in the modern church

Published June, 2019

As I was writing a book on Saul of Tarsus, I became increasingly aware that the modern church has many “Saul’s of Tarsus” in its ranks. Very often these are the children of devout Christian parents who do “everything right” in raising their children. They may have been home schooled where they could be protected from all ungodly influences, and properly instructed from the time of their birth. Their minds have been programmed with the “principles of life” to the extent they have no struggle, because the “nature of sin” that is in them lies dormant, often for many years. It is only when sin is “awakened” in their heart that the struggle begins.

Saul of Tarsus, being a Jew, had no concept whatsoever of a “sin nature” Galatians 2:15. His mind was so “programmed” with the laws and ordinances of Moses, and his everyday life so filled with religious activities, that he kept the “*...righteousness which is in the law, blameless*” Philippians 3:6.

Most Christians know that every child is born with sin in their nature, but with love, discipline, and proper training, sin can remain “dormant” for many years. It is a certainty, however, that at some point sin will awaken in the heart of every individual. Being faced with the overwhelming emotions stirred up by sin in their heart, they become ashamed, which often gives place to “secret sin.” The modern church has tried to counter the guilt and shame of sin by the constant reminder, “*We are all sinners; we sin every day.*” This attitude displays the difference between the devout Jew under the Law of Moses and the modern church. The Jew said, “We are not sinners,” while the modern church says, “We are all sinners.”

I have heard some in the modern church speak of the Apostle Paul as if he were a womanizer at heart. As though his words, “*...it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me*” Romans 7:20, were

a light-hearted excuse for his sins. This is far from the truth of this matter. It was Saul's worst nightmare to realize that doing things he didn't want to do was proof that he was controlled by sin just like the Gentiles, whom he had been taught to despise.

When Saul of Tarsus discovered by the Tenth Commandment the sin in his heart, he knew for the first time in his life that he was a sinner. This "*knowledge of sin*" destroyed him. He had always been in complete control of his lifestyle, but now he was under the control of hatred and rage. This did not happen until he rejected the testimony of Jesus which Stephen gave before the Jewish Council before they stoned him to death. When sin awakened in Saul's heart it filled him with bitterness and hatred against the disciples of Jesus, and he became the great persecutor of the church.

When sin awakens, it fills the heart with "*all manner of concupiscence (sinful desires)*" Romans 7:8. Paul said, "...*the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do*" Romans 7:19. The "*sin*" that destroyed Saul was his hatred for Jesus, which only increased as he "*breathed out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord*" Acts 9:1. As with all those who "hate," in time his hatred turned inward and became "self-hatred." The cry from his soul, "*O wretched man that I am*" Romans 7:24 was not a mere confession that revealed his humility. It was a desperate cry, which was followed by "*Who shall deliver me.*" This was a cry that Jesus could not deny. Saul of Tarsus, who was "*blameless*" according to the Law of Moses, while he also persecuted the church Philippians 3:6, was gloriously saved from sin when he met Jesus on the Damascus Road.

The modern church desperately needs the same "awakening" Saul of Tarsus received. It was the Tenth Commandment that awakened Saul to the fact that he was a sinner, because it exposes the content of the heart. Oh that everyone who stands in the church on Sunday morning to say, "We are all sinners..." would hear what they say, and be convicted by their own words. If they understood what it means to "be a sinner," and what it means "to be saved from sin," revival would begin that same day. The altar

would be restored in the church as “*sinners in Zion*” Isaiah 33:14
would repent in godly sorrow, and the “*blood of Jesus Christ*”
would “*cleanse them from all unrighteousness*” I John 1:7.

The Fool

Published August, 2019

“*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.*” Psalms 14:1

It is only natural that our minds should go to the atheist when we read this words. I present that these words of David cannot apply to the atheist for one simple reason: the atheist is very open in their denial of the existence of God. Madalyn Murray O’Hair was the famous atheist of the 20th century, who dedicated her life to fighting against the very God she denied the existence of. She was famous for her case before the Supreme Court which succeeded in taking prayer out of our public schools. I saw her on a TV broadcast many years ago in a format in which people could call in to speak with her. Almost every caller told her of the awful place in the hottest part of hell that was prepared especially for her, and she would only laugh, and say, “They claim to be Christians, but they want to burn their enemies.” Finally a young lady called in to say, “*Mrs. O’Hair, first I want to say I am a born again Christian,*” to which Mrs. O’Hair said to the moderator, “*See, there is another one.*” The young lady continued, “*Next I want to say that I love you, and I am praying for your soul...*” At this point Mrs. O’Hair literally screamed in terror, “*No...no...you have no right...I don’t want you praying for me.*” I knew in that instant that Madalyn Murray O’Hair was not a true atheist, but only a very evil woman who was possessed by an evil spirit. She was tormented by the love of this beautiful Christian girl, just as the presence of Jesus tormented the unclean spirit that cried out, “*art thou come hither to torment us before the time?*” Matthew 8:29.

“*There is none righteous, no not one*” Romans 3:10

The apostle Paul quoted David from the 14th Psalm to confirm his statement about “*none righteous*” when he said, “*There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one*” Romans 3:11-12. David was speaking about “*the fool that said in his heart, there is no God,*” while Paul was speaking of those who trusted in the Law of Moses, and denied Jesus is the Christ. He said, “*We know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law*” Romans 3:19.

The modern day “fool” that says in his heart, “*there is no God*” is also very religious. Most often they are in places of public ministry, speaking continually about both God and Jesus, but are those whom Paul warned Titus against; “*They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate*” Titus 1:16. Paul further described those he spoke of as those who “*...subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's (money) sake*” Titus 1:11. They are very insincere ministers who appear to be very compassionate, but are simply “in it for the money.” I know a young man from India who came to America, and worked long and hard to save close to \$40,000.00. He was very lonely, and met a young woman who, pretending to be in love with him, deceived him, and took over \$20,000.00 of his money. Broken hearted, he went through a long period of depression, during which he could not work. He began to hear the televangelists promises of a “hundred fold return,” and “believing them,” he began sending his savings to them \$1000.00 at a time, hoping to recover his loss. Yes, this young man was very “foolish,” but the “fools” are those who took his money. They profess to represent Jesus Christ, while they “*devour widow's houses*” Matthew 23:14, and defraud the poor. These are more dangerous to the church of Jesus Christ than Madalyn O'Hair ever was. We all knew what she was, but these are those whom Jesus called “*wolves in sheep's clothing*” Matthew 7:15, whom the apostle Peter compared to “*natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed*” II Peter 2:12.

I recall a scheme which was strongly promoted shortly before the beginning of the new millennial. Several ministers on the largest “Christian” TV network agreed together to tell the people the time of Jubilee was at hand, during which God would cancel the debts of the children of God **IF** they would make a pledge of \$2000.00 to the network, and pay it within 90 days. The promise was, when the last payment was made, God would supernaturally either “pay” or “cancel” their debts. A “river of money” poured in to the network, a few preachers became incredibly rich, and thousands of people across the nation are still wondering why “God” did not keep His promise to them. Peter spoke specifically of these ministers when he wrote, *“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not”* II Peter 2:3. Perhaps most of the preachers involved in this scheme have now passed on to their “reward.” One thing is sure, they will stand before God to give account, as will we all. My question is this; how could these “ministers” possibly believe in the existence of a “just God,” and use His precious name to defraud innocent people with their lies? Most certainly, they are such as David had in mind when He said, *“The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God!”*

“Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:13-18

Our Debt

Published September, 2019

“I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”

Romans 1:14-15

The gospel, which the apostle Paul received by direct revelation from God, is the greatest revelation ever given to man. Paul said to the Galatians, *“I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ”* Galatians 1:11-12. He called it simply “The Gospel of Christ” Romans 1:16. Paul wrote fourteen epistles explaining the gospel he received to the various cities and nations in which he preached. Perhaps if he had sold his books for \$15.00 each, he could have lived in a mansion and been chauffeured in the finest chariots to his meetings around the world. On the other hand if he had chosen that course, we would have never heard of Paul or the gospel he preached. Instead of seeking to enrich himself, the apostle took a totally different approach to preaching the gospel. Jesus had said, *“Freely you have received, freely give”* Matthew 10:8, and that is exactly what the apostle did. The gospel he preached did not originate in Paul’s heart or mind. It wasn’t *“after man,”* and he did not receive it from man. To preach the gospel was not his livelihood, but it was rather his *“debt to pay.”* God had revealed to the apostle something that belonged to the entire world, how could he possibly enrich himself in the process? To have done so, he would have been worse than the *“unjust steward”* Luke 16:1-9 which Jesus told us about.

Paul asked the church a simple question: *“What do you have that you did not receive?”* I Corinthians 4:7. If you truly received it from the Lord, it is not yours to sell. You are merely entrusted with a heavenly treasure that belongs to everyone for whom Christ died ...which is everyone! On the other hand, if you did not receive it

from the Lord, I suppose you are free to sell it for whatever enrichment it might bring to you.

Over twenty-seven years ago, after a desperate search that lasted several years, I received the understanding of the blood of Jesus Christ, which He shed to purify my heart from all sin. It came in an instant, like “light” from heaven that pierced the darkness of my soul. A short time later, I told God I was willing go anywhere He wanted and say anything He said, but He would have to provide the money to do so. I had struggled for years for the finances to stay on radio stations across the south, but I refused to become a “beggar before men,” even to preach the gospel. The Lord said to me, *“If you will say what I say, I will put your ministry on television, and it will cost you nothing.”* I told the congregation what God said, and added, “It will probably be the five o’clock news.”

Within three weeks, the owner of channel 22 in Houston Texas showed up at our midweek service. The result was that our ministry was seen twice weekly for eight years without charge because the owner, Eldred Thomas, wanted someone who preached the blood of Jesus on his station. Only when the station was sold to “Daystar,” did our broadcasts cease.

Since that time, God has spoken to me many things He would do if I would simply, “Say what I say.” The strangest thing He ever said to me was, *“If you say what I say, one day you will throw a rock into a pond, and its ripples will wash up on every nation.”* I understood from the start, that what God says is best seen in the scriptures of the KJV Bible. I had spent years of ministry preaching the dreams and visions of things to come that God had given me, but now I know more than ever that to “say what God says” is to say what he says in the scripture. We began to write and preach the things we see in God’s word more plainly than we ever had before. We also made a commitment to send the gospel through our Behold the Lamb books to any person, anywhere in the world, without charge. Since that time we have seen those “ripples” touch over 120 nations.

If I had a “pill” freely given to me that would cure cancer, and I sold it to the public for \$10,000.00 per pill, “because it saves lives,” I would get rich, but what kind of person would I be? That is exactly how I feel about the gospel God has given me to publish and preach. The world and even the modern church desperately need it, so we dare not sell it. **The gospel of Christ is too valuable to sell!** It must be “freely given” to as many as will receive it. Almost everyone who hears of it says, “*We have never heard this before.*” It is not that it is something “new” that has never been preached before, but because it is the gospel that has been forgotten and trampled under the feet of many generations of religious profiteers. It is exactly the same gospel the apostles Paul and John preached in their epistles. The “revelation” that “*Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16, reveals that Christ came into the world to “*make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness.*” Those who believe it and trust in Jesus Christ alone to do it are made free from sin, and enter into sweet rest from the struggles imposed by religion. Jesus said, “*Come unto me...I will give you rest*” Matthew 11:28.

“*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

“*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*”

Revelation 22:17

Afterward...!

Published October, 2019

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...” Joel 2:28

When we read the word “*afterward*” in this text, we know there is something very important that must happen “*before*” God will “*pour out His Spirit.*” The prophet Joel told us clearly what God’s requirements were if they were to receive the blessing of God. He wrote, “*Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God*” Joel 2:12-13. To the “ministers of the LORD” he said, “***Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?***” Joel 2:17.

Destruction and desolation had been spoken against the land of Israel if they did not repent and turn from their ungodly ways. If they turned to God with their whole heart, God would bring a blessing instead, and “*pour out His Spirit*” upon them. If they did not turn, however, Jerusalem and their temple would be destroyed and the people would go into captivity. The fact that God did not “*pour out His Spirit*” until the Day of Pentecost, which came over 800 years later, is evidence enough that the people did not turn from their wicked ways. The northern tribes of Israel went into captivity within 100 years, and about 200 years later, Jerusalem and Judea were taken captive, and the temple utterly destroyed. Joel’s prophecy of Judgment was fulfilled upon the nation, and the blessing never came to them.

It is almost universally believed that the greatest “outpouring” of God’s Spirit is coming in the near future. This I know, it cannot come until the conditions God laid out through the prophet Joel have been met. The modern church that is satisfied to continue in

sin will never see revival. God's condition is "*turn to me with all your heart,*" and "*rend your heart, and not your garments.*" When our hearts are "broken" over the sinful condition of the "church," and we are "weeping between the porch and the altar," the promise of God is near. In the last chapter of Isaiah's prophecy, God was looking for a "house" in which to dwell, because the temple in Jerusalem was filled with idols. He said, "*To this man (or woman) will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*" *Isaiah 6:2*. God said, "*I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones*" *Isaiah 57:15*. I recently read the exhortation of a famous ministry; "*Get ferocious, and dismantle your enemy!*" Oh! Do we not know our "enemy" was not only "dismantled" *1 John 3:8*, but totally "destroyed" *Hebrews 2:14*, by the "*meek and lowly Jesus*" through His death on the cross? The apostle John said, "*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him*" *1 John 3:5-6 KJV*. Do we "know" these things which were "common knowledge" to those who believed the apostle John? These sayings and many such like are "*the truth,*" which Jesus said will "*make you free*" *John 8:32* from sin.

All the Old Testament prophets warned the children of Israel to "turn to God," but they could not. It is not in the ability of fallen man to change their heart and mind. The prophet Ezekiel told them, "*...make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?*" *Ezekiel 18:31*. After it was proven that man cannot change his heart, God gave a wonderful promise through this same prophet; "*I will give you a new heart and a new spirit*" *Ezekiel 36:26*. The promise of the outpouring of God's Spirit is in the next verse; "*And I will put my spirit within you!*" Before God could do any of this, however, He gave this promise; "*I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you*" *Ezekiel 36:25*.

After following Jesus for over three years, and hearing His teaching, the twelve chosen disciples were in complete disarray. One of them sold Jesus to His enemies for thirty pieces of silver, and another denied, with an oath and cursing, that he ever knew Him. Two of them did not yet believe He was the Son of God, and all of them forsook Him in their night of fear. It was not possible that God would “*pour out His Spirit*” upon these. Something had to happen “before” in order for the “after” to come. This is why Christ died, and why He shed His holy blood. He came into the world to “*take away the sin of the world*” John 1:29, and to “*purify the hearts*” of His people from all sin. We could never “turn to God with all our heart,” so God raised Jesus from the dead and sent Him to us, who could not “turn,” to “*turn us every one from our iniquities*” Acts 3:26. He “*washed us from our sins in His own blood*” Revelation 1:5, and after the “church” is thus cleansed, God will “*pour out of His Spirit upon all flesh...*” It can only come “*afterward.*”

America: “Weighed in the Balance”

Published November, 2019

In about one year from now the citizens of America will go to the polls to elect the next president of the United States of America. This will be perhaps the most important vote we will ever cast. The future of America, and the entire world stands in the balance. The true issues are not political, however, but spiritual in nature. Every scriptural evidence, as well as the “signs of the time,” indicate that we are living in the very last of the last days, just before the anger of God is released against those nations which have once known, but have rejected Jesus Christ. Far more vital for the welfare of the nation than health care or immigration policy is the five “sins” that God judges the nations by, and these are such that no one, whether conservative or liberal, are willing to take seriously at this time.

In the ninth chapter of Revelation, John tells of a great army, two hundred million in number, which is being prepared to slay the third part of men [Revelation 9:15-16](#). This great “army” is none other than the “locust army,” which John saw in Revelation 9:1-11. The prophet Joel described this army in great detail, and revealed that it is actually the “army of the Lord” sent to punish the nations which have turned away from Christ. Joel called upon the people of Israel to “*turn to the Lord with all your heart*” [Joel 2:11-13](#), and the priests to “*weep between the porch and the altar*” [Joel 2:17](#). When the people did not “turn” and the priests did not “weep,” God called His great army down in the days of Nebuchadnezzar to destroy the city and the temple. Only the righteous were spared in that day of God’s wrath against His people [Ezekiel 9:6](#).

In this last day, it is not Babylon which God will use to punish His nation, nor will it be the Romans as in 70 A.D. The army of God’s judgment against the nations is being prepared right now. It is none other than radical Islam, which by their own confession is the “locust army of God.” They are not God’s people, but they are His army, which may recede from time to time, but is ever increasing in heat and number until the two hundred million “army” of terrorist covers the planet, and the time of God’s wrath against the nations is come. It is called “*the great and terrible day of the LORD*” [Joel 2:31](#), which will last for 3 ½ yeas. It is not until after 1/3 of all living lay slain in the streets that the scripture tells clearly why that horrible day came upon the earth:

“And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.”

[Revelation 9:20-21](#)

1. Idolatry: In 1965, our congress changed our immigration laws in such a way as to allow worshipers of other Gods to flood into our nation. Today, we have four Hindu representatives in

congress, and three Muslim, two of which are very vocal in their sympathy for radical ideas.

2. Murders: In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States approved abortion on demand, making it the law of the land. Since that time, Americans have “murdered” over a million babies a year while yet in their mother’s womb. In 2019, we have over twenty men and women running for president who have promised to support abortion right up to the day of birth. Some in one state have advocated for abortion to be legal even after the baby is born and healthy.

3. Sorceries: The Greek word translated as “sorceries” is “pharmakeia,” which speaks of “drugs.” America has surrendered in the war on drugs, and even now drugs are rapidly being legalized in almost every state.

4. Fornication: The Greek word translated as “fornication” is “porneia,” which includes every manner of sexual sin. Sexual immorality has been around since the beginning of time, but something is new in America today. When an American president was discovered practicing sodomy in the oval office less than 25 years ago, the door was opened by example for our youth to indulge in this basest of sexual sins. The end result came when our Supreme Court approved of marriage between same sex couples. Today we have a “man” who is married to a man, seeking to become the president of the United States.

5. Thefts: In every one of these five sins, it is those our nation approves that brings the judgment of God. Our prisons are full of those men and women who have stolen to support their drug habits, but our political offices, our pulpits, and our medical and legal professions are often filled with those unscrupulous people who have “enriched themselves” out of the tax, the tithe, and the medical and liability insurance pools, and they are often adored by the people. These are the “thefts” which will bring the anger of God against our nation.

“Weighed in the balance” is not a question of if our “good” outweighs our “bad.” Instead, when the people of this nation vote

on November 3, 2020, will we reject the tide of immorality that has already destroyed our nation? Or will we embrace it? If the balance tips in favor of more idolatry, abortion, drugs, pornography, etc, we will see the rising again of radical Islamic terrorism. It is God who “*commands the locusts*” II Chronicles 7:13, and they will certainly come.

“*The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?*” Jeremiah 5:31

Those who know God...

Published December, 2019

“*We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*” I John 4:6 KJV

These words were penned by the last living eyewitness apostle of Jesus Christ. All the other apostles had died a martyr’s death above twenty years before this time, and John wrote his epistle to reveal for all time the “truth” from the “lie,” the “light” from the “darkness,” the “children of God” from the “children of the wicked one,” etc. It is impossible to understand the message John left for us and believe at the same time that “*a child of God is also a sinner.*” His message is so direct and absolute he could say, “*He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us.*” A very simple examination of what this great apostle of Jesus Christ said should strike fear into the hearts of many in the modern church, if John is correct. Those who believe “*We are all sinners who sin everyday*” are in direct contradiction to the gospel which John preached, and according to the apostle, they “*do not know God.*” How is it possible to reconcile the belief that “*we are all sinners*” with the scripture “*He that committeth sin is of the devil...*” I John 1:8 KJV, and “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin*” I John 3:9 KJV? There are those, including some modern versions of the bible, who twist John’s words to say

we “*do not practice sin*,” but such an interpretation is impossible in an honest assessment of what the original Greek text says. If John had intended to speak of our “practice,” he would have used the Greek word “*prasso*,” which is not found in any of his epistles. Instead, John used the Greek word “*poieo*” for “*commit*,” which according to the “Strong’s Greek dictionary” speaks of “*a single act*” (see Strong’s #4160, “*poieo*,” and compare with #4238, “*prasso*”). How is it possible that John, who is commonly known as “the apostle of love,” could make such strong and absolute statements which prove a child of God is not a sinner? The answer is, he knew who Christ was, and what He came into the world to do.

“*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.*”

I John 3:5-6 KJV.

To the person who does not believe what John clearly says, the words “*sinneth not*” I John 3:6, and “*cannot sin*” I John 3:9, are words of harsh condemnation, but to the believer of John’s message, these same words are the secret to the “*glorious liberty of the sons of God*” Romans 8:21 in this present life. If John had agreed with the modern church, that a child of God “**should not sin**,” he would have prescribed a lifetime of struggle. Instead, he prescribed a lifetime of “*glorious liberty*” for a believer of the truth when he said “...he **cannot sin**, because he is born of God” I John 3:9. It is not that this person has “*power over sin*,” but that they are “*free from sin*.” The apostle Paul confirms this, saying, “*But now* (Greek: ‘just now’) *being made free from sin...*” Romans 6:22 KJV. These apostles understood that no one can do anything which is not in their heart to do.

John the Baptist introduced Jesus as “...*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29 KJV. He understood what a young fisherman named John would later understand and preach to the entire world. Where does such understanding come from?

Over five hundred years before Jesus was born to Mary, God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell of one called “*The Messiah the Prince.*” He gave the exact year of His appearance in ministry, which was the same year the Holy Ghost came upon Jesus at John’s baptism service. If Jesus was the Messiah of prophecy, within seven years of His baptism, He must “*finish the transgression, make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25 KJV. He would be “*cut off* (crucified), *but not for Himself*” verse 26, and it would happen after 3 ½ years of ministry, in the exact middle of the seven years allotted to Him verse 27 KJV. John said, “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) is born of God*” I John 5:1 KJV. If we believe “*Jesus is the Christ,*” it is absolutely necessary that we also believe He came into the world “*to make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24 through His death on the cross Hebrews 2:14.

“*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

If we do not believe the record John gave, it is because we do not believe what God said through the prophets of old. Peter said, “*...the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow*” I Peter 1:11. There is no living person who can rightfully make the claim the apostle made; “*He that knoweth God heareth us.*” Neither could “*Augustine,*” or “*Luther,*” or “*Calvin,*” nor any other scholar of the past or present, who is not in full agreement with the things the apostle John said. Those who reject the truth which the Apostle John so clearly wrote, do so because they “*do not know God.*” Jesus said, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*” John 8:32.

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