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"I and My Father are One" (John 10:30)

By Scott Lancot

One of the most common questions that is asked of Christians is this: "Is the God in the Old Testament the same God as the God in the New Testament?" Jesus answers yes, saying, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). People certainly have a right to their opinions, but Bible facts do not lie. God's precepts and commandments were given in the Old Testament. No one could keep the Ten Commandments perfectly, let alone all 613 of them. This shows us all that we are sinners. When Jesus said, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first" (John 8:7), not one could. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). All the sacrifices of bulls, goats, and so forth could only take away sins for a time. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33).



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8)

The Law given in the Old Testament was good. "But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which

was established on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6). Jesus fulfilled the Law and brought in the New Covenant of grace. (Continued on Page 5)

Unconditional Election (Excerpt From the Sermon)

By C.H. Spurgeon

I have selected a few texts to read to you. I love to give you a whole volley of texts when I am afraid you will distrust a truth of God so that you may be too astonished to doubt, if you do not, in reality, believe! Just let me run through a catalog of passages where the people of God are called elect. Of course if the people are called elect, there must be election. If Jesus Christ and His apostles were accustomed to call believers by the title of, elect, we must certainly believe that they were so, otherwise the term does not mean anything! Jesus Christ says, "Except that the



"because God from the beginning chose you for salvation" (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He has chosen, He has shortened the days." "False Christs and false prophets shall rise and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possi-

ble, even the elect." "Then shall He send His angels and shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from the uttermost parts of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven."—Mark 13:20, 22, 27, KJV. (Continued on Page 7)

Does This Offend You?

By James Moriello

"Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your

fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?" When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?" (John 6:53-61, NKJV). The context of our Scripture text is that of Jesus the Bread of Life, in which the Lord declares Himself to be the spiritual food and spiritual lifeblood of anyone who wishes to be near to God. In doing so, He offends the sensibilities of His audience. In verse 41 of the same chapter,

we read that the Jews complained about Him because of the offense. And here in our context, His disciples are also complaining.

Two areas in particular posed a problem for Jesus' hearers. The first is the divinity of the Messiah, and His equality with God. These truths are clearly taught in the Old Testament (notably in Isaiah 53:11, and also in other places), but in veiled form. "But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ" (2 Corinthians 3:14).

Continued on Page 6

Facing Fear and Trusting God

By Susan Moriello

I was thinking of Queen Esther's response to Mordecai these past days, and praying that God might reveal the practical application of it so it could be shared with others. He answered my prayer, so here goes! When confronted with the facts relating to Haman's insidious plot to annihilate all of the Jews in Persia, Esther stepped up to the plate. She told Mordecai to proclaim a three day fast for the purpose of seeking deliverance from what seemed like certain doom. Then Esther had to overcome another hurdle which was no less intimidating. She had to request an audience with King Ahasuerus. Would the king hold out the golden scepter and allow her to speak or would he put her to death for entering into his presence at an un-appointed time? As it happened, the king heard Esther's plea for her people, and the end result of her intercession was that her people were spared certain death. She had been raised up by God to her position "for such a time as this", and she took

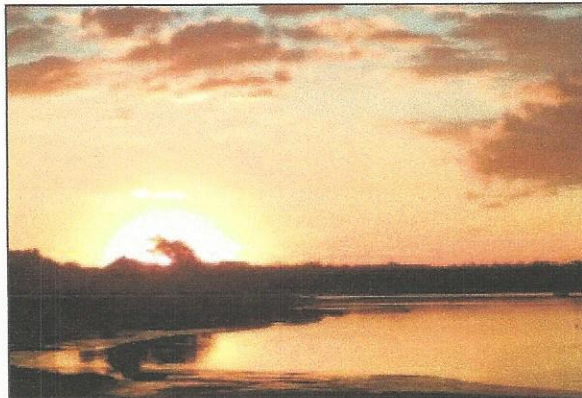


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14)

courage and stepped out in faith. Let us face our fears no matter what they are, and trust in the Lord to free us from all our fears.

1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because

fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love."

Proverbs 29:25: "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe."

Quotes by John Bunyan

Compiled by NECB Staff

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

"What God says is best, is best, though all the men in the world are against it."

"Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer."

"One leak will sink a ship, and one sin will destroy a sinner."

"The road of denial leads to the precipice of destruction."

"For to speak the truth, there are but few that care thus to spend their time, but choose rather to be speaking of things to no profit."

Where Are You, Christmas?

By Tanya Hay

The answer for most probably is, 'Christmas is over and the new year is upon us.' During the holiday season you, like I, probably heard many Christmas songs. Mary Did You Know, Silent Night, and Jingle Bells are only a few but there are so many. The song that I reflected on this year is a song titled, "Where Are You Christmas?" Some of the lyrics are, "Where are you Christmas, why can't I find you?" It made me think of how most people think of Christmas as the season from Thanksgiving until December 25th.

Just because the Christmas carols are no longer on the radio, and the decorations, lights, and trees are put away, it doesn't mean that Christmas is over.

The song continues to say, "If there is love in your heart and mind, you will feel like Christmas all the time." Christmas is love. Christmas is the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It's a love that we should celebrate all year long. Love. Share. Forgive. Ask to be forgiven. Carry on the spirit of the season all year long. Christmas is in your heart. Christmas can be found in each and every one of us. As Christians, we should be shining our light in this dark world. Shine your light as bright as the lights on that beautifully decorated Christmas tree whether it's in February, June or September. So, now I ask, "Where are you Christmas?", with hopes that you have a new and different answer.

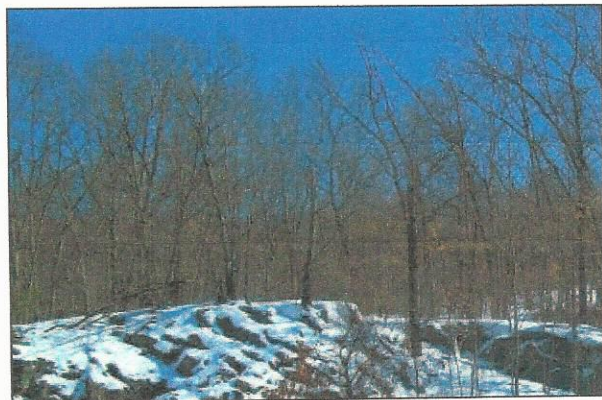


Photo Credit: NECB Staff

"Trust in Him at all times" (Psalm 62:8)

Responding to the Pro-Abortionists

By James Moriello



1) Abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor. This entirely ignores the fact that whether or not the child lives hangs in the balance. Both God and the child are both deeply involved and deeply concerned

with the matter. So is anyone concerned with advocating for social justice, that the baby may live and not die.

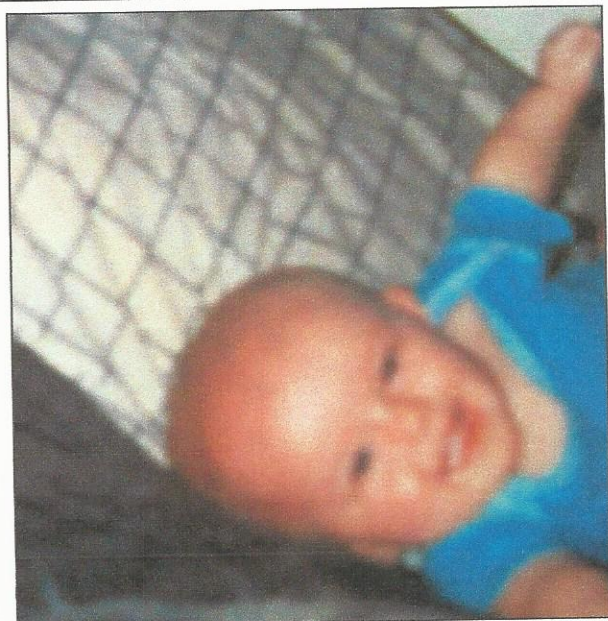
2) The government has no right infringing upon the matter and legislating morality. One of the responsibilities of human government is to encourage good and to discourage and punish evil (Romans 13:1-5). Otherwise, we would have chaos in society. Government legislates morality all the time. For instance, rape is considered a serious crime and is punished as such.

3) Restricting abortion would turn back the clock on women's liberties. Separate issue, or maybe not on second thought. Twenty five million female babies have already lost their liberties because the clock of their lives was stopped prematurely. They never had a chance—or a choice.

4) Criminalizing abortion would bring us back to the days of unsafe abortions. This is preposterous! We should not sanction murder for the reason that it can be 'done more efficiently'!

5) Rape and incest are special cases. Studies show that this is true of mothers involved in less than seven percent of abortions. Both involve a terrible crime being perpetrated on the woman. However, the baby should not become another innocent victim. Two wrongs do not make a right.

6) Life of the mother is a special case. This is also relatively rare. In such cases, we must do all we can to avoid killing the child, but insofar as it is possible, preserve both lives, ascribing to them equal value.

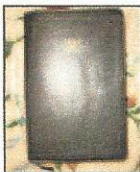


Bible Trivia! (The Answers are in your Bible)

By NECB Staff

1. On which day of creation did God create the sun, moon, and stars? (Genesis 1:14-19)

2. In the Book of Joshua, what was the name of the woman whose house the spies came to when they were spying out Jericho? (Joshua 2)



3. What were the names of the Old Testament prophet Samuel's father and mother? (1 Samuel 1:19-20)

4. What ancient land was Job from? (Job 1:1)

5. What two things comfort David when he walks through the valley of the shadow of death? (Psalm 23:4)

6. What country was Daniel brought from Judah into captivity to? (Daniel 1:1-6)

7. In the Sermon on the Mount, believers are said to be salt and what else? (Matthew 5:13-14)

8. What amount of money did Judas betray Jesus for? (Matthew 26:15)

9. What was the name of the Pharisee and ruler of the Jews that came to Jesus by night to ask Him questions? (John 3:1-2)



Artwork by Susan Kirwan-Keen

"Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

(John 3:1-2)

10. When Jesus gives His sheep eternal life, what does He promise will never happen to them? (John 10:28)

11. In Jesus' High Priestly Prayer in John, who does Jesus say that the

God the Holy Spirit will testify of and point people to? (John 14:26,15:26)

12. Which man who would later become an Apostle was consenting to Jesus' death? (Acts 7:59-8:1)

13. What is the last enemy that will

be destroyed? (1 Corinthians 15:26)

14. What does godly sorrow lead to? (2 Corinthians 7:10)

15. What will provide light in the New (Heavenly) Jerusalem? (Revelation 21:22-23)

Words that Describe God

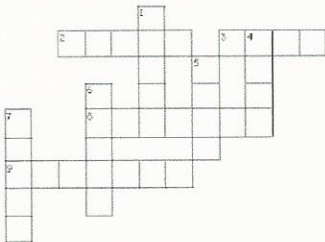
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ETERNAL
JUST
MERCIFUL
RIGHTBOUS

FAITHFUL
KIND
PATIENT
SOVEREIGN

GRACEFUL
LOVING
PERFECT
TRUE

PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE



Across
2. LOUISIANA
3. WAS CALLED SHUL
4. FATHER OF THE JEW
5. ELSE KING
Down
1. NEW MOON ROCK
6. THE ARTIST
7. SAVIOR

"To whom shall I speak and give warning,
That they may hear?
Indeed their ear is uncircumcised,
And they cannot give heed.
Behold, the word of the Lord is a
reproach to them;
They have no delight in it.
Therefore I am full of the fury of the
Lord.
I am weary of holding it in.
"I will pour it out on the children outside,
And on the assembly of young men
together;
For even the husband shall be taken with
the wife,
The aged with him who is full of days.
And their houses shall be turned over to
others,
Fields and wives together;
For I will stretch out My hand
Against the inhabitants of the land," says
the Lord.
"Because from the least of them even to
the greatest of them,
Everyone is given to covetousness;
And from the prophet even to the priest,
Everyone deals falsely."
(Jeremiah 6:10-13)



"To Whom Shall I Speak and Give Warning?", (Jeremiah 6:10)

(Excerpted from the Sermon Delivered 9/18/16)

By Brian Violette

God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah to warn the people of Israel to repent of their ways, to return to God—that they must listen, and if they don't, God's judgment will come upon them. Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet, because he was very sorrowful about the fallen condition of the people of Judea. Chapter 6 starts off with the Lord warning Jeremiah's own tribe (that over which he had authority, in whose land he ministered, Cf. 1:1) of Benjamin to flee from Jerusalem. "For thus has the Lord of hosts said: 'Cut down trees, And build a mound against Jerusalem. This is the city to be punished. She is full of oppression in her midst. As a fountain wells up with water, So she wells up with her wickedness. Violence and plundering are heard in her. Before Me continually are grief and wounds. Be instructed, O Jerusalem, Lest My soul depart from you; Lest I make you desolate, A land not inhabited.'" Thus says the Lord of hosts: "They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the remnant of Israel; As a grape-gatherer, put your hand back into the branches." To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed.

Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it. Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord. I am weary of holding it in. "I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, The aged with him who is full of days. And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land," says the Lord. "Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely. They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord. Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your

souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" (Jeremiah 6:6-16). So here we read about the impending destruction of Jerusalem. At this particular time period the people of Israel rebelled against God. They rebelled in such a way that their transgressions were many. Their backslidings increased (Jeremiah 5:6). They refused to receive correction. They had made their faces harder than rock, and refused to return back to the ways of God (Jeremiah 5:3). Because of this

**"They have also healed the
hurt of My people slightly,
Saying, 'Peace, peace!'
When there is no peace."**

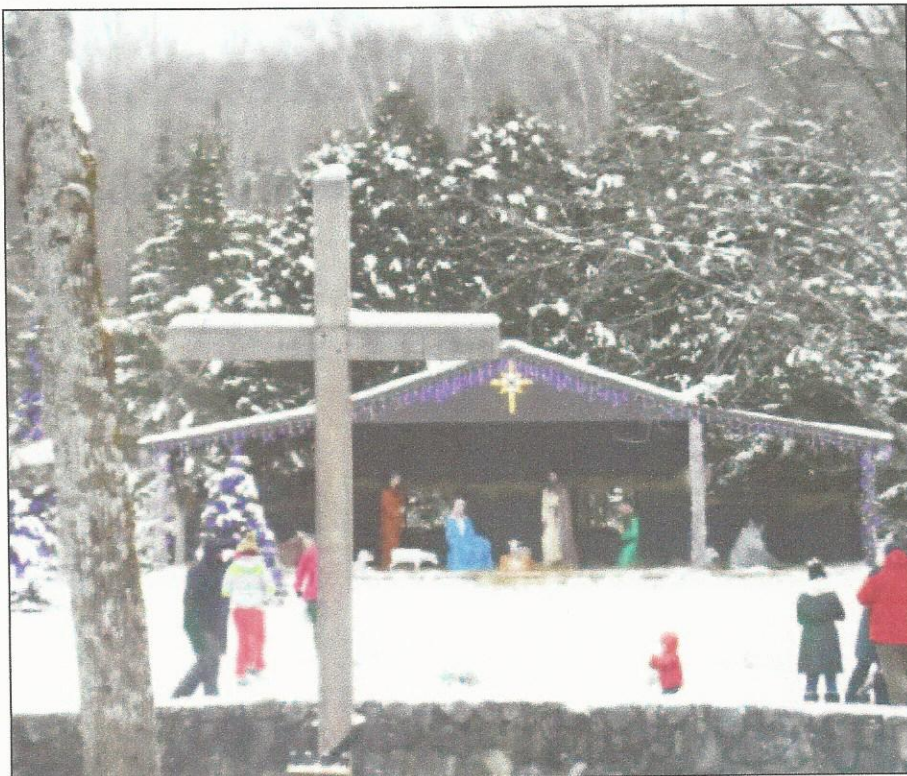
(Jeremiah 6:14)

rebellion and stubbornness, they reject God. And God (as a result) will bring judgment down upon Israel. "Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the Lord. "It is a mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say" (Jeremiah 5:15). God spoke about Babylon. And the Babylonians would leave the land completely desolate to the point that they would not stop until every life was lost. Jeremiah tried to warn the people to repent from their ways and turn back to God. But spiritual deafness and willful ignorance was all around him. So

Jeremiah asked God, "To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear?" (Jeremiah 6:10). The Word of God was despised back then in Jeremiah's time just as it is today. People don't want to hear it. But they need to hear it. Through Jeremiah's example, I want to encourage you to press on. I want to fan a flame in your soul, that it might burn for God. To continue to serve Him even though you may not see the results of your servanthood. You see, most times, when people don't see results, they become discouraged, almost in the same sense of hitting a plateau. But how you react to it (disappointment and discouragement when others reject God's word) matters. Let us follow the example of the prophet Jeremiah, which is also that of the Apostle Paul, who said, "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry" (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

"Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." (John 8:31-36)

Photo Credit: Tanya Hay



"I and My Father are One" (John 10:30) (Continued from Page 1)

By Scott Lanctot

"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Jesus was born of a virgin and dwelt among men to do the will of the Father. That will was for Him to go to the cross for all men as an acceptable sacrifice to God. Jesus was the spotless lamb that could take away the sins of the world. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The basic gospel we preach is this: Jesus was born of a virgin, dwelt among men, went to the cross, died and was buried, on the third day rose again, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). If you claim to be a Christian and don't believe, then "examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Words like belief, faith, and hope have meaning today. Belief is having a conviction that the Bible is true. This must be accepted by

faith, not by sight. My hope is waiting on Christ Jesus to come back for His church. Jesus said that He will go and prepare many mansions for us, so why would we doubt even for one second? While we're on this earth, we're to tell people the news. The good news. The Bible truth. "Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:6). The power of God cuts to the heart. All things are possible with God. Only believe in faith. It's so simple. Do not mold your finite mind to the world, but to God's infinite mind. Our minds are limited, but God is not limited. We should be obedient to His will without question. When you walk on new stairs that were just built for the first time, aren't faith and belief involved? The Living God's promise is that He "will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). All prophecy in the Bible has come true or is waiting to be fulfilled. "But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that

with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (2 Peter 3:8). As a professing believer having access to a Bible, would you not want to find out what is true? There are some hard truths to wrap your head around. We're not going to understand everything. That's where a Bible believing church and a good Bible Study where the truth is taught come in. Seek wise counsel. The question is this:

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

(Isaiah 45:22)

Either God is telling the truth or not. It's His Book, His rules. We're to believe in faith. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers" (2 Timothy 4:3). The Bible is not a pick and choose, where we decide, 'I like this but not that.' God is love for sure, but He is also a just God, and He will not turn a blind eye to sin. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap" (Galatians 6:7). There are many who twist God's Word to their lik-

ing, and they will pay a price for that. The sad truth is that if anyone never truly repents of sin, turning and walking the other way, he or she will one day be permanently separated from God. People will go out of their way to study sports statistics, to know who's pitching on Tuesday or how many games out of first place their team is. But they have a hard time finding time to read the Bible. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). If you think for a minute that God's only attribute is love (denying His justice and wrath), you are sadly mistaken and do not know the Scriptures. "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats" (Matthew 25:32). You are going to believe what you believe, but my job is to tell the Bible truth, no matter how uncomfortable. "You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" (James 2:19). One more point to drive home. If Jesus didn't go to the cross for all of men's sins, then the Holy Spirit would not have come upon us to indwell every believer. (Continued on Page 8)

Does This Offend You? (Continued From Page 1)

The second is in reference to the drinking of the blood, which seemed to come into conflict with the Mosaic Law, where we read: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood' (Leviticus 17:11-12). The truth of the matter, of course, is that the blood of Christ is that which truly makes atonement for the soul. Today, in these last days (New Testament days), many people are still offended by Jesus' sayings in particular, and God's words in general. Indeed, Jesus Christ was, is, and ever shall be, to many, "a rock of offense" (Isaiah 8:14). So, let us bring our attention back to the question that Jesus posed to His hearers, and poses to you and I today: "Does this offend you?"

1. The Exclusivity of the Christian Gospel

a. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:6).

b. "Let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:10-12).

c. "Does this offend you?" (that by definition, those of other faiths cannot possibly be going to heaven)

2. The Narrow Road of Christian Discipleship

a. "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

b. Then He said to them all,

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24).

c. "Does this offend you?" (that God's grace isn't cheap, and the Christian life is not bunnies and butterflies)

3. Biblical Separation

a. "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

b. "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14).

c. "Does this offend you?" (that we need to avoid unbelievers and professing Christians whose doctrines and lives are off)

4. Sexual Ethics

a. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites...will inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

b. "Does this offend you?" (that all relations outside of the marriage of one man and one woman are forbidden by God)

5. Prioritizing the Public Worship and Being Faithful to the Local Church

a. "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and

fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42).

b. "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

c. "Does this offend you?" (that you are called to be accountable to the local church, just as the local church is accountable to lead its congregation according to divine precepts)

6. The Command to Forgive

a. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:12-13).

b. "Does this offend you?" (that forgiveness is never optional)

7. The Command to Love your Enemies

a. "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

b. "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,'" says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is

hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

c. "Does this offend you?" (that you don't have the right to take your own revenge)

8. The Simplicity of the Christian Gospel

a. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

b. "Does this offend you?" (that the gospel is so simple that even a child can understand it)

9. The Availability of the Christian Gospel to All

a. "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out" (John 6:37).

b. "For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved' (Romans 10:13).

c. "Does this offend you?" Do you think there are certain people that God ought never to save—that they deserve an eternity apart from God in hell? If so, you are right, but you are one of them! Would it be well with you if another person could exclude you from God's grace and kingdom? You see, friends, the truth stings sometimes. If you have been offended, I hope that you have been offended into the Kingdom! God is love, but He loves you enough to tell you the truth. What you do with the truth is up to you.

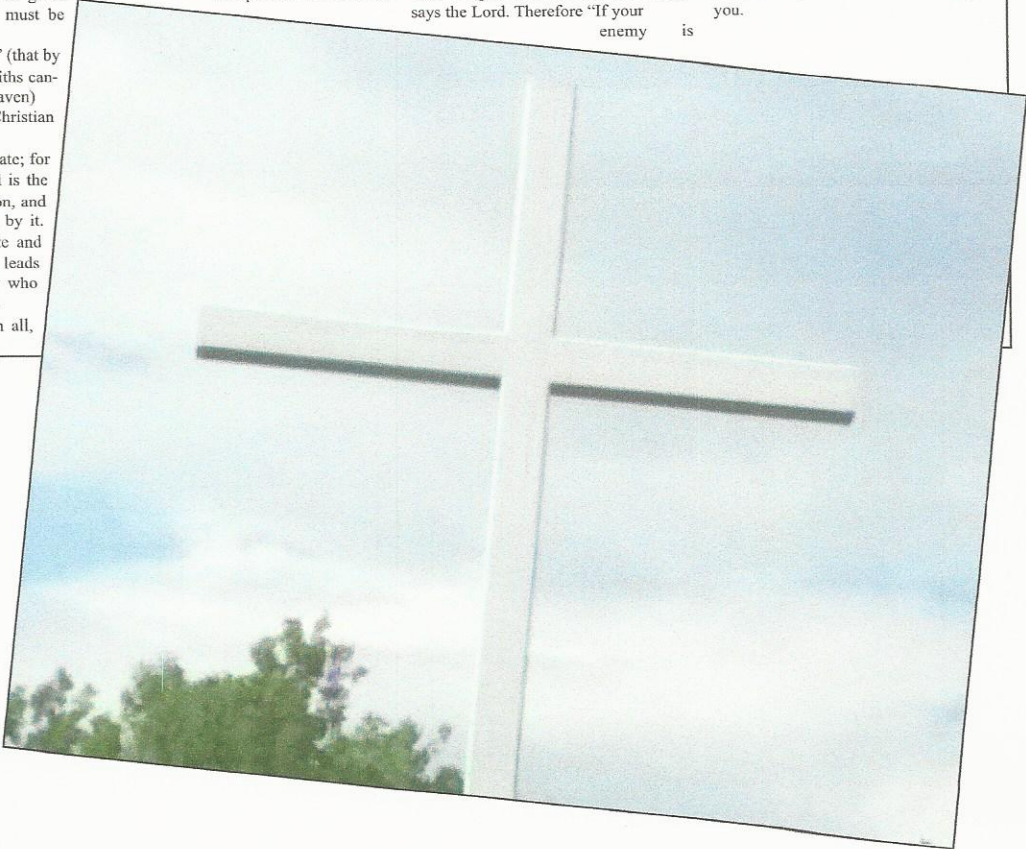


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Unconditional Election (Continued From Page 1)

Excerpted from the Sermon preached on September 22, 1855, By C.H. Spurgeon

"Shall not God avenge His own elect who cry day and night unto Him, though He bears long with them?"—Luke 18:7. Together with many other passages which might be selected, wherein either the word, "elect," or, "chosen," or, "foreordained," or "appointed," is mentioned—or the phrase, "My sheep," or some similar designation, showing that Christ's people are distinguished from the rest of mankind! But you have concordances and I will not trouble you with texts. Throughout the epistles the saints are constantly called, "the elect." In Colossians we find Paul saying, "Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, hearts of mercies." When he writes to Titus, he calls himself, "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect." Peter says, "elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father." Then if you turn to John, you will find he is very fond of the word! He says, "The elder to the elect lady." And he speaks of our "elect sister." And we know where it is written, "The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you." They were not ashamed of the word in those days. They were not afraid to talk about it. Nowadays the word has been dressed up with diversities of meaning and persons have mutilated and marred the doctrine so that they have made it a very doctrine of devils! I do confess that many who call themselves believers have gone to rank Antinomianism! But not withstanding this, why should I be ashamed of it, if men wrest it? We love God's truth on the rack as well as when it is walking upright. If there were a martyr whom we loved before he went on the rack, we would love him still more when he was stretched there! When God's truth is stretched on the rack, we do not call it a lie! We love not to see it racked, but we love it even when racked because we can discern what its proper proportions ought to have been if it had not been racked and tortured by the cruelty and inventions of men!

If you will read many of the epistles of the ancient fathers, you will find them always writing to the people of God as the, "elect." Indeed, the common conversational term used among many of the Churches by the primitive Christians to one another was that of the, "elect." They would often use the term to one another, showing that it was generally believed that all God's people were manifestly "elect." But now for the verses that will positively prove the doctrine. Open your Bibles, and turn to John 15:16, and there you will see that Jesus Christ has chosen His people, for He says, "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit and that your fruit should remain: that whatever you shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you." Then in the 19th verse, "If you were of the world, the world would love his own, but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you." Then in the 17th chapter and the 8th and 9th verses, "For I have given unto them the words which You gave Me; and they have received them and have known surely that I came out from You and they have believed that You did send Me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which You have given Me for they are Yours." Turn to Acts 13:48—"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord; and as many as

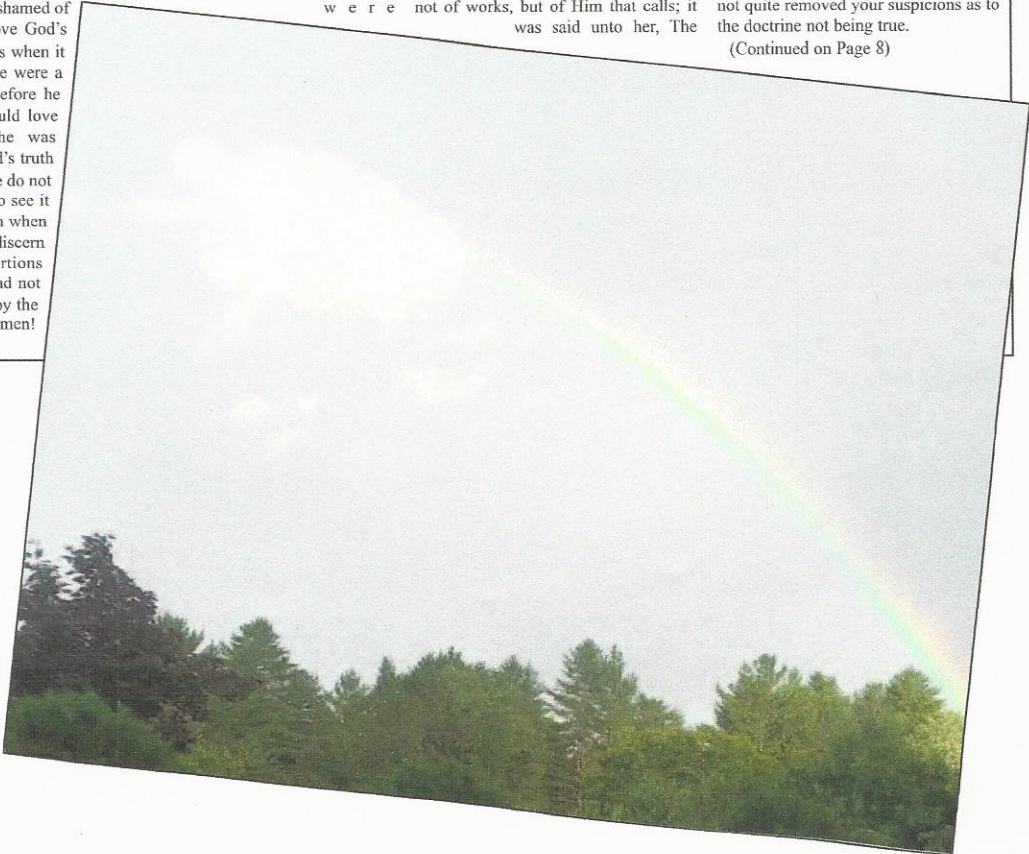
were

ordained to eternal life, believed." They may try to split that passage into hairs if they like—but it says, "ordained to eternal life" in the original as plainly as it possibly can! And we do not care about all the different commentaries thereupon. You scarcely need to be reminded of Romans 8, because I trust you are all well-acquainted with that chapter and understand it by this time. In the 29th and following verses, it says, "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. Moreover, whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified and whom He justified, them He also glorified. What shall we then say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not, with Him, also freely give us all things? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect?" It would also be unnecessary to repeat the whole of the 9th chapter of Romans. As long as that remains in the Bible, no man shall be able to prove Arminianism! So long as that is written there, not the most violent contortions of the passage will ever be able to exterminate the doctrine of election from the Scriptures! Let us read such verses as these—"For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calls; it was said unto her, The

elder shall serve the younger." Then read the 22nd verse, "What if God, willing to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction? And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had afore prepared unto glory?" Then go on to Romans 11:7—"What then? Israel has not obtained that which he seeks for, but the election has obtained it and the rest were blinded." In the 6th verse of the same chapter, we read—"Even so, then, at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." You, no doubt, all remember the passage in 1 Corinthians 1:26-29—"For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised, has God chosen, yes and things which are not, to bring to nothing things which are: that no flesh should glory in His Presence." Again, remember the passage in 1 Thessalonians 5:9—"God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ," and then you have my text, which I think would be quite enough. But if you need any more, you can find them at your leisure if we have not quite removed your suspicions as to the doctrine not being true.

(Continued on Page 8)

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Unconditional Election (Continued From Page 7)

By C.H. Spurgeon

But there are some who say, "It is hard for God to choose some and leave others." Now, I will ask you one question. Is there any of you here, this morning, who wishes to be holy, who wishes to be regenerate, to leave off sin and walk in holiness? "Yes, there is," someone says, "I do." Then God has elected you! But another says, "No. I don't want to be holy. I don't want to give up my lusts and my vices." Why should you grumble, then, that God has not elected you? For if you were elected, you would not like it, according to your own confession! If God, this morning, had chosen you to holiness,



you say you would not care for it. Do you not acknowledge that you prefer drunkenness to sobriety, dishonesty to honesty? You love this world's pleasures better than religion—then why should you grumble that God has not chosen you to religion? If you love religion, He has chosen you to it! If you desire it, He has chosen you to it! If you do not, what right have you to say that God ought to have given you what you do not wish for? Supposing I had in my hand something which you do not value, and I said I shall give it to such-and-such a person—you would have no right to grumble that I did not give it to you! You could not be so foolish as to grumble that the other has got what you do not care about! According to your own confession, many of you do not want religion—do not want a new heart and a right spirit—do not want the forgiveness of sins! You do not want sanctification. You do not want to be elected to these things—then why should you grumble? You count these things but as husks, so why should you complain of God who has given them to those whom He



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"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself" (Ephesians 1:4-5)

has chosen? If you believe them to be good and desire them, they are there for you! God gives liberally to all those who desire—but first of all, He makes them desire—otherwise they never would. If you love these things, He has elected you to them and you may have them. But if you do not, who are you that you should find fault with God when it is your own desperate will that keeps you from loving these things? Suppose a man in the street should say, "What a shame it is I cannot have a seat in the Chapel to hear what this man has to say." And suppose he says, "I hate the preacher—I can't bear his doctrine—but still, it's a shame I have not a

seat?" Would you expect a man to say so? No—you would at once say, "That man does not care for it. Why should he trouble himself about other people having what they value and he despises?" You do not like holiness, you do not like righteousness. If God has elected me to these things, has He hurt you by it? "Ah, but," some say, "I thought it meant that God elected some to heaven and some to hell." That is a very different matter from the gospel doctrine! He has elected men to holiness and to righteousness—and through that to heaven. You must not say that He has elected these simply to heaven and others only to hell. He has elected you to ho-

liness if you love holiness. If any of you love to be saved by Jesus Christ—Jesus Christ elected you to be saved! If any of you desire to have salvation, you are elected to have it—if you desire it sincerely and earnestly! But, if you don't desire it, why on earth would you be so preposterously foolish as to grumble because God gives that which you do not like, to other people?

Thus I have tried to say something with regard to the truth of the doctrine of election. And now, briefly, let me say that election is absolute, that is, it does not depend upon what we are. The text says, "God has from the beginning chosen us unto salvation."

"I and My Father are One" (John 10:30) (Continued from Page 5)

By Scott Lanctot

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His" (Romans 8:9). A true be-

liever is sealed the day he believed in faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 1:13). "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). True Christianity is not asking you to climb a mountain or give a bucket of

money. No. Only believe in faith. Many honor Jesus with their lips, but the heart is far from Him (Matthew 15:8). The gospel is so simple that even a child can understand it, but we human beings complicate everything we touch. The Bible is self-interpreting, better understood by comparing Scripture with Scripture. Let us learn what the Bible says and does not say, and be armed with the facts and not a 'feeling.' Investigate. Do not have contempt prior to investigation. "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). A good pastor will say, "Don't take my word for it. Look at the Scripture and find out if these things are so." It's so easy to tell people what they want to hear. It's harder to tell people the un-

"He who has seen Me
has seen the
Father...Do you not be-
lieve that I am in the
Father and the Father
in Me?"

(John 14:9-10)

palatable truth. People often don't want to hear truth! Be that as it may, the truth is laid out in black and white. Inspect and investigate the Bible truth. Just because you believe something does not mean that it is true. It is only true if it lines up with the Bible, God's perfect truth.

I will leave you with one last Scripture truth from the New Testament to consider. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (Hebrews 10:31).

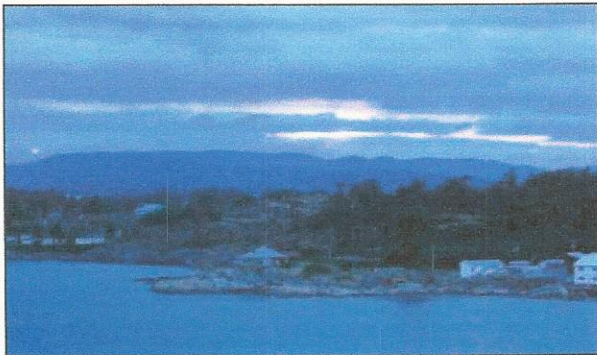


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"they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" (Acts 17:11)