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# HANDOUT THEOLOGY

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DR. JOHN H. GERSTNER

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# PREFACE

Hello, friends. I'm John Gerstner, and this is a series entitled "Handout Theology." I should like to dedicate it, the whole 100 video tapes on "Handout Theology," to R.C. Sproul, who more, perhaps, than anyone I have known, presses on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

It has long been a practice of mine to teach theology by handouts. This is the first time I have tried to teach the whole system of biblical theology by handouts and brief, oral comments.

"Handout Theology" comes in two parts. The written handouts themselves, distributed to you viewers who have one in your hands now, of the video tape comments based on the handouts. This work is meant for average, thoughtful, religious people. One caution: The opening handouts and video tapes, because they deal mainly with natural theology, are more difficult for most people than those which follow. A given individual or group may wish to work back to these, rather than forward from them, starting, perhaps, with lecture 6 on "Proving the Inspiration of the Bible."

Theology means the "knowledge of God." What follows is what I understand to be that divine knowledge, revealed by God Himself in the universe He made and the Book He wrote. You cannot study this series and not know God. But you can master it and not know God *sav-ingly*. The knowledge of God must first reach your mind through the preacher. But God reserves to Himself alone the communicating of that knowledge to your heart. You must ask Him, not me, for that enlightenment. May you all come through "Handout Theology" to a full and saving knowledge of God to the saving and sanctifying of your precious, immortal souls.

—John H. Gerstner



# FOREWORD

Since Dr. John Gerstner retired from his formal duties as professor of church history at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, I have dreamed of a way to capture the essence of his teaching for the church-at-large.

I have been privileged to study under and work with some of the most notable theologians of the twentieth century. I have found none who can rank with John Gerstner in terms of theological precision and exactitude. As a student I was in awe of his knowledge and his acute mental ability. As I grew older and more educated, as my experience with other great teachers widened, I changed my view of him. I became even more awestruck.

As a young student, Gerstner was my model. I wanted to learn what he knew. Now I realize that my dream was foolish. If I lived to 150 and applied myself to learning with wholehearted diligence, I wouldn't begin to reach the level of understanding he has.

Now we have a treasure. Dr. Gerstner has produced a 100-lecture series that covers the whole scope of theology. It is called "*Handout* Theology" not because it is something you might receive from the Hare Krishnas at the airport but because the audio/video lectures are accompanied by handouts, written notes that are helps for students. The series is geared for the serious layperson, but may well be enormously beneficial for pastors.

I said to my board of directors, "If no one else uses this series for study, it's worth it to me and our ministry to produce it, because I need it." Anybody who has ever studied under both Gerstner and Sproul understand the difference between a giant and a dwarf.

Now you can study under John Gerstner—in your home, your church, your car. I hope you will be half as blessed as I am to have this series.

—R.C. Sproul

## SECTION I: NATURAL REVELATION

### 1. MIND

1. **I START HANDOUT THEOLOGY WITH "MIND" BECAUSE THAT IS WHERE MY KNOWN LIFE BEGAN.** I learned later that other things, persons, and God Himself existed before my mind did, but not to my knowledge.
2. **SINCE I AM A TYPICAL HUMAN BEING, I CONCLUDE THAT WE ARE ALL INTELLECTUAL BEINGS.**
3. **WE ALL KNOW WHERE INTELLECT MUST COME FROM, FROM THE BEING FROM WHOM ALL THINGS COME.**
4. **THEREFORE, BEING HIMSELF MUST BE INTELLECTUAL, MENTAL, RATIONAL.** Or else where did we get our minds, since all things must come from Being?
5. **COULD WE HAVE COME FROM BEING BUT HAVE DEVELOPED "SOMETHING" NOT IN BEING?**
6. **THAT IS NOT RATIONAL TO SUPPOSE.** Because if Being were not rational and we who came from Being became rational, where would our rationality have come from? From some other being? Or out of nothing?
7. **IF THERE WERE SOME OTHER ULTIMATE BEING WE WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE QUESTION WE ASK ABOUT ALL OTHER BEINGS.** Where did it come from? The answer is always: from the Being that just "is." The Being that is Being itself.
8. **THERE CAN BE NO OTHER ULTIMATE BEING.** Being is One. And It must be Mind.
9. **"IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE LOGOS"** (John 1:1).
10. **IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE--A MIND TO KNOW A MIND.** We lesser beings must begin with our lesser minds to know our origin from the mind of Ultimate Being.

## **2. BEING**

1. **WE KNOW WE ARE NOT SELF-EXPLANATORY.** We did not bring ourselves into being. We weren't there before ourselves to bring ourselves into being.
2. **THERE HAD TO BE SOMETHING BEFORE US, BEFORE OUR PARENTS AND BEFORE OUR WORLD, WHICH BROUGHT US INTO BEING.** Otherwise, we would not now be, since we did not just eternally exist.
3. **WE REALIZE THAT THAT BEING HAD TO BE THE BEGINNING OR WE WOULD HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING FOR THE BEGINNING OF IT.**
4. **IT HAD NO BEGINNING.** It is the beginning. It is just there. It is Being.
5. **AND EVERYTHING ELSE MUST COME FROM IT.** There is nowhere else to come from.
6. **AND THERE IS NOTHING ELSE UNLESS IT COMES FROM IT.**
7. **BECAUSE ANYTHING ELSE WOULD NEED SOMETHING FROM WHICH TO COME.**
8. **THE ONLY EXPLANATION OF THE EXISTENCE OF ANYTHING IS THE BEING THAT NEEDS NO EXPLANATION OF ITS BEING.** It just is.
9. **"I AM WHO I AM"** (Exodus 3:14).
10. **"IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING."** "We also are His offspring," says the apostle Paul citing the Greek poet Aratus (Acts 17:28). Aratus and Paul and everyone else knows this must be so. The human mind cannot conceive of it existing except by an Existence which needs no explanation.

### 3. GOD IS LOVE

1. **THANK GOD, GOD IS MORAL.** We have seen that He is Being and all that goes with that.
2. **BUT SUPPOSE WITH ALL HIS NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF INFINITY, ALL-COMPREHENDINGNESS, OMNIPRESENCE, OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPOTENCE--HE WERE A GOD OF HATE?** A non-moral Being? An evil Being? A cosmic terrorist?
3. **THE EXCELLENCY OF GOD IS THAT HIS MORALITY IS AS PERFECT AS HIS POWER; HIS LOVE AS DEEP AS HIS WISDOM.** Without His moral attributes God would be great but not good. And we would be miserable for He would have no concern for us. He would be the Great Unconcerned.
4. **GOD IS LOVE.** You can tell it by looking at yourself. The One who made you made a wonderfully functioning spiritual being housed in a magnificent temple in which to dwell the days of your years. We are not the product of the Great Unconcerned.
5. **WHEN I WROTE THOSE WORDS AT 74 YEARS OF AGE, I COULD HARDLY BREATHE AND COULD SIT WITHOUT DISTRESS ON ONLY ONE SMALL PART OF MY ANATOMY.** But if I, (and you), knew nothing of God but our own existence, we would know without argument that He is a God of love.
6. **IF GOD IS A GOD OF LOVE, WE WOULD BE ALMOST CERTAIN, WITHOUT DIVINE REVELATION, THAT HE IS TRIUNE.** At least we would know that there must be another in the eternal Godhead to love. And another to bind the two together? Somewhat like the human family which came from Him? From Them?
7. **EVERYWHERE IN THE VAST CREATED UNIVERSE ARE TOKENS OF A CREATOR'S LOVE FOR HIS CREATION, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO COULD UNDERSTAND IT AND RETURN IT.**
8. **AND, AGAIN, SO OBVIOUS: WHAT ALONE CAN MAKE THE CREATION HAPPY?** Love among the creatures is God among the creatures.
9. **BUT NOW THE PROBLEM: IF GOD IS LOVE, WHENCE THE SUFFERING AGONY, DEATH?**
10. **THIS IS THE MORAL QUESTION TO WHICH WE NOW COME.**

#### 4. EVIL

1. **IF GOD IS GOOD AND GOD IS ALL, WHERE DID EVIL COME FROM?**
2. **IT DIDN'T COME FROM ANY WHERE.** It has no hiding place in the universe. It is no alien thing which crept in from outside. There is nothing outside God.
3. **IT MUST HAVE COME FROM GOD; NOT FROM ANY WHERE.** There is no other where than God.
4. **BUT IT MUST HAVE COME FROM GOD'S PURPOSE AND NOT HIS NATURE.** God's nature, as seen, is good. Evil does not come from good. Only good comes from good.
5. **SO EVIL MUST HAVE COME BY GOOD BUT NOT FROM GOOD.**
6. **THE GOODNESS OF GOD MUST HAVE HAD A GOOD PURPOSE IN BRINGING EVIL TO PASS.** Goodness had a use for evil which it could not itself produce without evil.
7. **WE'LL ASK LATER WHAT WAS THE GOOD USE FOR THE BAD.** Now, we want to know how God could bring evil into being without producing it Himself.
8. **IT MUST HAVE COME FROM THE GOOD CREATURES GOD MADE.**
9. **BUT THEY, BEING GOOD CREATURES, WOULD SEEM TO BE NO MORE CAPABLE OF DOING EVIL THAN THEIR GOOD CREATOR.**
10. **BUT CREATURES MAY CHANGE AS THEIR CREATOR CANNOT.** Evil must have been a falling away from creature good which the good creature could have permitted for some seemingly good reason. ENTER EVIL.

## **5. REVELATION**

1. **WE HAVE BEEN FEELING AROUND IN THE DARK.** Since there is a God, surely He will enlighten us. No doubt we start out in the dark so we will know early that we cannot make our journey without God.
2. **SUPPOSE WE HAD NEVER OPENED OUR EYES, EARS, AND OTHER SENSES TO RECEIVE THE STIMULI ABOUT US--THEN NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO US.**
3. **SUPPOSE WE HAD NEVER OPENED OUR EYES, EARS, AND OTHER SENSES TO RECEIVE THE STIMULI ABOUT US AND WE HAD NO BRAIN AND MIND TO INTERPRET THEM FOR US--THEN NOTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN REVEALED TO US.**
4. **NOTHING IS REVEALED TO ROCKS AND BLADES OF GRASS AND NOTHING IMPORTANT TO DOGS AND ORANGUTANS.**
5. **MAN IS BUILT TO RECEIVE MESSAGES FROM THE WORLD AROUND HIM AND WITHIN HIM AND TRACE THEM TO THEIR SOURCE.**
6. **SO GOD MADE US TO BE RECEIVERS OF HIS MESSAGES.** Man has been defined as a tool-maker. Far more important: Man is a receiver of divine messages.
7. **OTHER CREATURES IN THIS WORLD GET SOME OF THESE MESSAGES BUT WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO GET THE MESSAGES AND THE MESSAGE-SENDER!**
8. **WITHOUT THESE MESSAGES AND THE SENDER, HUMAN LIFE WOULD NOT BE WORTH LIVING; INDEED, IT COULD NOT BE LIVED WITHOUT HIM.** "This is life eternal that they know Thee the only true God..." (John 17:3).
9. **RECEIVING THESE MESSAGES AND THE SENDER IS WHAT WE ARE HERE FOR BECAUSE IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT EVER HAPPENS TO US.** It is life.
10. **WE CALL THIS REVELATION.** It is a disclosure of the Sender Himself in His message, especially about sin and redemption. And God put this revelation in a book.

## SECTION II: SUPERNATURAL REVELATION (SCRIPTURE)

### **6. PROVING THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE**

1. **AVOID FALSE ARGUMENTS FOR INSPIRATION, SUCH AS:**
  - (1) I feel it is the Word of God!
  - (2) The Bible says it is "The Word of God!"
2. **BEFORE YOU TAKE ANY STEPS, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU ARE ON SOLID HISTORICAL GROUND.** There is no reason to doubt that the gospel accounts are a historically reliable record even if you initially assume that, as human documents, they must have errors.
3. **THERE IS NO REASONABLE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE SOUND INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS OF NAZARETH EVEN IF THE REVELATION WERE NOT DIVINELY INSPIRED.**
4. **AMONG OTHER THINGS, CHRIST REPORTEDLY DID THINGS THAT ONLY GOD (OR SOMEONE WITH THE POWER OF GOD) COULD DO--MIRACLES.**
5. **AS THE FAMOUS PHILOSOPHER JOHN LOCKE ARGUED, THE DIVINE POWER OF MIRACLES ESTABLISHED CHRIST'S "CREDIT AS A PROPOSER" OF DOCTRINE.**
6. **HIS CREDIT ESTABLISHED, CHRIST PROPOSED THAT THE BIBLE WAS THE WORD OF GOD--THE OLD TESTAMENT WHICH WAS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT WHICH WAS TO BE** (Matthew 5:18, 21:42, 22:29; Mark 14:49; Luke 24:21, 24:32; John 5:39, 10:35, 16:13). So what we thought at the outset to be merely a generally reliable human document turns out to be a divinely inspired human document.
7. **IF GOD (OR ONE WHO HAS THE POWER OF GOD) PROPOSES THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD, WHAT SANE PERSON CAN QUESTION IT?**
8. **IF THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD, IT IS SELF-EVIDENT THAT IT CANNOT HAVE ONE ERROR, ANYWHERE, IN ALL ITS ORIGINAL TEXT.**
9. **IF ANYONE WOULD PROVE AN ERROR IN THE BIBLE HE WOULD HAVE TO SHOW THE "ERROR" MUST BE AN ERROR.** The burden of proof is on the critic inasmuch as we have already proved that the Bible is God's word and God cannot make a mistake.
10. **HUMANS MUST AND CAN PROVE THE BIBLE TO BE GOD'S WORD.** Only God Himself can and does persuade humans that it is His word (Matthew 16:17; John 10:45).

## **7. INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE**

1. **THE BIBLE IS UTTERLY UNIQUE--THE WORD OF GOD; BUT, ITS INTERPRETATION IS STANDARD.** Garden variety.
2. **YOU READ IT JUST AS ANY OTHER BOOK WITH ITS PROSE, ITS POETRY, ITS FIGURES OF SPEECH, SIMILES, TROPES, PARABLES, ALLEGORIES.** They're all there.
3. **SINCE THIS BOOK ALONE IS INFALLIBLE YOU KNOW THAT IT DOESN'T CONTRADICT ITSELF OR ONE VERSE WOULD BE CALLING ANOTHER WRONG.** When none is or could conceivably be!
4. **YOU NORMALLY EXPECT OTHER BOOKS NOT TO CONTRADICT THEMSELVES BUT YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED WHEN THEY DO.** You are not surprised--you're in a state of shock--if the Word of God does. You know it doesn't. So when you think it does err you know you err. Then look again until you find the correct interpretation.
5. **ANOTHER WARNING.** This book does not flatter, cajole, or cultivate. It blows your hard-built-up self-esteem. Abandon pride all who enter here.
6. **IF YOU ARE CAPABLE OF BEING INSULTED YOU CAN'T INTERPRET THIS BOOK CORRECTLY.**
7. **YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS IF YOU WON'T BELIEVE HOW BAD YOU ARE.** Only conscious sinners can interpret the Bible honestly.
8. **THE "RIGHTEOUS" CAN'T LET THIS WORD HAVE FREE COURSE BECAUSE THAT WOULD SPELL THE END OF THEIR SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS.** They have a vested interest in unsound interpretation.
9. **THEY ARE NOT ABOUT TO PART WITH THEIR PRIDE BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD.**
10. **THERE IS REALLY ONLY ONE UN-OBVIOUS RULE IN HERMENEUTICS (THE SCIENCE OF INTERPRETATION): NEVER FORGET THE "NOETIC INFLUENCE OF SIN."** That means: A bad person is a bad interpreter of the Word of God.



## **8. ILLUMINATION**

1. **SO MAN HAS A BOOK FROM GOD.** But alas, all men are born blind-- spiritually blind.
2. **THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT THEY CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS BOOK.** They just can't see anything beautiful, lovely, or divine in it.
3. **IT IS ALL THERE BUT NOT FOR SPIRITUALLY BLIND PEOPLE.**
4. **FOR EXAMPLE, MEN KNOW THERE IS A GOD.** They can't deny Him without affirming Him. But they do deny Him in the sin of not wanting Him in their thinking. They kick Him out of their lives. He is not a thing of beauty: attractive, appealing, real. The only ultimate Being, He is a non-entity for them, a non-person. Out of sight, out of mind. An ogre, a wraith. Man becomes conscious of Him only in a crisis. A Hemingway character, asked if he ever thinks of God, says that he does sometimes when wakened in the middle of the night by a thunderstorm.
5. **THEN COMES THE DAY!** God steps out of the darkness and lets His glory shine. Transcendentally adorable, He is irresistibly attractive. All else is darkness.
6. **"BLESSED ART THOU, SIMON BAR-JONAH, FLESH AND BLOOD HAS NOT REVEALED IT TO THEE BUT MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN"** (Matthew 16:17).
7. **"WE SAW HIS GLORY, THE GLORY AS OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH"** (John 1:14). Before He had been "one from whom we hid our faces"; "despised and rejected of men" (Isaiah 53:3).
8. **THIS NEW EXPERIENCE IS ILLUMINATION OF THE DIVINE BY THE DIVINE.**
9. **"I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" (JOHN 9:5), SHINING IN THE DARKNESS.**
10. **THEREFORE, CHRISTIANS, BY WHOM THIS LIGHT IS REFLECTED, BECOME LESSER LIGHTS OF THE WORLD** (Matthew 5:14).

### SECTION III: TRINITY, DECREES, CREATION, AND PROVIDENCE

#### 9. TRINITY

1. **WE NOTICED THAT WE ARE MINDS AND THE BEING FROM WHOM WE CAME MUST BE MIND.**
2. **BUT THERE IS SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL ABOUT OURSELVES THAN BEING MINDS.** We are selves, persons. We have feelings and bodies and consciences as well as minds. But it is WE who have them. We are persons.
3. **SO WE KNOW THAT IT, BEING, IS A PERSON, TOO.** Otherwise, where would our personalities come from?
4. **BEING IS A HE/SHE; NOT AN IT.**
5. **SPEAKING OF HE/SHE.** WE are He/She and child.
6. **MUST NOT GOD WHO IS ONE BEING EXIST AS DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES?** Otherwise, where did the idea of our families come from?
7. **"FOR THIS REASON, I BOW MY KNEES, BEFORE THE FATHER, FROM WHOM EVERY FAMILY IN HEAVEN AND EARTH DERIVES ITS NAME"** (Ephesians 3:14,15).
8. **"...BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT"** (Matthew 28:19).
9. **AN ETERNAL TRINITY IN UNITY.**
10. **"THERE ARE THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD: THE FATHER, THE SON, AND HOLY GHOST; THESE THREE ARE ONE GOD, THE SAME IN SUBSTANCE, EQUAL IN POWER AND GLORY"** (Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 6. Answer).

## **10. DECREES OF GOD**

1. **AMONG THE DIFFICULTIES OF INTERPRETING THE BIBLE, ONE OF THE GREATEST STONES OF STUMBLING IS THE DECREES OF GOD** (Psalm 2:7; 8:3; Daniel 4:20; Acts 13:4; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Jude 4).
2. **ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE EVERYTHING IS "CUT AND DRIED" AN ETERNITY BEFORE IT BEGAN TO BE.**
3. **YOU CAN SEE THE BIBLE WAS NOT MADE IN THE U.S.A.** It came from the land of Islam and Kismet.
4. **BUT WHAT ISLAM AND KISMET FORGET IS THAT THOUGH ALL IS CUT AND DRIED, IT IS ALL FULL OF LIFE AND CHANGE.**
5. **THAT'S THE THING ABOUT THE DECREES.** They are fixed but "change in all around, I see" which is the result of all the fixity. Fixed change.
6. **IF ANYONE THINKS THE CUT AND THE DRIED MAKES MAN A STOCK AND A BLOCK, HE HAS A FEW THOUSAND THINGS COMING.**
7. **GOD FIXEDLY DECREED LIFE, ACTIVITY, CHOICE, RESPONSIBILITY, BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS, HEAVEN AND HELL.**
8. **YOU ARE AS FREE AS IF NOTHING WERE FIXED AND EVERYTHING IS AS FIXED AS IF YOU WERE NOT FREE.**
9. **THIS GIVES MAN FULL SCOPE FOR THE ENTREPRENEUR AND THE SECURITY OF AN "E" BOND.**
10. **THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: THE WORLD OF GOD (WHO KNOWS ALL THINGS FROM THE BEGINNING) AND OF MAN (WHO KNOWS NOTHING IN THE BEGINNING).**

## 11. CREATION

1. **CREATION USUALLY MEANS MAKING SOMETHING OF NOTHING, WHICH IS THE ULTIMATE ABSURDITY.**
2. **EVEN GOD IS UNABLE TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING.**
3. **IF GOD MADE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING, IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN NOTHING.** Out of nothing, nothing comes or is brought, because there is nothing to come out of it or be brought from it.
4. **GOD CAN'T SQUARE CIRCLES OR MAKE NOTHING SOMETHING.** More properly speaking, it is not that God can't do it but that there is nothing to do. It is meaningless.
5. **BESIDES, GOD HIMSELF IS BEING, INFINITE, UNLIMITED.** Other beings than Being cannot exist. Speaking more properly, they have no meaning if considered separate and independent beings.
6. **THERE CANNOT BE BEING IN ADDITION TO ALL-BEING OR IT (GOD) WOULD NOT BE ALL-BEING.**
7. **WHAT THEN IS CREATION?** It must refer to the modification of infinite divine Being.
8. **THIS SEEMINGLY OBVIOUS DOCTRINE OF CREATION IS OFTEN RESISTED BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO SPELL PANTHEISM.**
9. **THIS IS WHAT SEEMS TO MAKE THE EVEN MORE OBJECTIONABLE CREATIO EX NIHILO THE ONLY WAY OUT.** It is another curing of a headache by decapitation.
10. **PANTHEISM CANNOT BE.** Creatio ex nihilo cannot be. So it must be creatio ex deo, but don't ask me how that can be! But--it seems to me--must be.

## **12. PROVIDENCE (1)**

1. **THEOLOGIANS FOLLOWING THE BIBLE ALMOST ALWAYS TAKE UP PROVIDENCE AFTER CREATION** (Acts 17:28, 24:2; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 7:20; Psalm 36:6, 121:7).
2. **THE REASON, NO DOUBT, IS THAT THERE MUST BE SOMETHING BEFORE IT CAN HAVE A HISTORY.**
3. **NEVERTHELESS, IT WAS NO DOUBT THE HISTORY THAT GOD HAD IN MIND WHICH LED TO HIS CREATING.**
4. **WITHOUT PROVIDENCE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO CREATION, THOUGH THERE CAN BE NO PROVIDENCE WHERE THERE IS NO CREATION.**
5. **THE RELATION IS EVEN CLOSER.** One can say that providence is creation. Creation is providence.
6. **CREATION HAS TO BE CONTINUOUS.** Which is to say that creation is providence.
7. **WHY SO?** Because once something is created it lapses into non-being because it does not exist of itself. It must be re-created constantly.
8. **AND "CREATION" IS ONLY THE FIRST IN THE PROVIDENTIAL SERIES.** Or, providence is only the whole string of creations.
9. **TO BE IS TO CONTINUE TO BE--TO CONTINUE TO BE CREATED.**
10. **DEUS IN MACHINA.** Otherwise, no machina.

### **13. PROVIDENCE (2)**

1. **WE HAVE SEEN THAT WITHOUT PROVIDENCE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO CREATION AND THAT PROVIDENCE IS CREATION BECAUSE CONTINUOUS CREATION IS PROVIDENCE.** Creation simply refers to the first act of providence.
2. **IF CREATION WAS FOR PROVIDENCE, PROVIDENCE HAD TO BE FOR THE ELECT.**
3. **IT IS NOT FOR GOD, WHO DOES NOT NEED IT; NOR, FOR THE NON-ELECT WHO DO NOT BENEFIT FROM IT.**
4. **ALL THIS ENDLESS SERIES, FIRST IN THE MIND OF GOD, IS THE PRODUCT OF HIS LOVE FOR THE ELECT, WHO THEMSELVES ARE THE PRODUCT OF HIS LOVE FOR HIS SON, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF HIMSELF** (Hebrews 1:1-2).
5. **HE ORDAINS PROVIDENCE FOR HIMSELF?** Who does not need it?
6. **GOD ORDAINS PROVIDENCE FOR HIMSELF IN THE HUMAN NATURE (HIS INCARNATE SON), WHO NEEDS EVERYTHING.**
7. **GOD TAKES HUMAN NATURE ON HIMSELF SO THAT HE CAN NEED EVERYTHING WHICH HE THEN PROVIDES FOR HIMSELF (IN THE HUMAN NATURE).**
8. **RIGHT NOW, AS I WRITE, I AM AFRAID OF A SNAKE COMING OUT OF THE WALL AND BITING ME THROUGH THE CANVAS LAWN CHAIR WHERE I AM SITTING-- OR RATHER THROUGH WHERE I AM NOT SITTING ON THE CANVAS.** If I am born again, God is loving Himself this way in this human who is united to the divine/human nature of His Son. That is one way of providence "working together for good..." (Romans 8:29).
9. **I WAS ONCE ASKED, "WHAT IS TRAGEDY?"** Tragedy, I said, is whatever happens to the unconverted. No matter how great a blessing, it is a curse to the unconverted because he does not receive it with gratitude to the Giver. On the other hand, no matter whether a snake-bite or whatever, it is a blessing to God's children for whom all things work together for good.
10. **WE TURN NOW TO WHAT WAS PROBABLY GOD'S FIRST CREATION/PROVIDENCE ACT: THE ANGELS.** We're not numero uno!

## SECTION IV: ANGELS AND MAN

### 14. ANGELS

1. **I GUESS WE COULD HAVE GUESSED THERE WERE ANGELS EVEN IF THE BIBLE DID NOT TELL US.**
2. **WE ARE BODY-SOUL BEINGS AND ANIMALS ARE BODY BEINGS.** Why not soul-beings to round things out?
3. **WE ARE ABOVE THE ANIMALS BECAUSE WE HAVE SOULS.** Angels must be above us because they have only souls. Angels are souls without a body drag (Isaiah 6; Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 28:2; Acts 5:19, 7:30, 10:3, 23:9; Jude 9).
4. **WE COULD ALSO GUESS ANGELS SINNED.** We sinned in our souls. Why wouldn't they who are only souls?
5. **IT WAS UNNECESSARY FOR THEM TO SIN.** Just as it was unnecessary for man to sin. They were the original sinners.
6. **ANGELS HAVE NO APPETITE FOR FRUIT, BUT BEING CREATURES THEY DESIRED SOME KIND OF "APPLE."**
7. **BUT THE SOUL WHICH TESTED THEM--SINCE THERE WERE NO SERPENTS YET--MUST HAVE BEEN GOD HIMSELF.**
8. **IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR PRIDE THAT HAD TO BE FED.** Anything forbidden would have raised that slumbering serpent in their own bosom.
9. **SOMEHOW IT MUST HAVE BEEN LEAKED IN HEAVEN THAT THE SON OF GOD WAS GOING TO TAKE A CREATURE'S NATURE.** And it was not to be an angel's, but that of inferior man!
10. **WHAT A BLOW FOR THE ANGELS; BUT NOT SO GREAT AS THE ONE TO FOLLOW.** They--the superior angels--were to serve these baser men. The Son of God, passing the superior creatures by, was to become incarnate in the Virgin's body and the angels were to be "ministering servants" of all this (Hebrews 1:14). Proud angels were not about to tolerate this humiliation.

## 15. MAN

1. **MAN, TOO, WAS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD** (Genesis 1:26, 5:3, 3:10).
2. **JUST AS THE ANGELS BUT LESS SO.** Man had a body.
3. **STRANGE.** The Bible stresses the image of God in man though it was less than in the angels.
4. **STRANGE.** Though lower than angels men should be raised above them.
5. **STRANGE.** Though once fallen and inferior, redeemed men are the lords of their unfallen superiors.
6. **STRANGE.** Christ died to save prodigal sons whom He yet loved more than these "elder brethren", angels, who never left home.
7. **STRANGE.** Prodigal man the more loved for being prodigal. The angelic brethren less loved for being loyal.
8. **STRANGE.** Strange. Strange. One below the angels brought into the Godhead. A member of the divine family. The fourth person in the Trinity, as it were, man.
9. **STRANGE.** All creation, all providence, all redemption for the sake of this one creature. But for man, there would be nothing--but God! (Psalm 8).
10. **AS IF GOD LIVED AND MOVED AND HAD HIS BEING IN MAN.** Man whose only greatness is his humility. He had much about which to be humble. He had nothing about which to be proud. He had nothing and less than nothing-- except God his Savior!



## 16. MAN AND HIS MIND

1. **MAN WAS MADE WITH A MIND.** A good mind. A great mind. A mind that never made a mistake, which Luther thought was as great as Aristotle's, flattering Aristotle. Fresh from the mind of God, how could it not be the greatest?
2. **YET IT DID NOT KNOW THAT GOD COULD NOT BE MISTAKEN.**
3. **YET IT DID NOT KNOW THAT GOD COULD NOT LIE.**
4. **YET IT DID NOT KNOW THAT A CREATURE COULDN'T BE SMARTER THAN ITS CREATOR--OR BETTER.**
5. **YET IT DID NOT KNOW IT COULD NOT HIDE FROM THE ALL-SEEING EYE.**
6. **THE INLET OF ALL LIGHT, THE SOURCE OF DARKNESS.**
7. **OUR FOUNT OF WISDOM FROM WHICH CAME FOLLY AND RUIN.**
8. **HOW COULD THESE THINGS BE?**
9. **I DON'T KNOW.** Do you?
10. **BUT WE DO KNOW THEY WERE.** Are we beginning to learn, at last?

## 17. MAN AND HIS FREE WILL

1. **MAN WAS FREE TO CHOOSE.**
2. **TO EAT OR NOT TO EAT WAS THE CHOICE.**
3. **A SIMPLE MATTER OF TASTE.** Good taste, bad taste, Adam's choice of his free will.
4. **SHE, EVE, KNEW IT WAS FOLLY TO EAT DIVINELY FORBIDDEN FRUIT.** It didn't take an Aristotle to figure that. And she was free to choose what she knew was right.
5. **WHY DIDN'T SHE?** Search me.
6. **SEARCH ADAM, THE OLD BUCK-PASSER.**
7. **EVE EXPLAINS.** I wasn't as smart as my husband, but I knew I ought not to eat that fruit. Clever tempting Devil that he was, yet even I knew better. I let myself be deceived (1 Timothy 2:14). I chose with my eyes more open than I'm given credit--or blame--for.
8. **WHY DID I EAT?** Search me. I knew better. I even had better taste than I'm given credit or blame for.
9. **BUT I DID IT.** I can't blame the Devil, and Adam should have known better; he can't blame me. I should have done better. I could have done better. I chose to eat of my own free will!
10. **ADAM?** I am to blame. I can't blame it on Eve. I freely followed her when I knew that I ought not.

## 18. MAN KNOWING AND WILLING

1. **THERE IS NEVER ANY SEPARATION BETWEEN COGNITION (KNOWING) AND VOLITION (WILLING).** As a man thinks so is he. As he is, so he thinks (Proverbs 23:7).
2. **FOR EXAMPLE, SATAN WILLS ACCORDING TO HIS UNDERSTANDING.** His mind opposes the God who, he knows, hates and punishes him.
3. **UNREGENERATE MEN DO THE SAME.**
4. **IT IS AN ERROR TO SUPPOSE THAT THERE IS A SEPARATION BETWEEN UNDERSTANDING AND WILL, WHICH WILL IS ACCORDING TO THE "LAST DICTATE OF THE UNDERSTANDING."**
5. **TURRETIN, EDWARDS, AND OTHERS CONSIDER THAT UNDERSTANDING TO BE THE "PRACTICAL" UNDERSTANDING, BUT UNDERSTANDING IS ALWAYS THEORETICAL.**
6. **COMPARE THE DRUNKARD AGAIN.** He knows that the drink will satisfy him and so he chooses to drink. He knows that the drink will hurt him only if he becomes a drunkard and so he drinks not expecting to become a drunk. Hell? He does not think God will send him there because he does not expect to become a drunk. So he drinks. He does not expect to go on drinking and becoming drunk.
7. **SO HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO GO TO HELL, THOUGH HE KNOWS THAT CONTINUING A DRUNKARD WILL BRING HIM TO THAT ETERNAL END.**
8. **BEFORE HIS MIND HE IS NOT GOING TO CONTINUE DRINKING SO HE IS NOT (BEFORE HIS MIND) CHOOSING TO BECOME A DRUNKARD OR GO TO HELL.**
9. **HIS UNDERSTANDING AND WILL ARE IN PERFECT COORDINATION.** He thinks he will not become a drunkard and be damned. So he chooses to drink.
10. **IF HIS THINKING WERE CORRECT HIS WILLING WOULD BE ADMIRABLE.** His thinking is fatally INCORRECT but it is HIS THINKING.

## **19. THE FALL OF MAN**

1. **ADAM WAS CREATED A "GOOD TREE."**
2. **AS SUCH, HE BROUGHT FORTH THE GOOD FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT, LOVE, JOY, PEACE....**
3. **THEN THE TREE MUST HAVE CHANGED. (It was capable of that, remember.)**
4. **ONCE IT CHANGED IT BROUGHT FORTH THE BAD FRUIT OF DISOBEDIENCE.**
5. **THEN HE WAS CHANGED INTO A PERMANENTLY BAD TREE.**
6. **THIS NEW BAD TREE BROUGHT FORTH ONLY BAD FRUIT.**
7. **AND NOTHING BUT BAD FRUIT.**
8. **ALL THE TIME.**
9. **AS WE SHALL SEE AS WE CONTINUE TO STUDY THE "SIN OF MAN."**
10. **BUT BEFORE THAT, LET US NOTICE WHAT ADAM'S EFFECT WAS ON THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.**

## SECTION V: MAN THE SINNER

### 20. IMPUTATION OF SIN TO MANKIND

1. **IMPUTATION.** Whatever is that?
2. **IT SAYS, YOU DID WHAT ADAM DID.**
3. **BUT I NEVER KNEW THE MAN FROM ADAM.**
4. **YOU'RE AN IGNORAMUS OR LIAR OR BOTH.**
5. **YOU WERE ADAM.** You were there in the garden. You are Adam. You ate that fruit. You are the sinner that sinned. You died that death. You fell that fall.
6. **WHO SEZ SO? GOD SEZ SO** (Romans 5:12ff; 1 Corinthians 15:22).
7. **HE OUGHT TO KNOW.** If He says I was Adam, I was Adam. The only way I know I'm John Doe is because He makes the ever-changing Doe the same John Doe.
8. **I GUESS I KNOW IT MYSELF.** I am a sinner and God could never have made John Doe a sinner. He made me Adam and I made me John Doe.
9. **APPLICATION: THIS IS A STRANGE NEW WORD REFERRING TO AN EVENT LONG AGO.** But it explains why, though God is in heaven, all is not well with the world.
10. **IF YOU ARE EVER TO BE SAVED YOU MUST BEGIN BY ADMITTING THAT YOU ARE LOST--LADEN WITH IMPUTED GUILT.**

## 21. MAN THE SINNER (1)

1. **MAN WAS TOTALLED BY THE FALL.**
2. **HE STILL IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED** (Genesis 6:5; Ephesians 2:1).
3. **TAKE HIS MIND.** His mind is wrong when it's right. When he says there is a God, God is not in his heart. Therefore not willingly in his mind (Psalm 14:1). "In God we trust" is a lie.
4. **IF HE IS EVER RIGHT IT IS FOR THE WRONG REASONS: IF HE IS HONEST IT IS BECAUSE IT PAYS OFF IN PRIDE.** If he ever acknowledges God, he is afraid not to. If he abstains from vice, it is because of AIDS, V.D., or P.R. If he gives alms it is to be "seen of men" (Matthew 6:1).
5. **IF HE IS ANGRY AT WHAT HE IS READING HERE, IT CAN ONLY BE BECAUSE HE SENSES IT'S TRUE** (Galatians 4:16).
6. **IF YOU FIND TRUE VIRTUE IN AN UNREGENERATE PERSON, IT IS PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU YOURSELF ARE UNREGENERATE** (John 12:43).
7. **IF YOU ARE CAPABLE OF BEING INSULTED, THAT SHOWS HOW DEPRAVED YOU ARE** (Proverbs 12:15).
8. **"THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART ARE ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY" EVEN WHEN--ESPECIALLY WHEN--PLANNING SOME CHARITY BALL** (1 Corinthians 13:2).
9. **MAN IS NEVER MORE EVIL THAN WHEN HE DENIES IT** (John 9:39-41).
10. **MAN IS SO TOTALLY DEPRAVED THAT ONLY ALMIGHTY GOD CAN GET HIM TO ADMIT ANY SIN, AND THAT WITH HIS FINGERS CROSSED** (Matthew 3:7).

## **22. MAN THE SINNER (2)**

1. **MAN THE SINNER IS CONSISTENT--CONSISTENTLY EVIL** (Genesis 6:5, Romans 3:11-20).
2. **BUT HIS CONSISTENT EVIL MAKES HIM INCONSISTENT IN THE WAY HE GOES ABOUT IT.**
3. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE PRAISES GOOD** (Mark 7:6, "These people honor Me with their lips").
4. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE CLAIMS INNOCENCE** (Matthew 25:44, "Lord, when did we see Thee hungry?").
5. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE PAYS HIS TAXES, ETC.**
6. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE IS ALWAYS WEARY OF IT** (Isaiah 57:20, "The wicked are like the troubled sea").
7. **WHILE HE ALWAYS CLAIMS TO BE DEVOUT, HIS GODS ARE IDOLS** (1 Thessalonians 1:9, "You turned to God from idols").
8. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE EXPECTS TO BE REWARDED FOR GOOD DEEDS** (Matthew 7:22, "Many shall say to Me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not...do many mighty works in your name?'").
9. **WHILE HE ALWAYS DOES EVIL, HE CRITICIZES OTHERS FOR DOING EVIL** (Romans 2:1, "In passing judgement upon him, you condemn yourself").
10. **"HYPOCRISY IS THE TRIBUTE WHICH VICE PAYS TO VIRTUE."**

### **23. MAN THE SINNER (3)**

1. **GOD IS THE LAW-GIVER.**
2. **MAN IS THE LAW-BREAKER.**
3. **LAWS ARE MADE TO BE BROKEN.**
4. **GOD IS MADE TO BE DISOBEYED.**
5. **THIS IS THE HISTORY OF MAN THE SINNER.** All because of imputation!
6. **MAN BREAKS GOD'S LAW EVEN WHEN HE "KEEPS" IT.** He doesn't keep God's law even when he keeps God's law.
7. **WHEN MAN KEEPS GOD'S LAW, IT'S MAN'S LAW THAT HE KEEPS.** Men do their thing. Man keeps God's law in spite of its being God's law. God agrees: "I never knew you."
8. **MAN THEREFORE IS WORST WHEN HE IS BEST.** When he seems to be good, he is very bad.
9. **"YOU BEING EVIL KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS"** (Matthew 7:11). It would be better if we didn't have "know-how." Then we would know who. Beware of evil people bringing good gifts. Don't think they are good just because they do good. The thoughts and intents of their heart are only evil (Genesis 6:5), even when the actions of their body are only good.
10. **BY THEIR APPARENT FRUIT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW THEM.** By their true fruit you'll know their god--the Devil.



## **24. MAN THE SINNER'S INABILITY TO ACCEPT THE GOOD**

1. **"MORAL INABILITY" IS THE BOTTOM OF THE LADDER OF TOTAL DEPRAVITY.**
2. **MAN IS SO TOTALLY DEPRAVED THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT REDEMPTION, THOUGH THE AVOIDANCE OF HELL AND GAINING HEAVEN DEPEND ON IT (John 6:44).**
3. **THE MORE CHRIST WHOOS, THE MORE THE SINNER FLEES (John 3:19).**
4. **HE IS SUCH A SLAVE OF SIN THAT NO ONE CAN SAVE HIM BUT GOD, AND THAT ONLY BY CHANGING HIM INTO A NEW CREATURE (John 3:31; 2 Corinthians 5:17).**
5. **"LIGHT IS COME INTO THE WORLD AND MEN LOVED THE DARKNESS" (John 3:19). The brighter the light shines the more they love the darkness.**
6. **THE MORE ATTRACTIVE THE LOVER OF THEIR SOULS THE MORE REPELLED THEY ARE.**
7. **IF CHRIST IS LIFTED UP HE WILL DRAW ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE TO HIM, BUT REPEL MORE OF ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE FROM HIM (John 12:32 and John 3:19-20).**
8. **CHRISTIANS ARE THEREFORE "A SAVOR OF DEATH" TO THESE SIN ADDICTS (2 Corinthians 2:16).**
9. **SIN IS A TERMINAL DISEASE FOR WHICH EVERY SIN-SICK SOUL WILL BE HOSPITALIZED IN HELL, UNLESS HE IS BORN AGAIN (John 3:3).**
10. **LOOK TO THE UPLIFTED SERPENT IF YOU WOULD BE DELIVERED FROM THE SERPENT'S FATAL POISON (John 3:14-15).**

## **25. UNPARDONABLE SIN (1)**

1. **TERMINALLY ILL AS THE TOTALLY DEPRAVED ARE, THERE IS STILL HOPE THAT GOD WILL HAVE MERCY.**
2. **EXCEPT FOR SOME FOR WHOM THERE IS KNOWN TO BE NO HOPE.**
3. **WE KNOW FROM SCRIPTURE THAT THERE IS NO HOPE FOR ANY IN THE WORLD TO COME WHO DIE UNCONVERTED IN THIS WORLD (Hebrews 9:27). We also know that there is no hope for conversion of some even in this world--committees of the unpardonable sin. In other words, we know that they will die unconverted.**
4. **WHAT IS THE UNPARDONABLE SIN? It is a sin which cannot be pardoned. What sin cannot be pardoned? There is no sin that can't be pardoned if a person will ask for pardon. "Ask and it will be given you" (Matthew 7:7). So anyone capable of asking pardon for his sins can be pardoned. But to ask sincerely for pardon one must be born again (John 3:3f).**
5. **ONLY A PERSON INCAPABLE OF BEING BORN AGAIN IS INCAPABLE OF EVER ASKING FOR PARDON AND THEREFORE INCAPABLE OF EVER BEING PARDONED; AND, THEREFORE, A COMMITTEE OF THE UNPARDONABLE SIN.**
6. **SO THE SIN THAT MAKES A PERSON INCAPABLE OF BEING BORN AGAIN IS THE "UNPARDONABLE SIN."**
7. **THE UNPARDONABLE SIN IS NOT UNPARDONABLE IN ITSELF, BUT CAUSES GOD TO REVEAL HIS DETERMINATION NEVER TO REGENERATE THAT PERSON, THUS ENABLING HIM TO ASK FOR PARDON.**
8. **GOD ETERNALLY DETERMINED NOT TO REGENERATE ANY REPROBATES, BUT HE ONLY REVEALS THAT INTENTION IN THIS WORLD TO AND CONCERNING COMMITTEES OF THIS PARTICULAR SIN.**
9. **CONSEQUENTLY, CHRISTIANS ARE FORBIDDEN TO PRAY FOR THEM, SINCE GOD HAS REVEALED THE DIVINE INTENTION (1 John 5:16).**
10. **THE "UNPARDONABLE SIN" WHICH MAKES GOD REVEAL THAT HE NEVER WILL REGENERATE IS THE "SINNER" SAYING THAT THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE WORK OF THE UNHOLY SPIRIT, SATAN (Matthew 12:31-32; Hebrews 6:4-6).**

## 26. UNPARDONABLE SIN (2)

1. **WE KNOW WHAT THE UNPARDONABLE SIN IS, BUT WHY HAS GOD REVEALED IT?**
2. **HE DOESN'T TELL US.**
3. **BUT WE CAN GUESS.**
4. **FOR ONE THING, IT TELLS US UNFORGETTABLY THAT SIN WILL NOT BE TOLERATED INDEFINITELY.** There comes a day of reckoning when the cup of iniquity is full (Genesis 15:16). But no man knows when the cup of iniquity is full. The unpardonable sin tells when the cup of iniquity is full.
5. **THE UNPARDONABLE SIN IN THIS WORLD REMINDS US THAT ALL SINS ARE UNPARDONABLE IN THE NEXT WORLD WHICH WE ENTER IMMEDIATELY AT DEATH, AND DEATH CAN COME AT ANY MOMENT.**
6. **THAT THERE IS BUT ONE UNPARDONABLE SIN IS A GRACIOUS ACT OF GOD FOR ALL BUT THE COMMITTERS OF THAT SIN.** It reminds all others poignantly that now is the day of salvation--not damnation--for all other sins. It is too late for the unpardonable sinner but not yet for all the rest of the world's sinners.
7. **THERE IS ONLY ONE UNPARDONABLE SIN.** All other sins, even those against the Son of Man, are still pardonable in this world.
8. **THE UNPARDONABLE SIN IN HEBREWS 6:6 SEEMS TO BE AN UNPARDONABLE SIN AGAINST THE SON OF MAN.**
9. **BUT PROBABLY IT IS UNPARDONABLE BECAUSE IT WAS A SIN BY "PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" (Hebrews 6:4).**
10. **SINNER, THIS DOCTRINE IS YOUR GREAT HOPE OF SALVATION!** So far you have committed nothing except sins. But today all of them are still pardonable. You have an opportunity that committers of the unpardonable sin no longer have. But that opportunity is only NOW. Maybe a moment from NOW your sins will be eternally UNPARDONABLE, too. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. NOW. Then and only then will you be incapable of committing an unpardonable sin.

## SECTION VI: JESUS CHRIST THE SAVIOR

### **27. THE COVENANT OF GRACE**

1. **THE BIBLE IS THE STORY OF TWO COVENANTS.**
2. **THE COVENANT OF WORKS WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOD AND THE FIRST ADAM, THAT SINLESS MAN WOULD LIVE OR DIE FOREVER ACCORDING TO ADAM'S OBEDIENCE OR DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD.**
3. **THE COVENANT OF GRACE WAS AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOD AND THE SECOND ADAM (JESUS CHRIST) THAT SINFUL BUT BELIEVING MAN WOULD LIVE FOREVER ON THE MERIT OF CHRIST'S OBEDIENCE TO GOD.**
4. **GOD'S GRAND PURPOSE IN THE CREATION OF THE WORLD WAS THE REVELATION OF HIS GLORY TO THE HUMAN CREATURE IN THE PREPARATION OF A BRIDE FOR HIS SON FROM FALLEN MANKIND BY THE SON'S OWN BECOMING INCARNATE AND DYING FOR HER REDEMPTION.**
5. **THIS WAS DONE ACCORDING TO THE "COVENANT OF GRACE" AFTER THE COVENANT OF WORKS HAD BROUGHT MAN TO SIN AND ETERNAL RUIN.**
6. **THE COVENANT OF WORKS WAS A COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND ADAM FOR MANKIND.** The covenant of grace is a covenant between God and Christ for elect mankind. In the covenant of works, man aspired to be God and man was cast down to hell. In the covenant of grace God condescended to become man and man was raised to heaven.
7. **THE COVENANT OF GRACE IS CALLED (AND ESSENTIALLY IS) A LAST WILL (TESTAMENT) MATTHEW 26:28; HEBREWS 9:16-17.** It is an eternal agreement between God the Father and God the Son that the Son would die for the salvation of those fallen sinners the Father would give Him. Because the last will would never fail, "Old Testament" believers were saved centuries before Christ actually died (Romans 3:25). And you TODAY may be received by the same blood shed 2000 years ago.
8. **THE COVENANT OF GRACE WAS IN TWO STAGES.**
9. **ARE YOU STILL UNDER THE COVENANT OF WORKS, CONDEMNED?** Or, by faith, are you in the covenant of grace, SAVED? "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16).
10. **AND IF YOU ARE TRUE BELIEVERS IN THE COVENANT OF GRACE YOU ARE THE HARDEST WORKING MORALISTS AROUND** (Matthew 5:17).

## **28. THE INCARNATION OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD (1)**

1. **JESUS CHRIST IS THE "FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD DWELLING BODILY"** (Colossians 2:19). You imagine that. I can't.
2. **BUT I CAN BELIEVE IT.**
3. **I CAN BELIEVE IT--NOT AGAINST REASON BUT FOR THE BEST OF REASONS.**
4. **GOD SAYS IT IN HIS WORD** (Colossians 2:9). God ought to know whether He can do it or not. If I say He can't I am the smartest of the Alecks--smarter than God, I am.
5. **PHILIP WAS AN APOSTLE AFTER MY OWN (STUPID) MIND.** "Show us the Father" he said to Christ. Christ showed him. "He who has seen ME has seen the FATHER, Philip" (John 14:9).
6. **IF YOU OR I OR ANYONE ELSE SAID THAT, IT WOULD BE BLASPHEMY.**
7. **IF I SAID IT I WOULD BE MAD.** Christ said it! And that proves it! The fullness of the Godhead CAN dwell bodily.
8. **LET ME PAUSE FOR STATION IDENTIFICATION.** In the midst of a discussion on Incarnation one realizes how important apologetics is. Go back to Lecture 6 and see why reason must believe Christ when He says anything.
9. **IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE UNIVERSE WHO IT IS WHO SAYS ANYTHING.** Some men's words weigh a ton. Christ's words weigh a universe, plus.
10. **BUT SOME ARE SMARTER THAN GOD.** They not only know that the Incarnation cannot be. They know what it is--a MYTH, no less. To think that I once studied at Oxford and did not learn how to be wiser than God. Maybe I need a refresher course.

## **29. THE INCARNATION OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD (2)**

1. **ALL GOD'S WAYS ARE MYSTERIOUS.**
2. **BUT THE INCARNATION IS THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES.**
3. **SINCE GOD DWELLS BODILY IN JESUS, DOES THIS INFINITE NOT CROWD OUT THE FINITE JESUS?** I say, Yes. God says, No.
4. **A HUMAN NATURE FOR A DIVINE PERSON WHO DOES NOT DISPLACE THE HUMAN NATURE?** Precisely. Jesus was still there to be tempted in all points like as we were--mere humans (Hebrews 4:15). If so, what is the advantage of being deity when still having the inconveniences of humanity?
5. **NONE AT ALL.** The Son of God did not take humanity on to exalt Himself but to humble Himself.
6. **IS GOD A MASOCHIST (Torturer of Himself)?** No, He became incarnate so that man would not be a masochist or a thousand other sinful aberrations.
7. **BUT IF CHRIST WAS A REAL MAN, WHY COULD HE NOT SIN AS THE REST OF US REAL HUMANS?** Because He was also a real God.
8. **THEN HIS REAL GODHOOD DID DISPLACE HIS REAL MANHOOD?**
9. **THERE YOU GO AGAIN.** His real Godhead fortified His real manhood. It did not eradicate it.
10. **HOW CAN THESE THINGS BE?** Don't search me. Search Christ. "He that has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

### **30. THE ATONEMENT OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD (1)**

1. **DID I SAY THAT THE INCARNATION WAS THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES?**
2. **IF SO, THE ATONEMENT IS THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES.**
3. **THAT GOD COULD LIVE IN HUMANITY IS INCREDIBLE.** That God could die in humanity is incredibly incredible.
4. **REALLY NOW, DID GOD DIE ON A CROSS?** Really now!
5. **ANSWER: NO AND YES.**
6. **NO, GOD DID NOT DIE ON THE CROSS OR ANYWHERE ELSE.** He did not die, He will not die, He cannot die. God is life, life, life; the same yesterday, today, and forever.
7. **BUT YES, GOD DIED ON THE CROSS TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO.**
8. **LEGAL FICTION?** Legal truth. Absolute verity. The man who shed His blood on Calvary was a true man but not a mere man. He was the fulness of the Godhead who was dying on the cross. Because of that, the human blood He shed was the blood of (belonging to, attributed to) God (Acts 20:28). The blood of God who had no blood.
9. **SO THE MAN JESUS CHRIST SHED THE "BLOOD OF GOD" THOUGH GOD DID NOT DIE, NEVER WILL DIE, CANNOT DIE.**
10. **DID GOD DIE ON A CROSS?** No and yes. The theologians call this "the community of attributes." That means that since the Son of God was one person with two natures, the different attributes of the two natures belonged to the one person. So it was that the divine persons could suffer and die because He, the Son, did it--not in His divine nature but in His human nature. Amen and Amen. Soli Deo Gloria!



### **31. THE ATONEMENT OF THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD (2)**

1. **WE KNOW HOW GOD DIED WITHOUT DYING.**
2. **BUT HOW DID HE DESCEND INTO HELL WITHOUT DESCENDING INTO HELL?**
3. **OF COURSE GOD NEVER DESCENDED INTO HELL BECAUSE BEING OMNIPRESENT HE ALWAYS IS IN HELL AS WELL AS EVERYWHERE ELSE.**
4. **THAT IS WHAT MAKES HELL, HELL: NOT THAT THE DEVILS AND SINNERS ARE THERE BUT THAT GOD IS THERE--IN HIS AWFUL WRATH. "Though I make my bed in hell...Thou art there" (Psalms 139:8).**
5. **BUT THE HELL THE APOSTLES' CREED IS TALKING ABOUT ("HE DESCENDED INTO HELL") IS NOT THE REAL HELL. It is an imaginary place often called Hades, where the Old Testament saints were supposed to have been waiting for Christ to descend and preach liberty to the captives leading them to heaven.**
6. **CHRIST NEVER DESCENDED THERE FOR TWO GOOD REASONS. One, there is no such place and two He had already declared His victory and delivered Satan's captives centuries before He actually accomplished the victory on Calvary (Romans 3:25).**
7. **WHAT CHRIST DID DO ON THE CROSS WAS MORE THAN THE EQUIVALENT OF GOING TO HELL. He suffered infinitely more than the pains of hell in the wrath of God that caused the cosmic scream, "My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me" (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:24).**
8. **BECAUSE CHRIST SCREAMED, OUR ANTIPHONAL RESPONSE IS "NOTHING SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS" (Romans 8:35ff.).**
9. **HE "DESCENDED INTO HELL" SO THAT HIS OWN MIGHT ASCEND TO HEAVEN.**
10. **AND AS SOMEONE HAS SAID, CHRISTIANS IN HEAVEN WILL NEVER EXCHANGE THAT CROSS FOR ANYTHING--NOT EVEN A CROWN.**



### **32. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST**

1. **THE DEVIL IS THE COURT JESTER.**
2. **HE LOVES TO CALL THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST "EASTER FAITH."** By this he means, let us celebrate the resurrection of One whose bones lie a-mouldering in the grave.
3. **HE KNOWS BETTER HIMSELF, BUT HE LIKES THE HUMAN SMART ALECKS TO THINK HE IS AS DUMB AS THEY ARE.**
4. **DEVILS ARE ALWAYS ORTHODOX THEMSELVES.** They know too much not to be. As Edwards wrote, they once studied in the best divinity school in the universe: heaven. But they don't want their victims to know for fear that knowing the truth they might slip the satanic noose (John 8:32).
5. **SMART ALECKS KNOW THAT DEAD BODIES DON'T RISE AND SMARTER DEVILS ENCOURAGE SUCH FATAL STUPIDITY, PASSING IT ON AS AVANT GARDE.**
6. **ONLY SIMPLE-MINDED FUNDAMENTALISTS (AND SMART DEVILS) BELIEVE CHRIST REALLY ROSE BODILY FROM THE GRAVE.**
7. **SINCE THE DEVILS KNOW HE ROSE FOR "JUSTIFICATION" (ROMANS 4:25), THEY DON'T WANT THE WISE ONES TO WISE-UP.** It is to their devilish advantage to keep the smart-alecks from getting smart.
8. **SATAN HAS THIS SOPHISTICATED COMPANY IN THEIR FOOLISH SLUMBER SO THAT HE CAN WAVE THE INFALLIBLE TEXT ("IF HE BE NOT RAISED YOUR FAITH IS VAIN," [CORINTHIANS 5:17]), BEFORE THEIR EYES WITHOUT THEIR CATCHING ON.**
9. **NONE ARE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE, SAID CHRIST (JOHN 9:41); BUT, TO NO PURPOSE FOR THE KNOW-IT-ALLS.**
10. **CHRIST SAID:** (1) Destroy this body.  
(2) In three days I will raise it up (John 2:20).  
(3) He did.  
(4) He thereby justified His people (Romans 4:25).

### **33. ASCENSION: SESSION AND INTERCESSION (1)**

1. **FOR FORTY DAYS CHRIST TARRIED AFTER HIS RESURRECTION BEFORE ASCENDING TO HEAVEN, NOT TO RETURN VISIBLY UNTIL HE COMES AS HE WENT, IN THE CLOUDS OF GLORY** (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:16-18).
2. **IN THAT INTERIM BETWEEN RESURRECTION TRIUMPH AND ASCENSION GLORY, CHRIST ESTABLISHED HIS CHURCH FOR THE LONG HAUL** (Acts 1:3-5).
3. **WHEN HE ASCENDED HE SAT DOWN AND HIS CHURCH WENT TO WORK, BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM...** (Acts 1:6-9).
4. **WHEN CHRIST'S ATONEMENT LABOR WAS "FINISHED" AND HE SAT DOWN, IT WAS NOT TO REST BUT TO DO A DIFFERENT WORK.** Or, He rested from what He had done so He could actively apply it to those for whom He did it (Hebrews 4:10).
5. **HIS WORK IN EXALTATION WAS TO BRING HOME TO HIS PEOPLE THE FRUIT OF HIS WORK IN HUMILIATION** (John 13:19, 16:12).
6. **HE BEGAN THE GREAT WORK OF INTERCESSION BEFORE HE SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER IN HEAVEN.** That is because He "died and rose again" before He died and rose again. If He had not, multitudes of His elect would have perished before A.D. 29. He would then have been dying in A.D. 29 for souls in hell which could never leave their "endless punishment."
7. **IF CHRIST HAD NOT INTERCEDED FOR PETER BEFORE THE CROSS, (THOUGH ON THE BASIS OF THE CROSS), PETER WITH JUDAS WOULD HAVE PERISHED BEFORE THE CROSS** (Luke 22:32).
8. **THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR LORD'S PRESENT INTERCESSION IS NOT MERELY THAT IT IS EVEN MORE BENEFICIAL FOR THE ELECT AFTER CALVARY, BUT BECAUSE THE GOD-MAN CAN NOW GIVE HIS UNDIVIDED ATTENTION.**
9. **HE SAID HE WOULD BE WITH HIS CHURCH TO THE END OF THE AGE** (Matthew 28:20ff). So He is now interceding for His church and sending His Spirit into her heart, preparing her for the great marriage feast to come (Revelation 19:9).
10. **THE GATES OF HELL ON EARTH CAN'T STAND AGAINST HIS CHURCH BECAUSE CHRIST INTERCEDES FOR HER IN HEAVEN.**

### **34. ASCENSION: SESSION AND INTERCESSION (2)**

1. **CHRYSOSTOM GIVES US A BEAUTIFUL ANALOGY OF CHRIST'S WORK OF INTERCESSION.**
2. **THIS LITTLE BOY IN CONSTANTINOPLE LOVED HIS FATHER VERY MUCH AND WANTED TO GIVE HIM A PRESENT WHEN HE RETURNED FROM A LONG TRIP.** Mother sent him to the garden to gather a bouquet. He gathered a bouquet of some flowers and assorted weeds. But when father returned he received a bouquet only of beautiful flowers attractively arranged because mother had removed all weeds and sorted all the flowers.
3. **THE CHURCH'S PRAYERS, PREVAILING AS THEY ARE, ACCEPTABLE AS THEY ARE, FRUITFUL AS THEY ARE, ARE NOT A THING OF BEAUTY AS THEY LEAVE THE LIPS OF SAINTS.** They are produced partly by the Spirit, in the name of the Son, and addressed to the heavenly Father. But as they start their way heavenward they are a mixed bag mostly of weeds with a few stray flowers. But when they arrive through the intercession of Christ, the weeds are gone and the flowers are beautiful and beautifully arranged.
4. **WHEN WE THINK HOW INAPPROPRIATE OUR PRAYERS ARE TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, WE SIMPLY COULD NOT GO THROUGH WITH THE APPARENT MOCKERY WERE CHRIST NOT TO BE COUNTED ON TO INTERCEDE.** He removes all that offends and magnifies our faith which is smaller than a grain of mustard seed.
5. **BECAUSE WE CAN COUNT ON HIS INTERCESSION, WE ACTUALLY HAVE ACCEPTANCE AND BOLDNESS BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE** (Hebrews 4:16).
6. **THE CHURCH HAS A JOB TO DO AND NO POWER TO DO IT.** But through the Intercession, she receives power (Christ's Spirit) from on high so she may witness effectively to the ends of the Devil's world (1 John 5:19).
7. **WE HAVE A HEAVENLY MANDATE WITH HEAVENLY POWER TO MATCH.**
8. **"NOT BY MIGHT NOR BY POWER BUT BY MY SPIRIT, SAYS THE LORD"** (Zechariah 4:6).
9. **HOW CAN THE CHURCH EVER BECOME WEARY WHEN IT IS NOT HER POWER SHE IS USING?**
10. **"HE EVER LIVETH TO MAKE INTERCESSION"** (Hebrews 7:25).

## SECTION VII: THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EVANGELISM

### 35. THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **IN THE ECONOMIC TRINITY THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE THIRD PERSON, IN NO WAY INFERIOR TO THE FIRST AND SECOND PERSONS.** The persons of the Godhead are equal in power and glory and the same in substance, as we can see from the baptismal formula (Matthew 28:19).
2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE THIRD PERSON TO PERFORM HIS SPECIFIC AGREED-UPON FUNCTION.** First, the Father decrees redemption; second, the Son purchases redemption; third, the Spirit applies redemption.
3. **THE ARMINIAN EVANGELICAL DENIES THE SOVEREIGN DECREE OF THE FATHER, THE SOVEREIGN REDEMPTION OF THE SON, AND THE SOVEREIGN REGENERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE EVANGELIST OF THE TRINITY.** Evangelism is His special work in redemption.
5. **HE DOES NOT DO THE WORK OF PREACHING, THOUGH HE EMPOWERS AND MOVES THE REFORMED PREACHER.**
6. **BUT HE AND HE ALONE MAKES THE PREACHING A DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORD AND POWER** (1 Corinthians 2:4).
7. **WHEN THE EVANGELIST CROWDS THE SPIRIT AND ATTEMPTS TO DO OR EVEN SHARE HIS WORK, THE SPIRIT IS "GRIEVED" AND MAY WITHDRAW** (Ephesians 4:30).
8. **IT MAY SEEM STRANGE THAT WHEN PETER CONFESSED CHRIST TO BE THE SON OF GOD, JESUS SAID THAT THE FATHER (NOT THE SPIRIT) HAD REVEALED THAT TO HIM** (Matthew 16:18). This was no doubt because the Father was the One who decreed that Peter should be illumined by the Spirit.
9. **THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT ONLY MAKES THE ELECT SINNER OVER AGAIN BUT HE EVEN CONTINUES TO WORK IN HIM TO WILL AND DO ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE** (Philippians 2:12).
10. **SO IT IS NOT "I" (PAUL) WHO LIVES BUT "CHRIST" (BY HIS SPIRIT) "WHO LIVES IN ME"** (Philippians 1:21). And it is not you, dear saint, who lives but the Spirit who lives in you. That is the reason and the only reason you live.

### **36. EVANGELISM (1)**

1. **EVANGELISM IS THE HUMAN MEANS BY WHICH GOD BRINGS MEN OUT OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD'S DEAR SON (Colossians 1:13).**
2. **THE HUMAN INSTRUMENTS ARE PRIMARILY DIVINELY CALLED TEACHERS AND PREACHERS WHO DECLARE THE WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD (Acts 20:27).**
3. **IF THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT REGENERATION PRECEDES FAITH, THEY ARE NOT FIT TO BE TEACHERS AND PREACHERS OF THE WORD (John 3:10).**
4. **WHEN THE WORD GOES FORTH IT WILL NOT RETURN TO GOD VOID, BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT FOR WHICH IT IS SENT--TO HIDE FROM SOME AND REVEAL TO OTHERS (Luke 10:21).**
5. **THE EVANGELIST IS SUCCESSFUL, THEREFORE, WHO BLINDS AS WELL AS ILLUMINES, THOUGH HE AIMS AT ILLUMINATION.**
6. **THE NATURAL TENDENCY OF THE HEARERS OF THE PREACHED WORD IS TO DISBELIEVE--NOT BECAUSE WHAT THEY HEAR IS UNTRUE BUT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT LIKE WHAT THEY HEAR. They will not "have God in their thinking" and the Bible is God's Word. So they will not have the Bible in their thinking even if they are skilled, unregenerate teachers of the Bible. They may be thinking about the Bible all the time who will not "have" the Bible in their thinking.**
7. **BUT THE UNBELIEVER HAS A PROBLEM.**
8. **HE WOULD NOT HAVE GOD IN HIS THINKING, BUT WHEN HE HEARS THE WORD HE UNDERSTANDS IT, DOESN'T LIKE IT, BUT CANNOT DENY ITS TRUTH.**
9. **HE DIMLY FEARS THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM AND NOT THE BIBLE, WHOSE DOCTRINE HE MOCKS.**
10. **AS A SCHOLAR ONCE SAID TO ME ABOUT THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF ORIGINAL SIN WHICH I WAS DEFENDING: "I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, GERSTNER, BUT I HOPE TO GOD YOU ARE."**

### 37. EVANGELISM (2)

1. **WHEN AN UNREGENERATE HEARER OF THE WORD CANNOT PROVE THE BIBLE IS WRONG, FEARS IT MAY BE RIGHT, BECOMES CONVINCED IT IS RIGHT, THEN HE IS UNDER CONVICTION.**
2. **HE DOES NOT LIKE WHAT HE HEARS, WOULD NOT HAVE GOD IN HIS THINKING, BUT KNOWS VERY WELL THAT HE OUGHT NOT TO FEEL AS HE FEELS.** The play (Bible) is a success but the audience (himself) is a failure. And he knows it.
3. **HERE IS THAT "COGNITIVE DISSONANCE" OF WHICH THE PSYCHOLOGISTS SPEAK.** The mind knows one way and the heart feels another way. Dissonance between the cognition and the feeling. A split between head and heart.
4. **NO ONE CAN LIVE THIS WAY.**
5. **SOMETHING MUST GIVE--THE HEAD OR THE HEART.** The head must get these things out of its thinking or the heart must get these things out of its feeling.
6. **WHAT CAN THE POOR SINNER DO?** Surge back and forth like the sea (Isaiah 59:20). There is simply no rest for the wicked under conviction.
7. **HE CAN'T CHANGE HIS FEELING ABOUT THESE TRUTHS BUT HE MAY TRY TO SEE IF HE CAN CHANGE THE TRUTHS FOR A LITTLE SLEEP'S SAKE.**
8. **THERE IT IS AGAIN.** The fool and his heart. His heart says: "No God for me," but his mind knows better.
9. **IF ONLY I CAN THINK GOD OUT OF EXISTENCE.**
10. **AT LEAST, I'LL DIE TRYING.**



### 38. EVANGELISM (3)

1. **TAKE A LOOK AT CONTEMPORARY SO-CALLED EVANGELISM.**
2. **THERE ARE AT LEAST FIVE VARIETIES BEGINNING WITH THE LETTER "S".**
3. **FIRST, SILENCE.** This is liberal evangelism. Anti-supernatural liberals have no evangelism but they cherish the name because every Christian is expected to believe in evangelism. And it pays. This is important for those whose god is their belly (Philippians 3:19).
4. **LIBERALISM DOES NOT BELIEVE THIS IS A LOST WORLD, OR THAT THERE ARE LOST SINNERS WHO NEED SALVATION, OR THAT THERE IS AN ANGRY GOD, OR THAT CHRIST SHED HIS BLOOD TO PROPITIATE AN ALIENATED DEITY, OR RECONCILE A GODLESS MANKIND.** There is nothing for a liberal to do but clam up on true evangelism.
5. **SECOND, SACRAMENTALISM.** Probably three-fourths or more of the world's churches are resting on liturgical magic. They are counting on the sacrament of baptism to bring dead sinners alive and the mass to keep them that way.
6. **IF THESE CHRISTIANS CAN GET PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY INFANTS, TO THE FONT, ALL IS WELL WITH THEIR NEW-BORN SOULS. Ex opere operato.** The sacraments need only be administered to be effective. Fool-proof, heretic-proof, sin-proof evangelism. The only thing wrong with this sure form of evangelism is that it happens not to be true. If the blood of bulls and goats could not wash away sin, neither could an ocean of water and a ton of bread.
7. **THIRD, SURRENDER.** The Arminian "evangelical" way. You surrender to Christ and Christ will save. Oh so true. If you surrender Christ will save. But, alas, you don't surrender until Christ saves!
8. **FOURTH, SHRUG.** The way of many reformed evangelists today. If the person evangelized does not believe, what is the pastor then to do? I don't know-- SHRUG. Shrug evangelism is not wrong evangelism as the first three are; but, simply no evangelism.
9. **FIFTH, SEEKING.** The biblical way.
10. **TO BE CONTINUED.**

### 39. SEEKING (1)

1. **THE REASON MANY REFORMED EVANGELISTS SHRUG RATHER THAN SEEK IS THAT THEY FEAR SEEKING IS LIKE SURRENDERING: AN ARMINIAN EVANGELICAL ERROR OF THE EVANGELIST, A TAKING OVER THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
2. **IF THAT WERE SO IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SHRUG THAN SEEK.**
3. **BUT 'TAIN'T SO.**
4. **THERE IS NOTHING ARMINIAN IN THIS SEEKING.**
5. **ARMINIAN SEEKING REFERS TO THE SINNER'S IMAGINED ABILITY TO COOPERATE WITH GOD IN BRINGING ABOUT REGENERATION.** The sinner does as much good as he can and God takes it from there.
6. **THERE ARE ONLY TWO THINGS WRONG WITH ARMINIAN EVANGELISM.** Sinners can't do any good and when God takes over, it is from square one.
7. **BUT, YOU SAY, SEEKING SURELY IS SOMETHING THE SINNER DOES.**
8. **YOU COULD NOT BE MORE RIGHT.** It is something the sinner does, something sinful that the sinner does!
9. **OF COURSE, WHATEVER THE UNREGENERATE SINNER DOES IS SINFUL, AS WE SAW WHEN WE SAW HOW TOTAL DEPRAVITY WORKS.** But even there we saw that the sinner could do virtuous things sinfully. He can even give his body to be burned and not have love.
10. **AND SO HE CAN SEEK GOD AND NOT LOVE THE GOD HE SEEKS.** In fact, he can seek Him while he hates Him. Seek Him while he flees from Him. Let me explain in the next lesson.



#### 40. SEEKING (2)

1. **BUT WHEN THE AWAKENED, CONVICTED SINNER SEEKS A GOD HE HATES, HE NEED NOT LIE ABOUT HIS MOTIVE AND BECOME A HYPOCRITE.** He knows too much about the true God to try to pull the wool over His eyes.
2. **OUR SEEKER ADMITS HE IS A FALSE SEEKER.** He admits he is seeking his own well-being and really couldn't care less about God's.
3. **SCRIPTURE DISTINGUISHES BETWEEN THE TWO KINDS OF SEEKER: FALSE AND TRUE.**
4. **OF THE "TRUE" SEEKER: IF WITH ALL YOUR HEART YOU (TRULY) SEEK GOD YOU WILL FIND HIM** (Jeremiah 29:13). "(Truly) seek and you shall find" (Matthew 7:7). "There is none" (among unconverted men) "that (truly) seek God" (Romans 3:11).
5. **OF OUR "FALSE" SEEKER: LUKE 13:24 "MANY WILL (FALSELY) SEEK AND NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER."** Luke 16:16 speaks of every man (and not every one was a true seeker, obviously) pressing into the kingdom of God. In Matthew 7:13-14, Christ directs His audience to enter at that narrow gate which so few find (though they must have sought). Esau was one who sought repentance with tears without finding (so he could not truly have sought) (Hebrews 12:16).
6. **THE "FALSE" SEEKER IS "TRUE" IN THE SENSE THAT HE ADMITS HE IS FALSE.** He admits that he is nothing but a sinner and that even his seeking God is sinful because he seeks only for personal benefit and not for the glory of God.
7. **THOUGH HIS SEEKING IS SINFUL, IT IS LESS SINFUL THAN NOT SEEKING.**
8. **REDUCING ONE'S SINS WILL, IF IT DOES NOT BRING HEAVEN, MAKE HELL MORE "TOLERABLE"** (Mark 6:11).
9. **NO SELFISH SINNER AWARE OF HIS DANGER OF HELL WILL FAIL TO SEEK.**
10. **THAT IS THE SINNER'S FIRST HOPEFUL STEP--NOT VIRTUOUS, BUT HOPEFUL.** "God may PERHAPS grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the Devil, after being captured by him to do his will" (2 Timothy 2:25, 26).

#### **41. SEEKING (3)**

1. **TO SHOW THAT CALVINISTIC EVANGELISTS NEVER LET SEEKING SLIP INTO THE ARMINIAN GOOD WORKS OF BAD MEN, CONSIDER JONATHAN EDWARDS.** Some of his congregation had been seeking as long as twenty years and began to complain because God had not saved them, as if God were depriving them of their due after such long self-denial and strict outward conformity to His law. Edwards asked these complainers: "How much do you suppose God owes you for twenty years of sinning?" Calvin was never more Calvinistic.
2. **THESE COMPLAINING SEEKERS COULD HAVE THANKED GOD THAT THEY HAD TWENTY YEARS OF LESS BAD WORKS TO SUFFER IN HELL.**
3. **THEY WERE GRATEFUL BECAUSE AS EDWARDS REMINDED THEM, SINNERS IN HELL WOULD GIVE THE WORLD AND ALL BESIDES TO MAKE THE NUMBER OF THEIR SINS ONE LESS.**
4. **IF THERE WAS ANY GRATITUDE IN HELL SEEKERS WOULD HAVE AN ETERNAL THANKSGIVING SERVICE IN THE PIT.**
5. **BUT THE FAR, FAR GREATER HOPE OF SEEKERS WAS THAT GOD WOULD FIND THEM.** And they had great hope of that because faith, if it comes, comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). These seekers were great listeners to the Word of God (preached and read).
6. **MANY OF THESE SEEKERS WERE FOUND BY GOD!**
7. **ALMOST ALL WHO SOUGHT FOUND AND ALMOST ALL WHO DID NOT SEEK NEVER DID FIND CHRIST.**
8. **BUT SOMETIMES SEEKERS DID NOT FIND AND NON-SEEKERS DID.** God is sovereign. No seeker dared ever forget it.
9. **IN GENERAL, SEEKERS WERE LIKE THE BEGGARS OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF SAMARIA WHEN IT WAS BEING BESIEGED BY THE ASSYRIAN ARMY (2 Kings 7:3, 4).** They said if we stay here we will surely die. If we go to the Assyrian army we may be saved. You remember that the Assyrian army had fled and the beggars not only survived but found a fortune.
10. **EDWARDS' SERMON ON 2 KINGS 7:3-4 WAS ENTITLED: "A POSSIBILITY OF BEING SAVED IS MUCH TO BE PREFERRED TO A CERTAINTY OF PERISHING."**

#### **42. SEEKING (4)**

1. **THE READER OF THIS SECTION CAN SEE WHAT A VAST DIFFERENCE BIBLICAL SEEKING-EVANGELISM IS FROM THE FOUR OTHER FORMS COMMONLY PRACTICED TODAY.**
2. **IN THE CASE OF SACRAMENTAL EVANGELISM, THE EVANGELIST IS GETTING PEOPLE TO DO SOMETHING THAT IS IN THEIR NATURAL POWER--RECEIVE SACRAMENTS--BUT WHICH CAN DO NOTHING SAVING FOR THEM APART FROM FAITH (WHICH IS ONLY IN THEIR HEARTS WHEN GOD BESTOWS IT) (Ephesians 2:8-9).**
3. **IN THE CASE OF SURRENDER EVANGELISM, THE EVANGELIST IS URGING SINNERS TO DO SOMETHING WHICH WOULD INDEED SAVE THEM BUT WHICH THEY CANNOT DO BECAUSE, OF THEMSELVES, THEY NEVER WILL.**
4. **IN "SEEKING" EVANGELISM THE EVANGELIST IS EXHORTING SINNERS TO DO SOMETHING THEY CAN DO WHICH IS ADMITTEDLY NON-SAVING AND EVEN SINFUL, BUT WHICH PUTS THEM IN THE SPHERE WHERE GOD USUALLY WORKS IF HE WORKS SAVINGLY AND MAKES THEM LESS SINFUL IN THE PROCESS. God and Scripture are honored. The seeker is humbled. All proceeds for the greater glory of God and some certain benefit for the seeker, if not actual salvation.**
5. **ALL THIS IS ACTIVITY WITHOUT A HINT OF ARMINIANISM.**
6. **REMEMBER THE EVANGELISTIC ALTERNATIVES: SEEKING OR A SHRUG.**
7. **ONE CAN SEE THAT SEEKING DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE REAL EVANGELIZER--THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
8. **THE MINISTER CAN'T CONVERT (REGENERATE). The sinner can't convert (regenerate). Only the Spirit can convert (regenerate).**
9. **THE SEEKER IS ASKING HIM TO DO JUST THAT. HE KNOWS AND ACKNOWLEDGES THAT HIS SALVATION IS OWING TO A SOVEREIGN HOLY SPIRIT.**
10. **AGAIN: "THE LORD'S SERVANT MUST NOT BE QUARRELSOME BUT KINDLY TO EVERYONE, AN APT TEACHER, FORBEARING, CORRECTING HIS OPPONENTS WITH GENTLENESS. God may PERHAPS grant that they will repent and come to know the truth, and they may escape from the snare of the devil..." (2 Timothy 2:24-26).**

## SECTION VIII: SALVATION

### 43. REGENERATION

1. **THE SUN IS ALWAYS SHINING.** So is the Son. It cannot not shine. Neither can He.
2. **MEN ARE BORN SEEING THE SUN BUT SOME BECOME BLIND.** Men are born blind to the Son but some receive sight.
3. **WHEN CHRIST CAME, THEY "WHO SAT IN DARKNESS SAW A GREAT LIGHT"** (Matthew 4:16).
4. **THEY SAW A GREAT LIGHT.**
5. **REVELATION IS NOT AN UNVEILING OF THE PORTRAIT BUT A REMOVING OF THE BLINDNESS OF THE BEHOLDER.** God shines into the darkness not by turning on His light but by opening the windows to it.
6. **THE PLAY HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SUCCESS.** It was the audience that was the failure. The play was brilliant. The audience was bat-blind. What was needed was not for God to shine. He always shone--but for the mind and heart of men to be opened.
7. **THE ILLUMINATION OF GOD COMES BY REGENERATION.**
8. **THIS MAKES THE SINNER A NEW CREATURE WITH A NEW SET OF EYES.**
9. **MAN WAS CREATED WITH SPIRITUAL EYES WHICH HE LOST BY THE FALL.** God opened the eyes of Israel, His chosen people (Amos 3:2). Now the poor unbelieving Jews, "when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted because only through Christ is it taken away. Yes, to this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds" (2 Corinthians 3:14-15).
10. **ALAS, A VEIL LIES OVER "CHRISTIAN" EYES.** They never see the true Jesus anymore than the Jews see the true Moses. They see the Jesus of "The Last Temptation" or "The Myth of God Incarnate" or the Christ of their own imagination. They must be born again if they are ever to "see" Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the God-Man (Matthew 16:17).

#### 44. FAITH (1)

1. **FAITH IS SO VITAL, SO CRUCIAL THAT IT HAS MANY COUNTERFEITS.**
2. **THERE IS EVEN A DEVIL'S FAITH.** "The demons believe and tremble" (James 2:19). They have a faith that damns. "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be damned!" Poor devils. Even in hell they can't help believing.
3. **THERE ARE MANY HUMANS WITH DEVILS' FAITH.** They, too, believe in God and tremble. They know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, but for them that knowledge is not life, but death. They know too much not to believe. They don't "know" enough to believe and be saved (Cf. John 8:31 ff.).
4. **AS SOMEONE SAID, THE SADDEST ROAD TO HELL STARTS IN A CHRISTIAN HOME, GOES DOWN A CHURCH AISLE, PAST A REFORMED PULPIT.** We call this historical faith.
5. **THERE IS EVEN A COUNTERFEIT MIRACULOUS FAITH.** Faith in miracles and a miracle-working faith. "Though I have faith so as to move mountains and have not love, it profits me nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:2).
6. **THERE IS "MIRABILE DICTU"--A COUNTERFEIT HOLY SPIRIT FAITH!** The "Christians" of Hebrews 6 who trampled under feet the blood of the Son of God and could never be renewed to repentance had been enlightened "partakers of the Holy Spirit" (vs. 4). They encountered Him but were never born again by Him. A mere charismatic faith.
7. **NELS FERRE, IN A VOLUME WRITTEN YEARS AGO, EVEN HAD FAITH IN FAITH.**
8. **THERE IS LEWIS BROWNE'S THIS BELIEVING WORLD--A GOOD BOOK, EXCEPT IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ENTITLED, THIS UNBELIEVING WORLD.**
9. **"I DON'T BELIEVE. HELP THOU MY BELIEF."**
10. **ALL IN ALL, THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF FALSE FAITH; BUT ONLY ONE TRUE FAITH TO WHICH WE NOW COME.**

#### 45. FAITH (2)

1. **WE FLED HIM "DOWN THE DAYS AND DOWN THE YEARS."**
2. **UNTIL WE FELL INTO THE PIT WHERE FLIGHT WAS VAIN.**
3. **OR HE CAUGHT US.**
4. **ONCE HE CAUGHT US BY HIS POOL OF LIGHT WE STOPPED RUNNING AFRAID FROM HIM.** We started running aflame toward Him.
5. **THIS IS THE GENERATION OF THOSE WHO TRULY SEEK HIM, WHO SEEK THE FACE OF THE GOD OF JACOB. Selah**  
Lift up your heads, O Gates!  
and be lifted up, O Ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in.  
Who is the King of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
The LORD, mighty in battle!  
Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
That the King of glory may come in.  
Who is the King of glory?  
The LORD of hosts  
He is the King of glory! Selah (Psalm 24:7-10).
6. **THIS IS WHAT SCRIPTURE MEANS BY THE FORENSIC DOCTRINE OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH.**
7. **"BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (THE KING OF GLORY) AND YOU SHALL BE SAVED."**
8. **THIS IS THE ONE IN PSALM 24 WHO "WILL RECEIVE VINDICATION FROM THE GOD OF HIS SALVATION" (vs. 5).**
9. **IT ALL BEGINS (AND ENDS) WITH FAITH (Romans 1:17).**
10. **"COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me: for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28-29).**



#### 46. FAITH (3)

1. **LET US ANALYZE FAITH MORE CLOSELY; MUCH IS AT STAKE.**
2. **TRUE FAITH IS IN A HISTORICAL FACT.**
3. **REMEMBER THE ANTI-HISTORICAL FAITH CALLED "EASTER FAITH"?**
4. **KIERKEGAARD USED TO THINK IT'S MORE IMPORTANT HOW YOU BELIEVE THAN WHAT YOU BELIEVE.** He even wrote Fear and Trembling, about Abraham's faith. We have seen that that was not Abraham's but the Devil's faith--fear and trembling faith.
5. **LEAPS INTO THE DARK ARE DANGEROUS.** Leaps into the Light are saving.
6. **THE HISTORICAL ELEMENT IN FAITH IS ADDRESSED TO THE MIND. THAT IS THE GATEWAY TO THE HEART.** But true faith must reach the heart. It can't be felt without being known. Alas, it can be known without being felt.
7. **IN THAT CASE IT DIES STILL-BORN IN THE ENLIGHTENED BRAIN.** Judas probably knew more than any of the Twelve. He felt less. He felt nothing. Jesus was a cause, not a Savior. Judas went to his "own place" reserved in hell for those who know everything and feel nothing.
8. **FAITH IS THE HEART OF SALVATION AND TRUST IS THE HEART OF FAITH.** Without this, mind and heart grind to a halt. You are halting between two opinions. You are neither hot nor cold. God will spew you out of His mouth (Revelation 3:15).
9. **THE CALL OF GOD IS TO COMMITMENT.** Faith comes through the mind, is fired by the heart, but blasts off by trust to heaven.
10. **"BELIEVE (KNOW, FEEL, TRUST) IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND BE SAVED"** (Acts 16:31).

## **47. REPENTANCE**

1. **THIS IS TRUE REPENTANCE THAT BRINGS "GOD'S SALVATION" (2 Corinthians 7:10). It is a turning from sin and not merely from sins' consequences. For godly grief provides a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret...."**
2. **IN TURNING FROM SIN'S CONSEQUENCES, SUCH AS THE USUAL CAUSE OF AIDS, THERE IS NO NECESSARY TURNING FROM SIN.** As soon as a cure for the present consequences of immoral conduct is found, many will resume the practice of immorality.
3. **SALVATION FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IN THIS WORLD IS NOT SALVATION FROM SIN.** This "salvation" will work even greater damnation in hell if it passes for salvation from sin.
4. **IT MAY BE CONSEQUENCES WHICH AWAKENED A PERSON TO SIN.** A pain in the shoulder may awaken a person to gall bladder trouble. Then he should treat his gall bladder, not the pain in the shoulder.
5. **OUR SOCIAL TENDENCY TODAY IS (1) TO SIN (PRACTICE HOMOSEXUALITY, FOR EXAMPLE); (2) INCUR DISEASE; (3) HAVE SOCIETY PITY US BECAUSE OF OUR SIN-INCURRED DISEASE; (4) AND PAY FOR THE CURE OF THAT DISEASE SO THAT (5) WE MAY GO ON SINNING (HOPEFULLY, WITHOUT CONTRACTING DISEASE).**
6. **GOD'S METHOD IS (1) SHOW US OUR SIN SOMETIMES BY THE DISEASE IT CAUSES; (2) THEREBY CALL US TO REPENTANCE FOR OUR SIN; (3) FORGIVE US IF WE DO REPENT; (4) AND REPENTANCE LEADS TO THE CURE OF OUR DISEASE BY THE CEASING FROM SIN.**
7. **REPENTANCE ITSELF (METANOIA) IS A CHANGE OF MIND (TOWARD SIN).**
8. **PREVIOUSLY THE SINNER PRACTICED THE SIN AND DEFENDED THE PRACTICE.**
9. **NOW HE LOATHES AND BLAMES HIMSELF FOR THE SIN. No excuses.**
10. **NO EXCUSES; ONLY A TURNING IN FAITH TO CHRIST WHO SAVES HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS, NOT FROM ITS CONSEQUENCES.**



## **48. JUSTIFICATION (1)**

1. **FAITH IS THE HEART OF SALVATION AND HERE IS WHY--IT BRINGS JUSTIFICATION.**
2. **AND THIS WAS THE HEART OF THE REFORMATION.**
3. **FOR LUTHER, THIS WAS THE "ARTICLE" (DOCTRINE) BY WHICH THE CHURCH STANDS OR FALLS.**
4. **FOR JOHN CALVIN IT WAS THE "HINGE" OF THE REFORMATION.** And Roman Catholicism, though opposing it, agreed on its cruciality.
5. **THE PROTESTANT CHURCH STOOD ON IT AND THE ROMAN CHURCH, AT THE COUNCIL OF TRENT (1546-63), FELL BY REJECTING IT.**
6. **THE DOCTRINE BEING SO INSEPARABLE FROM CHRISTIANITY, LET US MAKE SURE WE UNDERSTAND IT.**
7. **A DIAGRAMMATIC OUTLINE OF THE FOUR MAIN INTERPRETATIONS:**
  - (1) **LIBERAL: WORKS -> JUSTIFICATION - FAITH**
  - (2) **ANTINOMIAN: FAITH -> JUSTIFICATION - WORKS**
  - (3) **ROMAN CATHOLIC: FAITH + WORKS -> JUSTIFICATION**
  - (4) **PROTESTANT (BIBLICAL): FAITH -> JUSTIFICATION + WORKS**
8. **LIBERALISM IS ANTI-SUPERNATURAL CHRISTIANITY--A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS BECAUSE CHRISTIANITY IS FOUNDED ON A SUPERNATURAL PERSON, JESUS CHRIST, AND HIS SUPERNATURAL WORD, THE BIBLE.** Nevertheless, liberalism, though it is anti-Christian, makes up the largest number, the nominal Christians. Its way of justification is entirely by what you do. Salvation by works pure and simple. A do-it-yourself religion. Liberalism is for: practice not faith; deed not creed; life not doctrine. In the diagram we write "minus faith", not meaning that liberalism is opposed to faith in general but to faith in Christ as a divine person and His atonement as a divine work.
9. **ANTINOMIANISM (WIDESPREAD IN FUNDAMENTALISM) BELIEVES IN A SUPERNATURAL CHRIST AND SUPERNATURAL BIBLE WITHOUT ANY QUESTION.** But it stresses by "faith alone" in such a way that the works which must follow need not. Notwithstanding, there is supposed to be justification by faith. This is anti-biblical and anti-justification because faith without works is DEAD (James 2:26).
10. **ON TO ROMAN JUSTIFICATION.**

## 49. JUSTIFICATION (2)

1. **ROMAN CATHOLIC JUSTIFICATION IS ALSO BASED ON A SUPERNATURAL CHRIST AND SUPERNATURAL BIBLE (INTERPRETED BY A SUPERNATURAL AGENCY, THE PAPACY).** Unlike liberalism it rightly calls for faith in the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ. Unlike antinomianism it rightly calls for necessary works. Its fatal error is that after rightly recognizing the necessity of "works," it makes them the basis of justification. It is they and not the Christ of faith which gain the Christian his title to heaven.
2. **THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION DOCTRINE IS THE BIBLICAL AND SAVING ONE.** It is, of course, anti-liberal, anti-antinomian, and anti-Roman justification. Justification is by faith alone inseparably connected with works.
3. **THIS MAY SEEM TO MAKE FAITH INTO A WORK AND THUS LAPSES INTO ROMAN JUSTIFICATION BY WORKS.** If so, it would out-do Rome in error, having one work do what Rome requires a life of works to accomplish.
4. **IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHAT THE REFORMATION AND BIBLE MEANT "BY FAITH ALONE."** It means "by Christ alone." Faith is no meritorious work that is able of itself to save. Faith means, as we have seen, coming to, resting in, trusting upon Christ, who alone justifies.
5. **WHAT PROTESTANTISM AND THE BIBLE MEAN IS: "JUSTIFICATION BY CHRIST ALONE!"**
6. **JESUS SAVES AND JESUS ONLY SAVES.**
7. **I EXPLAINED TO MY DAUGHTER YEARS AGO THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PROTESTANT, ROMAN CATHOLIC, AND ANTINOMIAN JUSTIFICATION IS THIS:**
  - (1) Roman Catholic: Jesus and Judy justify Judy who then serves Him (Jesus)
  - (2) Protestant: Jesus justifies Judy who then serves Him
  - (3) Antinomian: Jesus justifies Judy who then serves Him or not, as Judy pleases
8. **IF JUDY GETS IN THIS ACT OF JUSTIFYING JUDY, I EXPLAINED, "JUDY IS LOST."** But if Judy doesn't get in the act ("works") of justifying Jesus' justification of Judy, Judy is lost."
9. **THE GREAT BAPTIST THEOLOGIAN, A. H. STRONG, USES THE ANALOGY OF A LOCOMOTIVE AND ITS TRAIN OF CARS.** All the power is in the locomotive (Christ). None is in the coupling (faith) that links the locomotive to the cars. But the locomotive won't move the cars without the coupling!
10. **FINALLY, THOUGH MOST IMPORTANT, JUSTIFICATION ITSELF DOES TWO ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THINGS:**
  - (1) Removes the believer's guilt.
  - (2) Bestows Christ's righteousness on the believer.

## 50. ADOPTION

1. **WE ARE NOT NATURALLY UP FOR ADOPTION.** We already belong to a family and its head and we ourselves don't want to be adopted.
2. **W. C. FIELDS ONCE SAID THAT HE WAS BORN OF POOR BUT DISHONEST PARENTS.** So were we. Satan was our father and we had devils and other hellish relatives (John 8:43-44).
3. **NEVERTHELESS, AGAINST SATAN'S WILL AND OURS (UNTIL IT WAS REGENERATED), GOD ADOPTED US.** God adopted sons and daughters of the Devil (S.O.D.s).
4. **GEORGE WHITEFIELD ONCE REFERRED TO PROSTITUTES AS "THE DEVIL'S CASTAWAYS."** His hostess, Lady Huntingdon, rebuked him for the indelicate expression, when a knock at the door was heard. There stood two former women of the streets to testify they had been converted by the censured expression. We are all unconverted until we realize we are, as it were, the Devil's castaways. Actually the Devil never casts any sinner away. The only sinners who leave are snatch-aways.
5. **IT ALL CAME ABOUT AT THE SAME TIME AS FAITH, REPENTANCE, AND JUSTIFICATION.** "As many as received Him, to them He gave authority to be called the children of God" (John 1:12). You belong to the Devil no longer. You are no longer his "goods." You belong to the family of God.
6. **WE ARE ADOPTED, BUT NOT ALL OF US.** Our bodies haven't been fully adopted yet. "We wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:23).
7. **OF COURSE THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT OUR SOULS ARE ADOPTED IN THIS WORLD AND OUR BODIES IN THE NEXT.** It means that though our redeemed souls never die, our bodies do die but live again perfectly in the resurrection to come.
8. **IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE S.O.D.s CLAIM TO BE NATURALLY BORN S.O.G.s (SONS OF GOD).** They are all liars as their father is.
9. **GOD IN HIS WORD NEVER SAYS THAT HE IS THE FATHER OF ALL MEN, AND THAT THEY ARE SIBLINGS IN HIS FAMILY.** His true children are such only by adoption.
10. **THE DEVIL'S CHILDREN SHOULD PRAY, "OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HELL."** Only by adoption can men pray, "Our Father who art in heaven...."

## SECTION IX: SANCTIFICATION

### 51. SANCTIFICATION (1)

1. **WE HAVE SEEN THAT A CHRISTIAN IS JUSTIFIED BY A WORKING FAITH.** Let us now see how that faith works out in sanctification.
2. **1 JOHN 3:6 AND MANY OTHER TEXTS (2 CORINTHIANS 13:9; 1 CORINTHIANS 3:14; 1 JOHN 3:9, 4:12) SEEM TO TEACH CHRISTIAN SINLESSNESS OR PERFECTION.** Perfectionists and others may well ask, why do you say these texts seem to teach sinlessness?
3. **OUR SEEMING TO WAFFLE HERE AND LACK CANDOR IS THAT ELSEWHERE THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT NO CHRISTIAN LIVES WITHOUT SIN (NEHEMIAH 1:6; MATTHEW 6:12; JAMES 5:16; 1 JOHN 1:8ff.).**
4. **ALL CHRISTIANS AGREE THAT GOD'S WORD DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF.** So the Bible, properly understood, teaches one or the other doctrine--not both. If the perfectionists are right, we are wrong. If we are right, they will admit that they are wrong. Only God cannot be wrong.
5. **LANGUAGE ALONE WILL NOT SETTLE THIS MATTER.** "No one who...sins" can mean: no one who ever sins or no one who habitually sins. Only the Bible and its teaching as a whole can decide.
6. **MATTHEW 6:12 IS NOT JUST ONE TEXT.** It deals with an absolute essential of the Christian life: prayer. There can't be a Christian without prayer, all agree. But the Lord's Prayer teaches that there can be no prayer without confession of sin. That should settle the question. A person who does not commit sin cannot be a Christian and ask forgiveness.
7. **PAUL IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CHRISTIANS EVER, IF NOT THE GREATEST, AND HE DID NOT CONSIDER HIMSELF TO HAVE ACHIEVED PERFECTION** (Philippians 3:12-15).
8. **PERFECTIONISTS ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE THIS BY SAYING: A CHRISTIAN MAY FALL FROM PERFECTION AND ACHIEVE IT AGAIN AND AGAIN.**
9. **WE REPLY: PAUL NEVER ACHIEVED IT, AND BESIDES, IF ONCE IN A STATE OF PERFECTION BECAUSE OF GOD'S INWORKING (PHILLIPIANS 2:11), HOW COULD ONE FALL WITHOUT GOD'S WITHDRAWAL, FOR WHICH THERE WOULD BE NO REASON IN A PERFECT PERSON.**
10. **THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO PROVE THE POINT, BUT IS IT ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN 1 JOHN 3:6 AND OTHER SUCH TEXTS?** Yes, it is. We said at the outset that the language as language could be construed as: no one who habitually sins or allows himself in the practice of sin. In the light of what we have noticed we can say that the language must be so construed. Sin "remaining but no longer reigning" is the Christian way of sanctification.

## **52: SANCTIFICATION (2)**

1. **PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13 REVEALS TO US THE INNER MECHANISM OF SANCTIFICATION.** "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure."
2. **GOD WORKS IN US (INCLINES OUR HEART), AND WE WORK OUT (EXPRESS IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED) THE HOLINESS TO WHICH GOD INCLINES OUR HEART.**
3. **REFORMED THEOLOGIANS CALL THIS "SYNERGISM," IN CONTRAST TO THE "MONERGISM" OF REGENERATION.**
4. **THE SPIRIT OF GOD ALONE WORKED REGENERATION IN US (MONERGISM).** We were totally passive in that experience. God also alone works in us this new disposition to love and obey God, which love and obedience we exercise or "work out" (synergism).
5. **REGENERATION IS A "ONE-MAN" (GOD!) WORK WHILE SANCTIFICATION IS A "TWO-MAN" OPERATION.**
6. **NEVERTHELESS, GOD IS AS SOVEREIGN IN SANCTIFICATION AS IN REGENERATION.**
7. **IT MIGHT SEEM THAT GOD IS THE AUTHOR AND WE ARE THE FINISHERS OF SANCTIFICATION.** But if God began sanctification and left us to finish it, it would never be finished. God does not leave us in the finishing but brings us to the finishing, which He enables us to do.
8. **THE GALATIANS OF PAUL'S TIME (GALATIANS 3:3) AND MANY, MANY "GALATIANS" SINCE MADE THE MISTAKE OF THINKING THAT ONCE GOD STARTED THEM ON SANCTIFICATION, THEY COULD TAKE IT FROM THERE.** "Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?"
9. **BUT IN SANCTIFICATION, AS IN MERE EXISTENCE, IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING.** You can see a parallel here to the continuous creationism in metaphysics: a continuous regeneration, as it were.
10. **THERE IS NO MORE ROOM FOR PERSONAL PRIDE IN SANCTIFICATION THAN IN REGENERATION.** If we were perfect we would be in ourselves "unprofitable servants" (Luke 17:10).

### **53. THE CHRISTIAN AND THE LAW OF GOD**

1. **JESUS CHRIST TEACHES THAT SAVED-BY-GRACE CHRISTIANS ARE MORE MORAL THAN THE MORALISTS.**
2. **MATTHEW 5:20, "FOR I SAY TO YOU, THAT UNLESS YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS SURPASSES THAT OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, YOU SHALL NOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."**
3. **THOSE WHO ARE SAVED BY GRACE ARE MORE MORAL THAN THOSE WHO HOPE TO SAVE THEMSELVES BY THEIR MORALITY!**
4. **THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, THEN AND NOW, WERE LEGALISTS.** Legalists are persons who love the moral law because they believe they meet its demands and are saved by their merit in so doing. Their imagined perfect law-keeping is their imagined savior.
5. **THEY ARE DO-IT-YOURSELFERS.** They save themselves and despise those who need a crutch--a cross--to save them.
6. **THE JEWS PAST AND PRESENT ARE NOT THE ONLY DO-IT-YOURSELFERS IN RELIGION.** All religions are do-it-yourself religions--except Christianity. They teach salvation by the merit of your almsgiving, your keeping the golden or silver rule, your walking the eight-fold paths, keeping the fourfold rule or your merit in doing something and/or not doing something else.
7. **CHRIST'S RELIGION TEACHES NO MERIT AT ALL FROM A SINNER'S KEEPING OF THE MORAL LAW.** Men are saved by grace "apart (altogether) from the law" (Romans 3:21).
8. **YET NO ONE IS A CHRISTIAN WHOSE LAW-KEEPING OR MORALITY DOES NOT SURPASS THAT OF THE LEGALISTS.**
9. **HOW CAN THESE THINGS BE?**
10. **"SIMPLE, WATSON."** The only way you can show that you are trusting in Christ alone is by keeping the moral law. If you keep the law for merit you are breaking the law as well as not trusting Christ. If you break the law for grace you are keeping it. (To be continued in the next two lectures.)



## 54. WATCHING AND PRAYING

1. **THE WAY OF "WORKING OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION" IS WITH "FEAR AND TREMBLING," SAYS PAUL.**
2. **THIS IS OUR LORD'S SOLEMN ADMONITION: "WATCH AND PRAY THAT YOU ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATION" (Mark 14:38).**
3. **MANY OTHER TEXTS OF SCRIPTURE SEEM AS MUCH CONCERNED WITH WATCHING THE OUTCOME OF PRAYER AS WITH THE PRAYING (Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 4:7).**
4. **IN FACT, THERE IS SO MUCH CONCERN THAT SOME THINK THAT SCRIPTURE IS AGAINST ANY ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.** Why would there be such warnings, watchings, "fear and tremblings" if a person could be sure that he never would or could fall from salvation? Can one be anxiously confident?
5. **YES, HE CAN.** This is the very way of Christian assurance, (as we will see later). The Christian knows that though he is born of God and that God is continually working within him, there is much remaining sin. So he walks very carefully, anxious to avoid sin and constantly asks for forgiveness as he constantly fails.
6. **HE IS ANXIOUS NOT TO OFFEND HIS LORD, NOT ANXIOUS THAT HIS LORD WILL LEAVE OR FORSAKE HIM.** The Christian "trembles" about himself; he is serenely confident in his Lord. The one being sanctified boasts--"in the LORD."
7. **"BLESSED ARE THEY WHO MOURN."** The Christian weeps for his sins against Christ, even while knowing that Jesus saves His people from them.
8. **GALATIANS 5:17 SHOWS VIVIDLY WHY WE MUST WATCH AND PRAY.** "For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for those are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please."
9. **SO THE CHRISTIAN IS HAPPY EVEN AS HE WEEPS.** If he did not weep he would be unhappy. He would be distraught! Because then he would know that he is not a Christian at all because Jesus does not save people in their sins but FROM them (Luke 1:31, 2:21).
10. **IT IS THE CHRISTIAN'S SORROW THAT MAKES HIM HAPPY.** Because sorrow and concern are born of God and the Christian knows that God's love will never let him go.

**55. "OH, HOW LOVE I THY LAW!" (PSALM 119:97)**

1. **SO THE CHRISTIAN LOVES THE MORAL LAW WHICH CONDEMNS HIM.**
2. **BECAUSE THE MORAL LAW, CONSTANTLY CONDEMNING HIM, IS WHAT CONSTANTLY DRIVES HIM TO JESUS WHO SAVES HIM.**
3. **THE KISS OF DEATH BRINGS LIFE** (Romans 9:7).
4. **THE MORAL LAW IS CHRIST'S LASSO WHICH KEEPS US FROM WANDERING FROM THE "GOD WE LOVE."**
5. **THE REMAINING SINNER IN THE CHRISTIAN HATES THE MORAL LAW WHICH, NEVERTHELESS, CONDEMNING HIM KEEPS BRINGING HIM TO THE SAVIOR.** The saint in the Christian loves the moral law because it is the expression of the beloved Lord who saves him.
6. **ONE CANNOT LOVE CHRIST WITHOUT LOVING CHRIST'S LAW; THAT IS, LOVING THE VERY NATURE OR CHARACTER, OR EXCELLENCY OF CHRIST.**
7. **THE NATURE OR CHARACTER OF THE SAVIOR IS PERFECT HOLINESS.** He is the only man who never sinned, never will sin, never can sin.
8. **WE CALL HIM GOOD BECAUSE HE IS ALSO GOD, THE GOD-MAN.**
9. **"OH, HOW LOVE I THY LAW" MEANS "MORE LOVE, O CHRIST, TO THEE, MORE LOVE TO THEE."** Truly loving the law and loving Jesus Christ are one and the same.
10. **YOU CANNOT LOVE THE LAW AND NOT LOVE CHRIST, O JEW.** You cannot love Christ and not love the law, O Christian.



## **56. TEN COMMANDMENTS (1)**

**Exodus 20:3: Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.**

1. **BEFORE WE BEGIN A BRIEF RESUME OF THE DIVINE, MORAL LAW (THE DECALOGUE), LET US REVIEW THE WORK OF THE LAW:**
  - (1) Man is born dead spiritually.
  - (2) But he does not know he is dead.
  - (3) Then the law comes home to him and he comes "alive" (Romans 7:9).
  - (4) Then his "mind" tells him to keep the law but his "flesh" dominates him. "The wishing is present with me, but the doing of the good is not" (Romans 7:18).
  - (5) Then Christ dominates the "flesh" (Romans 7:25) by His Spirit, Christ having been made in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh... (Romans 8:3).
  - (6) Now the Christian keeps the law, however imperfectly.
2. **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE IN TWO PARTS:**
  - (1) 1-4--the first table, dealing with man's duties to God.
  - (2) 5-10--the second table, dealing with man's duties to man.  
(Note that man's duties to man flow from, and only from, man's duties to God.)
3. **AS CHRIST SAID, THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMMANDMENTS ULTIMATELY: LOVE GOD, AND A SECOND DERIVATIVE FROM THAT: LOVE MAN (AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF).**
4. **IN A SENSE, PAUL REDUCES ALL TEN TO ONE COMMANDMENT: LOVE (ROMANS 13:10).** If the love of God is shed abroad in your heart, it pours out and over everyone.
5. **THE FIRST OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IS NEGATIVE.** So are seven others. Eight of ten are negative. Yet when I once asked 500 Christian high school students in Indiana to give me an immediate spontaneous, unpremeditated answer to this question: "The Ten Commandments: are they positive or negative?" They shouted unanimously: "POSITIVE!!!"
6. **GOD IS NEGATIVE BECAUSE EVEN HIS TRUE CHILDREN ARE FAR FROM PERFECT, THOUGH THEY HAVE THE "ROOT OF THE MATTER" IN THEM.**
7. **SO WE ARE NOT FIRST COMMANDED TO WORSHIP GOD, BUT NOT TO WORSHIP ANYONE ELSE!** ("Have no other gods before Me.")
8. **WE WORSHIP GOD OR MAMMON TODAY.** We cannot worship God if we worship money. God will not then accept our worship even by and with money if we worship money.
9. **IDOLATRY IS AN OBVIOUS VIOLATION OF COMMANDMENT ONE.**
10. **I-DOLATRY IS A MORE SUBTLE FORM OF IDOLATRY.**

## **57. TEN COMMANDMENTS (2)**

**Exodus 20:4-6:** "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, visiting on the third and the fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing lovingkindness to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments."

1. **THIS SECOND COMMANDMENT CONCERNS THE WAY, NOT THE OBJECT, OF WORSHIP.**
2. **IT COMMANDS ISRAEL NOT TO "BOW DOWN" TO OR "SERVE" IMAGES.**
3. **IT WILL NOT DO TO SAY THAT THIS SECOND COMMANDMENT FORBIDS WORSHIP OF IMAGES AS GODS.** False "gods" were forbidden in the first commandment. Images in worship of the true God are forbidden here.
4. **THOSE WHO BOW TO IMAGES CLAIM IT IS FOR WORSHIP OF WHAT IS BEYOND THE IMAGE.** But He who is beyond the image forbids men to worship Him by images!
5. **ROMAN CATHOLICISM AND EASTERN ORTHODOXY, SINCE A.D. 787, USE IMAGES IN WORSHIP:**
  - (1) They admit they use images in worship.
  - (2) They insist they do not worship the images.
  - (3) They insist they do worship only God.
  - (4) But God forbids such worship!
6. **EASTERN ORTHODOXY (JOHN OF DAMASCUS) DEVELOPED A UNIQUE ARGUMENT FOR JUSTIFYING THE USE OF CREATED ICONS IN WORSHIP.** John observed that God the Son took a created human nature. So, he argued: When Christians worship Christ they worship the creature (His humanity), with which He is personally united. Answer: No, it is the sin of idolatry to worship the man Jesus Christ. It is as God and only as God (qua God), that Christians worship Christ. If you say you worship the divine Christ through the human Christ, that is not correct. The divine Christ is merely inseparable from His human nature.
7. **GOD IS JEALOUS BECAUSE:**
  - (1) The church is His bride/wife.
  - (2) She may not leave Him and marry the world.
  - (3) If she does He will divorce and reject her forever.
8. **GOD IS JEALOUS. JUST AS A HUMAN WILL NOT PERMIT HIS WIFE TO BECOME A WHORE, SO GOD WILL NOT PERMIT HIS CHURCH TO GO A-WHORING.**
9. **GOD IS "JEALOUS" FOR THE CHURCH'S GOOD, NOT FOR HIS OWN, WHICH IS UNLOSABLE AND PERFECT.**
10. **GOD WILL KEEP PUNISHING AS LONG AS ISRAEL KEEPS SINNING; BUT MERCY COMES TO THOUSANDS OF HER CHILDREN WHO STOP SINNING AND START LOVING AND OBEYING GOD.**

### **58. TEN COMMANDMENTS (3)**

**Exodus 20:7: "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain."**

1. **WORSHIP MAY BE OF THE PROPER OBJECT (COMMANDMENT ONE), IN THE PROPER MANNER (COMMANDMENT TWO), BUT IN THE WRONG SPIRIT (COMMANDMENT THREE).**
2. **ONE MAY WORSHIP THE TRIUNE GOD WITHOUT ANY IDOLATRY IN THE WAY OF WORSHIP AND IN A CORRECT MANNER AS WELL, BUT AS AN EMPTY FORM. Jews do not worship the triune God. Romanists and Eastern Orthodox do not worship the triune God in the proper manner. Protestants are capable of worshiping the triune God in the proper manner but in a vain spirit.**
3. **ONE SHOULD BE, BUT NEED NOT BE, BORN AGAIN TO BE CALLED A PROTESTANT.**
4. **EXCUSING PROFANITY BY SAYING YOU MEAN NOTHING BY IT IS WHAT "TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN" MEANS. You don't excuse a sin by practicing it.**
5. **"BY YOUR WORDS YOU SHALL BE JUSTIFIED AND BY YOUR WORDS YOU SHALL BE CONDEMNED" (Matthew 12:37).**
6. **OBJECTION: "I THOUGHT WE WERE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH."**
7. **ANSWER: "WE ARE; BUT, WORDS SHOW WHETHER WE HAVE FAITH."**
8. **"EVERY IDLE WORD SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO JUDGMENT" (Matthew 12:36). If so, how terrible the judgment of idle (vain) words about God.**
9. **IT IS CLEAR, IS IT NOT, THAT ONE CAN BE PROFANE WITHOUT PROFANITY?**
10. **IN FACT, NONE CAN BLASPHEME LIKE THE PIOUS, WHICH IS BECAUSE THE WORST PEOPLE (AS WELL AS THE BEST) ARE IN CHURCHES.**

## **59. TEN COMMANDMENTS (4)**

**Exodus 20:8-11: "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant, or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy."**

- 1. THIS IS THE FIRST OF ONLY TWO POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS.**
- 2. BUT IT SOUNDS NEGATIVE TO MOST CHRISTIANS TODAY.**
- 3. I RUINED HER SUNDAYS BY TEACHING HER WHAT I THINK GOD'S FOURTH COMMANDMENT SAYS.**
- 4. BUT MARTIN LUTHER AND JOHN CALVIN WERE ON HER SIDE.** So is my esteemed friend R.C. Sproul and many, many other orthodox theologians.
- 5. I MENTION THIS SO THE READER OF THIS BRIEF ITEM WILL BE VERY CAREFUL THAT I DO NOT LEAD ASTRAY FROM THE MEANING OF GOD'S LAW HERE.**
- 6. "REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY" MEANT IT WAS AN OLD COMMANDMENT APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED AT CREATION.** Possibly it was forgotten during the slave days in pagan Egypt. This new enactment of the Sabbath was shown to be on Saturday not by the Word itself but by the double portion of manna on Friday (Exodus 16:22).
- 7. HEBREWS 4:9-11 SHOWS THAT THE SABBATH WAS ULTIMATELY RELATED TO DELIVERANCE FROM HELL (OF WHICH THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT WAS MERELY A TYPE).** "There remains, therefore, a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to that rest...." That is, Christ finished His work of redemption and "rested" just as God finished His work of creation and "rested."
- 8. HERE IS AN 8-POINT ARGUMENT FOR THE 8TH DAY SABBATH OR THE CHANGE OF DAY FROM THE SEVENTH TO THE FIRST.**
  - (1) It is the seventh day, not Saturday, that is sacred. So it could have been any other day of the week.
  - (2) It is more appropriate to celebrate deliverance from Satan by Christ than from Pharaoh by Moses.
  - (3) It is mandatory to celebrate the Creator's redemptive rather than His creative work.
  - (4) There is Old Testament intimation of coming change (Psalm 22:22ff.).
  - (5) Manna indicated Saturday. Heavenly Manna indicated Sunday by His appearances on the first day of the week (John 6:31ff).
  - (6) The apostle Paul, the new Moses, established it (1 Corinthians 16:2).
  - (7) The apostle John observed it (Revelation 1:10).
  - (8) The history of the church confirms it.
- 9. THE SABBATH IS TO BE OBSERVED BY SPECIAL WORSHIP AND ACTS OF NECESSITY AND MERCY, AND NOT DOING UNNECESSARY SECULAR WORK.**
- 10. WORK ON THE OTHER SIX DAYS IS AS MANDATORY AS NON-WORK ON THE SABBATH AND SHOULD BE SPIRITUALLY DONE.**

## **60. TEN COMMANDMENTS (5)**

**Exodus 20:12: "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you."**

1. **THIS IS THE FIRST OF THE SECOND TABLE OF COMMANDMENTS AND THE SECOND AND LAST OF THE POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS.**
2. **GOD IS HEAD OF THE FIRST TABLE.**
3. **PARENTS ARE HEAD OF THE SECOND TABLE.**
4. **BUT GOD IS HEAD OF SECOND TABLE ALSO BECAUSE IT IS HE WHO APPOINTS PARENTS TO BE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.**
5. **THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST COMMANDMENT "WITH PROMISE" BECAUSE AUTHORITY AND OBEDIENCE HOLD A HOME AND SOCIETY TOGETHER.** Even bad societies are held together by the authority of and obedience to the "god-father."
6. **SABATIER WROTE A BOOK ON RELIGIONS OF AUTHORITY AND RELIGIONS OF THE SPIRIT IN WHICH HE SUGGESTS CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION OF THE SPIRIT AND NOT OF AUTHORITY.**
7. **BUT THE SPIRIT IS THE ONE WHO IS AUTHORITATIVE AND DELEGATES AUTHORITY.** So Christianity is a religion of the Spirit and, therefore, of authority.
8. **THE OPPOSITE OF AUTHORITY IS ANARCHY (ANARKHIA) MEANING NO AUTHORITY OR RULE.** No authority means anarchy and anarchy is totally without promise.
9. **PARENTING IS AGAINST BATTERING (MURDERING).** Parenting is against pampering (spoiling). Parenting is "tough love."
10. **"CHILDERING" IS AGAINST CRINGING.** "Childering" is against conning. "Childering" is voluntary obedience.

## **61. TEN COMMANDMENTS (6)**

**Exodus 20:13: "You shall not murder."**

1. **THE FIRST QUESTION ABOUT THE COMMANDMENT "THOU SHALT NOT KILL" IS WHAT IS THE PUNISHMENT IF YOU DO KILL?**
2. **THE AUTHOR OF THIS COMMANDMENT GIVES HIS ANSWER IN THE NEXT CHAPTER: "HE WHO STRIKES A MAN SO THAT HE DIES SHALL SURELY BE PUT TO DEATH" (Exodus 21:12).**
3. **SO THE COMMANDMENT SAYS THAT HE WHO KILLS SHALL BE KILLED.** This means that he who murders shall be executed. (Hence the NASV translation above: "murder.")
4. **WE ARE NOT PLAYING WITH WORDS BUT ASCERTAINING THE MEANING OF WORDS.** When God forbids something, that something is a vice. That killing is murder (vice). When God commands something, that something is a virtue. That killing is execution (virtue). It is understood, of course, that the murderer was in his right mind and acted with malice and aforethought.
5. **ONE KIND OF KILLING MUST BE AVOIDED.** The other kind of killing may not be avoided. It is a sin to murder. It is a sin not to execute a murderer.
6. **SO SAD TO THINK THAT MUCH OF THE CHURCH TODAY IS AGAINST VIRTUE (CAPITAL PUNISHMENT) AS WELL AS FOR VICE (INADEQUATE PUNISHMENT FOR MURDER).**
7. **IF GOD COMMANDS SOMETHING, IT MUST BE OBEYED WHETHER IT DETERS SUBSEQUENT OFFENDERS OR NOT.** The duty of capital punishment is to inter, not deter (though undoubtedly it does deter--at least the one who is interred). No doubt many others (though not all) are also deterred.
8. **CHRIST SAID THAT ONE WHO IS ANGRY ("WITHOUT A CAUSE" UNDERSTOOD, FOR HE HIMSELF WAS ANGRY WITH A CAUSE) IS ESSENTIALLY A MURDERER. ONE WHO DISREGARDS OTHERS IS A WORSE MURDERER. ONE WHO HATES IS AN EVEN WORSE MURDERER (MATTHEW 5:22). YEA, ALL OF THESE STOP SHORT OF LITERAL MURDER.**
9. **THESE ARE CAPITAL CRIMES FOR WHICH, IF THE COMMITTERS REMAIN IMPENITENT, THEY WILL RECEIVE CAPITAL PUNISHMENT BEFORE ANOTHER JUDGE (GOD), IN ANOTHER WORLD (HELL).**
10. **IF NON-VIOLENT MURDER BRINGS HELL, ACTUAL MURDER MUST HEAT THE FIRE A HUNDREDFOLD.**



## **62. TEN COMMANDMENTS (7)**

**Exodus 20:14: "You shall not commit adultery."**

1. **"ADULTERY" (PORNEIA), ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE, IS A COMPREHENSIVE TERM MEANING FORNICATION, ADULTERY, PERVERSION; ANY KIND OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY OR ANY INNER DISPOSITION THERETO.**
2. **VENEREAL DISEASES (GONORRHEA, HERPES, SYPHILLIS, AIDS, & OTHERS) ARE DIVINE PUNISHMENTS OR CHASTISEMENTS FOR THESE SINS.**
3. **ALL SUFFERING IS PUNISHMENT FOR SIN, AND V.D. IS SUFFERING.**
4. **CHRIST IS THOUGHT TO HAVE TAUGHT DIFFERENTLY WHEN HE SAID THAT A CERTAIN MAN WAS NOT BORN BLIND BECAUSE HE OR HIS PARENTS SINNED (JOHN 9:3).** It is thought that Christ meant that innocent people sometimes suffer.
5. **BUT CHRIST DID NOT SAY THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE SUFFER.** We know Christ would not say that because His Word teaches that the thoughts of men's hearts are only evil continually (Genesis 6:5) before they are converted and not without sin afterward. There are no "innocent" people. All men are sinners.
6. **WHAT CHRIST SAID WAS THAT THAT PARTICULAR BLINDNESS WAS NOT JUST FOR SIN BUT ESPECIALLY THAT THE (SAVING) WORKS OF GOD MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN THE HEALING OF THAT MAN (John 9:3).** All blindness (as all suffering), is for sin but some (as this) was an occasion for saving grace.
7. **SO SOMEONE'S AIDS MAY NOT BE MERELY BECAUSE OF SIN BUT THAT SUFFERING WOULD CAUSE HIM TO CALL ON CHRIST AND BE SAVED.**
8. **AFTER SALVATION IT REMAINS AS A CHASTENING OF ONE WHOM GOD LOVES, AS BEFORE IT WAS A PUNISHMENT OF ONE GOD HATED WITH A PERFECT HATRED (Psalm 7:11, 139:21-22; Proverbs 6:16-19; John 3:36; Malachi 1:3; Romans 9:13).**
9. **THE WAGES OF SIN IS (ETERNAL) DEATH, AND ADULTERY IS A SIN.**
10. **ADULTERY BEGINS IN THE HEART, AND EVEN IF IT STOPS THERE, THAT PERSON IS AN ADULTERER.** We saw that murder starts in the heart and though it stops there, a hating person is a murderer. So we see some will go to hell as murderers who never hurt anyone--even a fly--and some will go to hell as adulterers who never "touched a woman"--or a man.

### **63. TEN COMMANDMENTS (8)**

**Exodus 20:15: "You shall not steal."**

1. **STEALING MEANS TAKING SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE THAT BELONGS TO HIM.**
2. **THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT, THEREFORE, IS THE GREAT PRIVATE PROPERTY COMMANDMENT.** You cannot steal from him unless your neighbor can own something.
3. **IF THE STATE OWNS EVERYTHING, ONLY THE STATE CAN BE ROBBED.** We know the eighth commandment does not mean merely: Thou shalt not steal from the state.
4. **HOWEVER, THIS COMMANDMENT DOES MEAN THAT THOSE WHO KNOWINGLY ROB THE I.R.S. ARE ON THEIR WAY TO HELL.**
5. **I WARN SOME OF MY "GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS" OF GOING TO HELL FOR AN EVEN LESSER THEFT FROM MA BELL.** They send a message at a certain time which someone understands without lifting the receiver and causing a toll charge. Telephone thieves do not inherit the kingdom of God.
6. **AFTER ALL, THESE ARE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD.** They are not suggestions or good ideas or devices for promoting social and religious harmony.
7. **GOD COMMANDS PRIVATE PROPERTY AND VOLUNTARY CHARITY VERSUS COMMUNISM AND COMPULSARY SHARING.**
8. **CHRISTIANITY CAN EXIST IN A COMMUNISTIC SOCIETY OR ANY OTHER SINFUL ORGANIZATION; BUT, IT DOES NOT PRODUCE COMMUNISM NOR COMPROMISE WITH IT.**
9. **THE TITHE WAS AN OLD TESTAMENT COMMANDMENT AND WITHHOLDING IT WAS "ROBBING GOD" (Malachi 3:8).**
10. **THAT SYSTEM HAS PASSED AND THE TITHE MAY NO LONGER BE MANDATORY; BUT GIVING "AS THE LORD HAS PROSPERED" IS, AND THAT MAY SPELL MORE THAN THE TITHE! (1 Corinthians 16:2).**



## **64. TEN COMMANDMENTS (9)**

**Exodus 20:16: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

1. **THIS COMMANDMENT DOES NOT SAY THAT YOU ARE NOT TO "BEAR FALSE WITNESS."**
2. **IT SAYS THAT YOU ARE NOT TO BEAR FALSE WITNESS "AGAINST THY NEIGHBOR."**
3. **YOU MUST BEAR FALSE WITNESS AGAINST YOUR ENEMY IN WAR.** Your duty is to wear khaki clothes to deceive your enemy into thinking that you are part of the foliage so you can kill him! A spy's virtue is being able to bear false witness successfully. Even a fullback who honestly tells the opposing line he is going through center could be brought before the session. I once, in a college play, pretended to be someone that I was not. Fifty years later and I am still not ashamed of myself.
4. **ANYONE IS A NEIGHBOR WITH WHOM YOU ARE NOT REALLY AT WAR.**
5. **A CITIZEN IS AT WAR WITH THE UNDERWORLD.** He owes it nothing but to apprehend and deliver it to the law for punishment.
6. **WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR YOU MUST DIE RATHER THAN LIE.**
7. **IF YOU LIE YOU REALLY THEN DIE.** God will see that you die forever if not now.
8. **THIS COMMANDMENT TEACHES US NOT TO HURT OUR NEIGHBOR BY LYING, AS THE OTHERS TEACH US NOT TO HURT HIM BY DISOBEYING HIS AUTHORITY, TAKING HIS LIFE, POLLUTING HIS PURITY, STEALING HIS PROPERTY, OR EVEN COVETING ANY OF THESE ASSETS.**
9. **IN WAR OR CRIME SITUATIONS, WE MAY HURT OUR NEIGHBORS AND COUNTRYMEN BY TELLING THE TRUTH.**
10. **AT THAT TIME IT IS NOT MERELY PERMISSABLE TO TELL A LIE.** It is a duty to do so.

## 65. TEN COMMANDMENTS (10)

**Exodus 20:17:** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

1. **THIS LAST PROHIBITION IS FIRST BECAUSE IT IS THE ROOT OF ALL.** Paul says summarily, the law says you shall not covet (Romans 7:7).
2. **IF ANGELS AND MAN HAD NOT COVETED DEITY, THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE BECOME PROUD ENOUGH TO THINK THAT THEY COULD OVERTHROW HIM.**
3. **IT IS THIS ILLICIT DESIRE WHICH MAKES MAN BREAK ALL THE OTHER COMMANDMENTS:**
  - (1) Covet God's deity: have your gods before God.
  - (2) Covet God's worship: have your will-worship rather than His will-worship.
  - (3) Covet God's power: profane His name.
  - (4) Covet God's time: Sabbath-breaking.
  - (5) Covet parents' authority: disobedience.
  - (6) Covet man's life: murder him.
  - (7) Covet man's chastity: seduce him.
  - (8) Covet man's goods: steal.
  - (9) Covet man's reputation: lie.
4. **BUDDHISM SEES ALL THE EVIL THAT COVETOUSNESS DOES.**
5. **IT SEES THAT IF WE COVET NOTHING, WE WILL DESIRE NOTHING, SUFFER NO FRUSTRATION, AND ACHIEVE NIRVANA.**
6. **BUT IT DOES NOT SEE THAT ALL DESIRE IS NOT EVIL.** Evil desire (covetousness) is evil.
7. **BUDDHISM THROWS OUT THE GOOD BABY (DESIRE) WITH THE EVIL WASH (COVETOUSNESS).**
8. **CHRISTIANITY THROWS OUT THE DIRTY WASH (COVETOUSNESS) TO KEEP THE BABY (DESIRE) CLEAN.**
9. **CHRISTIANITY IS A RELIGION OF INTENSEST DESIRE: DESIRE FOR THE GOOD, GOOD DESIRE, GOD-DESIRE.**
10. **"YE SHALL SEEK ME, AND FIND ME, WHEN YE SHALL SEARCH FOR ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART."** This is Christian nirvana. A perfect karma. Not endless transmigrations (desiring to be free of desire), but our God-given desire, being filled with God eternally. "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness. They shall be filled."

## **66. LOVING ONE'S NEIGHBORS**

1. **THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF NEIGHBORS: ONE IS THE CHURCH AND THE OTHER OUTSIDE.**
2. **THERE ARE ALSO TWO KINDS OF LOVE: LOVE OF COMPLACENCY AND LOVE OF BENEVOLENCE.**
3. **ONE SHOULD HAVE A LOVE OF COMPLACENCY FOR FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND A LOVE OF BENEVOLENCE FOR THOSE OUTSIDE.**
4. **A LOVE OF COMPLACENCY IS ONE THAT GROWS OUT OF PLEASURE WITH THE CHARACTER OF ANOTHER PERSON.** We should feel this for fellow church members because we are united with them in Christ Jesus who loved us all and died for us all and has united us all in Him as one body, the bride of Christ. In loving them we love Him. If we did not love our fellow Christians that would prove us not to be Christians at all and to have no love for Jesus Christ Himself.
5. **WITH OUR UNBELIEVING NEIGHBORS THE SITUATION IS VASTLY DIFFERENT.** Since they are not redeemed they are still the children of the Devil born under and living under the wrath of God day in and day out. By nature they are our enemies. They are in the employment of their father the Devil, always working against Christ for the destruction of His kingdom, of which we are members.
6. **TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE THEY DO NOT ADMIT ANY OF THIS BUT CLAIM THAT THEY DO GOD SERVICE EVEN BY PUTTING US TO DEATH (JOHN 16:2).** We are counted as lambs for the slaughter and they revile us and say all manner of evil against us. We cannot live godly in Christ Jesus and not suffer persecution.
7. **HOW ARE WE TO LOVE THESE NEIGHBORS WHO HATE US?** Clearly we cannot have a love of complacency for them. Their lying and hating and hurting cannot give us any pleasure in their characters. We are tempted to hate and hurt them, returning evil for evil, not getting mad but getting even.
8. **WE ARE COMMANDED BY OUR LORD TO LOVE THESE "ENEMIES."** This has to be a love of benevolence or good will. We must love them by doing good for them in return for the evil they do us. We are to love them by praying for those who are constantly working for our ruin. This must be sincere on our part. When God in His providence brings them blessings we rejoice from the bottom of our hearts. When He sends adversity their way we will be the first to rally to their aid--GLADLY. Christians behave this way because they love those who hate them.
9. **THIS BENEVOLENT LOVE FOR ENEMIES IS DESIGNED TO BRING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE TOWARD US IN THE FIRST INSTANCE.** Mainly it is to bring repentance toward God who has commanded our behavior as a poor illustration of His own perfect love of benevolence. "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you in order that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45).
10. **IF THEY DO NOT REPENT, EVEN THEN WE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO DO ANYTHING BUT LOVE THEM AND LOVE THEM UNTIL THEIR DAY OF SALVATION IS PAST.** Then: "Vengeance is MINE; I will repay," says the LORD!

## **67. PRAYER**

1. **IN HIS WORD GOD SPEAKS TO MAN.**
2. **IN TRUE PRAYER MAN SPEAKS TO GOD.**
3. **GOD IS A PRAYER-HEARING GOD** (Psalm 65). Can He who made the ear not hear? One thing is immediately evident. God can hear prayer. The only question is whether He wants to. Men can hear but often they don't want to. But God always wants to hear prayer--true prayer (John 4:23).
4. **IN FACT HE WANTS TO HEAR IT MORE THAN MEN WANT TO VOICE IT.** The One who has everything and needs nothing wants to hear from the ones who have nothing and need everything. And it is the latter who restrain prayer (Job 15:4).
5. **IMAGINE THAT.** Among men it is those who have most and need least who are besieged. Those who have nothing and need everything never stop begging.
6. **NOT SO IN THE THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER--SPIRITUAL THINGS.**
7. **SINCE GOD DOES NOT NEED MEN OR THEIR PRAYERS, WHY WOULD HE LISTEN?** Because He is love and love is outgoing, not self-centered.
8. **BEST OF ALL, HE WILL NOT ONLY LISTEN, HE WILL ALSO ANSWER.**
9. **IF YOU CAN IMAGINE HIS HEARING, YOU STILL CAN'T IMAGINE HIS ANSWERING.** It is BEYOND anything we can "ask or think."
10. **THAT IS THE REASON IT IS OFTEN UNNOTICED AND UNACKNOWLEDGED.**

## **68. LORD'S PRAYER (1)**

**Matthew 6:9 "Our Father"**

1. **THE SON WHO CALLS GOD "MY FATHER" (MATTHEW 7:21) PERMITS ADOPTED CHRISTIANS TO CALL HIM "OUR FATHER."**
2. **GOD WILL NEVER BE "OUR FATHER" AS HE IS CHRIST'S FATHER.**
3. **WE SHOULD NEVER SING, "MAKE US LIKE THEE, DIVINE."**
4. **GOD IS CHRIST'S ETERNAL FATHER BY NATURE: THE PENITENT BELIEVER'S BY ADOPTION.**
5. **YET BY ADOPTION, THE SAME ETERNAL GOD BECOMES "OUR FATHER."**
6. **CHRISTIANS ARE ADOPTED; BUT THEY ARE ADOPTED INTO THE DIVINE FAMILY.**  
They are in Christ, virtually a fourth member of the trinity.
7. **NO, THERE IS NO DEIFICATION (HE IS IN HEAVEN; WE ARE ON EARTH).** But, yes, there is adopted membership in the Deity. And Christians will soon be with Him in heaven.
8. **DON'T FORGET THAT THE FATHER IN HEAVEN IS OUR DAD (ABBA), WHILE REMEMBERING HE IS GOD AND WE WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING BUT HIS CREATURES--REDEEMED AND ADOPTED CREATURES, ACTUAL MEMBERS OF HIS SON'S BODY, BUT CREATURES ALWAYS.**
9. **BUT "WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY....** This is a great mystery, and I take it to be Christ and the church" (Ephesians 5:30, 32).
10. **THE LORD'S PRAYER IS A TRINITARIAN PRAYER AND ONLY A TRINITARIAN MAY OFFER IT TO THE FATHER, IN THE AUTHORITY OF THE MEDIATOR SON, BY THE UNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

## **69. LORD'S PRAYER (2)**

**Matthew 6:9 "Who art in heaven"**

1. **HEAVEN IS GOD'S HOUSE, THOUGH THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS CANNOT CONTAIN HIM (1 Samuel 8:27).**
2. **RATHER, HE CONTAINS THE HEAVENS.** But heaven is a place--the place where infinite Deity reveals Himself finitely to His creatures.
3. **NOTHING FOUL OR POLLUTED ENTERS HEAVEN WHERE GOD, HIS HOLY ANGELS, "SPIRITS OF JUST MAN MADE PERFECT," AND THE GLORIFIED GOD-MAN DWELL TOGETHER IN PERFECT BLESSEDNESS.**
4. **WHEN CHRIST TAUGHT THIS PRAYER, HE WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED AND IN HEAVEN AS THE GLORIFIED GOD-MAN.**
5. **HE WAS THEN THE MEDIATOR ON EARTH BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH, BUILDING THAT LADDER ON WHICH ANGELS ASCEND AND DESCEND.**
6. **WHILE ON EARTH THE MEDIATOR HAD COMMUNION WITH HEAVEN, WHERE HE WAS SOON TO BE GLOFIFIED.** So do His redeemed who are soon to be glorified.
7. **SO PRAYER IS COMMUNION BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN WITH BOTH SOON TO BE UNITED ONTOLOGICALLY IN HEAVEN.**
8. **THE SAINTS HAVE COMMUNION WITH HEAVEN WHILE PILGRIMS EN ROUTE TO THAT HOUSE NOT BUILT WITH HANDS, ETERNAL IN THE HEAVENS (2 Corinthians 5:1).**
9. **THE SON OF GOD HAS PERFECT COMMUNION WITH HEAVEN, WITH WHICH CHRISTIANS TOO HAVE COMMUNION (THOUGH VERY IMPERFECTLY).**
10. **THE LORD'S PRAYER BRIDGES THE TEMPORARY GAP.**



## **70. LORD'S PRAYER**

**Matthew 6:9 "Hallowed be Thy name"**

1. **THIS PETITION ASKS THAT GOD'S CHARACTER OR NAME BE REVERED.**
2. **ALL WE KNOW (AND FAR MORE) ABOUT THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD--ETERNALITY, INFINITY, POWER, HOLINESS, JUSTICE, WRATH, LOVE--ARE IN VIEW HERE.**
3. **FOR EXAMPLE, NO ONE MAY OFFER THE LORD'S PRAYER WHO IS NOT A CALVINIST--IN SPIRIT.**
4. **THAT IS TO SAY, THE PERSON MUST REVERENCE THE SOVEREIGN MERCY OR THE NAME OF HIM WHO "WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM HE WILL AND WHOM HE WILL HE HARDENS" (ROMANS 9:18).**
5. **SOME DO SAY THAT WE ARE ALL CALVINISTS WHEN WE PRAY AND ARMINIANS WHEN WE PREACH. (IF YOU THINK SO, READ THE EVANGELISM HANDOUTS AGAIN.)**
6. **SOME DEVOUT CHRISTIANS WOULDN'T KNOW A CALVINIST IF THEY MET ONE.** And they would not know what you meant if you called them a Calvinist or might even deny it vehemently. They never heard that Calvinism is but a nickname for Christianity. But they do realize that they are to praise and glorify all that God is and all that He does and that by any other name is Calvinism.
7. **SUCH DEVOUT CHRISTIANS WOULDN'T KNOW A CALVINIST, AND IN THAT SENSE ALL CHRISTIANS ARE CALVINISTS--EVEN SOME WHO CALL IT "BLASPHEMY."**
8. **REMEMBER THAT GIRL I MENTIONED WHO WAS "NEVER SO CLOSE TO NOT BEING A CHRISTIAN"?** She was never so close to not praying as the Lord taught her. What about you, reader?
9. **ARE YOU SUFFERING FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE?** Or are you just suffering? If you are a Christian, you don't have a stiff upper lip--you have a mouth full of praise for Him from whom all blessings come. **HALLOWED BE THY NAME!**
10. **WHEN PAUL AND SILAS WERE IN PRISON THEY SANG (ACTS 16:25). "HALLOWED BE THY NAME."** So must we--in or out of prison.



## **71. LORD'S PRAYER (4)**

**Matthew 6:10: "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."**

1. **THIS FINISHED THE FIRST PART OF THE LORD'S PRAYER CORRESPONDING TO THE FIRST PART OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.**
2. **THE FIRST PART OF THE DECALOGUE IS OUR DUTY TO GOD.** The first part of the Lord's Prayer is our petition for God's glorification.
3. **THE DECALOGUE TELLS US OUR DUTY; THIS PRAYER ASKS FOR THE GRACE TO DO IT.**
4. **REMEMBER THE IMMORTAL PRAYER OF SAINT AUGUSTINE: "LORD GIVE WHAT THOU COMMANDEST AND COMMAND WHAT THOU WILT."** The commandment crushes. The prayer lifts the burden.
5. **"WATCH" (THE COMMANDMENTS) "AND PRAY" (THE PRAYER)** (Matthew 26:41).
6. **THE FIRST PART OF THE LORD'S PRAYER HAS THREE DISTINCT PARTS BUT IS REALLY ONE PETITION: TO THE FATHER WHOSE CHARACTER IS TO BE REVERENCED BY THE DOING OF HIS WILL.**
7. **HERE THE PETITION IS THAT GOD'S PRECEPTIVE WILL BE DONE BY THE COMING IN OF THE KINGDOM WHERE HE IS OBEYED WITH HEAVENLY PERFECTION.**
8. **GOD'S DECRETIVE WILL IS ALWAYS DONE PERFECTLY.** In this present world, His preceptive will is done very imperfectly or not at all. The prayer is that His preceptive will be done in this world as perfectly as His decretive will.
9. **THIS PRAYER, IMPERFECTLY OFFERED BY THE SAINTS, IS NOW BEING "IMPERFECTLY" ANSWERED BY THE FATHER.**
10. **BUT WHEN THE SAINTS ARE PERFECTED IN HEAVEN, IT WILL BE PERFECTLY ANSWERED IN HEAVEN AFTER THE OLD SINFUL EARTH IS FORMED INTO HELL.**

## **72. LORD'S PRAYER (5)**

**Matthew 6:11: "Give us this day our daily bread."**

1. **BACK TO MAN AND BACK TO EARTH AND EARTHLY NEED--BREAD.**
2. **AS WE NOTED, MAN BY NATURE IS AND EVER WILL BE A BODY-SOUL CREATURE.**
3. **BUT EVEN AS A SPIRIT HE NEEDS DAILY SPIRITUAL "BREAD."**
4. **BUT THE LEAST SPIRITUAL OF MEN REALIZE THAT THEIR BODIES NEED DAILY MATERIAL BREAD.**
5. **IT IS NO SIN TO ASK FOR THINGS PHYSICAL.** In fact it is a duty to pray daily for daily bread.
6. **BREAD IS A GIFT OF THE SPIRIT WHO NEEDS NO BREAD BUT MADE US SPIRITS WHO DO NEED BREAD.**
7. **UNDOUBTEDLY, HE MADE US DAILY DEPENDENT SO WE WOULD DAILY--CONSTANTLY--BE IN COMMUNION WITH THE SPIRIT WHO MADE US AND FEEDS US.**
8. **CHARLES LAMB ONCE WROTE THAT HE DIDN'T FEEL VERY GRATEFUL FOR DAILY BREAD FOR HE EARNED THAT.** He should have been doubly grateful that he received it by being able to work for it.
9. **AS A PASTOR I HAVE SEEN MANY WHO RECEIVE DAILY BREAD THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO WORK FOR.** How they wish they could earn it.
10. **WHAT A DELIGHT TO HAVE AN ANIMAL EAT OUT OF OUR HANDS.** God made us spiritual animals who can only eat out of His hands.

### 73. LORD'S PRAYER (6)

**Matthew 6:12: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."**

1. **WITHOUT QUESTION, THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PETITION IN THE LORD'S PRAYER--FOR SINNERS.**
2. **AND WHO IS NOT A SINNER?** Certainly not a pray-er of the Lord's Prayer. You have to be a sinner to pray, "Forgive us." Sin is a prerequisite for prayer.
3. **YET THE ONE WHO PRAYS THIS PRAYER IS A FORGIVEN SINNER.** God would not hear this prayer if He were not willing to answer it. So we who ask "forgive" hear the answer "forgiven."
4. **ALL THE BURDEN OF OUR GUILT ROLLED AWAY BY ONE WORD, "FORGIVE."** Nothing to do. Only ask and it shall be given. What a Gospel.
5. **YOU MIGHT FORGET, SO FAR AS THE LORD'S PRAYER IS CONCERNED, THAT IT TOOK AN INFINITE SACRIFICE TO MAKE THAT PRAYER ASKABLE AND ANSWERABLE.** "There is a fountain filled with blood" drawn from the One who taught us simply to say "forgive." How easy for us to pray. How costly for Him to answer.
6. **THIS IS THE REASON WE MUST PRAY "IN JESUS' NAME."** "In Jesus' blood."
7. **BUT, YOU SAY, THERE IS SOMETHING FOR US TO DO: FORGIVE "AS WE FORGIVE...."** Only forgivers are forgiven. We forgive; therefore, we are forgiven. It isn't all Jesus' blood. After all, our blood, sweat, and tears are involved. It isn't easy to forgive. If we forgive we deserve to be forgiven!
8. **EARNED SALVATION AGAIN!** Coming in by the back door of forgiveness!
9. **IF YOU DESERVE ACCEPTANCE HOW CAN YOU SAY "FORGIVE US"?**
10. **FORGIVE US OUR FORGIVENESS?** Yes, even your forgiving needs to be forgiven. Your very imperfect forgiving of others only shows that you really love forgiveness, and that shows you really need it and want it and therefore, and only therefore, will receive it. If you don't forgive others, that shows you don't want it. And that non-prayer, too will be answered.

## **74. LORD'S PRAYER (7)**

**Matthew 6:13: "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil."**

1. **TRUE PRAY-ERS OF THE LORD'S PRAYER ARE FORGIVEN AND OUT OF DANGER WITH THE FATHER IN HEAVEN; BUT THERE IS STILL THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL HERE BELOW.**
2. **GOD'S CHILDREN WE ARE--STILL IN ENEMY TERRITORY AND AFRAID.** "O Father, don't lead us into temptation," we pray. The Son prays, "Don't take them out of the world but deliver them from the Evil One."
3. **SO WE, HIS CHILDREN, PRAY: "DELIVER US FROM EVIL."**
4. **"IF WE MUST REMAIN HERE, IF YOU WILL LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION IN SPITE OF OUR TIMIDITY AND FEAR, DELIVER US; DON'T LET US SUCCUMB, PLEASE!"**
5. **GOD WILL LEAD US TO BUT NOT INTO TEMPTATION.** If we go into temptation, we are leading ourselves. If we are not delivered from evil by our Father, it is because we refuse to be delivered--we are still S.O.D.s.
6. **BUT THE FATHER'S CHILDREN ARE SAFE IN THE LONG WILDERNESS JOURNEY.**
7. **THEY WILL NEVER DIE IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH BECAUSE "NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU BUT SUCH AS IS COMMON TO MAN; AND GOD IS FAITHFUL, WHO WILL NOT SUFFER YOU TO BE TEMPTED BEYOND WHAT YOU ARE ABLE, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION WILL PROVIDE THE WAY OF ESCAPE ALSO, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT" (1 Corinthians 10:13).**
8. **"IN THE WORLD YOU HAVE TRIBULATION, BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER.** I have overcome the world." Also, "In the world you have temptation. But be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."
9. **LIKE OLD ULYSSES WE WILL HAVE OURSELVES TIED TO THE MAST (BY OUR FATHER) WHEN WE SAIL PAST THE ISLAND OF SIRENS.** So we watch.
10. **LIKE OLD JASON WE WILL HAVE THE SWEET SINGER OF SONGS (JESUS) TO CHARM OUR EARS AND CLOSE THEM TO THE SIREN CALL.** So, we pray.

## **75. PERSEVERANCE**

1. **"THEY THAT ENDURE TO THE END WILL BE SAVED" (Matthew 24:13).**
2. **SO IF I HOPE TO BE SAVED I MUST PERSEVERE TO THE VERY END--ELSE I AM LOST--NOT SAVED.**
3. **LET ME FALL AWAY AT DEATH'S DOOR AND I AM GONE FOREVER.**
4. **ONE FATAL SLIP AND ALL IS LOST.**
5. **I MAY BE SAVED NOW BUT TOMORROW I COULD PERISH.**
6. **YOU CAN SEE WHY MOST OF THE CHURCH INSTINCTIVELY DISBELIEVES "THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS" DOCTRINE.**
7. **THAT DOCTRINE TEACHES THAT FROM THE MOMENT THE CHRISTIAN HAS FAITH HE WILL PERSEVERE IN IT TO THE END HOWEVER DISTANT AND HOWEVER MANY PITFALLS BETWEEN THE BEGINNING AND THE FINISH.**
8. **YOU CAN SEE WHY EVEN THE GREAT CHRISTIAN AUGUSTINE THOUGHT IT WAS A WORK OF PRIDE AND NOT GRACE THAT PRODUCED THE PERSEVERANCE DOCTRINE.**
9. **YET GOD'S WORD NEVER SAID THE SAINT WOULD NOT PERSEVERE.** It only says that unless one does persevere he will be lost. Pass that by again. God's Word never said the saint will not persevere. It only says that unless one does persevere he will be lost.
10. **THEY DO SOUND A LITTLE LIKE THE SAME THING.** They do not say that saints will not persevere, but only that if one does not persevere he will not be saved. The Word **PLAINLY** teaches the perseverance of the saints. One writer lists a hundred texts. I'll mention one that should suffice: Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Jesus Christ." But on to assurance.

## 76. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION (1)

1. **THE MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS THINK THEY CANNOT HAVE ASSURANCE.** Remember Augustine?
2. **"WHOEVER BELIEVES HAS EVERLASTING LIFE"** (John 3:16). Let me prove by one phrase that if a person is a believer he HAS assurance.
3. **DOES THAT MEAN THAT IF HE NOW BELIEVES, HE NOW HAS ETERNAL LIFE?** And if tomorrow he does not believe he no longer has eternal life? No, because if one now believes, he now has a life which is eternal; not just for now.
4. **THE BELIEVER DOES NOT NOW HAVE WHAT MAY BE A TEMPORARY LIFE.** If it were temporary, it could be here today and gone tomorrow.
5. **RATHER, HE NOW HAS EVERLASTING LIFE. THE SCRIPTURE SAYS SO.**
6. **IF HE HAS EVERLASTING LIFE, HE CANNOT LOSE IT TOMORROW OR EVER.**
7. **IF HE LOSES IT TOMMORROW, IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EVERLASTING LIFE THAT HE HAD AND LOST.**
8. **"LOSING EVERLASTING LIFE" IS A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS.** It is like saying "losing unlosable life."
9. **FURTHERMORE, OUR TEXT SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THE ONE WHO BELIEVES AND HAS ETERNAL LIFE "SHALL NOT PERISH."**
10. **WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PROVE HERE IS THIS: IF ANYONE HAS CHRISTIAN LIFE HE HAS ETERNAL, UNLOSABLE LIFE.** Therefore, any true Christian has assurance of eternal life, though he may not experience it.

## **77. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION (2)**

1. **IF IT IS OBVIOUS THAT A BELIEVER CANNOT LOSE ETERNAL OR UNLOSABLE LIFE, WHY DOES THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PROFESSED BELIEVERS THINK THAT THEY CAN?** Especially when there are other texts: Colossians 2:2, "full assurance of understanding"; Hebrews 10:22, "full assurance of faith"; Hebrews 6:11, "full assurance of hope."
2. **IT IS BECAUSE THEY THINK A BELIEVER CAN LOSE HIS FAITH THAT THEY THINK HE CAN LOSE UNLOSABLE LIFE.**
3. **OF COURSE, YOU WILL NEVER HEAR THESE OPPONENTS OF ASSURANCE SAY THAT A PERSON CAN LOSE UNLOSABLE SALVATION.**
4. **THAT IS INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?** They will confidently assert that a believer can lose his salvation but not his eternal salvation or unlosable salvation. They know that is an absurd statement.
5. **PEOPLE MAY HOLD AN ABSURD NOTION BUT THEY WILL NEVER STATE IT SO AS TO SEE THAT IT IS ABSURD.**
6. **IF YOU STATE IT THAT WAY, THEY ARE SURE TO CHARGE YOU WITH PUTTING WORDS IN THEIR MOUTH.** We all try to be rational. We will not maintain a clear self-contradiction, such as losing something unlosable.
7. **THAT CHARACTERISTIC OF HUMAN NATURE IS THE GREAT GROUND FOR HOPE IN ALL OUR CONTROVERSIES.** If one disputant can show his opponent that the opponent's position is absurd, he will always win an honest opponent.
8. **SO, IF WE CAN SHOW HONEST OPPONENTS OF ASSURANCE THAT THEY ARE MAINTAINING THAT BELIEVERS CAN LOSE WHAT IS UNLOSABLE, THEY WILL ADMIT THEIR ERROR AND WITHDRAW IT.**
9. **LIKEWISE, IF OUR OPPONENTS CAN SHOW US THAT WE ARE DEFENDING A CONTRADICTION, WE WILL ADMIT OUR ERROR, THANK THEM FOR ENLIGHTENING US, AND PROMISE TO CORRECT OUR THINKING AND TEACHING.**
10. **BACK TO ASSURANCE.** We have shown our opponents that they are maintaining, by denying assurance, that a person may lose what is unlosable, namely eternal life.



## 78. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION (3)

1. **HOW DO OPPONENTS OF ASSURANCE TRY TO ESCAPE OUR ANALYSIS?**

2. **ARGUMENT: ETERNAL LIFE DEPENDS ON FAITH WHICH IS LOSABLE.**  
Therefore it must be losable.

3. **ANSWER: FORGET "FAITH" FOR THE MOMENT AND NOTICE THAT YOU ARE SAYING THE UNLOSABLE (ETERNAL LIFE) IS LOSABLE (NON-ETERNAL), WHICH YOU WILL ADMIT IS ABSURD.**

4. **EXPLANATION:**

- (1) You are right in maintaining that faith and eternal life are inseparable.
- (2) Therefore, if faith were losable, eternal life would have to be losable, too.
- (3) But you know that eternal life cannot be losable--that is a meaningless statement.
- (4) Therefore, you must be mistaken in supposing faith is losable.
- (5) This mistake is understandable because faith is not unlosable by definition--"losable faith" is not a contradiction in terms.
- (6) Thinking of faith alone, you might think it is losable.
- (7) But when you find it is inextricably associated with eternal life, you realize that faith too, must be unlosable, because it is inextricably associated with something unlosable.
- (8) "Faith" may not be unlosable by definition as "eternal life" is; but, it is unlosable by association.

5. **ARGUMENT: OPPONENTS OF ASSURANCE APPEAL TO VARIOUS TEXTS IN SCRIPTURE IN SUPPORT OF THEIR OPPOSITION.**

6. **ANSWER:**

(A) **SCRIPTURE DOES NOT CONTRADICT ITSELF.**

(B) **THE ABOVE ARGUMENT (THE UNLOSABLE CAN'T BE LOSABLE) IS INDUBITABLE.**

(C) **THEREFORE, YOU KNOW THAT THE PROPOSED INTERPRETATIONS MUST BE INCORRECT (WHETHER YOU CAN DETECT THE ERROR OR NOT).**

7. **EXPLANATION: WE MUST DEAL WITH THE VARIOUS TEXTS SHOWING THE MISINTERPRETATIONS.**

8. **BECAUSE OF LIMITATION OF SPACE HERE, I WILL TAKE ONLY A COUPLE ILLUSTRATIONS.**

9. **FIRST, IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9:27, PAUL SAYS THAT UNLESS HE BEATS HIS BODY HE WILL BE A CASTAWAY.** Answer: True, but he does not say he will or can cease beating his body.

10. **TO BE CONTINUED.**

## 79. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION (4)

1. **ARGUMENT #1:**  
**THE BIBLE IS AGAINST PRIDE.** Assurance of eternal salvation makes one proud.
2. **ANSWER:**  
**GRANTED THAT SOME PEOPLE CLAIMING ASSURANCE ARE OR SOUND PROUD OF THEMSELVES.** But, this disposition could never come from the doctrine of assurance because that teaches that it is God alone who makes one sure of his eternal salvation.
3. **THEREFORE, IF ANYONE IS PROUD OF HIMSELF, HE IS TRUSTING IN HIMSELF AND CANNOT HAVE TRUE ASSURANCE.** If he is trusting in himself, he can be sure of eternal damnation if he does not repent before it is too late. No one who has true assurance will boast in anyone but the Lord, who provides and applies eternal salvation.
4. **ARGUMENT #2:**  
**MANY TEXTS OF SCRIPTURE COMMAND AND EXHORT PROFESSING CHRISTIANS TO ENDURE TO THE END IF THEY WOULD BE SAVED** (Matthew 24:13). So one cannot be sure of eternal salvation before he dies in the faith.
5. **ANSWER:**  
**GRANTED, THERE ARE VERY MANY TEXTS OF SCRIPTURE COMMANDING AND EXHORTING PROFESSED CHRISTIANS TO ENDURE TO THE END IF THEY WOULD BE SAVED.**
6. **BUT, PLEASE NOTE, NOT ONE OF THOSE TEXTS SAYS THAT A TRUE CHRISTIAN MAY NOT ENDURE TO THE END.** That is your deduction. We are the last ones to rule anything out of the bounds of truth because it is a deduction. But we both admit that a deduction may be sound or unsound.
7. **LET ME SHOW THAT THIS DEDUCTION IS UNSOUND AND THEREFORE NO ARGUMENT.**
  - (1) The Bible exhorts professed Christians to endure to to be saved.
  - (2) This does not infer that they may not do so. It only says that they must do so.
  - (3) Therefore, exhortations are not argument against the fact of assurance. Question. Why the exhortations? This is the way God keeps Christians to the end.
8. **ARGUMENT #3:**  
**MANY PROFESSED CHRISTIANS HAVE ACTUALLY FALLEN FROM GRACE!**  
  
**ANSWER: A MILLION PROFESSED CHRISTIANS FALLING FROM PROFESSED GRACE IS NO PROOF THAT ONE TRUE CHRISTIAN HAS EVER OR WILL EVER FALL FROM GRACE, ESPECIALLY WHEN GOD HAS EXPRESSLY STATED (AS ALREADY SHOWN) THAT NO TRUE CHRISTIAN WILL EVER FALL FROM GRACE.**
9. **WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT NOT ALL ARE ISRAEL WHO ARE OF ISRAEL (ROMANS 9:6).**
10. **GRAND CONCLUSION: IF YOU ARE A TRUE BELIEVER HAVING ETERNAL LIFE, YOU OUGHT TO HAVE ASSURANCE; BUT YOU MAY HAVE ASSURANCE WHEN, AS A MERELY NOMINAL BELIEVER, YOU OUGHT NOT.**

## SECTION X: THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

### 80. THE CHURCH

1. **WE HAVE NOTED THAT WHEN CHRISTIANS PRAY THEY SAY "OUR FATHER..."**  
That is, they pray as a church or company or family of believers.
2. **THEY HAVE, AS WE HAVE ALREADY SEEN, BEEN ADOPTED INTO THE ONE FAMILY OF GOD.**
3. **SO THE FUNDAMENTAL MEANING OF THE "CHURCH" IS THE "COMMUNION OF SAINTS" ORGANIZED.** Presumably one could have communion with others without being in the same or any organization.
4. **THAT IS TRUE AND IT HAPPENS AMONG CHRISTIANS TOO, BUT CHRIST COMMANDS ORGANIZATION ALSO.**
5. **HIS APOSTLES WERE TO BAPTIZE BELIEVERS (MATTHEW 28:14), OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER (1 CORINTHIANS 11:25), TEACH BAPTIZED BELIEVERS TO OBSERVE ALL HE COMMANDS (MATTHEW 28:20), AND EXCOMMUNICATE THOSE WHO ARE ONLY "SO-CALLED BRETHERN" (1 CORINTHIANS 5:11, 13).**
6. **THIS ORGANIZED BODY OF PROFESSED AND FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS IS CALLED THE VISIBLE CHURCH BECAUSE IT HAS A ROLL OF MEMBERS WHO FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER IN CHRIST AT A PARTICULAR PLACE AND CARRY OUT HIS COMMANDS.**
7. **IT IS CALLED VISIBLE TO DISTINGUISH IT FROM THE INVISIBLE CHURCH, WHICH IS SO CALLED BECAUSE ITS TRUE FAITH IS INVISIBLE TO ALL EXCEPT THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE LORD.**
8. **HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH MAKE A PROFESSION THAT IS CREDIBLE (BELIEVABLE) TO CHURCH OFFICERS AND IS NOT GENUINE--THEY "PROFESS BUT DO NOT POSSESS." The are seen as members but are not truly so.**
9. **THE WHEAT (INVISIBLE OR TRUE MEMBERS) AND TARES (PROFESSED, "VISIBLE," BUT NOT TRUE MEMBERS) MUST BE ALLOWED TO GROW TOGETHER SEPARATED ONLY BY THE ANGELS AT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT (MATTHEW 13:21-30; MARK 4:26-29).**
10. **THE CHURCH HAS MANY OTHER NAMES AND ASPECTS WHICH CANNOT BE DESCRIBED HERE (EPHESIANS 1:22; 1 CORINTHIANS 12:28; ACTS 2:48, ETC.), (CATHOLIC, INFALLIBLE, INDESTRUCTIBLE, VICTORIOUS, UNIFIED, HOLY, ETC), BUT WE WILL EXAMINE HER "MIXED" MEMBERSHIP MORE CLOSELY IN THE NEXT LECTURE.**

## **81. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (1)**

1. **WE HAVE SEEN THAT MAN FELL AS A FAMILY.** "In Adam all died" (1 Corinthians 5:22).
2. **WE NOTICE THAT GOD REDEEMS MAN AS A FAMILY ALSO.** Not all are in Christ but all who are in Christ are a family (1 Corinthians 15:22).
3. **WHATEVER THE STATUS OF THE CHILDREN OF BELIEVERS MAY BE, ALMOST THE WHOLE CHURCH AGREES THAT TO BE A TRUE MEMBER OF THE VISIBLE CHURCH, ONE MUST BE ADMITTED TO BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.** The Baptists say that a member must be admitted to both or neither. The Paedo-Baptists say (almost all of them) that an infant may be admitted to baptism without admission to communion.
4. **SO THE CRUCIAL QUESTION FOR INDIVIDUALS ENTERING THE DIVINE FAMILY IS: QUALIFICATION FOR COMMUNION OR WHAT ARE THE TERMS OF FULL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP? ONE CANNOT BECOME A FULL, MATURE CHURCH MEMBER WITHOUT BEING ADMITTED TO COMMUNION WITH THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE.** This is the crowning privilege of members of Christ's church.
5. **THIS IS AN EXTREMELY EASY QUESTION TO ANSWER.** It is most surprising that it has caused, and still does cause, so much controversy. Sometimes the most difficult problem is finding how an easy question has been made into a difficult--sometimes insoluble--problem.
6. **HERE IS THE EASY ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION.** What are the qualifications for admission to church and Table? All one need do is confess that he is a sinner who trusts in the life and death of the Son of God for his salvation and is determined to and does (so far as known) evidence that faith by good (however, imperfect) works.
7. **GRANTED THAT THE CHURCH'S GOVERNING BODY WOULD QUESTION THE APPLICANT CAREFULLY TO SEE THAT HE KNOWS THE GOSPEL AND AS FAR AS THEY CAN JUDGE, BELIEVES WHAT HE KNOWS.** They cannot search his heart to see whether it is, as professed, sincere.
8. **THAT IS WHAT IS CALLED A "CREDIBLE PROFESSION" AND ENTITLES A PERSON TO THE LORD'S SUPPER.** All Christian denominations insist on the minimal creed.
9. **WHAT COULD BE MORE SIMPLE AND ADEQUATE?**
10. **WHY AND WHERE IS THE CONTROVERSY?**

## **82. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP (2)**

1. **A QUESTION ARISES WHEN THE APPLICANT CANNOT BE SURE HE IS TRUSTING IN CHRIST FOR HIS SALVATION.**
2. **BUT THAT IS ALSO AN EASY QUESTION TO ANSWER.** The officials must say, "Sorry, keep seeking trust in Christ which is His gift. When you believe He has given it, then come again and if we, too are persuaded, we will gladly receive you into church membership as Christ would have us do."
3. **ENTER THE "PROBLEM" SO-CALLED: THIS MAN DOES BELIEVE THAT CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD AND DIED TO SAVE SINNERS.** This man does come to church and his family with him. This man is moral in his behavior, kind to his family and neighbors. This man prays, tithes, and serves the church. In fact, he gives every appearance of being a Christian. How can such a person be barred from Christ's church?
4. **EASY ANSWER: THE MAN, ON HIS OWN ASSERTION, IS NOT TRUSTING IN CHRIST FOR HIS SALVATION!**
5. **FURTHER OBJECTION: "BUT HE BELIEVES THAT CHRIST IS THE SAVIOR."**
6. **ANSWER: "BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT CHRIST IS HIS SAVIOR.** Devils know and believe the Christ is the Savior of penitent sinners."
7. **MANY, MANY CHURCHES HAVE BEEN SPLIT ON THIS EASY QUESTION.**
8. **WORSE THAN THAT: MANY CHURCHES HAVE NOT BEEN SPLIT BECAUSE THEY SIMPLY ADMIT PEOPLE TO THE LORD'S TABLE WHO DO NOT CLAIM TO BE THE LORD'S PEOPLE!**
9. **THAT IS ONE WAY TO KEEP CHRIST'S CHURCH UNITED-- SIMPLY ELIMINATE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**
10. **THERE MUST BE A PROFESSION OF TRUSTING IN JESUS CHRIST AS LORD AND SAVIOR.** That much is essential to salvation and essential to church membership--NO MORE, NO LESS.



### **83. SACRAMENTS (1)**

1. **ONCE ADMITTED TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ONE RECEIVES BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER FOR HIMSELF AND BAPTISM FOR HIS INFANTS.**
2. **BODY LANGUAGE IS A FAVORITE CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION.** We talk by smiles, frowns, blushes, jumping, lying back, gestures. Sacraments are God's body language. Baptism's language is one any illiterate can understand, and what is plainer than the Lord's Supper?
3. **THEY ALLOW THOSE "AT A LOSS FOR WORDS" TO SPEAK CLEARLY TO GOD.**
4. **THE ORIGINAL APOSTLES SAW CHRIST AND TOUCHED HIM.** Sacraments are the way we see and touch Him now.
5. **AND THEY WILL BE NEEDED UNTIL WE SEE HIM AND TOUCH HIM IN HIS RESURRECTED GLORY.**
6. **JOHN LAY IN CHRIST'S BOSOM** (John 13:23). By the Table we take Him to our bosoms.
7. **CIRCUMCISION/BAPTISM IS A "SEAL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH..."** (Romans 4:11). God puts His stamp on this baptized person: "saved." In the Old Testament He used the old seal (stamp), circumcision. In the New Testament He uses the new seal (stamp), baptism.
8. **THE SACRAMENT WAS ALSO A SIGN; A SIGN OF A SEAL.** It was essentially God's seal that this person is His. As a sign, it signified the seal. When one saw the circumcision/baptism, he knew that sign or symbol meant it was a seal of "God's possession."
9. **SACRAMENTS ARE "COPIES" (SIGNS) OF THINGS IN HEAVEN** (Hebrews 8:5). They are copies on earth of what is transacted in heaven.
10. **1 PETER 3:21 SHOWS THAT THE ARK SIGN WAS A SIGN OF THE BAPTISM SIGN, WHICH WAS A SIGN OF A GOOD, CLEANSSED CONSCIENCE BY THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.**

#### **84. SACRAMENTS (2)**

1. **CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS IS NOT ENDOWING THEM WITH SUPERNATURAL POWER.**
2. **WORDS OF INSTITUTION DO NOT CHANGE THE ELEMENTS THEMSELVES BUT THEIR USE.**
3. **THEREFORE SACRAMENTS ARE NOT FOREVER BUT FOR THE IMMEDIATE USE AND ONLY FOR THAT.**
4. **USUALLY FAITH COMES BY THE WORD AND IS "CONFIRMED" BY THE SACRAMENT, THOUGH THE SACRAMENT IS ONLY THE WORD VISIBILIZED.**
5. **THE SACRAMENT CAN PREACH THE WORD, WHEN THE PREACHER DOESN'T.** It preaches the true Word by sign language.
6. **THE WORD GOES TO EVERYONE; THE SACRAMENT TO EACH ONE. YOU MAY NOT LISTEN TO THE WORD; YOU CANNOT AVOID TASTING THE BREAD AND WINE.**
7. **THE SACRAMENT IS ADMINISTERED BY MEN.**
8. **ITS POWER IS ADMINISTERED ONLY BY THE SPIRIT.** So sacraments do not confer what they signify; but, God may.
9. **IF WE RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT PROPERLY--IN FAITH--THE SPIRIT CONVEYS POWER BY IT AT THE SAME TIME.**
10. **THE SIGN (WINE) AND THE THING SIGNIFIED (THE ATONING BLOOD OF CHRIST, JOHN 6:53-58) ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY.** Likewise, the sign (water) and the thing signified (cleansing by the Holy Spirit) are so used (Titus 3:5).



### **85. SACRAMENTS (3)**

1. **THE SACRAMENTS GO TO ALL PROFESSORS OF GRACE, BUT THE THING SIGNIFIED ONLY TO THE POSSESSORS OF GRACE.**
2. **GOD PROMISES NOTHING TO HYPOCRITES IN HIS WORK AND GIVES NOTHING TO THEM (EXCEPT CONDEMNATION) IN HIS SACRAMENT.**
3. **CALVIN SAYS THAT UNBELIEVERS SEAL THEMSELVES OFF FROM THE SEALING OF THE SACRAMENTS.**
4. **IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE, YOU CAN--THOUGH YOU OUGHT NOT--RECEIVE THE SIGN BUT NEVER THE THING SIGNIFIED.**
5. **THE SACRAMENT DOES NOT WORK BY MAGICAL POWER IN IT (EX OPERE OPERATO), BUT ONLY BY SOVEREIGN POWER IN HIM, THE HOLY SPIRIT.**
6. **SACRAMENTS MUST BE ADMINISTERED BY ORDAINED MINISTERS, BUT SACRAMENTS DO NOT DEPEND ON THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE MINISTERS.**
7. **SACRAMENTS SEAL GOD TO THE BELIEVER AND THE BELIEVER TO GOD.**
8. **THERE IS AN "EVANGELICAL" NECESSITY TO OBSERVE THE SACRAMENTS, BUT NOT AN "ABSOLUTE" NECESSITY.**
9. **THIS IS SOMETIMES CALLED A "NECESSITY OF PRECEPT AND NOT OF MEANS."**
10. **TWO IS THE PERFECT NUMBER OF SACRAMENTS ACCORDING TO REVELATION AND REASON. Reason teaches that a person needs the initiation and preservation of life. Scripture says the same: Matthew 26:28, 28:19; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:13ff.**

## **86. BAPTISM**

- 1. THE FIRST OF THE TWO SACRAMENTS IS BAPTISM BECAUSE THAT IS THE MEANS OF ADMISSION INTO THE CHURCH.**
- 2. NO ONE HAS THE VISIBLE RIGHT TO THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS WHO IS NOT BAPTIZED.**
- 3. I SAY "VISIBLE" RIGHT BECAUSE INFANTS (AS WE SHALL SEE) HAVE THE RIGHT TO MEMBERSHIP BY VIRTUE OF BEING BORN OF BELIEVER(S).** Of course, such infants are visibly born of Christian parent(s), but only their baptism makes it visible to the church and world that their being so born entitles them to membership in the church. (Their "membership" by baptism will be examined in the lectures following.) Being born of Christian parents entitles them to baptism, but only being re-born entitles them to the Lord's Supper.
- 4. THOSE WHO HAVE REACHED AN "AGE OF DISCRETION," WITHOUT BEING BAPTIZED IN INFANCY, ARE, IF AND WHEN THEY PROFESS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, TO RECEIVE "BELIEVER'S BAPTISM."**
- 5. BAPTISM IS TO BE ADMINISTERED PUBLICLY BY ORDAINED MINISTERS POURING OR IMMERSING IN WATER IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.** Consequently those who profess Christianity and practice baptism have no right to baptize if they do not believe in the Trinity.
- 6. BAPTISM IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY BUT IS ABSOLUTELY AN EVANGELICAL NECESSITY (AS WE EXPLAINED OF ALL SACRAMENTS).**
- 7. IT IS A SIGN AND SEAL OF REGENERATION (TITUS 3:10) BUT DOES NOT BRING REGENERATION AND IS NO PROOF THAT REGENERATION IS PRESENT.**
- 8. THOUGH A PERSON IS UNREGENERATE WHEN HE RECEIVES BAPTISM, THE BAPTISM IS VALID (BECAUSE ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO DIVINE COMMAND) AND IS NOT TO BE REPEATED IF AND WHEN HE BECOMES REGENERATE.**
- 9. THOUGH BAPTISM IS MERELY AN EXTERNAL RITE WHICH DOES NOT BRING REGENERATION OR PROVE ITS PRESENCE, IT MAY NOT, BEING A DIVINE INSTITUTION, BE DISREGARDED OR DISCONTINUED.**
- 10. BAPTISM, WHICH IS A DIVINE INSTITUTION, IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH DEDICATION, WHICH IS MERELY AN ECCLESIASTICAL PRACTICE IN SOME CHURCHES.**

## **87. INFANT BAPTISM (1)**

1. **WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE COVENANT OF GRACE SOMEHOW INCLUDED THE INFANTS OF THE BELIEVERS IN IT.**
2. **THE ORIGINAL SIGN OF INFANT INCORPORATION IN THE COVENANT OF GRACE MADE WITH ABRAHAM WAS THEIR CIRCUMCISION AT EIGHT DAYS (Genesis 17:17-27).**
3. **"I WILL BE YOUR GOD AND THE GOD OF YOUR SEED AFTER YOU," GOD HAD SAID TO ABRAHAM (AS HE GAVE THIS SIGN OF CIRCUMCISION FOR THE SEED Genesis 17:18).**
4. **THIS INFANT CIRCUMCISION WAS THE SIGN THE LORD GAVE THAT THE INFANT WAS IN SOME SPECIAL SENSE, HIS.**
5. **CHRIST REPLACED CIRCUMCISION WITH BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT AS THE SIGN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH (Matthew 28:19; Romans 4:11; Colossians 2:11).**
6. **FROM THAT DAY TO THIS, ALMOST ALL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HAVE BAPTIZED THE INFANTS OF BAPTIZED BELIEVERS.**
7. **ESPECIALLY IN MODERN CENTURIES THERE HAS BEEN A STRONG REJECTION OF INFANT BAPTISM ON THE CONTENTION THAT BAPTISM SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO PROFESSED BELIEVERS.**
8. **THERE ARE TWO PILLARS ON WHICH THE COMMON PRACTICE OF INFANT BAPTISM RESTS: (1) THE IDENTITY OF CIRCUMCISION AND BAPTISM AND (2) THE IDENTITY OF THE CHURCH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND THE NEW TESTAMENT.**
9. **THESE TWO PILLARS HAVE BEEN MIGHTILY ATTACKED BY BAPTIST CHURCHES.**
10. **LET US SEE IF THE TWO PILLARS ARE STILL STANDING.**

## **88. INFANT BAPTISM (2)**

1. **THE FIRST PILLAR IS THE IDENTITY OF MEANING OF CIRCUMCISION AND BAPTISM.**
2. **FOR THE TWO STAGES OF THE CHURCH (O.T. AND N.T.), THE ARGUMENT GOES, CIRCUMCISION AND BAPTISM SERVED THE SAME ROLE: INITIATION INTO MEMBERSHIP AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**
3. **ALL THE DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM, THE FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW, WERE SIGNIFIED AS HIS SEED BY CIRCUMCISION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND BAPTISM IN THE NEW.**
4. **SINCE CIRCUMCISION WAS TO BE APPLIED TO INFANTS, SO IS ITS NEW TESTAMENT REPLACEMENT, BAPTISM.**
5. **MANY BAPTISTS AGREE ABOUT THE ROLE OF CIRCUMCISION IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND CANNOT DENY BAPTISM HAS THE SAME ROLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.** So if infants were admitted by circumcision in the Old Testament, they must be admitted by baptism in the New Testament.
6. **THE MAIN BAPTISTIC ARGUMENT HERE IS THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT EXPLICITLY SAY ABOUT BAPTISM--AS THE OLD TESTAMENT SAYS ABOUT CIRCUMCISION--THAT INFANTS ARE TO RECEIVE IT.**
7. **THE MAIN INFANT-BAPTISTIC ANSWER IS THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES IMPLICITLY SAY IT, AND NEED NOT EXPLICITLY SAY IT, BUT DOES EVEN HINT AT THAT.**
8. **INFANT-BAPTISTS ADMIT THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT EXPLICITLY SAY "BAPTIZE ALL INFANTS OF BELIEVERS."** If such explicit statement is necessary to establish a duty, the Baptists are right in contending that infants ought not to be baptized.
9. **THE INFANT-BAPTISTIC ANSWER MAY BE SPELLED OUT IN FIVE STEPS:**
  - (1) Explicit statement is not necessary for doctrine. Compare the Trinity doctrine which is believed by all Christians though never explicitly formulated in the Bible.
  - (2) The duty of infant circumcision was explicitly stated and baptism is its equivalent.
  - (3) Therefore, for infant baptism NOT to be required would require an explicit rejection by the New Testament which Baptists admit cannot be found there.
  - (4) The New Testament method of entrance to the New Testament church follows the same pattern as the Old Testament. First, Abraham believed and was given believer's circumcision and then his infants were required to be circumcised. In the New Testament people were first made believers and given believer's baptism. Then their children, following Abraham's experience were to be baptized (Matthew 28:20; Acts 2:39; 1 Corinthians 7:14).
  - (5) Most important: The church in the Old Testament and New Testament is identical in substance. Therefore, since infants were in the Old Testament church they belong in the New Testament church.
10. **HOWEVER, POINT (5) ABOVE NEEDS TO BE PROVEN AND TO THAT WE COME IN THE NEXT HANDOUT LECTURE.**

### **89. INFANT BAPTISM (3)**

1. **THAT FIRST INFANT-CIRCUMCISION-BAPTISM PILLAR STANDS EVEN IF WHAT WE CALLED ITS MAJOR PART (IDENTITY OF CHURCH IN OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT) FELL.** Admittedly, however, that would be a great weakening of the first pillar.
2. **ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT PART IS SO STRONG THAT IT AMOUNTS TO A SECOND PILLAR.** Most Baptists seem willing to admit that infant baptism would stand if this second pillar stood. They deny that it does. No one denies its power if it does.
3. **LET US EXAMINE THIS SECOND PILLAR: THE CHURCH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND NEW TESTAMENT DISPENSATION SHOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED IN THE RICHER NEW TESTAMENT DISPENSATION OF THE CHURCH.**
4. **AGAINST THIS, THE BAPTISTS MUST INSIST THAT THE PEOPLE OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT WERE ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.**
5. **BUT THE OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE OF GOD FROM ABRAHAM ON PROFESSED THE SAME FAITH IN THE MESSIAH (CHRIST) THAT THE NEW TESTAMENT PEOPLE DO.**
6. **BEING A CHRISTIAN CHURCH IS ESSENTIALLY PROFESSING FAITH IN CHRIST.** If we are a Christian church, so were the Old Testament professors of Christ.
7. **THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THERE WERE MANY NON-ESSENTIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CHURCH THEN AND NOW.** In the Old Testament period almost all the church were Jews, localized in one land (Palestine), in an infantile state under the elementary burdensome tutelage of the Old Testament law, etc.
8. **BUT OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS WERE HEIRS NONETHELESS JUST AS MUCH AS MORE GROWN-UP NEW TESTAMENT CHRISTIANS.** Galatians 4:28: "And you brethren, like Isaac, are children of promise."
9. **THEREFORE, INFANTS OF BELIEVERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH SHOULD BE BAPTIZED AS THOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT CHURCH WERE CIRCUMCIZED.**
10. **WHEN THE PRESENT HUNDRED VIDEO TAPES OF HANDOUT THEOLOGY ARE COMPLETED, I WILL DO FIFTY MORE.** This "advanced" Handout Theology will include a statement of the famous Baptist A.H. Strong's arguments against infant-baptism, with my response.

## **90. LORD'S SUPPER (1)**

1. **BAPTISM IS THE RITE OF ENTRANCE; THE LORD'S SUPPER IS FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.**
2. **THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEGUN THIS LIFE CANNOT EAT THIS FOOD WHICH IS FOR THE CHILDREN'S TABLE (Mark 7:27).**
3. **ANY BREAD WILL DO AND ANY DRINK WILL DO. BUT BOTH ARE FOR ALL, BROKEN AND DISTRIBUTED NOT UNBROKEN AND PLACED IN THE MOUTH (1 Corinthians 11:23ff).**
4. **A MINISTER WITH THE HELP OF ASSISTANTS:**
  - (1) breaks bread
  - (2) blesses it
  - (3) distributes it
  - (4) all masticate it
5. **SO SIMPLE.** No magic. No secret whisper. Unspeakable blessing. Indescribable experience.
6. **IT IS CALLED COMMUNION BECAUSE IT IS COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH WITH HER LORD, AND COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH WITH HERSELF.**
7. **THE WORD IS OFFERED UNIVERSALLY TO ALL.** The sacrament is only for believers (1 Corinthians 11:24).
8. **IT IS COMMUNION WITH ALL WHO ARE ONE IN CHRIST'S BODY; INDEED, ONE BODY OF CHRIST.** No private communions. If the Supper is authorized for invalids, the minister and other officer(s) should also partake, I believe.
9. **NO ALTAR BUT A TABLE.** The sacrifice has been finished. Therefore, no altar. The benefits are now distributed. Therefore a minister before a table facing the receiving congregation.
10. **CHRIST DIED AND THIS IS THE CELESTIAL RESULT GIVEN TO THOSE FOR WHOM HE DIED.** This table of Christ is only for those for whom Christ died and are now alive by His death.



## 91. LORD'S SUPPER (2)

1. **HOC EST CORPUS MEUM (THIS IS MY BODY) ARE THE MOST CONTROVERTED WORDS IN HISTORY** (Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19).
2. **YET HOW COULD THE "BODY" IN CHRIST'S LIVING HAND BE HIS BROKEN, DEAD BODY?** Do we now bring His body down from heaven?
3. **ONE WONDERS HOW THERE COULD BE ANY CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER--NOT TO MENTION THE GREATEST CONTROVERSY IN HISTORY.**
4. **NOT ONLY DID ROME INSIST THERE WAS TRANSUBSTANTIATION HERE BUT LUTHER DIVIDED THE REFORMATION BY HIS CONTENTION THAT THESE WORDS MUST BE TAKEN LITERALLY.**
5. **SEVEN KINE ARE SEVEN YEARS (GENESIS 41:26); THE FIELD IS THE WORLD (MATTHEW 13:38); SEVEN STARS ARE SEVEN CHURCHES (REVELATION 1:20); AND TEN HORNS ARE TEN KINGS (DANIEL 7:20); BUT, THIS IS MY BODY MUST BE TAKEN LITERALLY, THOUGH THAT IS LITERALLY IMPOSSIBLE?**
6. **THE BELIEVER EATS CHRIST'S BODY AND DRINKS HIS BLOOD INDEED--BUT SACRAMENTALLY, NOT LITERALLY; SPIRITUALLY, NOT BODILY; TRULY, NOT STRICTLY.**
7. **WE COME TO CHRIST AS A MAN, CRUCIFIED FOR US, BUT THE MAN WE ARE UNITED WITH, FLESH OF FLESH, IS GOD.** So there is a total union with Christ really and mystically and a union of church believers with church believers (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).
8. **THAT IS THE "REAL PRESENCE" OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST.**
9. **UNBELIEVERS DO NOT EAT AND DRINK CHRIST (AS IF THERE WERE A CHRIST WHO BRINGS DEATH) BUT CONDEMNATION** (1 Corinthians 11:27). Merely eating bread and drinking wine when one is commanded to "discern the Lord's body" is damnable (11:29).
10. **BREAD AND DRINK ARE A DAILY NEED.** Are we so robust spiritually that we need eat our Lord's flesh and drink His blood (John 6:53-58) but once or twice a year?



## **92. MINISTERS (1)**

1. **MINISTERS ARE THE CHIEF OFFICERS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.**
2. **THEY ARE ALL OF A KIND BECAUSE "MINISTERS" AND "BISHOPS" ARE USED INTERCHANGEABLY (Acts 20:17, 28).**
3. **PETER WAS CALLED A ROCK ON WHICH CHRIST'S CHURCH IS BUILT (Matthew 18:18; Ephesians 2:20).**
4. **IN A LESSER SENSE ALL CHRISTIANS ARE "LIVING STONES" (1 Peter 2:5).**
5. **FIRST GIVEN THE KEYS AS APOSTLES (MATTHEW 16:19), AND THEIR APPOINTEES (TITUS 1:5), LATER MINISTERS RECEIVE THESE KEYS BY THE CONGREGATION'S ELECTION (Matthew 18:18).**
6. **THEY ARE MEN (1 TIMOTHY 3:2, 12; 2 TIMOTHY 1:6) CALLED BY GOD TO THIS OFFICE (HEBREWS 5:4), AND THAT CALL BEING RECOGNIZED BY OTHERS, THEY ARE ACCORDINGLY ORDAINED (ACTS 14:23) BY THE LAYING ON HANDS OF THE GROUP OF MINISTERS CALLED A PRESBYTERY (1 TIMOTHY 4:4).**
7. **THEY ARE NOT "MEN PLEASERS" (EPHESIANS 6:6; COLOSSIANS 3:22) BUT SERVANTS OF THE LORD IN WHICH SERVICE THEY PLEASE GOOD MEN (2 Timothy 2:25).**
8. **IF THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT REGENERATION IS FROM "ABOVE" (JOHN 3:7), BY A SOVEREIGN SPIRIT (JOHN 3:6-8), APART FROM WHICH ONE CANNOT EVEN "SEE" THE KINGDOM OF GOD (JOHN 3:3), MUCH LESS ENTER IT, (JOHN 3:5), THEY ARE NOT FIT TO BE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCH (JOHN 3:10).**
9. **IF THEY DO NOT PREACH THE WHOLE COUNSEL OR PURPOSE OF GOD, THE BLOOD OF "ALL MEN" WILL BE ON THEIR HEADS (ACTS 20:26-27).**
10. **"THE LIPS OF A PRIEST SHOULD PRESERVE KNOWLEDGE, AND MEN SHOULD SEEK INSTRUCTION FROM HIS MOUTH; FOR HE IS THE MESSENGER OF THE LORD OF HOSTS" (Malachi 2:7).**

### **93. MINISTERS (2)**

1. **WE HAVE CONSIDERED REGULAR CHURCH MEMBERS AND SPECIAL CHURCH MEMBERS, MINISTERS.**
2. **BOTH MAKE UP THE MEMBERSHIP OF CHRIST'S CHURCH, BEING THE SAME IN NATURE, ONLY DIFFERENT IN OFFICE.**
3. **CONSEQUENTLY, THERE IS THIS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED LEGITIMATE DOUBLE-STANDARD IN THE CHURCH.** Officers are required to understand more and be able to teach others. Therefore, they must know more of the whole counsel of God than those to whom they faithfully teach it.
4. **THE PEOPLE DO KNOW ALL DOCTRINE ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION, ELSE THEY COULD NOT BE ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP.**
5. **FURTHERMORE, THEY ARE TO CALL NO MAN FATHER (MATTHEW 23:9), MEANING THAT THOUGH THEY MAY NOT TEACH THEY MUST SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES AND KNOW WHETHER THEY ARE BEING SOUNDLY TAUGHT (Acts 17:13ff). Also, if and when they do come to understand the "whole counsel" of God they become eligible for teaching and officer roles.**
6. **MINISTERS MAY NOT TYRANNIZE OVER GOD'S PEOPLE AS THE RULERS OF THIS WORLD DO OVER THEIR SUBJECTS (Luke 22:25-26).**
7. **NOR MAY MINISTERS ALLOW CONGREGATIONS TO TYRANNIZE OVER MINISTERS.** Like Ezekiel they will deliver the Word of the Lord whether the people hear or forbear (Ezekiel 2:5).
8. **THE PEOPLE SOMETIMES CONSIDER PASTORS ENEMIES BECAUSE THEY TELL THE CONGREGATION THE TRUTH (Galatians 4:16).**
9. **THOUGH MINISTERS MAY NOT LORD IT OVER THEIR FLOCK, FAITHFUL MEMBERS WILL HIGHLY HONOR THEM FOR THEY HAVE THE CARE OF SOULS (HEBREWS 13:17). God will be furious with any who touch His anointed (Psalm 105:15), for they are the messengers of the Lord of hosts (Malachi 2:7).**
10. **MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL FOR A MINISTER IS TO BE FOUND FAITHFUL (1 CORINTHIANS 4:2).**

## **94. ELDERS**

1. **WHILE MINISTERS ARE THE PRINCIPAL OFFICERS IN THE CHURCH, THERE ARE TWO OTHER OFFICES: (RULING) ELDERS AND DEACONS.**
2. **MINISTERS THEMSELVES ARE CALLED ELDERS OR BISHOPS AS WE HAVE SEEN.**
3. **IN 1 TIMOTHY 5:17, THE APOSTLE PAUL SPEAKS OF TWO KINDS OF ELDER: THOSE WHO TEACH AND RULE AS WELL AS THOSE WHO ONLY RULE. "Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching."**
4. **WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE PRINCIPAL ROLE OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER (MINISTER) IS AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING. That is his main job and his alone. Others should witness and teach too in the home and to those outside. Ministers are the official teachers in and of the church, instructing others who may teach subordinately.**
5. **THERE IS AN INTERESTING DIFFERENCE AMONG THE REFORMED AS TO WHETHER THERE ARE SOME TEACHERS WHO DO NOTHING BUT TEACH AND EVEN TEACH THE MINISTERS. This difference is based on the interpretation of Ephesians 4:11: "And He gave some as....pastors and teachers."**
6. **DO "PASTORS AND TEACHERS" REFER TO ONE OR TWO GROUPS? There is only one Greek article for both these nouns. This leads many to think that Paul is simply referring to ministers in their dual role as pastors and teachers.**
7. **OTHERS THINK THAT "TEACHERS" HERE IS ANOTHER GROUP ALTOGETHER. They may be seminary professors under whom pastors train. Nevertheless, they are only ministers in the same presbytery and with the same authority as non-professor pastors, according to some. Others believe they should form a separate presbytery or classis.**
8. **THE "RULING" ELDERS ALONG WITH THE TEACHING ONE (OR ONES) CONSTITUTE THE SESSION OR CONSISTORY AND DEAL WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS BESIDES TEACHING (SUCH AS DISCIPLINE, ESPECIALLY).**
9. **THE EMINENT 19TH-CENTURY PRESBYTERIANS CHARLES HODGE AND JAMES THORNWELL DIFFER ON HOW MUCH AUTHORITY THE RULING ELDER HAD IN RELATION TO THE TEACHING ELDER.**
10. **THAT LITTLE DEBATE LIVES ON TODAY.**

## 95. DEACONS

1. **AS WE HAVE SEEN THE MINISTER/TEACHER IS THE MAIN OFFICIAL OF THE CHURCH.**
2. **BUT TWO OTHER OFFICES DEVELOPED TO AID THE MINISTRY: THE RULING ELDER TO AID IN GOVERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE AND THE DEACON TO AID IN CHARITY.**
3. **OUR LORD'S MINISTRY WAS TO THE SOULS AND BODIES OF MEN.** His church officers continue that dual ministry.
4. **IT WAS SOON REALIZED THAT THE APOSTOLIC TEACHERS COULD NOT TEACH AND "SERVE TABLES" AS THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH GREW WITH ITS NUMERICAL EXPANSION.**
5. **THIS LED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS, WHOSE PRINCIPAL DUTY WAS TO MINISTER TO THE BODILY NEEDS OF THE CONGREGATION (Acts 6:1-4).**
6. **THE ORIGINAL SEVEN WERE ALL MEN WHOM THE CONGREGATION WERE DIRECTED TO ELECT (Acts 6:3).**
7. **THEIR MINISTRY WAS TO THE BODY, BUT THEY WERE CHOSEN FOR THEIR SPIRITUALITY (Acts 6:3).**
8. **LATER, WOMEN SUCH AS PHOEBE WERE CALLED DEACONS (Romans 16:1).**
9. **THERE HAS BEEN A RUNNING DEBATE THROUGH THE CENTURIES WHETHER WOMEN MAY BE ELECTED DEACONS.** Some churches do. Some don't. And some have a separate board of deaconesses!
10. **THE WISEST MAN I KNEW WHEN I ONCE ASKED HIS VIEW ON THE ORDINATION OF WOMEN TO ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICE REPLIED: "WOMEN WILL RUN THE CHURCH WHETHER YOU GIVE THEM OFFICES OR NOT."** Perhaps that is what they are appointed by God to be: the powers behind the thrones.

## **96. DISCIPLINE**

**1 Corinthians 5:11: "I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he should be an immoral person...."**

- 1. CHRISTIANS ARE COMMANDED TO ASSOCIATE (THOUGH NOT INTIMATELY) WITH THE IMMORAL OF THE WORLD (1 CORINTHIANS 5:10, 6:1).**
- 2. BUT IF IMMORAL PERSONS CALL THEMSELVES OR ARE CALLED CHRISTIANS, TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE NOT TO ASSOCIATE--OR EVEN EAT--WITH THEM.**
- 3. INDEED, CHRISTIANS ARE TO DRIVE SUCH SO-CALLED CHRISTIANS OUT OF THE CHURCH (1 CORINTHIANS 5:13) HOPING THAT WILL BRING THEM REALLY INTO THE CHURCH (2 THESSALONIANS 3:15).**
- 4. PAUL IS CALLING FOR EXCOMMUNICATION OF ALL IMMORAL PERSONS AS HE HAD JUST REQUIRED IT OF THE INCESTUOUS MAN (1 CORINTHIANS 5:1-5) WHO WAS THEREBY TO BE BROUGHT OUT OF SIN AND REALLY INTO THE CHURCH.**
- 5. CHRIST HAD REQUIRED THE SAME OF THE UNCONFESSING OFFENDER AFTER DUE TRIAL (MATTHEW 18:15ff).**
- 6. THE LORD REQUIRES HIS CHURCH TO BE PURE.**
- 7. HERE, IN 1 CORINTHIANS 5, THE CHURCH IS TO REMOVE THE "IMMORAL" FROM HER AND IN 2 CORINTHIANS 6 SHE IS TO REMOVE HERSELF FROM THE IMMORAL.**
- 8. NOT DOING THIS, THE CHURCH WILL BECOME CORRUPT, A SO-CALLED CHRISTIAN CHURCH, AND THE IMMORAL DESTROYED ETERNALLY.**
- 9. APPLICATION: WHAT IS THE INDIVIDUAL CHURCH MEMBER TO DO WHEN HIS CHURCH DOES NOT DISCIPLINE? He/she must associate with those who do not associate with the immoral so-called brethern.**
- 10. EXAMINE YOURSELF TO SEE 1) IF YOU ARE A "SO-CALLED" CHRISTIAN OR 2) WHETHER YOU SINFULLY ASSOCIATE WITH "SO-CALLED" CHRISTIANS AND THEREBY BECOME A SO-CALLED CHRISTIAN.**

## **97. THE CHURCH AND THE STATE**

1. **IN THE TWO LARGE VOLUMES WITH ITS FOUR BIG "BOOKS" OF CALVIN'S IMMORTAL INSTITUTES OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION, ONLY THE LAST RATHER SMALL CHAPTER OF BOOK FOUR OF VOLUME II IS DEVOTED TO THE STATE.**
2. **BUT WHAT A CHAPTER.**
3. **EVEN THE MASSIVE FOOTNOTE #54 (II, P. 1518-1519) TO IT BY THE LATE FORD BATTLES IS WORTH THE PRICE OF THE VOLUME.**
4. **IN ESSENCE WHAT CALVIN IS STRESSING IS THE CHRISTIAN'S DUTY TO OBEY THE STATE THOUGH IT IS USUALLY CORRUPT.**
5. **CHRISTIANS MAY NOT OBEY IT IF THAT REQUIRES DISOBEYING GOD.**
6. **BUT ENDURING IT (EVEN ITS OFTEN BURDENSOME TYRANNY), RATHER THAN REVOLTING AGAINST IT IS THE USUAL RULE. "Obedience to bad kings required in Scripture" (II, p. 1513ff).**
7. **ONLY UNDER THE EXTREMEST CONDITIONS AND EVEN THEN ONLY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF INFERIOR MAGISTRATES MAY SUBJECTS REBEL AGAINST CAESAR. Calvin's few but famous words became a charter for revolution, including the American: "I am so far from forbidding them to withstand, in accordance with their duty the fierce licentiousness of kings, that, if they wink at kings who violently fall upon and assault the lowly common folk, I declare that their dissimulation involves nefarious perfidy, because they dishonestly betray the freedom of the people, of which they know that they have been appointed protector by God's ordinance" (II, p. 1519).**
8. **A CHRISTIAN GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS TO BE DESIRED FOR THE PROTECTION AND EVEN REGULATION OF THE CHURCH.**
9. **WITH THIS LIMITATION, HOWEVER: ITS AUTHORITY IS CIRCA SACRA NOT IN SACRA. It may protect the church and her functioning but may not take over authority in the church.**
10. **THE SCOT ANDREW MELVILLE EXPRESSED THIS TO KING JAMES VI WHEN HE INFORMED HIM THAT THERE WERE TWO KINGS IN SCOTLAND, AND THAT IN KING JESUS' CHURCH, KING JAMES WAS MERELY A SUBJECT.**



## SECTION XI: ESCATOLOGY

### 98. MILLENNIALISMS

1. **BEFORE NOTICING THE DIFFERENCES, LET US SEE WHAT THE THREE CLASSICAL CHRISTIAN MILLENNIAL VIEWS ARE AND WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON.**
2. **ALL CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN A MILLENNIUM--AN IDEAL (1000 YEAR) PERIOD WHICH IS OR WILL YET BE IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER THE RETURN OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.**
3. **SOME THINK THIS REFERS TO PRESENT CHRISTIANS WHO ENJOY BLESSEDNESS AS THEY LIVE AND REIGN WITH CHRIST NOW "FOR A THOUSAND YEARS" (Revelation 20:4). For these a-millennarians the whole ideal period is between the first and second comings of the Lord.**
4. **THIS IS THE "FIRST RESURRECTION" (REGENERATION) AND OVER THE REGENERATE THE "SECOND DEATH" (DAMNATION) HAS NO POWER, FOR SATAN IS BOUND AND CANNOT HURT, THOUGH HE CONTINUALLY TRIES.**
5. **IRONICALLY THIS FORM OF MILLENNIALISM IS CALLED A-MILLENNIALISM, MEANING "NO MILLENNIUM" WHEN ITS ADHERENTS THINK IT IS MILLENNIALISM IN THE PURITY OF ITS CONCEPTION.**
6. **OTHERS BELIEVE THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE CHURCH'S MISSION IN ALL THE WORLD, WHICH WILL SOME DAY BE MADE SO SUCCESSFUL THAT FOR A LONG PERIOD BEFORE THE FINAL EVIL REVOLT AND END OF THE WORLD, CHRISTIAN RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL FLOURISH EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD.**
7. **THIS IS CALLED POST-MILLENNIALISM BECAUSE THE SECOND COMING WILL FOLLOW AFTER IT.**
8. **OTHER CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT GOOD AND EVIL WILL GROW APACE THROUGH THIS ERA, BUT EVIL MAY GAIN UNTIL THE SECOND COMING, WHEN CHRIST DESTROYS MUCH EVIL AND DOMINATES WHAT REMAINS AS HE RULES WITH A ROD OF IRON FOR AN UNPARALLELED 1000 YEAR PERIOD OF PERFECT PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD.**
9. **THIS IS CALLED PRE-MILLENNIALISM BECAUSE CHRIST COMES BEFORE IT AND BRINGS IT ABOUT.**
10. **ALL CHRISTIANS ARE MILLENNARIANS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER AND HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONVICTIONS IN COMMON:** (1) Christ, whether by His Spirit or by His visible presence in resurrection and glory, alone can bring peace in the world. (2) Millennialism of any kind assures victory for the church even in this world at some time. (3) All Christians, therefore, are humbly but confidently optimistic. (4) However gloomy prospects may be at any given moment, the outcome to the manifest glory of God is certain. (5) Christianity is cosmic in scope. (6) All Christians are necessarily, constantly, happily, eschatologically-oriented. We live sub specie aeternitatis in time. (7) Christianity, though profoundly heaven-oriented, is not other-worldly. (8) Where we will be in the eschaton depends on where we are and what we are doing in the here and now. (9) Heaven and hell are the ultimate eschatons.



## 99. DAY OF JUDGMENT

1. **OH, HOW WE ANTICIPATE THE SECOND COMING.** But even godly Christians often shrink from the following Day of Judgment!
2. **YET THERE NEED BE NO FEAR--JUST THE OPPOSITE.** For Christians it will be a greater day than the day of the Lord. It will be the Day of the Savior's judgment. Our Lord will be the Judge of that day. And our Lord, our Judge, is also our Savior.
3. **THE DAY OF JUDGMENT WILL BE THE DAY OF SALVATION COMPLETE, PERFECT, BODY AND SOUL.**
4. **HOW WE EAGERLY EXPECT THE SECOND COMING BECAUSE IT WILL BE THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.** The Day of Vindication. The Christian's Day of Condemnation was passed when he first bowed to the Lord in repentance and faith. "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more," He said. Compare Romans 8:1.
5. **WHEN JESUS CHRIST SITS ON THAT THRONE OF JUDGMENT, HIS ONLY WORD TO HIS PEOPLE WILL BE: "COME YE BLESSED OF MY FATHER, INHERIT THE KINGDOM PREPARED FOR YOU BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD"** (Matthew 25:34).
6. **OH YES, ALL THINGS HIDDEN WILL BE REVEALED AT THE DAY OF JUDGMENT** (Romans 2:16).
7. **BUT BELIEVERS' SINS WILL BE REVEALED AS FORGIVEN.** And their faithfulness will receive rewards.
8. **BUT FOR THE WICKED!** Their sins too will be revealed--as unforgiven. And all their deeds rewarded with endless punishment.
9. **UNTIL THAT DAY GOD'S PEOPLE CRY, "HOW LONG, O LORD, HOW LONG?"** (Revelation 6:10). Then all is settled. All the injustices--every last one of them--settled justly forever.
10. **LIKE THE DRIVEN CHAFF THE WICKED SHALL BE SWEEPED FROM OFF THE LAND WITH THE RIGHTEOUS THEY SHALL NOT GATHER NEITHER IN THE JUDGMENT STAND.**  
  
**WELL THE LORD SHALL GUARD THE RIGHTEOUS FOR THEIR WAY TO HIM IS KNOWN. BUT THE WAY OF EVIL-DOERS SHALL BY HIM BE OVERTHROWN** (Psalm 1:5-6).

## 100. HELL AND HEAVEN

1. **WE BEGIN WITH HELL RATHER THAN HEAVEN BECAUSE THOUGH MAN BEGAN IN THE VESTIBULE OF HEAVEN (EDEN), BY THE FALL HE IS NOW BORN IN THE VESTIBULE OF HELL (THIS WORLD).**
2. **MAN IS SPIRITUALLY D.O.A. (DEAD ON ARRIVAL) IN THIS WORLD (EPHESIANS 2:1; JOHN 8:34; GENESIS 6:5).**
3. **HELL IS WHERE SATAN RULES AND HE RULES OVER MAN IN THIS WORLD (EPHESIANS 2:2; 1 JOHN 5:19). Man is called his "goods" (Mark 3:27).**
4. **IF MAN DIES UNREGENERATE HE REMAINS THE HELLISH CREATURE HE IS HERE (REVELATION 22:11) WITH THESE DIFFERENCES:**
  - (1) There is no possible deliverance from eternal hell ever (Matthew 25:46).
  - (2) There is no relief. In this world the amusing diversions are so diverting that Satan's victims do not realize that all they are doing is gathering fuel for their ever more intense eternal burning (Romans 2:4).
  - (3) The Devil's complete fury is unleashed because he need no longer waste any time diverting his victims' attention from a possible salvation (1 Peter 5:8).
  - (4) Worst of all, it is the wrath of God that is poured out (John 3:36).
5. **HELL'S MISERY IS MADE PERFECT BY THE SIGHT OF THE SAINTS (WHOM THEY HAD DESPISED AND HATED IN THIS WORLD IN RETURN FOR THE SAINTS' LOVE OF THEM AND EFFORTS FOR THEIR SALVATION), ENJOYING EVERLASTING BLISS (LUKE 16:23-26).**
6. **THOSE FOR WHOM HEAVEN WAS PREPARED BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD ARE NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF THE FALL, BORN IN HELL'S VESTIBULE, THIS WORLD.**
7. **AT THE DIVINELY APPOINTED TIME THEY ARE BORN AGAIN AND ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN (JOHN 3:3-8).**
8. **FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD THERE IS NO ESSENTIAL CHANGE AT DEATH.**
9. **HEAVEN IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME THERE AS HERE WITH THESE DIFFERENCES:**
  - (1) There is never any spiritual sin (Philippians 1:6).
  - (2) There is never any bodily pain (Revelation 21:4).
  - (3) They enjoy "life eternal" in its fullness, body and soul (John 5:29).
  - (4) They have perfect love for themselves, their neighbors, and their God whom they now "see" (Matthew 5:8). Heaven's joy overflows as they see the wicked suffering their just deserts from which the saints had so earnestly tried to save them in this world by begging them to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved (Revelation 18:20). Thus the misery of hell serves its divine purpose of contributing to the happiness of heaven.
10. **GRAND CONCLUSION OF HANDOUT THEOLOGY: THERE IS A PLACE WORSE THAN HELL AND BETTER THAN HEAVEN! This present world! Because, dear friends, if you are not born again you are now adding fuel for your eternal burning. But, if you are born of God, every day you live for Him, you are adding treasures to your eternal life in heaven. So I beg all of you: Seek the Lord while He may be found. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE!**