



JESUS PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

4338 Third Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817

FREE

The "Reality Check" Zine

Editor: Thomas Adcock

TRUE BELIEVER



ACTS 7:60

YEA, THE TIME COMETH, THAT WHOSEVER KILLETH YOU WILL THINK THAT HE DOETH GOD SERVICE. AND THESE THINGS WILL THEY DO UNTO YOU, BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN THE FATHER, NOR ME.

JESUS (JOHN 16:2,3)

The Origin of Taps



We have all heard the haunting melody of “Taps” It’s the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be pleased to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing, Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who was severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward the encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock.

In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members pay a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was denied since the soldier was a confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician.

The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth’s uniform. This wish was granted. The haunting melody, which we know as “Taps” used at military funerals, was born.



Verse 1:

Day is done, Gone the sun From the lakes
From the hills, From the sky
All is well, Safely rest, God is nigh.

Verse 2:

Fading light, Dims the sight
And a star Gems the sky
Gleaming bright from afar,
Drawing nigh, Falls the night.



Verse 3:

Thanks and praise,
For our days,
Neath the sun,
Neath the stars, neath the sky,
As we go, This we know, God is nigh

Determinism Revisited

I went to my psychiatrist
to be psychoanalyzed,
To find out why I killed the cat
and blackened my wife’s eyes.
He laid me on a downy couch
to see what he could find,
And this is what he dredged up
from my subconscious mind.
When I was one, my mommy
Locked my teddy bear in a trunk,
And so it follows naturally
that I am always drunk.
When I was two I saw my father
kiss the maid one day,
And that is why I suffer now
from clep-to-man-i-a.
When I was three, I suffered
from ambivalence toward my brothers,
And that is just the reason
why I poisoned all my lovers.
And I’m so glad since I have learned
the lesson I’ve been taught,
That everything I do that’s wrong
Is someone else’s fault!

**The Islam Review
Website**

<http://www.IslamReview.com>

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe:

In the Triune God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is True God and True Man. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person. The Old and New Testaments are God's Divinely Inspired words. All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God and are in need of salvation. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men. It is the will of God that every believer be filled with the Holy Spirit. Healing is provided through the redemptive work of Christ and is available to every believer. The Church consists of all those who have received Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. In the personal, visible, imminent return of Jesus Christ. In Water baptism, and observance of the Lord's Supper.

Think not that I came to destroy the law or the Prophets: I did not come to destroy, but to fulfill.
Matthew 5:17

Volume 30 - Issue 1 (published seasonally) This newsletter is published by Jesus People Information Center, 4338 3rd. Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817, a non-profit Christian evangelistic organization engaged in foreign missions, nationwide prison ministry, street evangelism, and homeless ministry. Subscriptions are free on request. This ministry is completely supported by individual, tax-deductible, free-will donations.

NOTICES

1. Free Bible course by mail to teenagers (ages 13-19)
2. Free Bible correspondence course to prison inmates.
3. Free Christian literature and Bibles to "poor" foreign countries.
4. Bible course by mail comparing cults with Biblical Christianity. 12 lessons, \$25 ea. Each lesson includes books. Send \$25 for lesson one.
5. Jesus People newsletter and 200 assorted tracts and booklets for \$10 donation.
6. Join our Jesus People Book Club. For a \$25 or more tax-deductible donation per month, to help us supply free literature worldwide, we will send you a quality Christian book every month.
7. We have the best information available on cults and current Christian issues and doctrine. Contact us with your specific questions and requests.
8. **Our newsletters are available in bulk for 35 cents a copy (very reasonably priced) and we pay the expensive postage. Minimum order 100 copies please. Help us spread the word. Put them in your church or business. (\$35.00 for 100 copies)**

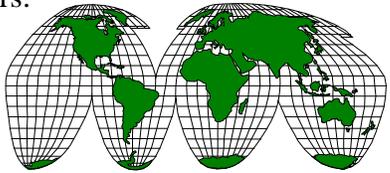
Send for above requests to:

Jesus People Information Center
4338 Third Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95817
Phone: (916) 456-9085

e-mail: JesusPeople@juno.com

web site: <http://www.mission.org/jesuspeople>

Places where we have sent free Christian literature for the last 30 years:

U.S.A.- every state	Germany	Madagascar	
American Samoa	Ghana, W. Africa	Malawi, S. Africa	
Argentina, S. America	Greece	Malaysia	
Australia	Greenland	Mexico	
Belgian Congo, Africa	Guam	Micronesia	
Belgium	Guinea, E. Africa	Mozambique, S. Africa	
Benin W. Africa	Guyana, S. America	Namibia, S. Africa	
Botswana, Africa	Haiti	Nepal	
Brazil, S. America	Hong Kong, China	Netherlands	
Bulgaria	Hungary	New Zealand	
Burma	Iceland	Niger, Central Africa	
Cameroon, W. Africa	India	Nigeria, W. Africa	
Canada	Indonesia	Norway	
China	Ireland	Panama	
Colombia. S. America	Israel	Philippines	
Cuba	Italy	Poland	
Denmark	Ivory Coast, W. Africa	Puerto Rico	
Ecuador, S. America	Jamaica, W. Indies	Republic of S. Africa	
Egypt	Japan	Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), S. Africa	
England	Kenya, E. Africa	Romania	
Ethiopia, E. Africa	Kuwait	Russia	
France	Liberia, E. Africa	Scotland	
		Sierra Leone, W. Africa	
		South Korea	
		Spain	
		Sri-Lanka	
		Sweden	
		Switzerland	
		Taiwan	
		Tanzania, E. Africa	
		Thailand	
		Tibet	
		Togo, W. Africa	
		Trinidad, W. Indies	
		Uganda, E. Africa	
		Ukraine	
		Zambia, Central. Africa	

This free literature goes out constantly 2-3 times a week in the U.S., and to foreign counties once a week 52 weeks a year.

Sikhism

Sikhism is a religion all but unknown to western civilization. Its adherents are to be found for the most part in the Punjab province of India. A fairly recent religion, Sikhism is an attempt to harmonize two of the world's greater religions, Hinduism and Islam. Sikhism is the third major branch of Hinduism and was founded by a man named Nanak. It also owes much to Islam.

Nanak was born in the Indian village of Talwandi, some 30 miles southwest of Lahore, capital of Punjab. The date of his birth is given as 1469 A.D. His parents were common people who embraced the Hindu religion. There are folk stories of Nanak's youth which depict him charging a Hindu teacher to know the true name of God.

At an early age, Nanak supposedly gave religious instruction to certain Brahman priests concerning the material sacrament. Whether these stories are true or not, his life was devoted more to meditation and religion than to work. The occupations chosen for him by his parents were not satisfying and caused him to be somewhat of a black sheep within his family. He eventually took a government position which was offered him by his brother-in-law in another town. However, Nanak remained unhappy and continued his constant search for religious truth.

At the age of 33 he was said to have received his divine call.

One day after bathing, Nanak disappeared into the forest and was taken in a vision to God's presence. He was offered a cup of nectar, which he gratefully accepted. God said to him: "I am with thee. I have made thee happy, and also those who shall take thy name. Go, and repeat Mine, and cause others to do likewise. Abide uncontaminated by the world. Practice the repetition of my Name, charity, ablutions, worship, and meditation... My Name is God, the primal Brahma. And thou are the divine Guru" (M.A. McAuliffe, *Sikh Religion: Its Gurus, Sacred Writings, and Authors*, London: Oxford University press, 1909, pp. 33-35).

Three days later Nanak returned from the forest and after remaining silent for one day, he pronounced, "There is no Hindu and no Musalman: (*Ibid*, p.37). In India, Muslims were know as "Musalmans."

Nanak, along with his minstrel friend Mardana, proceeded to proclaim his new-found message with relatively little success until they returned to Punjab. Disciples were now gathered around him and the newly found faith continued to grow through his life. Around age 70 Nanak died, but not without first appointing a successor to continue his mission. The choice was his trusted disciple Angad. According to

tradition, even in death, Nanak appeased both Hindu and Muslim.

The Musalmans, who had received God's name from the Guru, said they would bury him after his death. His Hindu followers, on the contrary, said they would cremate him. When the Guru was invited to decide the discussion, he said: "Let the Hindus place flowers on my right, and the Musalmans on my left. They whose flowers are found fresh in the morning, may have the disposal of my body." Guru Nanak then ordered the crowd to sing: "O my friends, pray for me that I may meet my Lord." The Guru drew a sheet over him, made obeisance to God, and blended his light with Guru Angad's [his successor]... When the sheet was removed the next morning, there was nothing found beneath it. The flowers on both sides were in bloom. All the Sikhs reverently saluted the spot on which the Guru had lain... at Kartepur in the Punjab. The Sikhs erected a shrine, and the Muhammadans a tomb in his honour on the margin of the Ravi. Both have since been washed away by the river (*Ibid.*, pp. 190, 191).

Prior to his death, Nanak appointed a ropemaker named Lahina as his successor. It was Lahina who thereafter changed his name to Angad (bodyguard), and who introduced the doctrine of Nanak's equality with God. A series of different gurus followed Angad, one of whom was Guru Arjan, who compiled the *Granth Sahib* during his leadership.

After the tenth guru in the line of succession died in 1708, the loyalty of the Sikhs was transferred from the personal authority of the guru to the sacred book, the *Granth Sahib*, and so it remains today.

The teachings of Sikhism are a syncretism of the doctrines of Islam and Hinduism. Rather than borrowing from the Hindu and Islamic scriptures, the Sikhs wrote their own scripture based upon their interpretation of certain ideas taught in Hinduism and Islam. Sikhism actually rejects some of the teachings of Hinduism and Islam. The result is an interesting combination of both Hindu and Moslem theology.

The sacred scriptures of Sikhism are known as the *Granth Sahib* or "Lord's Book." This work was composed by several dozen authors, some living prior to Nanak and having only a distant relationship to Sikhism. It contains a collection of poems of various lengths and totals some 29,480 rhymed verses. The contents center on extolling the name of God and exhortations on daily living.

A unique feature of this work is the number of languages utilized in its composition. The *Granth Sahib* is written in six different languages and several dialects. It is therefore nearly impossible for even the learned Sikh to study these scriptures in their entirety,

much less so for the unlearned.

Undoubtedly, there are only a handful of people in the entire world capable of reading the volume in its totality. There has never been any extensive system of scriptural study made by the Sikhs. The average Sikh devotee knows very little about the *Granth Sahib*, and it is for this reason non-essential to Sikh religious training. Although most Sikhs do not know the contents of their sacred book, they do treat it with reverence, almost to the point of idolatry.

According to Sikh belief there is one God who is absolute and sovereign over all things. Nanak's first statement after receiving his call became the opening sentences of the *Granth Sahib*:

There is but one God, whose name is true, creator, devoid of fear and enmity, immortal, unborn, self-existent, great and bountiful. The True One was in the beginning (*Ibid.*, p. 35).

The usual name given to the Sikh deity is "*sat nam*" which means "true name," although god may be called many different names since He takes on various manifestations. The *Granth Sahib* records:

Thou, O Lord, are One. But many are thy manifestations (*Ibid.*, p. 310).

Although God is basically a unity, according to Sikh doctrine, He is not considered personal but rather is equated with truth reality. K. Singh observes:

In equating God with the abstract principle of truth or reality, Nanak avoided the difficulty encountered by religious teachers who described God only as the Creator or the Father... but Nanak's system has its own problems. **If God is truth, what is truth? Nanak's answer was that in situations when you cannot decide for yourself, let the guru be your guide** (K. Singh in *Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions*, Keith Grim, general editor, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1981, p. 691).

Robert E. Hume comments upon the Sikh idea of salvation:

The Sikh religion teaches that salvation consists in knowing God, or in obtaining god, or being absorbed into God. The general method of salvation is fairly consistent with the supremacy of an inscrutable God, and with the accompanying doctrines of the worthlessness of the world and the helplessness of man... This method of obtaining salvation by a pantheistic merging of the individual self with the mystical world soul is identical with the method of salvation which has been taught in the Hindu Upanishads" (Robert E. Hume, *The World's Living Religions*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, rev. ed., 1959, pp 102, 103).

Hume lists the points of agreement and disagreement between Sikhism and the Hinduism and Islamic doctrines:

A COMPARISON OF SIKHISM WITH HINDUISM

(1) *Points of Agreement*

Theoretically, belief in a mystical Supreme Unity.

Practically, great variety of designations for deity.

A certain theistic application of pantheism, even as in some of the Hindu *Upanishads* and the *Bhagavad Gita*.

Salvation by faith in the grace of God.

The doctrine of Karma.

Transmigration of souls.

(2) *Points of Disagreement*

Hindu polytheism repudiated, in favor of a monistic pantheism.

Hindu pilgrimages, ritualism, and hermit asceticism repudiated, in favor of pure worship of the Pure One.

Hindu scriptures repudiated, in favor of the Sikh Scriptures.

Hindu degradation of women repudiated, in favor of a higher regard for women.

Hindu infanticide repudiated, in favor of a more vigorous populating.

Hindu vegetarianism repudiated, in favor of a more vigorous meat-eating.

COMPARISON OF SIKHISM WITH ISLAM

(1) *Points of Agreement*

Unity of the Supreme Personal Being.

Sovereignty of the Supreme Absolute Ruler.

A certain mercifulness attributed to the inscrutable deity, along with an uncomplaining arbitrariness.

Salvation through submission to God.

Worship through repetition of the name of the Deity.

Great importance in repeating prescribed prayers.

Devotion to the founder as God's prophet.

Extreme reverence for sacred scripture.

The first section in the sacred scripture, a kind of Lord's Prayer, composed by the founder at a crisis in his early life when seeking for God, and subsequently prescribed for daily repetition by all his followers.

A series of subsequent leaders after the original founder.

A long, powerful, militaristic church state.

Unity among believers, despite subsequent sects.

A very important central shrine—Mecca and Amritsar.

Vehement denunciation of idolatry.

(2) *Points of Disagreement*

Sikhism's founder not so ruthless or violent as Islam's.

Sikhism's deity not so ruthless or violent as Islam's

Sikhism's sacred scriptures ascribed to many teachers, at least thirty-seven; not to one, as in Islam.

No fasting prescribed to Sikhs, as to Muslims in month of Ramadan.

No decisive judgment-day in Sikhism, as in Islam. (*Ibid.*, pp 108-110).

Sikhism and Christianity

The basic premise of Sikhism, uniting different religions, is foreign to the teachings of the Bible. Sikhism attempts to unify the contradictory faiths of Islam and Hinduism. Christianity teaches that it is the only true religion and demonstrates that its world view is consistent with reality.

Jesus Christ pointed out that those who do not believe in Him as their Savior will not receive everlasting life. "I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24 NASB). "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6 NASB).

The concept of God which Nanak obtained by uniting certain features from both Hinduism and Islam is abstract and impersonal, in contradistinction to the biblical concept of a personal, caring God.

The God who is revealed in the Bible is intimately involved with the actions of mankind. "O Lord, Thou has searched me and known me. Thou dost know when I sit down and when I rise up. Thou dost understand my thought from afar. Thou dost scrutinize my path and my lying down, and art intimately acquainted with all my ways. Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold O Lord, thou dost know it all" (Psalm 139:1-4 NASB).

The Bible makes it clear that Jehovah God cannot be reconciled with any other so-called god or another religion:

"You are My witnesses," declares the Lord, "and My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me" (Isaiah 43:10 NASB).

From *Handbook of Today's Religions* by Josh McDowell and Don Stewart, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1983.

Speaking specifically of Jesus Christ, John said "This is the true God and eternal life." I John 5:20

"GOD NEVER MADE THE DARKY" [NEGRO RACE] ELLEN G. WHITE, B.F. SNOOK AND W.H. BRINKEHOFF, *THE VISIONS OF E. G. WHITE NOT OF GOD*, CHAPTER 2 (1866)

California Top Abortion State

Top 5 abortion states in 2001

State	# of Abortions
1. California	308,827
2. New York	159,261
3. Texas	94,842
4. Florida	91,495
5. Illinois	56,164

www.care-net.org

Stay Healthy Physically

Shalom-Do Kwan Martial Arts

Christian owned martial arts school.

Contact owner: Bill Cousins

Office: (916) 991-9254

School (916) 721-3997

e-mail: forestdweller1@hotmail.com

Book Offer: *The Trinity*

Send \$15 Tax-Deductible donation.

Send request to Jesus People

4338 3rd Avenue

Sacramento, CA 95817

Go to a church that can answer all the Bible questions you have. For Information on time and place, call pastors Larry & Robin Ewing. (916) 922-4111

Free Issue!

With No Obligation!

The Midnight Herald

America's Premier
Christian Newspaper

Send your request to:

The Midnight Herald
P.O. Box 131531-JP
Tyler, TX 75713

Or you may e-mail us at:

Freeissue@midnightherald.org

True Believers

Stephen **full of faith and power** did great wonders and miracles...and there arose those who set up false witnesses against him and brought him before the council and asked him to defend himself.

Stephen replied, Men and brethren...They made a calf in the days of Moses and offered sacrifice and rejoiced in the works of their own hands. Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven... Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch and the star of your God Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them... Solomon built a house for God... However the most high dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne and earth is my footstool... Ye stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost; as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers. You who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But Stephen being **full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up steadfastly into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city and stoned him... And they stoned Stephen who called upon God and saying, Lord Jesus receive my spirit. (From the Holy Bible, Book of Acts, chapters 6 and 7.)

Tortured for Christ

A pastor by the name of Florescu was tortured with red-hot iron pokers and with knives. He was beaten very badly. Then starving rats were driven into his cell through a large pipe. He could not sleep, but had to defend himself all the time. If he rested a moment, the rats would attack him.

He was forced to stand for two weeks, day and night. The communists wished to compel him to betray his brethren, but he resisted steadfastly. In the end, they brought his fourteen year-old son and began to whip the boy in front of his father, saying that they would continue to beat him until the pastor said what they wished him to say. The poor man was half mad. He bore it as long as he could. When he could not stand it any more, he cried to his son; "*Alexander, I must say what they want! I can't bear your beating any more!*" The son answered, "Father, don't do me the injustice to have a traitor as a parent. Withstand! If they kill me, I will die with the words, 'Jesus and my fatherland'." The communists, enraged, fell upon the child and beat him to death. With blood spattered over the walls of the cell, he died praising God. Our dear brother Florescu was never the same after seeing this.

By Richard Wurmbbrand. For more information contact: Voice of the Martyrs P.O. Box 443, Bartlesville, OK 74005 (A ministry I recommend – J.P. Editor)

Can I Help Show You The Way?

When I was in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany, I looked up on a starry night and beheld the heavens and realized that God alone made the heavens and the earth. I started on the path to look for the Lord knowing that I was on the path of destruction the way I lived my life so far. I started to head in the Lord's direction. Several different religions tried to persuade me that they were right and the others were wrong. I concluded that the Bible is God's Holy Word. It's been there for a very long time. It has changed many lives and nations throughout history. God is able to preserve His Word. When I stood on His Word, on a Sunday morning during the worship service at the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Bellflower, California, I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. My life was instantly changed by the power of the Holy Ghost entering my life for the first time, my sins washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ. That all happened in 1964. A short time later I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost and I began to pray in the Spirit speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gave the utterance. As I prayed in the Spirit, I felt myself growing strong in the Spirit and He gave me great boldness to witness for Him. The years of knowing the Lord who made all things has been wonderful even through times of difficulty, the Lord was there.

If you feel the need for the Lord to come into your life give me a call. Paul Temple (916) 392-0262 or write 4200 Chinquapin Way, Sacramento, CA 95823

Ready for Heaven

Many of you who are reading this are in prison, jail, or have been in prison. You may be imprisoned by drugs, alcohol, sex, etc. The latter three can be just as isolating as any actual prison.

My name is Jerry McCracken, Jr. I have lived my life as an alcoholic, dope head, with lust of the flesh and a violent man. I was on my way to hell when God's abundant grace opened my eyes. On September 2, 1991, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, while awaiting trial for four murders, armed robbery and possession of a firearm, while on pre-parole in Tulsa County jail. Many times people had spoken to me about Jesus Christ, who, in His abundant love, would forgive me and save my soul from hell. I must admit, I didn't want to hear about God at first, but a small voice kept knocking at my heart's door. Since accepting Christ into my heart, I now know the peace that those people were talking to me about and the assurance of eternal life (John 3:16). I was like a wild horse about to go over a cliff, that cliff being death, when Jesus saved me. Perhaps I should have been dead long ago, but God had a plan for my life. Now it is like Jesus is saying to me "Jerry, I love you... you belong to me now. I will never leave you nor forsake you." Jesus put me in His corral and quieted me, and taught me His word (John 14:21) through His Holy Spirit (John 16:13).

Now I live my life on death row with an intensive desire to tell others about Jesus Christ. God can use anyone, any place, any where and at any time. I have asked to be used as a witness for God and He is allowing me to do just that.

Jesus wants you to come to Him just as you are and He will change you. Being a Christian does not mean that you will never sin again. It does mean that you can have eternal life as long as you are faithful to serve Him. When you commit a sin, he is just and faithful to forgive (I John 1:9) if only we confess our sins and ask forgiveness.

Are you a prisoner of some kind? Wouldn't you like to be free? The choice is yours, to be like the thief who believed in Jesus or the thief on the other side who is loud and angry and didn't believe and went to Hell. If you would like to be free indeed and have eternal life, then please pray this prayer or one similar to it in your own words:

Lord God, the great I AM (Exodus 3:14) I believe in you and your Son, Jesus. I am a sinner and lost without you. Dear Jesus, come into my heart and forgive my sins that I may be saved. I accept you as my Savior and will serve you forever, Amen."

If you have prayed this prayer in faith, believing upon Him for everlasting life, you are saved and will receive eternal life and you are my brother or sister in

Christ. Tell someone that you have just accepted Christ as your Savior (Romans 10:10). You should also be baptized (Matthew 28:19) at the first opportunity.

I love you, but God loves you in a much greater way, for He is Love! (I John 4:8)
Jerry L. McCracken Jr. SE-8-LL
Oklahoma State Prison
PO Box 97, McAlester, OK 74502

Set Free

When I think back to the time four years ago, I see how the Lord had been drawing me for quite some time. I just kept pushing him away in rebellion and believing I could handle my own life. I really thought I enjoyed the homosexual and drug addict lifestyle. The devil had me convinced to serve him and the life of destruction. You see, he is a liar and the father of lies.

My homosexuality began at the age of nine years old. I was looking for a closeness and love I had seen in others, but I had never had with anyone on earth. I was a problem for my parents from the very beginning. Trying to get attention, I would wet the bed, steal from my parents for candy and was just a rebel all through my young life.

I began making wrong choices early on. I started my homosexuality with an older fellow in the neighborhood. In fact, two of them were 14 and older. I really enjoyed being with them. I thought I had finally found someone to love me and be close to because they would want to be alone with only me. I was special to someone that made me feel loved. As time went on, I began to get my own sexual partners. As I look back, I realize it was a form of idolatry. I was worshipping men's bodies. It gave me a great, false satisfaction to be with them.

In my early 20's, I fell in lust with a fellow who was a heroin addict. Soon I was into drugs, along with him. I was hooked on him and the drugs. I became a thief, a liar, a drug dealer, a burglar, and a lot of other things to support my habit and his. Satan is such a subtle liar, slipping you right into the slot he has for you to ruin your life and keep you in his worship.

I was eventually busted and my father, who was an influential person in the community, got me out of trouble each time with probation. After he passed away, I was once again busted for heroin possession and got a prison sentence. I was put at a minimum custody camp, and I left. I came to Florida and continued my homosexual and drug lifestyle. I was finally caught in a shoot-out and received a life sentence for attempted murder in 1982. From that time to 1995, I served Satan in the same drug and homosexual lifestyle. It is the same inside as outside, only more so. In 1995, the Lord began to speak to my

heart. I became so broken that I knew this life was empty and that I was tired of it. Turning 50 years old, I felt old and lonely. The seeds planted years earlier by my mother, grandmother, aunts and other Christians began to sprout. One night in my cell alone, I pleaded with the Lord to change my life and to let me know He was real.

God didn't have a loud voice. It was a small voice inside me which kept saying, "let go and trust in My work on the cross for all your past sins." That small voice kept at me until early in the morning. I was crying and at my end. I told Jesus to come into my life and change me. I told Him I'd live for Him if He would hold me and love me because I had always been alone, really alone. It was as if someone actually put their arms around me and I could feel the warm arms and chest hug me close and say, "I love you, come and live for me." It was as if a warm fire had ignited inside me.

After that, I stayed to myself. I would return to my cell from work and read and study about my Savior. I would listen to Christian messages on radio too. I told my sex partner that I had given my life to the Lord Jesus and we were no longer in a homosexual relationship. He supported my decision and moved out of my cell. He remains a dear friend today.

As time went on, Christ delivered me from hate, lying, deceit, drugs, and homosexuality. (I'd like to add that I still have dreams and sparks of desire, but I go to my Jesus as soon as it happens and this has almost gone away.) Praise God, He is so good! He has also delivered me from a real nasty mouth and many other things. I stayed to myself for two years. One day a Christian friend told me I needed to go to church services. I began to go to church in November 1997 and enjoyed the fellowship. I signed up for the prison program Kairos. In September 1998, I was visited again by my Savior during the Kairos weekend. It was such a spiritual awakening to me. The Lord told me He had a job for me. He also has a job for us all. We need to accept it and get on with it so we can receive all the blessings he has for us so abundantly.

On October 11, 1998, my pastor, Robert Clyatt, the chaplain at Union Correctional Institution, baptized me. I love him so much for being such a good example of Jesus' love. I thought I was complete and moved on for my Savior. On December 8, 1998, Chaplain Clyatt asked me if I would work for the Chapel program. I prayed about it, and within two days, I was given a job change to the Chapel. I realize now that being a Christian is a life-long growing process. Bless God!

I've been blessed to see people give their lives to the Lord, to cry out and accept His free gift of salvation right before my eyes. There is so much the Lord has blessed me with at the Chapel. I love my job there and I love my calling to help ex-homosexuals

stay out of that lifestyle in Christ's love. It is my hearts desire that someone will come to Jesus' saving grace and live for Him.

I have two Bible verses I love dearly. Psalms 40:2, "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my going." And, James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." They are both close to my heart because Jesus gave them to me.

In Christ's Love,
Roger Walley
Hamilton Correctional Inst.
Jasper, FL

LOVE – TRUTH – My Search

Everyone has a story. A few snapshots of my life can tell mine. I was a "War Baby" born 1942 in St. Petersburg, Florida. I vaguely remember ration coupons for food. When I was about three or four out playing cowboys and Indians with two friends, one threw a butter knife from a rooftop and it stuck right in the top of my head. A hospital visit solved the problem. Perhaps it was a prophetic sign of my life to come.

As I grew older my mother sent me to a Methodist Church (back when almost all Methodist churches taught the Bible). I only remember how good I felt walking home. I can't specifically remember why.

I got involved in swimming at a young age and was on the city swimming team for three years. That was a happy time for me. It is such good exercise and how I enjoyed walking or riding the bus home. It was safe on the street then and people were friendly and **my conscience was clean**. My family had no car or television set until I was in high school – poor, but happy!

In grammar school, about the third grade I was picked on by a few people. I well remember two brothers who would punch me in the face and laugh. I remember I tried to live by the teaching of Jesus, "Turn the other cheek". At that age I never realized that Jesus did not say people would not hit you on the other cheek. My lack of Bible knowledge started my rebellion against God. "Why didn't he rescue me?"

It was during the seventh grade a bully terrorized me – punching me whenever he chose. I remember being afraid when I saw him in the hall at school, wondering what he would do to me as he passed by. Then I saw a movie called "Blackboard Jungle" and shortly afterwards in class this bully punched me and I went crazy. I choked him almost unconscious, then picked up a desk and smashed it into his face.

Immediately, I was a hero. The bully completely changed his attitude toward me and everyone else “loved” me.

As it worked out, I went on a “crusade” against “evil”; what I would call “unfairness”. I joined the Madeira Beach Police Athletic League boxing team, filled some dungarees with sand and punched this “punching bag” every night. The next bully I ran into I knocked out with one punch. There were a lot of gangs around then. The biggest one was the Aces, about 400 boys.

I started my own gang. Only about 20 kids. By the time I finished Junior High School (9th grade), I had been in 297 street fights and only lost 7. I kept a journal.

By the time summer was over and I entered Boca Ciega High School, guys were “lined up wanting to fight me.” They just didn’t believe a “little squirt like me” could be so tough. To me that was persecution and I had approximately 200 more fights, losing only a few. I was “driven.”

Sure I did some “good things” before I was saved. For example, I was never a racist and fought against it, literally a couple of times. But I was still incomplete. False religious prophets and teachers also say some “true” things. However, their message is still poisonous. A broken watch is correct twice a day.

I experienced young love and heartbreak like all high schoolers. Grades were so easy for me I skipped class. I started drinking alcohol. Whatever crusade I had started on became lost in my drunken selfish life. Fighting and drinking were my noticeable traits and normal life.

A bad car wreck which nearly killed me slowed me down and I wondered what I was looking for. I was in the Navy during the Cuban Crises and the only time I saw any purpose to what we did was when we were in Cuban waters at general quarters. The drinking and fighting continued in the navy. I got an honorable discharge anyway.

Back home the wild life caught up to me one night when a friend of mine and I beat up five people. I was arrested and sentenced to 90 days on each count. Four hundred and fifty days in city jail.

Leaving Florida behind, I ended up in Los Angeles, vowing to “reform”. I enrolled in El Camino Jr. College and got a job. However, I was lonely. The only place I knew where “people met” were bars. I had grown up in bars. It was the 60’s, the Vietnam war was on. I hated the war protesters. Yet I had long hair and got deeply involved in drugs for spiritual reasons. I was still looking for something.

My mother was an English and reading teacher for 45 years and I learned to read early. Though I lived a “wild life” I was a voracious reader and read everything the “world” had to offer from Kerouac and

Mailer, Ayn Rand, Voltaire, True Believer by Eric Hoffer, Huxley etc. Anyone familiar with these writings can understand why it was so hard for me to believe the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I went to a lot of “spiritual places” on drugs. Timothy Leary’s Psychedelic Experience and more. One day I met a girl walking down the street. I was attracted to her for several reasons. One of which I was totally unaware. After a couple of weeks of dating I asked her if she believed in God. She told me when she was a young girl during a Baptist youth service that God revealed to her supernaturally that Jesus had died for her. This revelation was accompanied by a white light that filled the room and blinded her. It was instantaneous but afterward she believed and knew she had been saved.

I asked her to marry me. Unknown to me at that time I was looking for God myself. I led her into a crazy drug scene for three years. But she had a conscience I could not understand. A Jesus revolution broke out in Los Angeles and many other parts of the world. My wife and others were praying for me and people, Jesus Freaks, were witnessing to me on the street. I was being drawn to the Bible. I had a tortured heart and a tormented soul. I was desperate. I prayed the sinners prayer but argued constantly with God. One night in bed I heard the only audible voice of God I’ve ever heard. – one word “Tom”. I got up and walked into our living room and He was there. I suppose it was Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit. I only know God was in that room with me and I knew it was Jesus Christ. After a Satanic spiritual mind struggle I said, “Lord Jesus, I give up. I believe in you.” Immediately it felt as if blood was running down my head and over my body, even down my throat. Blood inside and out washed over me and I knew I was saved. All I could say was “It’s really true after all. It’s really true.” As William James would say “a Damascus road experience.”

The next day I witnessed to a bar tender friend of mine in one of the roughest bars in Los Angeles and I have never stopped. That was 1969. In 1973 I was baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Friend have you ever read I Corinthians Chapter 13 about love. I was looking for that in friends and causes and I never found it perfectly until I met Jesus. My wife and I have been married for 36 years and she is a good example of love. But no one, nothing can satisfy you until you surrender to Jesus Christ –Perfect Love!

After all He is the creator, the Redeemer, and the coming Judge of the world. He may not love the evil that we mortals do of our own free will, but He loves you. Believe it! And save yourself my experience. Twenty-seven years of a wasted life. Many of my friends died young. I’m 60 years old now and have

“been in revival” since I was saved. I’ve done no great things – I just keep going out there, spreading the truth, which involves a new fight. A fight against the lies of Satan, secular or religious lies. Jesus Christ truly arose from the dead. He is alive. My search is over. May God give you the grace to end your search by finding the ultimate power and love – Jesus of Nazareth. He is right there –waiting for you. Don’t let the Devil bully you. His only power is lying.

I declare unto you the gospel... by which you are saved if you hold fast to the word that I preached unto you. Jesus Christ died for our sins. He was buried and rose again on the third day. If Christ is not raised our preaching is nothing and you are dead in your sins. But now Christ has arisen and even appeared unto me. From I Corinthians Chapter 15. Read it all –Believe it!

Tom Adcock, President
Jesus People Information Center

Do you trust your eternal soul to E.G.W.? Was she a rascist?

Did pre-flood humans mate with animals and give birth to sub-human species and races? Is this still happening today?

Ellen G. White says:

“But if there was *one sin* above another which called for the destruction of the race by flood, it was the base crime of *amalgamation of man and beast* which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere.” – *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 64, written in 1864.

“Every species of animal which God had created were preserved in the ark. The confused species which God did not create, *which were the result of amalgamation*, were destroyed by the flood. Since the flood *there has been amalgamation of man and beast*, as may be seen in the most endless varieties of species of animals, and in certain races of men.” – *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 3, p. 75, written in 1864.

“My work for the past thirty years bears the stamp of God or the stamp of the enemy. There is *no halfway work in the matter*. The testimonies are of the Spirit of God, or of the devil.” – *Testimonies*, vol. 4, p. 230.

FormerAdventist.com

A website dedicated to helping those struggling with Adventism to find truth, fellowship and prayer support.

WHO ARE THE SHRINERS?

Candidates for induction into the Shriners are greeted by a High Priest, who says: “By the existence of Allah and the creed of Mohammed; by the legendary sanctity of our Tabernacle at Mecca, we greet you.”¹ The inductees then swear on the Bible and the Koran, in the name of Mohammed, and invoke Masonry’s usual gruesome penalties upon themselves: “I do hereby, upon this Bible, and on the mysterious legend of the Koran, and its dedication to the Mohammedan faith, promise and swear and vow ... that I will never reveal any secret part or portion whatsoever of the ceremonies ... and now upon this sacred book, by the sincerity of a Moslem’s oath I here register this irrevocable vow ... in willful violation whereof may I incur the fearful penalty of having my eyeballs pierced to the center with a three-edged blade, my feet flayed and I be forced to walk the hot sands upon the sterile shores of the Red Sea until the flaming sun shall strike me with livid plague, and may Allah, the god of Arab, Moslem and Mohammedan, the god of our fathers, support me to the entire fulfillment of the same. Amen. Amen. Amen.”² With this oath, Christians swear on the Koran, and declare Allah to be “the god of our fathers.” From the perspective of Christianity and Islam alike, Shriners take the name of God in vain, and mock both faiths.

Excerpt from *The Origins and Influence of Masonry*
by Lee Penn, SCP Journal Vol. 25:2-25:3 2001
PO Box 4308, Berkeley, CA 94704
[A ministry I very highly recommend-J.P. Editor]

The Millennium Bible by William E. Biederwolf.
This is an examination of every single verse in the Bible relating to the second coming of Christ and the end of the world. Dispensationalist, Amillennial, Post Millennial, and classical premillennial scholars all give their opinions. The exposition of scripture from all these view points on just Matthew or Daniel would cost you more than the price of this book. This book also contains four views of the Book of Revelation.

Send a suggested donation of \$25.00 to Jesus People, 4338 3rd Ave. Sacramento, Ca 95817. We will pay the shipping costs. Get one before they are gone.

CHRISTIANS ARISE! -- MARK 16:15
“It’s only a matter of going.”

T. E. Lawrence

¹ John Blanchard, *The Mystic Shrine Illustrated*, Kessinger Publishing Company (reprint) p. 18

² *Ibid.* p. 21-23

THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF PREDESTINATION: A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF EPHESIANS 1:3-12 AND ROMANS 8:29-30

By Sean Zimmerman

What does the Bible teach about the doctrine of predestination? Does the Bible teach the Calvinistic doctrine of unconditional election, namely that: By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it can not be either increased or diminished. Those of mankind that are predestinated unto life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ, unto everlasting glory, out of his mere free grace and love, without any foresight of faith or good works, or perseverance in either of them, or any other thing in the creature, as conditions, or causes moving him thereunto; and all to the praise of his glorious grace.

In other words does the Bible teach that God from all eternity has chosen who will be saved and receive faith and who will be damned simply for His own good pleasure without reference to anything in human beings or anything He foresees them doing? Are our eternal destinies fixed before we are ever born? Do we have any say whatsoever in the matter? To answer these questions I think it would be pertinent to go to the only two passages in scripture where the term predestination is applied to human beings: Ephesians 1:3-12 and Romans 8:29-30. While I realize that many other passages are frequently brought up in the predestination debate, I believe that a correct understanding of these two passages will help to safeguard against error in interpreting other passages where the term predestination is not being used and where the concept is not clearly in view. If it can be proven from Ephesians 1:3-12 and Romans 8:29-30 that the Calvinistic doctrine of unconditional election is true, then the Calvinists are indeed correct in their understanding of predestination. On the other hand,, if neither the passage in Ephesians or Romans teaches the idea that "God elects a specific people unto Him self without reference to anything they do"² then it should seriously jeopardize the doctrine of unconditional election and the whole of the Calvinistic system as well.

Let's begin with Ephesians 1:3-12:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him, before

the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to his good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth-in Him, in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.

First, let's look at the time frame of the passage. It is said to be "before the foundation of the world". In other words God's predestination takes place before anyone every existed. Secondly, we need to realize to whom Paul is writing. He is writing to Christians. What he has to say is applicable only to Christians. Who are the ones that God the Father has chosen before the foundation of the world? Paul writes in verse four that He "chose us [Christians to whom Paul is writing] in Him [in Christ, i.e. those who believe in Christ]". What has God predestined and chosen Christians for? Is it to receive faith and salvation? Not at all. Paul writes that God has predestined all Christians to be "adopted as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself" (ver. 5) and to be "holy and without blame before Him" (ver. 4).

As many have pointed out, observe, first, the subjects of the choice, "us," believers, not people of the world (the apostle includes himself); and secondly, the object or goal of predestination, "unto the adoption of children." W.B. Riley said on this passage: "The term 'predestination' which has alarmed many, is only another expression of the eternal compassion, the eternal plan, the eternal purpose, the eternal project-redemption! The believer's position, however, is by the exercise of man's will. He has 'predestinated us unto the adoption of children...' but He will never foreclose on that which He has purchased without our personal consent. The day one is willing to be adopted, that day he becomes God's child... Our adoption is done the moment we consent to it; but the joy of it all, to the praise and glory of His grace-comes to us in ever-increasing measure." (The Bible of the Expositor and the Evangelist, "New Testament," Vol XII, pp. 13-15). Another Baptist pastor and teacher, Dr. A.J. Wall, said on this, "One must first conclude that he is talking about saved persons and not the means of their salvation. Then in verses four and five as he talks about choosing and predestinating, he is talking about saved people, for Paul includes himself by saying 'us'... It did not say 'according as He has chosen some to be saved

¹ Phillip Schaff, *The Creeds of Christendom*, 6th ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1990), p.608-609

² James R. White, *The Potter's Freedom* (Amityville NY: Calvary Press Publishing, 2000), p.39.

before the foundation of the world,' but 'according as He has chosen us' (we who are believers)... 'that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.' Not that some should be saved or that some shall be lost, for the subject of the salvation of the soul is not mentioned. Before the foundation of the world God chose that the believers in Christ should be, or stand, before Christ in love, holy and without blame. It must be some future time when the believer will be conformed to the image of His Son... Ephesians 1:11, the believer is predestinated to receive an inheritance that has already been purchased, obtained, or paid for." (The Truth About Election, pp. 12-14).³

The authors quoted above are absolutely correct. God has predestined that all believers will receive an inheritance and be conformed to the image of His son. No where does the passage teach the concept that God has chosen who will be saved and who will be lost without reference to anything in the creature. "The mystery of His will" is that God has worked out a plan from all eternity to give an inheritance to all who believe in His Son Jesus Christ. All of God's predestining is done for those who are in Christ (i.e. only for believers).

What then of verse 11 which states that God "works all things according to the counsel of His will"? Does this mean that all things happen irresistibly? We need to keep in mind that God's counsel can indeed be resisted: "But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him" (Luke 7:30). So while God is in control of everything and works everything according to His own plans and desires, His plans and desires for certain individuals can be resisted. However, even when people rebel against God and His desires for them, He is able to use their rebellion and rejection of His counsel to further His own purposes. An example of this are the vessels of wrath who have prepared themselves for destruction by resisting His will in Romans 9:22. Even though He bears with them in great patience allowing them every opportunity to repent, God can justly display his wrath against them when they ultimately fail to do so. God wills that all should repent and believe (Isaiah 55:6-7, Ezekiel 18:28-32). He also desires to demonstrate His wrath and His power (Romans 9:22). Thus whether they receive or reject Him, His will is still accomplished!

Let us now proceed with Romans 8:29-30:

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom he justified, these He also glorified.

We should start by asking ourselves who are the persons in Romans 8:29 that are foreknown? Verse 28 states that it is those who love God, i.e. Christians. To what then are these people predestined to? Salvation? Faith? No, they are predestined to be "conformed to the image of His Son." In other words, everyone that loves God has been predestined to be made like Jesus: "So what is God saying about predestination? All those who love God are predestined. God has a previously thought-out plan for them. And that plan is to make them like Jesus."⁴ This only confirms our interpretation of Ephesians 1:3-12.

In short, the Biblical doctrine of predestination can be summed up as this: God has predestined that all who believe in Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Lord and Savior will be adopted as God's children, receive an eternal inheritance and be made like Jesus. Neither Ephesians 1:3-12 nor Roman 8:29-30 teach that God has chosen unconditionally who will be saved and who will be damned. That is a concept that has been read into the scriptures, not taken out of it. Predestination has nothing to do with salvation, it has to do with the rewards that God has eternally planned to give all those who are saved.

Since the only two passages which use the word predestination in reference to persons do not teach the doctrine of unconditional election, then it is extremely doubtful that other passages where the word is absent are teaching it. Indeed this doctrine completely contradicts the whole tenor of the scriptures. The Bible is quite clear that God truly desires that all would repent and be saved (Acts 17:30, I Timothy 2:4, II Peter 3:9). God does not desire that the wicked should perish but that he should repent and live (Ezekiel 33:11). God continually stretches out His hands to rebellious people (Isaiah 65:2) and whosoever wills may freely partake of the water of life (Revelation 22:17). Praise God!

You can contact Sean Zimmerman at zimmermansean@hotmail.com or care of: Jesus People 4338 3rd Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95817

For complete harmonizing of all scriptures about salvation and a refutation of all 5 points of Calvinism these two books should be sufficient. 1.) *Elect in the Son* by Robert Shank (suggested donation \$20) and 2.) *Life in the Son* by Robert Shank (\$25) Order from Jesus People, 4338 3rd Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817 www.mission.org/jesuspeople e-mail: jesuspeople@juno.com

³ Samuel Fisk, *Election and Predestination* (Bicester, England: Penfold Book & Bible House, 1997), p. 134-135.

⁴ Walter C. Kaiser Jr.; Peter H. Davids; F.F. Bruce; Manfred T. Brauch; *Hard Sayings of the Bible* (Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 1996), p. 559.

WE GET LETTERS

We do NOT have a Pen-Pal Program.



Jesus People,

I'm incarcerated here at SCP for women. I am 19 years old. My parents are on drugs and I was stealing just to eat. Now I'm writing you because I need a spiritual mentor. I'm scared. Older women here prey on young people like me and try to make them gay. I believe in God and the people here are crazy and trying to convert young people to Islam. But I know Jesus is the Son of God... Please pray for my parents to get off drugs and help me learn more about Jesus....

LaErie Tracee Payne
Prison, Cambridge Springs PA

Bro. Tom,

Thanks for keeping me on your mailing list and your evaluations of current Christian movements... It's been a long, long time since we last met. Glad to know you are still firing away for Jesus. The airwaves are filled with misinformation about Islam. Allah was one of 360 idols the Arabs worshipped and is not the same God we worship... Charles Trombley,
Broken Arrow, OK

Tom,

I am so grateful for the free book you sent me "Basic Greek in 30 minutes a day"... Matthew Cowman
Mt. Pleasant Corr. Ctr., Mt. Pleasant, IA

Jesus People,

We have three facilities, with 1,400 men. 300 of them are confined to their cells for various disciplinary actions... Most of the men here will be here for lengthy sentences. We would appreciate your donation of materials to help their spiritual growth...
Carl Fortner, Senior Chaplain
Hardee Correctional Inst., Bowling Green, FL

Dear Sir,

I am incarcerated here and should tell you I read a book in here and I was saved by the book by the grace of God. I now have Jesus as my Lord and Savior and desire your help to study more...
Michael Bjelac
State Prison, Lancaster, OH

Dear Brother Thomas,

Greetings... I'm writing for 2 reasons. I want to take your Bible course and also our chaplain is a very hard 5 point Calvinist and I know this is not true. I'd like a copy of the "The Believer's Conditional Security" please. Every cult you can imagine is also inside here...
Jim Kenison
Federal Correctional Inst., Ray Brook, NY

Dear Brothers in Christ,

There is much evangelism to be done here and we need your help...
Ofosu Quaidoo
Ghana, West Africa

Jesus People,

I was blessed by reading one of your newsletters I found in here. Can you please put me on your mailing list and can I have a copy of "Five Points of Calvinism Considered"...

Gerardo Cortez
State Prison, San Luis Obispo, CA

Jesus People,

I will be here for 9 months before going to the penitentiary for 2 years. I would like to use my time to get to know God. I hear you have a great Bible course and your newsletter. And I need help against the teaching of Muslims and Jehovah's witnesses.

Shane Bowling
Stafford, VA

Dear Tom,

I'm an avid reader of your newsletter and I will be paroled in 98 days to Stockton, CA. I will write you about getting some tracts to pass out on the streets there. Can you send my friend in here some info. He's reading the New World Translation Bible and Jehovah Witnesses have him tricked...

Rick Miles,
State Correctional Facility, Jamestown, CA

Dear Jesus People,

I need your help on some Bible questions. Who is chosen and why....

D. Mitchell
State Prison, Soledad, CA

Editor: All those "in Christ", saved people, are chosen to be adopted as Sons of God.

Jesus People,

When I was visiting friends in Birmingham, Alabama, someone gave me one of your tracts. I just am now reading it and very interested in getting your free newsletters...
Beatrice Brown
Painesville, OH

Dear Mr. Adcock,

Since I've been in here I've come across many teachings that are contrary to what I believe the Bible teaches. Calvinism is being pushed in here as is 7-day Adventism, Arnold Murray who twists almost every Bible verse, I want your help and should I separate myself from these false teachers?...

Richard Wyatt
Mule Creek Prison, Ione, CA

Jesus People,

This is a cry for help. I would like a pen pal and your Bible study...

Phillip Williams, Jr.
State Prison, Raiford, FL

Jesus People,

I very much appreciate the Bible you sent me. Can you please send me some stuff about Calvinism. A guy here is confusing me...

Ted Ruiz

State Prison, Florence, AZ

Tom,

I read your testimony and you have really seen life from both sides. I never knew you were from Florida. I hope you know how much your help means to me and the countless other inmates here who write you...

Ron Farham

Moorehaven Correctional Facility

Moorehaven, FL

Jesus People,

I'm here on a 3 strikes change. I'm not complaining, just explaining... Through car wrecks, gunshots and knife wounds Jesus has watched over me. I've turned away twice but now I'm with him to stay... Anything you can send me to help me I will appreciate...

Henry Navarro

Centinela Prison, Imperial, CA

JPIC,

We have over 540 inmates here with a constant turnover. I'm always in need of Christian literature. Can you help me yet again...

Chaplain Chuck Gladen

Arkansas Dept of Corrections, Dermott, AR

Editor: Absolutely. A privilege and a pleasure.

Dear Brother Adcock,

Here are the answers to lesson one. I really enjoyed the last package you sent me about the heresy of unconditional eternal security. I could tell you some stories of people I've met in prison who believe that. That's why they are back in here and I was into that belief and that's why I'm back in prison...

Robin Williams

Ohio Reformatory for Women-Washington,

Marysville, OH

Jesus People,

Can you send me some of your tracts "Mormonism Is Not Based on the Bible" and "Do Jehovah's Witnesses Really follow Jehovah"? And we desperately need Spanish Bibles and Spanish Christian books. I am a dorm porter and work directly with prison ministry in here and need help...

Luis Martinez,

Chuckawalla Prison, Blythe, CA

Jesus People,

We thank you for your help for the men here. We can use tapes and videos also. We also have need for Spanish and Vietnamese Bibles...

Chaplain Joe Portugal

Washington Correctional Center, Shelton, WA

Tom,

I was really blessed by your newsletter in fighting wrong teaching about the Bible. I was at Corcoran Prison and a lot of unbiblical Calvinism was taught there but I understand why it's wrong now. My paperback Bible has all its pages falling out. Can you send me another Bible...

Joseph Juarez

Salinas Valley Prison, Soledad, CA

Jesus People

I was baptized as a Catholic as a baby and I am attending Right of Initiation for Adults (Roman Catholic) and protestant classes. I don't believe these "Marian Visions" and they show movies saying they are true. Our church sure is in the hundreds. Can you help us find truth. Can you give us the book "Quite Contrary" showing visions of Mary are wrong...

David Gonzales

State Prison, Lovelady, TX

Editor: I sent the book and a 1-1/2 hour video "The Roman Catholic Deception" free. Anyone else ready can get this video from us for a \$10 tax-deductible donation and the book for \$7.00 tax-deductible donation.

JPIC,

A minister referred you to me about taking your Bible course. I am in jail here...

Beverly Davies

Fresno, CA

Jesus People,

I read one newsletter here you printed against Calvinism. I need more as people here are teaching fatalism and once saved always saved, but they keep coming back to prison...

John Hernandez

State Prison, Tehachapi, CA

Jesus People,

I am a new believer and thirsty for any books, sermons, tracts whatever you can give me.

Ms. Jolene Wurtenberg

Navel Consolidated Brig-Miramar, San Diego, CA

Tom,

Your last newsletter was "right on time". Can you send me "The White Lie", "Book on Free Masonry" and "Answering Islam"? I'd like your endorsement of my book (revised edition) "What the Bible Says About Saving Faith" Thanks for being so long faithful...

Bernard Koerselman

Christchurch, New Zealand

Jesus People,

The inmates here thank you for being an answer to Macedonian prayer (Acts 16:9). You have been a vital assistance to training men in extensive study of God's word.

We pray the Lord Blesses you...

Warren Alderson, Protestant Chaplain

California Men's Colony-East, San Luis Obispo, CA

Editor: I had to send about 50 more books when I got this letter. If more people help me, I'll send 5,000 books. They would all be read.

JPIC

Please send me your Bible course....

Alan Donmoyer

Columbia County Prison, Bloomsberg, PA

Jesus People,

Can you help me with any books to help me understand the Bible better...

Alan Mauk

Palm Beach County Jail, West Palm Beach, FL

Jesus People,

I'm writing because I feel compelled and driven to change. I believe in God but keep resisting and have mixed up feelings...

Ms. Lerisa Finley

County Jail, Globe, AZ

Editor: Another young person God is calling. Yes we are helping her.

Jesus People,

I read your "Jesus Manifesto" in your newsletter and after Sept. 11, I believe what was said. All Americans need to repent of their own sins...

Chad Houche

Prison, Jamestown, CA

Dear Tom,

You have really opened our eyes. We knew J.W.'s and Mormons were cults but your newsletters showed us the truth about the Nation of Islam, Islam, UFO's, prosperity gospel of TV hucksters, and more. Keep the newsletters coming...

Michael Prostka

State Prison, Buckeye, AZ

Jesus People,

I'm 24 and a codependent and money addict. I'm very depressed but now turned my life over to Jesus Christ and was informed you could help me learn and grow and they are out of Bibles here right now. Can you help me...

Dawn Olson

Coos County Corrections, Coquille, OR

Jesus People,

Please send me "Oneness Pentecostalism Refuted" by Sean Zimmerman. We need it here...

David King

Folsom Prison, Represa, CA

Dear Mr. Adcock,

I saw your Poem to Jehovah's Witnesses in one of your newsletters. I would like permission to copy and distribute it locally and use it in my mailings in my evangelistic ministry that I have to people around the world...

God bless you and your household,

Pastor James Gage

Mullin, SC

Jesus People,

I saw one of your newsletters and saw the word "Buddhism" on a corner of a page. I have been a Zen student for several years. I meditate every day... I have been led to the Bible and there are differences. I'm beginning to see there are some parallel teachings in Christ and Buddha but the Buddha's mind is opposed to faith in an omnipotent God. Good works as opposed to God's mercy in finding salvation, an illusion of the self opposed to fact of men having a soul... Can you help me find the true path to salvation?

Domenico Fascia

DeSoto Correctional Inst., Arcadia, FL

Dear Brother,

Wonderful I found you. I am against the futile claims of Calvinism... Please send me "Five Points of Calvinism Considered" by David Servant, which is an answer to the awful book by John Piper...

Andrew Lerma

Prison, Techachapi, CA

Tom,

I give up. Send me some tracts to pass out and here is a check to help with your prison ministry...

Clair Mortensen

Sacramento, CA

Editor: Please Christians – Take Jesus outside the church. Anyone can pass out tracts. We'll send you 200 assorted tracts for \$5.00. It costs \$1.50 to mail them. That's 200 tracts for \$3.50. Don't you believe God's promise that He would watch over his powerful living word. Join the Revolution. Get "personally" involved. Your pastor can't do it all. Read Acts chapters 8-11.

Mr. Adcock

A brother in Christ recommended you as a valuable resource and "a cool guy"... I was raised in the Roman Catholic religion and at the age of 16 drifted away from religion... Since I've been here I have gotten saved and I'd like some support of true Bible teaching...

T. Marks

High Desert Prison

Susanville, CA

Hello Jesus People,

Thank you for the Bible and all the tracts. I was a member of a church near you. New Life Christian Center in Rio Linda, Pastor James Duncan. He is a good pastor but I have Bible questions for you...

Mattio Angelo

Duel Vocational Prison, Tracy CA

Jesus People,

I enjoy your newsletter so much. When I listen to Christian radio all I get is **false teaching**: Harold Camping of Family Radio, the Roman Catholic station, prosperity teaching. I want to join your book club at \$25 per month for a good Christian book each time and to support all free ones you give away.

Susan Fuchs
Clearwater, FL

Tom,

Thank you for all the books you supply here... I read "The White Lie" by Walter Rea. I hope my 7-day Adventist friends will pay attention with an open mind...

Bruce Davis
Prison, San Luis Obispo, CA

Dear Jesus People,

Thank you so much for the books showing how "oneness Pentecostals" and Jehovah's Witnesses don't teach Bible truth.

Johnny Cathcart
Prison, Farmington, MO

Jesus People,

Can I please get Bible studies from you please...
Rebecca Fackler
Scott Correctional Facility, Plymouth, MI

Tom,

Can you donate a copy of "Answering Islam" to me. I will use it as a reference to prisoner's questions.
Protestant Chaplain D. B. Newhouse
Avenal State Prison, Avenal, CA

Jesus People,

Please send me your newsletters and any good Bible-based books...

Keith Wilson
Utah State Prison, Draper, UT

Jesus People,

Please send me any Bible studies for inmates... I am undergoing treatment for breast cancer...

Teena Rodriguez
Federal Medical Center, Fort Worth, TX

Jesus People,

Gary Sims of Hope Aglow Ministry referred me to you... Please enroll me in your Bible studies...

Howard Knight
Larry Gist State Prison, Beaumont, TX

Jesus People,

I'd like your free Bible course. A free world minister came here and told us the forbidden fruit Eve ate was to have sex with Lucifer and Cain and Abel were twins and only Abel was Adams son. Cain was the Devil's son...

Phyllis Walker
Tutweiler Women's Prison, Wetumpka, AL

Editor: Arnold Murray teaches this and things more sinister and stupid.

Jesus People,

I saw one and want to receive your newsletters and Bible study books...

Anton Millan
Pelican Bay Prison, Crescent City, CA

Tom Adcock,

I never read a Christian newsletter I enjoyed more... I too have read two Korans, one translated by Sale. Your article on Calvinism is great. I never knew that J.W.'s were such a doomsday cult... Send more info.

Richard Geffrken
Madison Correctional Inst., Madison, FL

Tom,

Please send me any past or future newsletters. They teach me so well...

Fred Davidson
Prison, San Diego, CA

Jesus People,

I found part of one of your newsletters in a trash can here. It was amazing, at least the part I read. Please send them to me regularly.

Jerry Coleman
Prison, Lovelady, TX

Tom,

Sorry for not writing sooner. But I want to thank you for giving me the book free "The Believer's Conditional Security".. I read all 801 pages of it before writing you back. The brothers here love it and know the teaching we are getting here at the chapel is wrong... Many of us here are very grateful...

Carlos Avina Jr.
California State Prison, Vacaville, CA

Jesus People,

I got my cell-mate to pray the sinners prayer with me and now we need some Bible books to study...

Andre Barksdale
Blue Ridge Detention Center, Halifax, VA

Dear Tom,

Praise the Lord! Thank you, thank you, thank you! The information on the JW's has given me great quality information. Your ministry has helped, not just me, but many inmates here in Lancaster prison. Thank you and your family.

Adrian Torres
Los Angeles County Prison, Lancaster, CA

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. Jesus Christ

And the letters keep coming, every day.



In a nutshell: William Miller in 1818 began to calculate the time of Christ's return mainly from the book of Daniel. He concluded Christ would return in 1843 or 1844. He and his followers waited. All were greatly disappointed when his prophecy/calculations failed. One being Ellen G. White. Most left the "Adventist" movement. Ellen G. White, however, claiming divine inspiration claimed Jesus was now beginning his judgment in heaven and those that were saved would also have to pass a test of works to be truly saved. Like all false prophets she came up with "something else" that happened in 1844 and 7th Day Adventism was born as a result.

As Jehovah's Witnesses false prophecy of Armagedon in 1914 was a disappointment to that group until the leadership declared after 1914 – "Oh, Jesus came invisibly and is now invisibly dividing sheep from goats." Sheep of course being only Jehovah's witnesses. Ellen G. White established a "one true remnant church" with her false visions. She is a classic example of a **FALSE PROPHET** and **RELIGIOUS TYRANT!** J.P. Editor

Righteousness Beyond the Law

by Dale Ratzlaff

Several people have communicated to me what they consider to be the main reason for not *accepting* the understanding of the covenants presented in the July/August *Proclamation* "The Continental Divide of Biblical Interpretation." These people are sincere, their questions are valid, and they deserve a thorough, biblical answer. Their reasoning goes something like this. Christ lived in perfect obedience to the Law. Christ died for those who have broken the law. Thus, Christ's righteousness, which is imputed to the believer, is perfect obedience to the law, including perfect Sabbath keeping. Therefore as Christians we are to pattern our lives after Christ which is, in essence, perfect obedience to the law. This obedience includes Sabbath keeping. Therefore, the law, including the laws regarding Sabbath observance, could not have come to a functional end at the cross. Why would Christ have died for the law and then done away with it?

It is very tempting to immediately cite texts in Romans, 2 Corinthians, Galatians and Colossians, etc. which clearly state that the law did come to a functional end with Christ; however, I will not allow myself that luxury until we study the Gospel records to discover Christ's attitude toward the law. To bring the issue into focus, respond to the following true and false quiz.

1. Christ did not keep the law as interpreted by the Rabbis, but He did keep all the biblical laws.
 True **False**
2. If Christ did not perfectly keep the biblical laws, He could not be my Savior. **True** **False**
3. Christ kept the spirit of the law but broke the letter of the law. **True** **False**
4. Christ died for the broken law. **True** **False**
5. Christ's righteousness is perfect law-keeping.
 True **False**
6. If Christ broke the Sabbath, then he could not be my Savior. **True** **False**

Before we get to the actual study of the Gospels we must lay a foundation. If we are going to be biblical in

our study, we must conclude that the Mosaic law is one law, not two or three. True, there are moral, ritual and societal aspects of the law, but they comprise one law.¹

Let us first examine Christ's attitude and actions toward the ceremonial or ritual aspects of the Mosaic Law. Then we will investigate Christ's disposition and conduct toward the moral aspects of this law. Lastly we will tie down a number of loose ends regarding our subject.

Christ and Ritual Law

As the gospel record advances from the beginning of Christ's ministry to the end, we will see a development in our topic. At first there are inferences, then we will see some evidence, and then hard evidence. We start with Mark.

And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, "If You are willing, You can make me clean." Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed. And He sternly warned him and immediately sent him away, and he said to him, "See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." Mk. 1:40-44

If Jesus could heal by a word of command,² why did He choose to heal this unclean leper with a touch? Why did Jesus sternly warn this man to say nothing to anyone about this healing? The answer was obvious to the original readers of Mark's gospel who knew the law and its interpretation. By touching this leper, Jesus made Himself unclean. While there is no specific biblical law stating that someone touching a leper becomes ritually unclean, it is nevertheless, clearly assumed in the passage below.

As for the leper who has the infection, his clothes shall be torn, and the hair of his head shall be uncovered, and he shall cover his mustache and cry, "Unclean! Unclean!" He shall remain unclean all the days during which he has the infection; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp. Lev. 13:45-46

This explains Mark 1:45;

But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out of populated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.

It is evident that the reason Jesus was forced to stay out in unpopulated areas was that He was considered unclean because of His contact with the leper.

For the next example of Christ's relationship to ritual law we turn to the episode of the healing of Jairus's daughter of Mark 5:41-43. Jesus is approached by a synagogue official who implored Christ to come and heal his daughter who was "at the point of death." As Jesus and the crowd that followed Him were on their way, a ritually unclean woman touched His garment. This was against the custom and was understood to make Jesus ritually unclean.³ At this point some people from the synagogue official's home announced that the girl was dead, to which Jesus responded, "Do not be afraid any longer, only believe."

When they arrived at the home, Jesus said, "Why make a commotion and weep? The child has not died, but is asleep." And they began laughing at him. Then Jesus taking only his three closest disciples and the child's mother and father went into the room where the girl was.

Taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they were completely astounded. And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this...Mk. 5:41-43.

Again, we note that Jesus took the girl by the hand; and the Gospel writer, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, chose to record this fact. We see nearly the same instruction given to the parents as to the leper, "And He gave them strict orders that no one should know about this." In this incident, we now have moved from inference to fact. Note the following:

The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days. That one shall purify himself from uncleanness with the water on the third day and on the seventh day, and then he will be clean; but if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean. Anyone who touches a corpse, the body of a man who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the Lord; and that person shall be cut off from Israel. Because the water for impurity was not sprinkled on him he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him. Num. 19:11-13

According to this biblical law, Jesus made himself unclean by touching the dead girl. Further, according to this law, "He defiled the tabernacle of the Lord" and should have been "cut off from Israel."

Some will argue that the girl was not really dead

because Jesus said, "She is not dead, but sleeping." However, this is the same term Jesus used when he described Lazarus who clearly was dead.⁴ In Luke's account we read, "he took her by the hand and called, saying, Child arise!" and her spirit returned..." indicating the girl had come back to life.

In Mark 7:14-23 Jesus moves from doing things that were contrary to ritual law to teaching things contradictory to biblical ritual law.

After He called the crowd to Him again, he began saying to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man. ["If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."] When he had left the crowd and entered the house, His disciples questioned Him about the parable. And he said to them, "Are you so lacking in understanding also? Do you not understand that whatever goes into the man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not go into his heart, but into his stomach, and is eliminated?" (Thus He declared all foods clean.) And he was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness." All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man." Mk. 7:14-23

The statement, "Thus he declared all foods clean," is in the best manuscripts and therefore, should not be treated as some late scribal insertion. This teaching is in direct contradiction to the food laws in Lev. 11 but in harmony with new covenant understanding.⁵

We now turn to the well-known incident of the healing at the pool of Bethesda in John 5. Jesus sees a man who has been a cripple for 38 years lying on his pallet. There is no indication in the record that this was an emergency. Jesus instructed the man to pick up his pallet and walk. This happened on Sabbath, and the Jews immediately accused Jesus of breaking the Sabbath.

For this reason the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." Jn. 5:16-17

"Was doing," in the sentence above, is in the imperfect continuous tense in Greek and could be translated, "was continually doing these things." If the actions of Jesus were within the biblical Sabbath law and he was supporting obedience to the law, we would expect Jesus to explain to the Jews why His actions were within Sabbath law. However, His answer is shocking. "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." John now records the following loaded sentence.

For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because he not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father,

making Himself equal with God. Jn. 5:18

Again, “was breaking” is in the continuous tense in Greek. The root word used here for “breaking” is the same for “destroy” and is often translated that way. This verse could be correctly translated, “He was continually destroying the Sabbath.”

While there are many more examples we could examine,⁶ we can now make some general conclusions.

1. Jesus *always* let the moral considerations of a given situation dictate his actions whether or not his actions were in violation of Rabbinical or even biblical ritual law.

2. At times it seems that Jesus purposely went out of His way to violate ritual law. He would often heal by a word of command when a touch would have been appropriate. Yet when a touch would make Him ritually unclean, He often chose to heal in that manner. Again, He could heal by a word, yet on the Sabbath he chose to heal by “making mud”⁷ and telling a man to “pick up his pallet and walk.” When confronted by the Jews regarding his questionable Sabbath keeping His answer was, “My Father is working until now and I, Myself, am working.”⁸

Some of our readers may feel very confused at this point. Please continue to read, because what now appears confusing will become crystal clear very soon!

Christ and Moral Laws of the Mosaic Code

What was Christ’s attitude to the moral laws in the Mosaic Code? Probably the best examples are found in His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. Space limitations permit only a few examples.

“You have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not commit murder’ and ‘Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.’ ”But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever says to his brother, ‘You good-for-nothing,’ shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell.” Mt. 5:21-22

Here Jesus refers to the sixth commandment. This is not an exact quote because “shall be guilty to the court” is not in the O.T. Scripture yet is appropriate and was true in Jewish law. Note how Jesus modifies and expands this moral law by showing that the evil passions of anger and angry, insulting talk are sins that when committed bring guilt worthy of fiery hell.

In Matt. 5:27, 28 Jesus does the same thing with the seventh commandment. He modifies and expands the act of adultery to include even the look and thought of lust.

Of special interest is Matt. 5:33-37 where Jesus refers to the law of vows found in Num. 30:2; Deut. 23:21-23. I list this in the “moral law” section because making a vow (promise) to God is certainly a moral act and should be seen as an expansion of “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor” which, by

itself, is a very narrow law.

“Again, you have heard that the ancients were told, ‘You shall not make false vows, but shall fulfill your vows to the Lord.’ ”But I say to you, make no oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is the footstool of His feet, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. “Nor shall you make an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. “But let your statement be, ‘Yes, yes’ or ‘No, no’; anything beyond these is of evil. Mt. 5:33-37

Granted, the Jews of Jesus’ day were abusing vows; however, a careful reading of the above statement compared with the Old Testament law indicates that Jesus is condemning something permitted, even approved, in the Law. But how did he change it? He modified it and expanded it in such a way that it would correct the abuse the Jews were making of vows which were within the letter of the Mosaic Code.

In Matt. 5:43-48 Jesus said,

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ”But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so 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. “For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? “If you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

While Scripture does not say, “hate your enemy,” we should not be too quick to condemn the Jewish leaders for teaching this, for it could be implied from other portions of the law. There are many statements in the law that show a distinction in the moral and ethical nature of how an Israelite was to treat a fellow Israelite compared to how he was to treat a foreigner. For example,

You shall not charge interest to your countrymen: interest on money, food, or anything that may be loaned at interest. You may charge interest to a foreigner, but to your countrymen you shall not charge interest... Deut. 23:19, 20

Therefore, when Jesus speaks about loving our enemies, He modifies and expands the Mosaic moral law beyond ethnic boundaries to include (foreign) enemies who persecute us!

It may be of interest to many of our readers how Ellen White interpreted this verse (loving our neighbors) as she was “shown by God” in vision. See <http://www.ratzlaf.com/downloads.htm>.

While there are many other examples that could be given, we can now make a generalized summary of Christ’s attitude toward the moral laws in the Mosaic Code.

1. Jesus modified and expanded the moral laws of

the Old Testament, raising their moral and ethical considerations beyond that of the written law.

2. Jesus modified and expanded the moral laws of the Old Testament, changing them from legal rules to moral and ethical principles.

3. Jesus modified and expanded the scope of the moral laws of the Old Testament, moving them beyond laws for Israel alone to ethical and moral principles for every nation, tongue, and people.⁹

Righteousness Beyond the Law—New Testament Agreement

Some have defined righteousness as “perfect obedience to the law.” This may be true for old covenant righteousness, but it falls far below that presented in the new covenant. Note how the following new Testament references associate law and righteousness.

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, Rom. 3:21. For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; Rom. 4:13-14. What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at the law. Rom. 9:30-31. For not knowing about God’s righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Rom. 10:3-4. “I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” Gal. 2:21. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by Law; you have fallen from grace. Gal. 5:4....and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith. Phil. 3:9.

Personal Illustrations

When I was a seminary student I worked nights at the YMCA in Benton Harbor, Mich. About midnight one cold winter night, I was crossing the street with the manager of the YMCA. We came to an intersection where the facing light was red. There were no cars in sight in any direction. However, I, a good law keeper, stood there waiting for the light to turn green. Suddenly, I realized my friend was walking into the red light. He said to me, “You are still under law. I am under grace.” While his statement may not fully apply, nevertheless it was instructive. The law of red and green lights was designed to prevent accidents. However in our case there was no chance to get hit by a passing car as none was in sight. It was therefore appropriate to violate the letter of the law as long as it

did not violate the principal of safety—as long as no legalistic cops were watching!

The other day I was at the busy post office getting LAM’s mail. A mother was there with two small girls. As they approached the parking lot she said, “Now you must take Mommy’s hand as there are many cars here.” This was a very good law for two little girls; however don’t put your 16 year old boy under the same law! Rather, as soon as he is old enough, teach the principle of “safety first”! That principle will serve him well the rest of his life no matter what the circumstances.

I believe this is the way we should consider the old covenant laws. They are holy, just and good for the conditions and people to whom they were given. Now, however, life in the Spirit moves us to live beyond the letter of the law to follow the principles taught by Christ and written on our heart by the Holy Spirit. We are no longer children; we are sons and daughters of God.

Biblical Teaching

But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:23-26; But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Gal. 4:4-5. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I fear for you, that perhaps I have labored over you in vain. Gal. 4:9-11

Righteousness Beyond the Law—Moral vs. Ritual

New covenant Christians must be diligent here. It is human nature to give moral significance to established ritual customs. I was taught that the communion bread must be made out of whole-wheat flour and olive oil. I was almost scandalized when I visited a church that used white flour! It was instructive to me that a detailed recipe was given in the old covenant law for the bread of the presence and how it should be laid out as an “everlasting covenant”¹⁰ In the new covenant, however, no such details are given. New covenant righteousness deals with heart issues, not rituals. Some argue over which way to baptize: forward, backward, three times, in the name of Jesus only or in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We could even extend it to sprinkling or immersion.¹¹ Again, the most important thing is our commitment to Christ, inviting Him to be Lord and Master of our lives! Anytime rituals become the important thing, the

moral and ethical nature of new covenant righteousness is compromised.

Righteousness Beyond the Law—Found only in Christ

New-covenant Christians have a much higher model to pattern after than the old covenant law. There is nothing in the new covenant or “living under grace” that opens any door to willfully living in sin. Rather, new covenant morality is above and beyond that of the law. When we say this there are two considerations that must be emphasized lest we misunderstand the good news of the gospel. The first is motive. When living under the law there is a motive to try to perfectly keep the law so that we can be accepted. This, as many of us can testify, is continually frustrating if we take the law seriously, be it the biblical law or the writings of Ellen G. White. There are many who instruct others to “keep the Sabbath” when there are few -- probably no one—who have kept it according to the biblical law, let alone Ellen White’s numerous laws regarding Sabbath keeping¹² However, the new covenant motive is different. Our sanctified living is not done from the motive of trying to be good enough to be accepted. Rather, it springs from the fact of acceptance! We live like sons and daughters of God because that is who we are! Our goal is to live like the kind of person we now are in Christ!

The second consideration we must understand is that new covenant righteousness is found only in Christ! We look to Him and Him alone as our Representative and Substitute! If we are Christ’s then we, with the Apostle Paul may say,

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, Phil. 3:8-9

Hopefully we have answered the questions regarding the “righteousness of the law” for the sincere seekers of truth. We believe that the New Testament teaches that the law came to a functional end with Christ. Now we have moral and ethical principles above and beyond that of the law. We have life in the Spirit that empowers us to follow after the example of Christ. We can by faith claim Christ’s righteousness which far surpasses the righteousness of the law. Yes, we can enter true rest in Christ, the rest that remains for those who believe.

Proclamation Magazine, Vol. 2, issue 5/6, pp. 21-26.
Reprinted with permission from Life Assurance Ministries, PO Box 11587, Glendale, AZ 85318
www.LifeAssuranceMinistries.com

Endnotes

¹ See Riggle, *The Sabbath and the Lord’s Day*, p.51-61 for the biblical support for this statement.

² See Mark 1:25.

³ See Lev. 15:19-25.

⁴ John 11:11

⁵ Acts 10, 11; Rom. 14:14.

⁶ See Alan Watson, *Jesus and the Law* [University of Georgia Press, 1996] for many more examples.

⁷ John 9:6.

⁸ Note the stress on “working” in John 5:17; 9:3-6

⁹ See Matt. 28:18-20.

¹⁰ Lev. 24:5-8

¹¹ As a pastor I have always baptized by immersion as I think this is the biblical model and more fully follows the symbol of the reality. We must, however, keep ritual in its place and not allow it to take precedence over the ethical and moral commitment of the person being baptized.

¹² See Ratzlaff, *Sabbath in Crisis*, pp. 57-59; 306-309.

Ellen G. White was a hypocrite, fraud, liar and false prophet. These people know. They are ex-7th Day Adventist pastors and scholars. Today’s 7th Day Adventist church just won’t admit the truth about this.

This one book proves all four of these charges. *“White Washed” Documenting the Myths of Ellen G. White* by Sydney Cleveland. Send a tax-deductible donation of \$14.95 to Jesus People 4338 3rd Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817. We’ll pay the shipping costs.

Book Clearance Sale

On all our Christian books on our web-site

For all orders over \$10 you may deduct 20% off the suggested price. All books are 20% off until this stock is gone. Sale noted on web-site. When over, “sale” notice will be removed from web-site.

Visit our web-site at Hwww.mission.org/jesuspeopleH

Can You Believe It?

Ellen G. White said while in a trance she visited Jupiter and Saturn and said “The inhabitants there are a tall majestic people. Sin has never entered there.”

Reference: Arthur White, *Ellen White the Early Years*, Vol. 1, 1827-1862, p. 113 and *The Letter of Mrs. Truesdail*, Jan. 27, 1891.

Book Offer: *“White Out”* by Dirk Anderson \$11.00 donation to J.P.I.C. 4338 3rd Ave. Sacramento, CA 95817

Being a prophet is difficult enough, without the extra burden of having serious health problems caused by a childhood brain injury. Yet Ellen White accepted the prophetic calling. She never could have done it alone. In fact, she had plenty of help in her prophetic work. Her close associates were instrumental in hiding her mistakes, glossing over her blunders, covering up her faulty visions, and “whiting-out” her failed predictions.

Allah has bought from the *Umma*—the true believers of Islam—their selves and their substance in return for Paradise; they fight in the way of Allah, killing and being killed. Their promise is written in the **BLOOD OF THE MOON**. Rejoice in the bargain. That is surely the supreme triumph. Sura 9:112

I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth; blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the **MOON INTO BLOOD**, before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. Joel 2:30-31

The assassination of Arab brethren, like Goliath, by Jewish sheep-herders like David, is the sort of shameful ignomy that we must yet set aright in the domain of the occupied Palestinian homeland.
Anwar Sadat

Be assured that the many indignities heaped upon the Palestinian people since ancient times must and shall be avenged. Israel's policy in the occupied territories is little more than an extension of the imperialist tactics of the conqueror Joshua. Surely the judgment of Allah is reserved for them until Palestine is transferred from *Dar al Harb to Dar al Islam*. Ishmael shall have his revenge.
Yasser Arafat

Wherever they are found, the Jews reek of Destruction—which is their just reward (Sura 3:112).

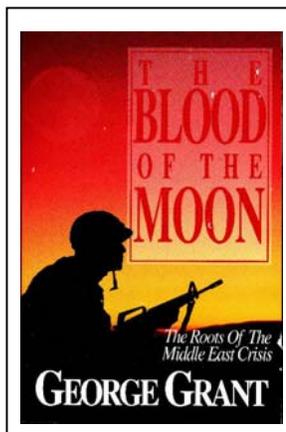
O, true believers, take not the Jews and Christians for your friends. They cannot be trusted. They are defiled—filth (Sura 5:51)

The entire Jewish population in Palestine must be destroyed or be driven into the sea. Allah has bestowed upon us the rare privilege of finishing what Hitler only began. Let the *Ji'had* begin. Murder the Jews. Murder them all.
Haj Amin el Hussein, the *Mufti* of Jerusalem.

We shall never call for or accept a negotiated peace. We shall only accept war—*Ji'had*—the holy war. We have resolved to drench the lands of Palestine and Arabia with the blood of the infidels or to accept martyrdom for the glory of Allah.
Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud

We shall export our revolution to the whole world. Until the cry "Allah Akbar" resounds over the whole world, there will be struggle. There will be *Ji'had*.
Ayatollah Khomeini

We have in reality, then, no choice but to destroy those systems of government that are corrupt in themselves and also entail the corruption of others, and to overthrow all treacherous, corrupt, oppressive, and criminal regimes. This is the duty that all Moslems must fulfill, in every one of the Moslem countries first, and then throughout the infidel West, in order to achieve the triumph of our revolution and to garner the blessing of Allah. Ayatollah Khomeini



Book Offer
Send \$8.00 donation to
JPIC 4338 3rd Ave,
Sacramento, CA 95817
All these quotes are
documented in this book.

We believe that because we are on the side of truth, then we are on the side of God. And because God is with us, then everything shall be in our favor. Saddam Hussein

The Jews in Palestine must be exterminated. There can be no other option for those of us who revere the name of Allah. There will be no *Dhimma*. There will only be *Ji'had*.
King Farouk of Egypt

Every problem in our region can be traced to this single dilemma: the occupation of Dar al Islam by Jewish infidels or Western imperialists. Every political controversy, every boundary dispute, and every internal conflict is spawned by the inability of the *Umma* to faithfully and successfully wage *Ji'had*. The everlasting struggle between Ishmael and Isaac cannot cease until one or the other is utterly vanquished. Hashemi Rafsanjani

The governments of the world should know that Islam cannot be defeated. Islam will be victorious in all the countries of the world, and Islam and the teachings of the Koran will prevail all over the world. Ayatollah Khomeini

Prayer is our greatest weapon in these or any other times. Best we not send our boys across the sea to face the heathen hoards lest we have a nation at home one in prayer. If history teaches us nothing else, let us at least remember what the Byzantines learned, what the Crusaders learned, and what the French learned: you cannot face the dread terror of Islam in mere human strength. When the quietude of the desert has been stirred, let all Christian men and women turn to the sovereign Lord. Let all Christian men and women turn to Him in holy seasons of prayer. Theodore Roosevelt

The Jews are destined to be persecuted, humiliated, and tortured forever, and it is a Muslim duty to see to it that they reap their due. No petty arguments must be allowed to divide us. Where Hitler failed we must succeed. Sheikh Tamimi



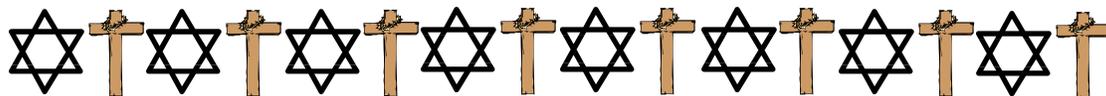
JOEL CHAPTER 3

JESUS PEOPLE INFORMATION
CENTER
4338 THIRD AVENUE

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1102
SACRAMENTO, CA

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. Peter, Jewish disciple of Jesus of Nazareth.



The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. Paul, Jewish apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.