

Lawless Dogma or Fundamental Bible Truth

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The book is in black and white a digital colour copy can be found on padreaustralia.com¹ website.

If there are any errors, please note I have very low vision and my team have done their best to correct.

Any perceived wisdom or understanding this book has is from the Lord.

The King of kings and Lord of lords reigns for ever and ever.

¹ <http://padreaustralia.com/>

Lawless Dogma or Fundamental Bible Truth

LAWLESS DOGMA

OR

FUNDAMENTAL BIBLE TRUTH

BY

Reverend Dr Graham J Whelan OAM

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The idea that Christianity is a form of feeling, a life, and not a system of doctrine, is contrary to the faith of all Christians. Christianity has always had a creed. A man who truly believes the creeds of the book of Common Prayer 1662 and sound Biblical doctrine is a Christian.

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The Reverend Robert J Saunders, Ph.D⁴; and

Ian H Murray ⁵for their work on the liberal church.

Acknowledging The Lord Jesus:

"Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20.28-31).

² Grand Rapids, MICH 49506 U.S.A.

³ E-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk

⁴ Rev Robert J Saunders, PhD – <http://rsanders.org>

⁵ Murray, Iain H – Evangelicalism Divided, Edinburgh: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2000

SALVATION FOR YOU TODAY

Let not your Heart be troubled – there is a way out

Prayer in Tongues Empowers Prayer and Limits communication to the Trinity.

I thank Dr Barry Gumm for his insights explaining how a Christian can be totally empowered with power from the Holy Spirit.

We know Jesus is the only way to the Father and for our Salvation.

When praying in the understanding of the language you normally converse in, be it English for example, the devil knows what you are praying.

When praying in the Spirit only the Father and Trinity knows what you are praying as the Holy Spirit makes intercession for you to the Father.

Therefore, your prayer is limited to The Father but through the Father your sealing in the Holy Spirit enabled prayer is so powerful that you can move mountains or problems the size of mountains.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Isiah 28:11-12

11 Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues
God will speak to this people,
¹² to whom he said,
"This is the resting place, let the weary rest";
and, "This is the place of repose" —
but they would not listen.

Matthew 24.3-8

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

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7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains”.

John 3 – Jesus says how to get saved.

John 3.3-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Let me explain. Everyone who received the Holy Ghost in the past (since the day of Pentecost and until Jesus returns), that person is by The Holy Spirit enabled to speak in tongues. When the person truly believes Jesus is Lord they are saved, but their power is limited.

That is where the wind blows, for you to hear the sound as the scripture says, where the Holy Spirit is accepted by a person into that person's life, this is the evidence of that acceptance, and they are enabled with the sign and gift of the Holy Spirit, to speak in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in Tongues.

No speaking in Tongues means you have not received the awesome power available in the Holy Spirit or the power of Holy Faith as Jude 20 records.

Again:

Jude 17-21

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

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19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

John 4.23-24 – Jesus states how God wants to be worshipped:

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, **for they are the kind of worshipers** the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Let me explain – God the Father actively wants you and everyone to worship Him in God the Holy Spirit – speaking in tongues which He gives you when you accept Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit into your life, **for these are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

Acts 1.4-8

Jesus says wait to be baptised or immersed in the Holy Spirit

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Then we see the very first pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, just as Jesus had prophesied and promised in John 3.

Acts 2.1-4

120 people initially then 3000 on this day speak in tongues as they are enabled by the Holy Spirit

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Then we see that the Holy Spirit was poured out on non-Jewish people, the Gentiles – you and me.

Acts 10.44-48 - Holy Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

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47 Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

How do we know they received the Holy Spirit back then and today? Verse 46 "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." There is NO other way to receive the Holy Spirit and NO other evidence of receiving The Holy Spirit except to hear someone speak in tongues.

Acts 11.16 – Immersed in the Holy Spirit

16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Jude 20-21

Praying – building or immersing yourself in the Holy Spirit

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

To be clear, to be saved the way Jesus said it is best to be saved if you will, John 3, you must repent of your separation from

God, be Baptized by being fully immersed in water and be Baptised, fully immersed in the Holy Spirit. You will hear the Holy Spirit when you speak in tongues in prayer to God and as John 4:24 says – this is the way God the Father desires and wants you to worship Him.

Why? Why does God seek such worshippers?

John 4.24

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

To speak to someone in a language or read or translate language, primers of that language are needed to enable the process.

The Miriam Learners dictionary explains a “primer” as following:⁶

1 chiefly US : something (such as a book) that provides basic information on a particular subject

The article is an excellent primer on foreign policy.

2 : a small book that helps teach children how to read

So to communicate efficiently, effectively with The Father a primer is needed. God gives us His Primer – God the Holy Spirit. Jesus died so that God could give us The Holy Spirit.

⁶ <https://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/primer>

Acts 1.5

5 For John baptized with a water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1.8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;

Part of the power one receives when the Holy Spirit comes upon you is that you speak in tongues.

Acts 2.4

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

When you receive the Holy Spirit it is He who enables you to communicate in effectual Holy Faith prayer to The Father.

The Holy Spirit provides you with the primer to speak with The Father who is a Spirit. No primer and you do not know how to pray to The Father as you ought to pray or speak with Him.

Romans 8.26

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

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Without the primer, The person, The Holy Spirit you do not know how to express the right communication in the spirit. What a wonderful gift and sign that God has given us, He enables us to speak with Him by God the Holy Spirit the person who intercedes for us.

Jesus died so that we could have this wonderful gift from God the Father.

First God gave us Jesus the Son of God made flesh. Next He gives us the Holy Spirit to enable clear intercession with the Father.

How kind, thoughtful and loving is our God!

In summary to be saved the way Jesus said you must, know the following:

- Repent
- Be Baptised by full immersion
- Be baptised by the Holy Spirit – voice evidence (speaking in Tongues) of this baptism
- To stay saved pray without ceasing, praying in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in tongues. Follow Him and you will receive the gift of Eternal Life.

PART 1

PROBLEM OF PIETISM, LAWLESS DOGMA

"How long will you LORD defend the unjust and show partiality to the wicked? Will You LORD, defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked. "They know nothing, they understand nothing. They walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken." (Psalm 82:2-5).

The late Reverend Rushdoony was correct when he said that lawless dogma **was the "heresy of the faithful"**.

LAWLESS DOGMA OR FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH

Read with great thankfulness that someone else - Michael A Clark⁷ had also realised the dreadful demise of our Christian values in our Covenant Nations. I believe this is a failure of the Church of England. His Editorial Team comments on this regularly. In this discussion I support him fully in his Booklet “Western Civilization is destroyed by Pietism and Lawless Dogma” wherein he states “We need to understand that demonic spirit possession is driving people to commit horrific killings – the need being for a National Day of Prayer for deliverance from these evil manifestations.”

Michael Clark begins and correctly states “A point of great humiliation has been reached for most of the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic nations of the West. While anti-Christian religions and terrorist organizations threaten and kill our own subjects, in our own lands, **the Church maintains a pagan obsession with the dogma of antinomianism** – or the denial of the validity of the concrete application of the **perfect Divine Law** in this present era.”

Also,: “There never has been a greater need for the true teaching on the Divine Law in statecraft than now, particularly in respect of the supreme penalty for the ultimate crime. **Yet the Church is in an emasculated condition**, with no message for the nation other than **the vague ‘love-thy-neighbour’ scope of utterances. Thus, western civilization is destroyed.**

The Christian Church in the West has a nation-state responsibility to expound the Word of God on the everlasting covenants.”

⁷ Author of Western Civilization is destroyed by Pietism and Lawless Dogma

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My comments will follow his next comment: “What a tragic indictment upon a Christian world and its leadership that it does none of this. It is smug and self-satisfied with a scandalous neglect of the nation. It has chosen the way of Pietism... evil dogma.”

Further to the evils of pietism and lawless dogma and how this has destroyed the evangelical Church, let us focus on the truth of Holy Scripture beginning with *“The Lord says: These people come near to me with their mouth and honour me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.” (Isaiah 29:13).*

Also,; *“Say to them: This is what the Lord says: When men fall down, do they not get up? When a man turns away, does he not return? Why then have these people turned away? Why does Jerusalem always turn away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return. I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. No one repents of his wickedness, saying: What have I done? Each pursues his own course like a horse charging into battle. Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord. How can you say: We are wise, for we have the law of the Lord, when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?” (Jeremiah 8:4-8).*

We remember the results of 722BC and 586BC for unfaithfulness and disobedience.

The Lord hates evil. Why doesn't the liberal Church believe Scripture? Why does it place itself above Scripture?

Remember that Our Lord Jesus taught us about this same evil which is happening to us now and which He condemned in the summer of AD27. **How important to our true Christian life it is to read, believe and remember Holy Scripture.**

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.” (Matthew 13:1-9).

In the teaching, the parable above, Jesus encourages people **to listen – “ears to hear”** and He teaches in parables which emphasises **one single point** and that **requires one single response**.

A response for the Lord, for the devil is trying **to steal our love from Almighty God**.

Briefly, in this parable, I focus on **‘the birds’ who represent the devil**. In the context of this parable, we notice Jesus teaches further: *“He told them another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that **the birds** of the air come and perch in its branches.” (Matthew 13:31-32).*

Again ‘the birds’ are mentioned, who in context with the parable of the Sower, are representing **sons of the devil**, to destroy Jesus’ word. This **parable is about false growth**. Liberal Churches are striving for **world power** not service for Jesus. The ‘birds’ are in the branches of the Churches as false liberal leaders and false Christians. **They destroy the truth of Holy Scripture**.

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Hence, the next parable of Jesus, the parable of the yeast: *“He told them still another parable: The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.” (Matthew 13:33).*

Here, Jesus condemns false teaching, false doctrine or as Michael Clark says “lawless dogma”. Here yeast is a symbol of evil or corruption which quickly grows and leads to sin.

In relation to the two parables above, teaching of false growth and the church being a **world power** and **false doctrine**, the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy: *“If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.”(1 Timothy 6:3-5).*

Paul also encourages: *“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.” (2 Timothy 1:13-14).*

Also: *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” (2 Timothy 4:3).*

Jesus, the Living Word taught us His word of truth: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.” (John 1:1-5) and “This is the*

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verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” (John 3:19).

It is so important to read Holy Scripture and focus on sound doctrine.

Jesus tried to encourage the Jews, the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law on how to believe and be true but they would not listen: *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.” Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.” Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.” He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his time had not yet come. Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.” This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?” But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.” “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been claiming all along,” Jesus replied. “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.” They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up*

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the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John 8:12-36).

The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy: *"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them." (2 Timothy 3:1-5).* Paul encourages Timothy in the truth: *"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:14-17).*

I noticed Michael Clark mentioned the vague 'love-thy-neighbour' scope of utterances. The devil is behind this. He hates his own and 'they will all die in their sins'. This is clear in the John 8 Scripture above.

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Hence, in relation to Timothy above, and the vague ‘love-thy-neighbour’ that the liberal church is leading to hell, Paul encourages Titus: *“This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths (today the liberal Church ignoring the 39 Articles) or to the commands of those who reject the truth. To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted. They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good. You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.”* (Titus 1:13-2:1).

The Apostle John, who saw Jesus’ **Glory** on the mount of transfiguration where Jesus’ **face shone like the sun and His clothes became dazzling white – whiter than anything in the world could bleach them said:** *“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.”* (1 John 1:3-6).

John continues: *“The man who says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.”* (1 John 2:4-8).

But is the liberal church listening?

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I will discuss in detail later the dreadful situation in the liberal Anglican (Anglo-Catholic) Church, where they no longer acknowledge The Book of Common Prayer 1662, and certainly not the 39 Articles therein.

Indeed, the Book of Common Prayer (1662) Lord's Supper Service (pages 244-245) has a Godly and righteous prayer: *"We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and specially thy **servant Elizabeth our Queen; that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: And grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue. Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rights and duly administer thy holy Sacraments."***

The Prayer Book including the 39 Articles is no longer accepted in liberal Churches. They have rejected **sound doctrine** as mentioned later and quoted from The Preface of the Book of Common Prayer 1662.

Again, the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy: *"...for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine." (1 Timothy 1:10) and "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." (1 Timothy 4:16).*

Paul adds: *"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to*

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myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.” (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

TRUTHS FROM REVEREND RUSHDOONY

From my opening comments earlier thanking Michael Clark for his work noted, I reflect on sections of submissions I have had published in 'The Covenant Nations' publication⁸. Before reflecting on these sections, I remember studying many thoughts of Reverend Rufus Rushdoony about 30 years ago.

It is true that the liberal lawless dogma defined, along with post-modern concepts of 'rehabilitation' has robbed criminals of the ability to consider their guilt. They do not realise that **without true repentance and faith and the Lord's forgiveness** that the Lord is a consuming fire and they face eternal death. Reverend Rushdoony once commented on an elderly woman who was viciously assaulted and injured in her home. The home was destroyed by this vandal. She was left with nothing. No home and little income to buy food. The criminal was arrested and sent to gaol (USA Jail). In prison, as Reverend Rushdoony described, the criminal lived in total luxury. Three good meals a day. Comfortable room, air-conditioned with TV. Table tennis table and gym and games rooms, football field and pool. Reverend Rushdoony mentioned the approach to the prison facility had a circular drive and a fountain in the middle. 'Rehabilitation' here gives no opportunity to reflect on guilt! No opportunity for true repentance. Murderers are 'rehabilitated' and not executed as they should be! No opportunity for the realising of their guilt before they stand condemned before Jesus!

So now to sections submitted to the Covenant Nations publication:

⁸ The Covenant Nations, British-Israel World Federation, E-mail: admin@britishisrael.co.uk

THE COVENANT NATIONS PUBLICATION - EDITORIALS

Ever since I was encouraged by the Editorial⁹ following, I have been praying for Britain, and indeed all Covenant Nations to return to their 'first love'. The Editorial: "Britain has been in a state of national unfaithfulness to its lawful husband - 'the Queen-in-Parliament under God'. Treason by instalments..."

Concerning this Editorial, I constantly believe there is political deception and deliberate unfaithfulness and disobedience to Almighty God and the people. I totally agree and believe that the Queen, indeed the Crown in Parliament under God, was deceived in 1972 and 1993. Not many subjects at those times, and today, seemed to care or truly understand the spiritual disobedience caused by the Heath Administration and John Major's evil announcement in the House of Commons on 11 February 1993.

From 1958 'till today evil has returned as the Editorial highlights:

It is our sovereign domestic law that must prevail – as Lord Keen of Elie, the Advocate General for Scotland, ably stated in a House of Lords discussion on 10 September in the face of an evident inspired 'unclean' spiritual onslaught by pro-EU legal Lords.

The Editorial is true about problems of - *mixing ourselves and our laws and culture with other nations and pagan supranational organisations like the European Union and the United Nations Organisation. If the same process of undermining our nations integrity had taken place four and five hundred years ago, as has been conducted in the past seventy*

⁹ The Covenant Nations Volume 4, Number 5, 2019

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years, Western civilization would never have emerged to save the world from oppression, disease and manifold destructions.

The Lord does require Israel of the covenant nations to remain separated for service, while at the same time leading and teaching, this in order to preserve their calling and destiny as a servant people.

As Covenant Nations we have been richly blessed by Almighty God with the blessings of His Amazing Grace through His Son Jesus our Saviour.

¹⁰I honour the insights quoting Dr Coggan who argued: “Economic regeneration had to be accompanied by moral regeneration.”

Thus, from the above Editorial the problem facing all Covenant Nations is to encourage moral regeneration and spiritual revival. When we are faithful and obedient to Almighty God, He deals with the rest, and indeed our ‘rest’, His peace, the Queen’s peace is real: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28).*

Positive Godly guidance and leadership is the key in this destructive ‘spiritual vacuum’.

We note: the article¹¹ “The Force in our Midst Defying Almighty God...”

“Millions of Christian-thinking and common-sense patriotic people today are being hounded out of their peaceable living by a ‘woke’ culture that is undermining the very foundations of society in the covenant nations...” This evil ‘woke culture’ is sending Covenant Nations **economically and spiritually broke!** The article continues: “When the writer wrote on a similar subject thirty-three years ago in 1988 things were bad enough then. Now, in 2021, we see conditions

¹⁰ The Covenant Nations Volume 5, No. 5 2021 p5

¹¹ Covenant Nations Vol 5, No 7 p6

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where a demonically-inspired force, *almost visible in our midst*, is creating chaos and confusion in society.

Have these conditions happened before?

Yes indeed – in the days of Noah prior to the Flood in which Almighty God destroyed a generation that was so evil it threatened the order of human creation itself. It was essential that the status quo be restored by the Creator.

SUBMISSIONS TO ‘COVENANT NATIONS’ PUBLICATION

I was remembering the growth of the Church over the centuries by focusing again on the compiling of Liturgy in the Book of Common Prayer. We need to remember and truly value our history – it is so easy to forget and allow the devil to lead us astray. From the Preface¹² “It hath been the wisdom of the Church of England ever since the first compiling of her Publick Liturgy, to keep the mean between the two extremes, of too much stiffness in refusing, and of too much easiness in admitting any variation from it.”

To that day, and indeed our day: “... the vain attempts and impetuous assaults made against it by men as are given to change, and have always discovered a greater regard to their own private fancies and interests, than to that duty they owe to public...”

By what undue means, and for what mischievous purposes the use of the Liturgy came, during the late unhappy confusions, to be discontinued, is too well known to the world....”

Many Clergy were murderously dealt with on the basis of power ignoring pure biblical truth. Pushing error to overcome truth is not new. Further in the Preface: “... such men are very hardly brought to do with their utmost endeavours to hinder the restitution thereof. In order whereunto divers Pamphlets were published against the Book of Common Prayer, the old Objections mustered up, with the addition of some new ones, more than formerly had been made, to make the number swell.” “...and therefore, of the sundry Alterations proposed unto us, we have rejected all such as were either of dangerous consequence (as secretly striking at some established Doctrine, or

¹² The Book of Common Prayer

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laudable Practice of the Church of England, or indeed of the whole Catholick [Universal] Church of Christ) or else of no consequence at all, but utterly frivolous and vain. But such Alterations as were tendered to us (by what persons, under what pretenses, or to what purpose soever so tendered) as seemed to us in any degree requisite or expedient, we have willingly, and of our own accord assented unto: not enforced so to do by any strength of Argument, convincing us of the necessity of making the said Alterations: **“For we are fully persuaded in our judgements (and we here profess it to the world) that the Book, as it stood before established by Law, doth not contain in it anything contrary to the Word of God, or to sound Doctrine, or which a godly man may not with a good Conscience use and submit unto, or which is not fairly defensible against any that shall oppose the same; if it shall be allowed such just and favourable construction as in common Equity ought to be allowed to all human Writings, especially such as are set forth by Authority, and even to the very best translations of the holy Scripture itself.”**

Those faithful Sons of the Church have (and had) good hope, “...that what is here presented, and hath been by the Convocations of both Provinces with great diligence examined and approved, will be also well accepted and approved by all sober, peaceable and truly conscientious Sons of the Church of England.”

Before and since 1662 there have been attempts to ‘blind’ the people of Almighty God as we have seen in the unfaithfulness with the error of the union with the EU.

Hence, my encouragement to focus on the pure Word of Almighty God by again briefly ministering a small part of the Book of Common Prayer – The Lord’s Supper or Holy Communion – a service rarely used in these ‘modern liberal’ adulterous times.

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In my focus, over recent months, in my submissions for publication my only concern is that in Covenant Nations the love for Almighty God is growing cold. Since the 1950s the devils evil and unclean spirit forces are growing more insidious and destructive towards our Covenant Nations' Christian civilisations. Covenant Nation Britain has been faithful in carrying out Our Lord's commands: *"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,..." (Matthew 28:18-19).*

Britain **has done this** for over 400 years – taking the Gospel and Empire to all Covenant Nations and many Territories. Jesus predicted this: *"Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:12-14).

Spiritual perception focuses on true insight. It's all to do with knowing – with knowledge. Knowledge deals with the insight or discernment of what is certain – what is real?

Concerning this spiritual perception remember this wonderful truth from Jesus: *"He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, "they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise, they might turn and be forgiven!" (Mark 4:11-12).*

This truth has to do with blindness – spiritual blindness. I have very low vision. Physically I am legally blind, but I can 'see'. Jesus is teaching that many people can physically see but are they able to spiritually 'see' – that is perceive? Also, they may physically hear but do they spiritually understand?

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It is on my heart thus to focus on spiritual perception.

The Apostle Paul comments on spiritual blindness and records: *“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”* (Romans 1:18-21).

The kingdom of God on earth has been revealed in all the Glory of Jesus. Covenant Nation Britain is blessed for the mission to “the nations” over the past 400 years, thus all Covenant Nations are blessed, blessed by perceiving and understanding Jesus is Saviour.

Further: *“We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”* (1 Corinthians 2:6-11).

All Covenant Nations and Territories have been taught these truths through the faithfulness of the ministry of Covenant Nation Britain over the centuries through the liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer 1662 – but is this all ignored through evil pietism and lawless dogma.

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Godliness and holiness is the key: Jesus said: *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."* (Matthew 7:15-21).

**Are we in our Covenant Nations forgetting our Christian heritage?
Moving into a new dark age or darker age worse than the "dark age"
Mr. Churchill overcame 1939-1945?**

Are our values and attitudes changing? The Apostle Paul reminds us that history is repeating itself. He quotes from Psalms 14 and 53 and Ecclesiastes 7: *"As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."* (Romans 3:10-12).

In the sight of Almighty God are Covenant Nations becoming "worthless"? *"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."* (Revelation 2:4-5).

We need to remember our calling – to be Covenant Nations. Over the centuries each true believer and every born-again Christian was inspired and understood the call to believe. John recorded about Jesus: *"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who*

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believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..." (John 1:10-12).

Just as we are born physically in order to breathe so we have to be born-again spiritually before we can breathe spiritually.

The Holy Spirit inspired Solomon, giving him Godly wisdom. The proverbs were written to inspire the youth of Israel about how to behave and be responsible in society. My definition of wisdom is pragmatic – simply actions that lead to success, and for the lives of the faithful in our Covenant Nations today – success now and eternally! Solomon recorded: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* (Proverbs 9:10).

Solomon understood through the Holy Spirit's inspiration that not obeying Almighty God's commands in Holy Scripture would result in chaos - that where we lose our principles, ignore God's revelation we invite chaos. Solomon recorded: *"Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law."* (Proverbs 29:18).

In NIV we see 'cast off restraint' – in AV 'the people perish'.

Further as we focus on prayer, the Apostle Paul recorded his prayer: *"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ..."* (Philippians 1:9-11).

The Greek word for 'best' simply means sincere and genuine. This is a far cry from the evil reality of how Satan is trying to destroy the faithful. In Covenant Nation America (Manasseh) the evil, sinister hate counter-culture push against the righteousness of Christianity is devilish. Are the people in our Covenant Nations going 'broke spiritually' by going

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‘woke’? Do not people understand the devil hates his own? He destroys his own and he is destroyed: *“Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.” (Revelation 5:5-6).*

As Covenant Nations I believe we are in grave danger. Will we be sent into ‘captivity’ as Israel and Judah were because of unfaithfulness and disobedience 722BC and 586BC? Dreadful situations could happen before Jesus returns!

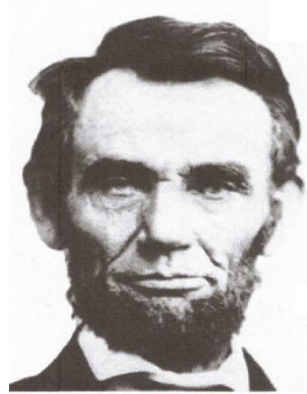
The sound doctrine in Scripture of the orthodox faith, the truth of The Book of Common Prayer (1662) and the 39 Articles (1562) need to be embraced again, not the liberal, postmodern, existential, neo-tolerant relevantism which slips into what the devil wants. We need to get real again.

In my previous writings I have blessed Almighty God for His love for faithful Britain (Ephraim), particularly their faithfulness over the past 470 years in taking the Gospel to colonies and territories – now an Empire of Covenant Nations.

Then I had a spiritual insight from Almighty God through His Holy Spirit concerning the faithfulness of America (Manasseh). I was reminded of The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Sadly, I was also reminded of some words by Abraham Lincoln:

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”



The Declaration of Independence:

“The Second Continental Congress on June 11, 1776, appointed John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingstone to draft a Declaration of Independence. The Declaration, primarily the work of Thomas Jefferson, was adopted by the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, on July 4, 1776.

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed...

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We, therefore, the Representatives of the United Staes of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intensions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free an Independent States...

The Constitution:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

I have noted section 1 of each Article as guides to the contents of many following Sections within each Article:

Article 1:

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Article 2:

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.

Article 3:

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

Article 4:

Deal with procedural issues – Recording Acts etc, amendments to Constitution, debts, ratification of conventions. Done in Convention by

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the Unanimous Consent of the States present the Seventeenth Day of September in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and Eighty seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Twelfth In witness whereof We have hereunto subscribed our Names and signed George Washington and representatives of the nine States.

Does America (Manasseh) still believe in the “years of Our Lord”?

This will be as a result of unfaithfulness and disobedience to Almighty God – especially not listening to Holy Scripture. The Apostle Paul records: *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools.”* (Romans 1:18-22, 24-32).

The devil is behind this, to deceive and destroy. Paul adds: *“Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”* (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

BIBLE FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH

Since the Fall, man's initial unfaithfulness and disobedience to Almighty God is seen as He has reminded us constantly:

"I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me" (Isaiah 45:5).

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12).

It is so important to read Holy Scripture.

It is so important to be guided by the Holy Spirit to perceive and understand this eternal fundamental truth.

Almighty God loves us and wants us to trust Him:

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46: 1, 6, 10).

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:1-4, 17-19, 23-24).

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“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

“A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3)

Further, concerning Biblical fundamental truth, I made the comment that I was a fundamentalist. I defined this position in that fundamentalism was to adhere strictly to orthodox tenet which is straight, that is right praise of God’s Glory and truly believing Biblical sound doctrine.

Again, Holy Scripture teaches: *“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.”*
(2 Timothy 4:1-5).

EVANGELICAL CHURCH CREEDS AND ARTICLES

The idea that Christianity is a form of feeling, a life, and not a system of doctrine, is contrary to the faith of all Christians. Christianity has always had a creed. A man who truly believes the creeds of the book of Common Prayer 1662 and sound Biblical doctrine is a Christian.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of god the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again In accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Creed of Saint Athanasius

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Whosoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick¹³ Faith.

Which Faith except everyone does keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son: and another of the Holy Ghost.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son: and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate: and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible: and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal: and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals: but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated: but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

¹³ Catholick means Universal Biblical

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So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the Holy Ghost Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighties: but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods: but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord: and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords: but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;

So are we forbidden by the Catholick Religion: to say there be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons: one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other: none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together: and co- equal.

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So that in all things, as is aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved: must thus think of the Trinity.

Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation: that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;
Perfect God, and Perfect Man: of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead: and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.

Who although he be God and Man: yet he is not two, but one Christ;
One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God;

One altogether, not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person.
For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man: so God and Man is one Christ.

Who suffered for our salvation: descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.

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He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty: from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies: and shall give account for their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

This is the Catholick Faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end.
Amen.

As can be seen, the Creeds were formulated from biblical truth. Sound doctrine. True born-again, regenerated Christians formulated them.

THE THIRTY NINE ARTICLES

In the tradition, not traditionalism, of the Bible believing church there was formulated in 1562 in England the Articles of Religion – articles of belief based on Bible truth.

These Articles were agreed upon by the Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy of the provinces of Canterbury and York in London.

These Articles are:

Article I

Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Article II

Of the Word or Son of God, which was made very Man The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God, and very Man; who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile His Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

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Article III

Of the going down of Christ into Hell

As Christ died for us, and was buried, so also is it to be believed, that he went down into Hell.

Article IV

Of the Resurrection of Christ

Christ did truly rise again from death, and took again his body, with flesh, bones, and all things appertaining to the perfection of Man's nature; wherewith he ascended into Heaven, and there sitteth, until he return to judge all Men at the last day.

Article V

Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory, with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.

Article VI

Of the Sufficiency of the holy Scriptures for salvation

Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation: so that whatsoever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man, that it should be believed as an article of the Faith, or be thought requisite or necessary to salvation. In the name of the holy Scripture, we do understand those Canonical books of the Old and New Testament, of whose authority was never any doubt in the Church.

Of the Names and Number of the Canonical Books

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

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Numbers

Deuteronomy

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

The First Book of Samuel

The Second Book of Samuel

The First Book of Kings

The Second Book of Kings

The First Book of Chronicles

The Second Book of Chronicles

The First Book of Esdras

The Second Book of Esdras

The Book of Esther

The Book of Job

The Psalms

The Proverbs

Ecclesiastes or Preacher

Cantica, or Songs of Solomon

Four Prophets the greater

Twelve Prophets the less

And the other Books (as Hierome saith) the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine; such are these following:

The Third Book of Esdras

The Fourth Book of Esdras

The Book of Tobias

The Book of Judith

The rest of the Book of Esther

The Book of Wisdom

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Jesus the Son of Sirach

Baruch the Prophet

The Song of the Three Children

The Story of Susanna

Of Bel and the Dragon

The Prayer of Manasses

The First Book of Maccabees

The Second Book of Maccabees

All the Books of the New Testament, as they are commonly received, we do receive, and account them Canonical.

Article VII

Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is not contrary to the New: for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to Mankind by Christ, who is the only Mediator between God and Man, being both God and Man. Wherefore there are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises.

Although the Law given from God by Moses, as touching Ceremonies and Rites, do not bind Christian men, nor the Civil precepts thereof ought of necessity to be received in any commonwealth; yet, notwithstanding, no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral.

Article VIII

Of the Three Creeds

The Three Creeds, Nicene Creed, Athanasius's Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed, ought thoroughly to be received and believed: for they may be proved by most certain warrants of holy Scripture.

Article IX

Of Original or Birth-Sin

Original Sin standeth not in the following of Adam, (as the Pelagians do vainly talk), but it is the fault and corruption of the Nature of every man, that naturally is ingendered of the offspring of Adam; whereby man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusteth always contrary to the spirit; and therefore in every person born into this world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation. And this infection of nature doth remain, yea, in them that are regenerated; whereby the lust of the flesh, called in Greek, phronema sarkos, which some do expound the wisdom, some sensuality, some the affection, some the desire, of the flesh, is not subject to the Law of God. And although there is no condemnation for them that believe and are baptized, yet the Apostle doth confess, that concupiscence and lust hath of itself the nature of sin.

Article X

Of Free-Will

The condition of Man after the fall of Adam is such, that he cannot turn and prepare himself, by his own natural strength and good works, to faith, and calling upon God: Wherefore we have no power to do good works pleasant and acceptable to God, without the grace of God by Christ preventing us, that we may have a good will, and working with us, when we have that good will.

Article XI

Of the Justification of Man

We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by Faith, and not for our own works or deserving's: Wherefore, that we are justified by Faith only is a most

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wholesome Doctrine, and very full of comfort, as more largely is expressed in the Homily of Justification.

Article XII

Of Good Works

Albeit that Good Works, which are the fruits of Faith, and follow after Justification, cannot put away our sins, and endure the severity of God's Judgement; yet are they pleasing and acceptable to God in Christ, and do spring out necessarily of a true and lively Faith; insomuch that by them a lively Faith may be as evidently known as a tree discerned by the fruit.

Article XIII

Of Works before Justification

Works done before the grace of Christ, and the Inspiration of his Spirit, are not pleasant to God, forasmuch as they spring not of faith in Jesus Christ, neither do they make men meet to receive grace, or (as the School-authors say) deserve grace of congruity: yea, rather, for that they are not done as God hath willed and commanded them to be done, we doubt not but they have the nature of sin.

Article XIV

Of Works of Supererogation

Voluntary Works besides, over, and above, God's Commandments, which they call Works of Supererogation, cannot be taught without arrogancy and impiety: for by them men do declare, that they do not only render unto God as much as they are bound to do, but that they do more for his sake, than of bounden duty is required: whereas Christ saith plainly, When ye have done all that are commanded to you, say, We are unprofitable servants.

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Article XV

Of Christ alone without Sin

Christ in the truth of our nature was made like unto us in all things, sin only except, from which he was clearly void, both in his flesh, and in his spirit. He came to be the Lamb without spot, who, by sacrifice of himself once made, should take away the sins of the world, and sin, as Saint John saith, was not in him. But all we the rest, although baptized, and born again in Christ, yet offend in many things; and if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Article XVI

Of Sin after Baptism

Not every deadly sin willingly committed after Baptism is sin against the Holy Ghost, and unpardonable. Wherefore the grant of repentance is not to be denied to such as fall into sin after Baptism. After we have received the Holy Ghost, we may depart from grace given, and fall into sin, and by the grace of God we may arise again, and amend our lives. And therefore they are to be condemned, which say, they can no more sin as long as they live here, or deny the place of forgiveness to such as truly repent.

Article XVII

Of Predestination and Election

Predestination to Life is the everlasting purpose of God, whereby (before the foundations of the world were laid) he hath constantly decreed by his counsel secret to us, to deliver from curse and damnation those whom he hath chosen in Christ out of mankind, and to bring them by Christ to everlasting salvation, as vessels made to honour. Wherefore, they which be endued with so excellent a benefit of God be called according to God's purpose by his Spirit working in due season: they through Grace obey the calling: they be justified freely:

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they be made sons of God by adoption: they be made like the image of his only-begotten Son Jesus Christ: they walk religiously in good works, and at length, by God's mercy, they attain to everlasting felicity.

As the godly consideration of Predestination, and our Election in Christ, is full of sweet, pleasant, and unspeakable comfort to godly persons, and such as feel in themselves the working of the Spirit of Christ, mortifying the works of the flesh, and their earthly members, and drawing up their mind to high and heavenly things, as well because it doth greatly establish and confirm their faith of eternal Salvation to be enjoyed through Christ, as because it doth fervently kindle their love towards God: So, for curious and carnal persons, lacking the Spirit of Christ, to have continually before their eyes the sentence of God's Predestination, is a most dangerous downfall, whereby the Devil doth thrust them either into desperation, or into wretchedness of most unclean living, no less perilous than desperation.

Furthermore, we must receive God's promises in such wise, as they be generally set forth to us in holy Scripture: and, in our doings, that Will of God is to be followed, which we have expressly declared unto us in the Word of God.

Article XVIII

Of obtaining eternal Salvation only by the Name of Christ

They also are to be had accursed that presume to say, That every man shall be saved by the Law or Sect which he professeth, so that he be diligent to frame his life according to that Law, and the light of Nature. For holy Scripture doth set out unto us only the Name of Jesus Christ, whereby men must be saved.

Article XIX

Of the Church

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The visible Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful men, in the which the pure Word of God is preached, and the Sacraments be duly ministered according to Christ's ordinance in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same.

As the Church of Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Antioch have erred: so also the Church of Rome hath erred, not only in their living and manner of Ceremonies, but also in matters of Faith.

Article XX

Of the Authority of the Church

The Church hath power to decree Rites or Ceremonies, and authority in Controversies of Faith: And yet it is not lawful for the Church to ordain anything contrary to God's Word written, neither may it so expound one place of Scripture, that it be repugnant to another. Wherefore, although the Church be a witness and a keeper of holy Writ, yet, as it ought not to decree anything against the same, so besides the same ought it not to enforce any thing to be believed for necessity of Salvation.

Article XXI

Of the Authority of General Councils

General Councils may not be gathered together without the commandment and will of Princes. And when they be gathered together, (forasmuch as they be an assembly of men, whereof all be not governed with the Spirit and Word of God,) they may err, and sometimes have erred, even in things pertaining unto God.

Wherefore things ordained by them as necessary to salvation have neither strength nor authority, unless it may be declared that they be taken out of holy Scripture.

Article XXII

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Of Purgatory

The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping, and Adoration as well of Images as of Reliques, and also invocation of Saints, is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.

Article XXIII

Of Ministering in the Congregation

It is not lawful for any man to take upon him the office of publick preaching, or ministering the Sacraments in the Congregation, before he be lawfully called, and sent to execute the same. And those we ought to judge lawfully called and sent, which be chosen and called to this work by men who have publick authority given unto them in the Congregation, to call and send Ministers into the Lord's vineyard.

Article XXIV

Of speaking in the Congregation in such a tongue as the people understandeth It is a thing plainly repugnant to the Word of God, and the custom of the Primitive Church, to have publick Prayer in the Church, or to minister the Sacraments in a tongue not understood of the people.

Article XXV

Of the Sacraments

Sacraments ordained of Christ be not only badges or tokens of Christian men's profession, but rather they be certain sure witnesses, and effectual signs of grace, and God's good will towards us, by the which he doth work invisibly in us, and doth not only quicken, but also strengthen and confirm our Faith in him.

There are two Sacraments ordained of Christ our Lord in the Gospel, that is to say, Baptism, and the Supper of the Lord. Those five

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commonly called Sacraments, that is to say, Confirmation, Penance, Orders, Matrimony, and extreme Unction, are not to be counted for Sacraments of the Gospel, being such as have grown partly of the corrupt following of the Apostles, partly are states of life allowed in the Scriptures; but yet have not like nature of Sacraments with Baptism, and the Lord's Supper, for that they have not any visible sign or ceremony ordained of God.

The Sacraments were not ordained of Christ to be gazed upon, or to be carried about, but that we should duly use them. And in such only as worthily receive the same have they a wholesome effect or operation: but they that receive them unworthily purchase to themselves damnation, as Saint Paul saith.

Article XXVI

Of the Unworthiness of the Ministers, which hinders not the effect of the Sacrament. Although in the visible Church the evil be ever mingled with the good, and sometimes the evil has chief authority in the Ministration of the Word and Sacraments, yet forasmuch as they do not the same in their own name, but in Christ's, and do minister by his commission and authority, we may use their Ministry, both in hearing the Word of God, and in the receiving of the Sacraments. Neither is the effect of Christ's ordinance taken away by their wickedness, nor the grace of God's gifts diminished from such as by faith and rightly do receive the Sacraments ministered unto them; which be effectual, because of Christ's institution and promise, although they be ministered by evil men. Nevertheless it appertaineth to the discipline of the Church, that inquiry be made of evil Ministers, and that they be accused by those that have knowledge of their offences; and finally being found guilty, by just judgement be deposed.

Article XXVII

Of Baptism

Baptism is not only a sign of profession, and mark of difference, whereby Christian men are discerned from others that be not christened, but is also a sign of Regeneration or new Birth, whereby, as by an instrument, they that receive Baptism rightly are grafted into the Church; the promises of the forgiveness of sin, and of our adoption to be the sons of God by the Holy Ghost, are visibly signed and sealed; Faith is confirmed, and Grace increased by virtue of prayer unto God. The Baptism of young Children is in any wise to be retained in the Church, as most agreeable with the institution of Christ.

Article XXVIII

Of the Lord's Supper

The Supper of the Lord is not only a sign of the love that Christians ought to have among themselves one to another; but rather it is a Sacrament of our Redemption by Christ's death: insomuch that to such as rightly, worthily, and with faith, receive the same, the Bread which we break is a partaking of the Body of Christ; and likewise the Cup of Blessing is a partaking of the Blood of Christ.

Transubstantiation (or the change of the substance of Bread and Wine) in the Supper of the Lord, cannot be proved by holy Writ; but is repugnant to the plain words of Scripture, overthroweth the nature of a Sacrament, and hath given occasion to many superstitions.

The Body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten, in the Supper, only after a heavenly and spiritual manner. And the mean whereby the Body of Christ is received and eaten in the Supper is Faith.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped.

Article XXIX

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Of the Wicked which do not eat the Body of Christ in the use of the Lord's Supper The Wicked, and such as be void of a lively faith, although they do carnally and visibly press with their teeth (as Saint Augustine saith) the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, yet in no wise are they partakers of Christ: but rather, to their condemnation, do eat and drink the sign or Sacrament of so great a thing.

Article XXX

Of both kinds

The Cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the Lay-people; for both the parts of the Lord's Sacrament, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be ministered to all Christian men alike.

Article XXXI

Of the one Oblation of Christ finished upon the Cross

The Offering of Christ once made is that perfect redemption, propitiation, and satisfaction, for all the sins of the whole world, both original and actual; and there is none other satisfaction for sin, but that alone. Wherefore the sacrifices of Masses, in the which it was commonly said, that the Priest did offer Christ for the quick and the dead, to have remission of pain or guilt, were blasphemous fables, and dangerous deceits.

Article XXXII

Of the Marriage of Priests

Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, are not commanded by God's Law, either to vow the estate of single life, or to abstain from marriage: therefore it is lawful for them, as for all other Christian men, to marry at their own discretion, as they shall judge the same to serve better to godliness.

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Article XXXIII

Of Excommunicated Persons, how they are to be avoided

That person which by open denunciation of the Church is rightly cut off from the unity of the Church, and excommunicated, ought to be taken of the whole multitude of the faithful, as a Heathen and Publican, until he be openly reconciled by penance, and received into the Church by a Judge that hath authority thereunto.

Article XXXIV

Of the Traditions of the Church

It is not necessary that Traditions and Ceremonies be in all places one, and utterly like; for at all times they have been divers, and may be changed according to the diversities of countries, times, and men's manners, so that nothing be ordained against God's Word. Whosoever through his private judgement, willingly and purposely, doth openly break the traditions and ceremonies of the Church, which be not repugnant to the Word of God, and be ordained and approved by common authority, ought to be rebuked openly, (that others may fear to do the like,) as he that offendeth against the common order of the Church, and hurteth the authority of the Magistrate, and woundeth the consciences of the weak brethren.

Every particular or national Church hath authority to ordain, change, and abolish, ceremonies or rites of the Church ordained only by man's authority, so that all things be done to edifying.

Article XXXV

Of Homilies

The second Book of Homilies, the several titles whereof we have joined under this Article, doth contain a godly and wholesome Doctrine, and necessary for these times, as doth the former Book of Homilies, which

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were set forth in the time of Edward the Sixth; and therefore we judge them to be read in Churches by the Ministers, diligently and distinctly, that they may be understood of the people.

Of the Names of the Homilies Of the right Use of the Church. Against peril of Idolatry.

Of the repairing and keeping clean of Churches. Of good Works: first of Fasting.

Against Gluttony and Drunkenness. Against Excess of Apparel.

Of Prayer.

Of the Place and Time of Prayer.

That Common Prayers and Sacraments ought to be ministered in a known tongue.

Of the reverent estimation of God's Word. Of Alms-doing.

Of the Nativity of Christ. Of the Passion of Christ.

Of the Resurrection of Christ.

Of the worthy receiving of the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Of the Gifts of the Holy Ghost. For the Rogation-days.

Of the State of Matrimony. Of Repentance.

Against Idleness. Against Rebellion.

Article XXXVI

Of Consecration of Bishops and Ministers

The Book of Consecration of Archbishops and Bishops, and Ordering of Priests and Deacons, lately set forth in the time of Edward the Sixth, and confirmed at the same time by authority of Parliament, doth contain all things necessary to such Consecration and Ordering: neither hath it anything, that of itself is superstitious or ungodly. And therefore whosoever are

consecrated or ordered according to the Rites of that Book, since the second year of the forenamed King Edward unto this time, or hereafter

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shall be consecrated or ordered according to the same Rites; we decree all such to be rightly, orderly, and lawfully consecrated or ordered.

Article XXXVII

Of the Civil Magistrates

The Queen's Majesty hath the chief power in this Realm of England, and other her Dominions, unto whom the chief Government of all Estates of this Realm, whether they be Ecclesiastical or Civil, in all causes doth appertain, and is not, nor ought to be, subject to any foreign Jurisdiction.

Where we attribute to the Queen's Majesty the chief government, by which Titles we understand the minds of some slanderous folks to be offended; we give not to our Princes the ministering either of God's Word, or of the Sacraments, the which thing the Injunctions also lately set forth by Elizabeth our Queen doth most plainly testify; but only that prerogative, which we see to have been given always to all godly Princes in holy Scriptures by God himself; that is, that they should rule all estates and degrees committed to their charge by God, whether they be Ecclesiastical or Temporal, and restrain with the civil sword the stubborn and evildoers.

The Bishop of Rome hath no jurisdiction in this Realm of England. The Laws of the Realm may punish Christian men with death, for heinous and grievous offences.

It is lawful for Christian men, at the commandment of the Magistrate, to wear weapons, and serve in the wars.

Article XXXVIII

Of Christian men's Goods, which are not common

The Riches and Goods of Christians are not common, as touching the right, title, and possession of the same, as certain Anabaptists do falsely

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boast. Notwithstanding, every man ought, of such things as he possesseth, liberally to give alms to the poor, according to his ability.

Article XXXIX

Of a Christian man's Oath

As we confess that vain and rash Swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ, and James his Apostle, so we judge, that Christian Religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the Magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the Prophet's teaching, in justice, judgement, and truth.

APOSTASY AND HERESY IN THE CHURCH

It is critical to define apostasy and heresy.

Apostasy

Apostasy refers to a turning away, standing away, a revolt, an about-turn, a rejection of previous sound doctrine, belief in the God of the Holy Bible.

Jesus, our Lord, Saviour, our Wisdom – Holiness, Righteousness and Redemption is the Truth. Pilate asked Him “what is the truth” (John 18:38) after Jesus said: “those on the side of truth listen to me” (John 18:37).

So, concerning this subject of apostasy let's firstly overview some basic doctrine of the Deity of Jesus from the word “By the Grace of Jesus – Regeneration and Conversion” by Rev Dr Graham Whelan.

Heresy

Heresy is a self-chosen opinion rejecting and contrary to scriptural truth and sound biblical doctrine.

DEFINITIONS OF HERESIES

HERESY DURING TIME OF RECORDING NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Ceremonialism

This concerned strict rules about kinds of permissible food, drink, religious festivals and the requirement of circumcision of believers. It is a return to requirements of the law.

Ascetism

This concerned what could be handled, tasted or touched.

Angel Worship

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Concerns truth (Colossians 2:18)

Depreciation of Jesus

Here is implied opposition to the Supremacy of Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20).

Secret Knowledge

This is Gnosticism (defined below).

Reliance on Human Wisdom

At the time when teachings of Plato still accepted (see Colossians 2:4, 8)

HERESIES FROM DEFECTIVE VIEWS OF PERSON OF JESUS

Ebionism

This heresy denies Jesus His first nature – His Divinity – it says He is not Divine.

Docetism

This heresy denies Jesus His second nature – His humanity. Jesus “seems” human. Thus He would be no example for mankind.

Gnosticism

Concerns “special knowledge” and man can do anything in the body because:

Body – evil
spirit – good

This is an evil dualism as it allows all kinds of immorality. Gnostics believe Jesus was not fully God nor fully man.

Arianism

This heresy views Jesus as a prophet where “word” in John 1 is not “Word” (ie Living Word – Eternal Second Person of YAHWEH) but

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simply “a god”. This heresy sees Jesus - “the logos” as created. This is Jehovah's Witnesses' belief.

Appolnarianism

This heresy suggests God resides in a human body. It is a form of Docetism (above).

Nestorianism

This heresy denies the unity of the Trinity. It emphasises two separate natures of the Person of Jesus but destroys the unity of the Person of Jesus – the “oneness” of the Trinity.

Eutychianism

Jesus before He was born of Mary – before His Incarnation had two natures. After Incarnation only one nature.

Kenosis

This heresy suggests Jesus laid His Divine attributes aside at His Incarnation.

HERESIES THAT DENY DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN PERSONS OF HOLY TRINITY

Modal Monarchianism

This heresy denies the unity of the Trinity by stressing the unity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit are roles and not persons.

Sabellianism

Similar to Modal Monarchianism but Father becomes Son becomes Holy Spirit suggesting different “roles” for different “Persons”.

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Swedenborgianism

This heresy is a mix of Modal Monarchianism and Pantheism. Pantheism suggests that primary matter including living things, including mankind are one in essence with God. We have no existence apart from His. We are part of the Divine essence. Jesus is one with us and is in us by virtue of creation rather than redemption. This is a universalist error meaning Jesus is at one with all members of the human race not only believers.

Arianism

Apart from the defective view above concerning this heresy, here it emphasises, in defining the Persons of the Trinity, that Jesus, the eternal Second Person of YAHWEH, the Son, King of kings and Lord of lords, is not that at all -but simply created and not eternal. The Arians did not read Colossians 1:15-20 (see John 20:28).

EVALUATION

Clearly the authors of these heresies have not read Holy Scripture. The Creed of Athanasius clearly defines the Trinity.

So, it's all about being born-again – truly regenerated – given by the Father to the Son. Giving comes before receiving. John 1:12 records:

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not out of human descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.”

This author reasons that this truth must be understood in conjunction with the truth from Romans 3:10-12, that it is only perceived after regeneration when faith is given. There is no “knowing” or “growing”

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until after regeneration. Keeping on believing occurs after the person elect knows, is truly sorry for their sin after repenting and in obedience keeps on believing through God's sovereign strength. This author has said there is no “knowing” or “growing” until after regeneration. Here this “knowing” refers to the true definition of “knowing” - a true perception of certainty – that absolute conviction and assurance of salvation through a positional change – a change instituted by Jesus in regeneration. It is important that this author emphasises here the elect's assurance – that real hope of salvation given by Jesus to each of His elect. This knowledge of assurance is so important that this author has included the truths of assurance and acceptance given in Scripture. Thus, we are the elect are:

- God's children (John 1:12)
- Friends of Jesus (John 15:15)
- Justified – declared righteous in Jesus (Romans 5:1)
- Free from condemnation for now and eternity (Romans 8:12)
- Knowing all things work together for the good of the elect (Romans 8:28)
- Free from all charges (Romans 8:33-34)
- Not ever separated from love of God (Romans 8:35)
- United with Jesus and one in the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:17)
- Brought with a price and belonging to Jesus (1 Corinthians 6:20)
- A member of Jesus' Body (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- Anointed and sealed by God (2 Corinthians 1:21)
- Declared a saint (Ephesians 1:1)
- Adopted as God's children (Ephesians 1:5)
- Having direct access to Father through Holy Spirit (Ephesians

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2:15)

- Good work in Jesus perfected (Philippians 1:6)
- Citizens of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
- Redeemed and forgiven (Colossians 1:14)
- Complete in Jesus (Colossians 2:10)
- Hidden with Jesus in God (Colossians 3:3)
- Having a Spirit of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Knowing we have grace and mercy in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- Born of God, Satan unable to touch us (1 John 5:18) and knowing the assurances that are taught in 1 John.

It is important to note: *"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."* (John 16:5-15)."

LIBERALISM FINDS FAVOUR

I have made the comments below on several occasions in my writings. The concern I have for the Liberal Church is that many members, including leaders are not true committed Christians. A difficult truth as the Apostle John recorded: *“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”* (John 1:10-12).

As noticed above, the word ‘received’ – and this is true – you have to be given something before you can ‘receive’. When you realise and are truly thankful for all that God has done for you in Jesus, and you truly believe and keep on believing this truth, you are saved now and eternally.

The following truth is repeated for emphasis: *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life. Then Jesus declared, I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he*

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who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. You do not want to leave too, do you? Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 5:24, 6:35, 37-40, 44-48, 62-63, 66-69).

How can this be?

Well, simply through God's effective calling and grace you have been awakened and changed spiritually and you understand: *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves."* (Ephesians 1:3-6).

When you freely accept and truly believe what you have been **freely given** you never lose that position and relationship with Jesus: *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5).*

Many thanks to Reverend Robert J Saunders, Ph D -
<http://rsanders.org>¹⁴

¹⁴ <http://rsanders.org>

Lawless Dogma or Fundamental Bible Truth

Murray, Iain H – for further research and comments - Evangelicalism Divided, Edinburgh: Banner of Truth Trust, 2000¹⁵

Before 1950 I can say that evangelical doctrine was mainly followed. In the Church of England the Book of Common Prayer 1662 was followed and from that time, with some opposition by the Oxford Movement in the late 1800's, the Church was evangelical.

In the 1950s, this began to change. Murray reports a number of developments. First, there was a shift in attitude toward nonevangelicals. John Stott, speaking as chair at an important evangelical conference in 1967, put it this way. It is a tragic thing, however, that Evangelicals have a very poor image in the Church as a whole. We have acquired a reputation for narrow partisanship and obstructionism. We have to acknowledge this, and for the most part we have no one but ourselves to blame. We need to repent and change.¹⁶

At this same conference Archbishop Ramsey was given the honour of the opening address. Ramsey was a liberal Anglo-Catholic, and he reminded his listeners that experience goes before theology. I ask – are “feelings” better than sound doctrine? I believe Stott was deluded. He was moving away from the truth of the Book of Common prayer 1662 and the 39 Articles – also the truth from Jesus.

Matthew 7.13-14

13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

¹⁵ Murray

¹⁶ Ibid P42

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14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Also Paul reveals:

2 Thessalonians 2.9-12

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

The conference proceeded to set forth basic evangelical doctrine, but at the same time it proclaimed a new approach to ecumenical dialogue. It was that as “long as anyone confessed Jesus Christ as ‘God and Saviour’ there must be an acceptance of their Christian standing.”

It must be said at this point, however, that the liberal heresy does not deny Jesus Christ as ‘God and Saviour’. It simply reinterprets the

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essentials of the faith in terms of a category that gives them a completely new meaning. Among other things, I pointed out that Stott may not fully grasp the gravity of the situation. He claims, for example, that if “the Church were to deny one of the central truths of the creed, like the incarnation, the atonement or the resurrection, it would cease to be a church. It would be apostate. Then we would be obliged to leave it. But thank God that lamentable situation has not arrived.” This statement doesn’t get to the heart of the matter. The liberal faith does deny central truths of the faith. It reinterprets them along radically new lines. Lines moving from the BCP 1662 and the 39 Articles.

Secondly, Billy Graham, one of the evangelicalism’s leading figures, began to develop ideas that softened if not abandoned certain critical evangelical beliefs. Originally, Graham did not include liberal churches and their leaders in his evangelistic campaigns. Eventually, however, Graham began to work with virtually all denominations except for churches such as the Unitarians. Unitarians maintain that the Godhead is one Person not a Holy Trinity. This relates to heresies that deny the distinctions between the Persons of the Holy Trinity. Clearly they have not asked the Third Person of the Trinity to guide them in the study of Scripture and to the truth of sound doctrine. They are deluded, being confused possibly with the heresy of Modal Monarchianism together with Sabellianism and Swedenborgianism. These are defined earlier. Also, they have never believed the Creeds, especially the Creed of St. Athanasius listed earlier. Some liberal clergy had reservations about Graham.

Others had reservations, but they felt that conversion and subsequent church attendance were a good thing. Billy Graham could help them with that, and so they encouraged their members to attend his crusades and even participated themselves. It needs to be said here

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that liberals have no real theological problem with this approach. For them, the enthusiasm of a Graham crusade, the altar call, the exclusive claims of Christ, may not be their cup of tea. But they recognize that piety varies from person to person, that faith is a good thing and that religion needs to be expressed according to each person's religious inclination and temperament. Therefore, many were willing to work with Billy. As a result of Billy Graham's crusades in England, evangelicals found themselves in increasing contact with non-evangelicals. The resultant personal contact diluted the significance of doctrine and strengthened the sense that Christianity is more a matter of the heart than doctrine. Murray gives several reasons for Graham's shift in attitude. To begin with, American evangelism is essentially pragmatic. Its goal is saving souls. Theological formulation is normally secondary. Further, Billy Graham and John Stott became good friends as did Graham and the liberal Anglo-Catholic Ramsey. These contacts led to a weakening of Graham's "exclusive" view of the faith. Finally, for my part, I doubt that Graham or those around him had ever been exposed to the substance of the liberal heresy.

They doubtless knew that something was wrong. But Graham, if he is like many Americans, tended to see people as human beings first, and only later as persons of a particular theological stripe. This cultural factor doubtless played a role in his becoming comfortable with those of contrary theological convictions. Subsequent history was to show a lack of apprehension of danger, a determination only to be charitable, and an increasing commitment to ecumenism, were to corrode the convictions which had initially been part of Graham's leadership.¹⁷

¹⁷ Ibid P66

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From all this it is clear that, while Graham has professed no change to his doctrinal beliefs, he had come to accept the Churches: primary idea of ecumenism that there is a shared experience of salvation in Christ which makes all differences of belief a very secondary matter.¹⁸

Over the past 35 years I have been increasingly concerned by decisions made by synods of various communions of the universal Church. Many decisions are focusing on human inspired social justice godlessness and not guided by sound doctrine as commanded by Almighty God in Holy Scripture. Remember Jesus the Living Word's words: *"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were*

¹⁸ Ibid P69

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amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” (Matthew 7:15-29).

Notice Jesus said: “the wise man built his house on the rock”. In this truth, the ‘rock’ is **not Our Lord but rather obedience to Our Lord’s commands.**

Finally, Graham, in a 1997 interview with Dr Robert Schuler, made the statement that even those who did not overtly know Jesus Christ – Moslems, Buddhists, Atheists - are members of the body of Christ. “They may not know the name Jesus but they know in their hearts that they need something they do not have, and they turn to the only light they have, and I think that they are saved and they are going to be with us in heaven.”¹⁹ Schuler was ecstatic. Along with Stott, there were a number of other important evangelicals, who gradually began to assume a “wider” vision of the Church. Murray lists such men as Colin Buchanan, David Watson, and Michael Saward. Under their leadership the idea emerged that the ground of unity among Christians was baptism.

In 1977 an evangelical conference was held in Nottingham. Among its proceedings, the section on “The Church and Its Identity,” contained the following as its leading idea: “The church on earth is marked out by Baptism, which is the complete sacramental initiation into Christ and his body.”²⁰ This allowed evangelicals to enjoy fraternal relations with all baptized members of the church.

In Murray’s view, this was a denial of evangelicalism’s Reformation heritage. In protest against such an assumption the Reformation asserted a gospel which had at its heart the justification of the

¹⁹ Ibid P 74

²⁰ Ibid P 101

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believing, repentant sinner by Christ alone, and this message Churches: Evangelical or Liberal they held to be so paramount that, without it, the church and sacraments are all of no avail for salvation.²¹

Concerning the comment I recorded: 'the Church on earth is marked out by Baptism', I know as a Minister, I need to be guided by the Holy Spirit as to the true belief of vows made by Godfathers and Godmothers in the Baptism Service.

Firstly in discussing the guidance by the Holy Spirit, I lean on Jesus' teaching recorded by the Apostle John: *"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." **And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."** (John 20:19-23).*

I have ministered in many Baptism Services and do have spiritual concerns for the validity of vows made - **that Godfathers' and Godmothers' hearts are truly believing.**

Verses 22 and 23 in both above guide my spirit as to the truth – nominal or real? The vows or promises made in the Service are serious.

The Minister to the Godfathers and Godmothers: *"Dearly beloved, you have brought this Child here to be baptized; you have prayed that our Lord Jesus Christ would vouchsafe to receive him, to release him of his sins, to sanctify him with the Holy Ghost, to give him the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life. You have heard also that our Lord Jesus Christ has promised in his Gospel, to grant all these things that you have*

²¹ Ibid P 102

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prayed for: which promise he, for his part, will most surely keep and perform. Wherefore, after this promise made by Christ, this Infant must also faithfully, for his part, promise by you that are his sureties, (until he will renounce the devil and all his works, and constantly believe God's holy Word, and obediently keep his commandments.

I demand therefore, dost thou, in the name of this Child, renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that though wilt not follow nor be led by them?

Answer: I renounce them all.

Minister: Dost thou believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth? And in Jesus Christ his only-begotten Son our Lord? And that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he went down into hell, and also did rise again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; and from thence shall come again at the end of the world, to judge the quick and the dead?

And dost thou believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Remission of sins; the Resurrection of the flesh; and everlasting life after death?

Answer: All this I steadfastly believe.

Minister: Wilt thou be baptised in this faith?

Answer: That is my desire.

Minister: Wilt thou then obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of thy life?

Answer: I will."

There were further developments. In 1975, the Church of England abolished allegiance to the thirty-nine articles and the majority of the

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evangelical clergy did not fight this decision. “The plain fact was that assent to the Thirty-Nine Articles was ended because liberals opposed the scriptural nature of the doctrine while Anglo Catholics resented the rejection of Roman Catholic belief.”²²

For an evangelical church today the focus is diligence. It is called to do with being spiritual: *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8).*

The word “power” above is where we get the English word ‘dynamite’. Being spiritual (1 Corinthians 12:1) involves including the Holy Spirit – asking the Holy Spirit to encourage us in our ministry – to live a truly spiritual – a Holy Spirit filled life – remembering the two approaches to life. Could the following relate to someone who claims to be a Christian? Or simply to anyone? Living for the world – living a life serving self and actually ignoring the Cross of Jesus? Living in and for the world and saving your life for your own sake? Living in the world and giving all benefits the world gives but losing your soul? Looking to the world and losing Jesus and His reward in eternal glory? Some “Christians” are like this. They forget the true doctrine and drift into a liberal doctrine as described before. A “lukewarm” doctrine.

²² Ibid P 265

DILIGENCE AND SOUND DOCTRINE

From the above definitions of apostasy and heresy I want to turn to what Holy Scripture has to teach on diligence.

It is a sad reality, given the truths discussed so far, that there are fake Christians, Christian leaders, doctrine and churches where “neo-tolerance” occurs. This is based in dualism, relativism where all opinions are equal and correct. White is black and black is white. Total evil – refer to Romans 1:24f and 1 Corinthians 6:9f. There has been much debate in some churches about acceptance of same sex marriage and homosexual relations – not Biblical!

Whilst commenting on Matthew 13:31-33 it is important that I comment on the parable of the hidden treasure in the field. In this parable the field (Mt 13:38) is the world. This parable is sometimes interpreted incorrectly in that sinners ‘find’ Jesus. However, Jesus is not lost. Before being regenerated, born-again it is the sinners who are lost. Sinners cannot ‘find’ Jesus. I have preached on several occasions of how ‘I decided to follow Jesus’ – how ‘I chose Jesus’. When regenerated over 50 years ago I initially thought this in my youth. However, I quickly realised that with growing knowledge – Jesus chose me (Ephesians 1 and 2).

This also confirms the truth as it is written: *“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understand; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”* (Romans 3:10-12).

As Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, mentioned above, teaches God in Jesus, His Son – the eternal second Person of YAHWEH finds us. I print

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for emphasis: *“Praise be to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world** to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely give us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. Any you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:3-14).*

At this point of emphasis it is important to include these truths: *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me **has eternal life** and will not be judged but **has crossed over from death to life**” (John 5:24). **“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.”** (John 6:37). **“And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up on the last day.** For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at that last day.” (John 6:39-40).*

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. (John 6:44). “He went on to say, “this is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the father has enabled them.” (John 6:65).

What a joy! Jesus finds us. We will be part of His hidden treasure. God’s treasured possession was the house of Israel – His remnant.
*“Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the descendant of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did in Egypt, and how I carried you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations **you will be my treasured possession.** Although the whole earth is mine...” (Exodus 19:3-5).*

“For the LORD has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession.” (Psalm 135:4).

And we as Gentiles, regenerated and born-again, **will be ‘grafted in’.**

“After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted in to a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!” (Exodus 19:3-5).

Finally, in this section on parables it is important to briefly comment on the parable of the pearl. A pearl is not like a diamond which can be cut. The pearl represents the church. It cannot be cut – it will be destroyed. It grows unseen by the world. The oyster shell is dark like the world but the pearl, like the church, can be small or large, light or darkness.

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The following only relates to the elect: those truly born-again, those who 24/7 are being spiritual. Those looking to Jesus, denying self and taking up the Cross. Those prepared to lose their physical life for Jesus' sake. Those who truly forsake the world and keep their souls. Those who as a result of love and obedience of and to Jesus will share in Jesus' reward in His glory and eternity.

In our ministry for Jesus we need to remember that the devil is responsible for the most deceptive evil – he is a subtle and stubborn adversary. So, when we come to this understanding of diligence I see it defined as being steady in our Christian attitude. Jesus taught about attitudes - blessed attitudes - the Beatitudes. I call them 'beaut-attitudes'.

It is important to remember them: *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:3-12).

Jesus also taught of our attitudes in loving God and our neighbour: *“Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: Teacher, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?”*

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Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Matthew 22:34-39).

The Apostle Paul recorded our attitude in relation to Jesus’ attitude: *“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11).*

This is a continual part of knowing and growing. Knowing more and growing more like Jesus. Consider these truths: *“Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Saviour and of Christ Jesus our hope, to Timothy my true son in the faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. As I urged you when I went to Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain people not to teach false doctrines any longer or to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. Such things promote controversial speculations rather than advancing God’s work – which is by faith. The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Some have departed from these and have turned to meaningless talk. They want to be teachers of the law, but they do not know what they are talking about or what they so confidently affirm. We know that the law is good if one uses it properly.*

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We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for law-breakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, (for those who kill their father or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those Churches: Evangelical or Liberal practicing homo-sexuality), –and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointment me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelieve. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 1:1-14).

*And further: “The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They forbid people to marry and order them to abstain from certain foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, **you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.** Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.” (2 Timothy 4:1-8).*

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This second passage above is leading to the rejection of sound doctrine and evangelical truth. Paul also speaks of the “glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.” (1 Timothy 1:11) – also entrusted to the elect today. The verses (2 Timothy 1:9f) above emphasises our calling to a holy life, a life separate from error. For the elect know whom they have believed. How important it is to be watchful and thankful and devoted to prayer (Colossians 4:2; 1 Timothy 2:1f).

Further, considering this subject of diligence, that true and steady attitude, true born-again Christians, true evangelicals need to be devoted to reading Scripture. I comment on this later in this book. Paul records: “...devote yourself to public reading of Scripture...be diligent in these matters...” (1 Timothy 4:13-15).

As the elect and Bible believing born-again Christians we need to be single-minded, focused with our wills totally obedient to Jesus. This is what being spiritual is about. We have the mind of Jesus Himself 1 Corinthians 2:16. Therefore, with the strength of Jesus Philippians 4:13 and the power of His Holy Spirit Acts 1:8 we are to be diligent with strong wills for evangelical truth given to us by the faithfulness of our forefathers in modern times. Times before the error of the postmodern present period. They knew that Holy Scripture contained everything necessary for salvation John 3:16; Acts 4:12 Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18. They were uncompromising. They also knew obedience to Jesus is the foundation John 14:15 having Holy Scripture, there are a couple of prayers which greatly encourage my ministry: “*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled*”

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with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-10).

Also, following Paul’s comments a greatly encouraging prayer for diligence: *“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our*

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lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Philippians 3:7-21).

I also need to mention the prayer I say every morning – modifying the prayer for particular needs of each day: The Lord’s Prayer, remembering what Jesus said in verse 14, this, then, is how you should pray: *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” (Matthew 6:9-15).*

These are also great encouragements from other prayers in Scripture: (Hebrews 12:1; 13:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:16).

Finally in this overview of diligence: *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect. (1 Peter 3:15).*

Remembering: “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Paul’s comment above is an encouraging truth, but we must be careful and loving (1 Peter 3:15) above. We remember in being spiritual and diligent that our prayer is always to look to Jesus when dealing with difficult people – to allow Jesus to soften hard hearts and to save. **We are seed sowers.**

REMEMBERING OUR BEGINNINGS

Before continuing the comments on the evil crisis of lawlessness in our Christian Covenant Nations, let us remember Almighty God's love from the beginning and how the devil was there and still is.

It is important to continually read the Holy Scripture, and thus concerning the constant presence of the devil's hand in all evil I have included the truth of the 'Devil's Evil Hands' after overviewing man's position as viceroy under God.

Since the Fall, man's initial unfaithfulness and disobedience to Almighty God is seen as He has reminded us constantly: *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."* (Acts 4:12). **The Name is Jesus!**

It is so important to read Holy Scripture.

It is so important to be guided by the Holy Spirit to perceive and understand this eternal fundamental truth.

Almighty God loves us and wants us to trust Him: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."* (Psalm 46:1, 6, 10).

"O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from

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me, you bloodthirsty men! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:1-4, 17-19, 23-24).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.” (Isaiah 40:3).

Further, concerning Biblical fundamental truth, I made the comment that I was a fundamentalist. I defined this position in that fundamentalism was to adhere strictly to orthodox tenet which is straight, that is right praise of God’s Glory and truly believing Biblical sound doctrine.

Again, Holy Scripture teaches: *“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. (2 Timothy 4:1-5).*

Man, Viceroy Under God

Let us remember what God said when He made man and woman:
"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground everything that has the breath of life in it, I give every green plant for food." And it was so." (Genesis 1:26-30).

God had made man Viceroy over His creation, however, man as a result of the fall took God's crown and placed it on his own head. The devil was behind this from the beginning, remember: *"Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say: 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' " "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for*

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themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me-she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."(Genesis 3:1-15).

The devil is the destroyer from the beginning and still is! We see this rejection of God in man's request for an earthly king: *"When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have." But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord . And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do." (1 Samuel 8:1-9).*

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God wanted Samuel to warn the people about the policies and burdens demanded by a King, especially remembering the devil would be behind the detail. This truth at the end times is critical.

Devil's Evil Hands

The truth of Job is dated c900BC and covers the eternal struggle of good/evil – all instigated by the devil. *"In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. He had seven sons and three daughters, and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East. His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them."* (Job 1:1-4).

"One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were ploughing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking,

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another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!" At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised." In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." (Job 1:6-22).

Job has lost his wealth and family except for his wife; yet without sinning. **Satan attacks him again.** *"On another day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." **Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."***

Stop for a moment! Notice Satan is blaming, that is, tempting Almighty God! WOW!

Continuing: *"Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a*

*piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. **His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.**" (Job 2:1-10).*

The devil is totally evil – **he hates his own and leads them to eternal destruction with him.** The truth about Job above needed to be mentioned fully. **We need to constantly read Holy Scripture.** The references were long but absolutely necessary for study.

Job is now visited by three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar who: *"...sympathize with him **and comfort him.** When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads. Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and seven nights. No one said a word to him, because they saw how great his suffering was."* (Job 3:11-13).

To summarize, **they confronted him** judging him and accusing him that all that happened was as a result of **his sinning against Almighty God.** Eliphaz tries to reason with Job that his situation is as a result of a sin which God will forgive if he repents. Eliphaz says: *"Blessed is the man whom God corrects; so, do not despise the discipline of the Almighty. For He wounds, but He also binds up; He injures, but His hands also heal."* (Job 5:17-18).

Bildad now confronts Job: *"Your words are **a blustering wind. Does God pervert justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin.**" (Job 8:2-4). "Such is the destiny of all who forget God; so, perishes the hope of the godless." (Job 8:13). "Surely God does not reject a blameless man or strengthen the hands of evildoers." (Job 8:20).*

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Zophar **then judges Job**: *“Oh, how I wish that God would speak, that he would open his lips against you and disclose to you the secrets of wisdom, for true wisdom has two sides. Know this: God has even forgotten some of your sin.” (Job 11:5-6).*

Zophar was a proud, healthy and prosperous man – the proof of his ‘goodness’? All three ‘Counsellors’ have judged the fate of a wicked man. Job shows his true blameless character when he says of God: *“And he said to man, 'The fear of the Lord - that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.' ” (Job 28:28).*

Elihu also comments saying Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar had not listened to Job. Further Job says: *“Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor? Yet when I hoped for good, evil came; when I looked for light, then came darkness.” (Job 30:25-26) and: “He prays to God and finds favour with Him; he sees God's face and shouts for joy; he is restored by God to his righteous state.” (Job 33:26).*

The Lord answers Job: *“Then the Lord answered Job out of the storm. He said...” (Job 38.1). “Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone...” (Job 38:4-6). “Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind?” (Job 38:36).*

“Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him?”

Again stop for a moment. The one contending with God is the devil! He hates his own – they with him will go to eternal death without God!

We continue: *Let him who accuses God answer him!” Then Job answered the Lord : “I am unworthy - how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer twice, but I will say no more.” Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm: “Brace*

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yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me.

*"Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?" (Job 40:2-8). "Then Job replied to the Lord: "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my counsel without knowledge?' Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, **things too wonderful for me to know.**" (Job 42:1-3).*

This reminds me; when we remember what Almighty God revealed to the Apostle Paul around 1,000 years in Job's future, we understand Job's comment above: *"We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" - but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words."*
(1 Corinthians 2:6-13).

The Lord loved Job, a blameless man, as the Lord said at the beginning. The Lord was angry with Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar as they had not spoken of and about the Lord what was right (42:7), *"After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. All his brothers and sisters and everyone who had known him before came and ate with him in his*

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house. They comforted and consoled him over all the trouble the Lord had brought upon him..." (Job 42:10-11). "The Lord blessed the latter part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen and a thousand donkeys. And he also had seven sons and three daughters." (Job 42:12-13). "After this, Job lived a hundred and forty years; he saw his children and their children to the fourth generation. And so he died, old and full of years." (Job 42:16-17).

The devil's scheme to test the Lord and Job totally failed. The devil hates his own, and he and them face eternal destruction. He is still deceiving.

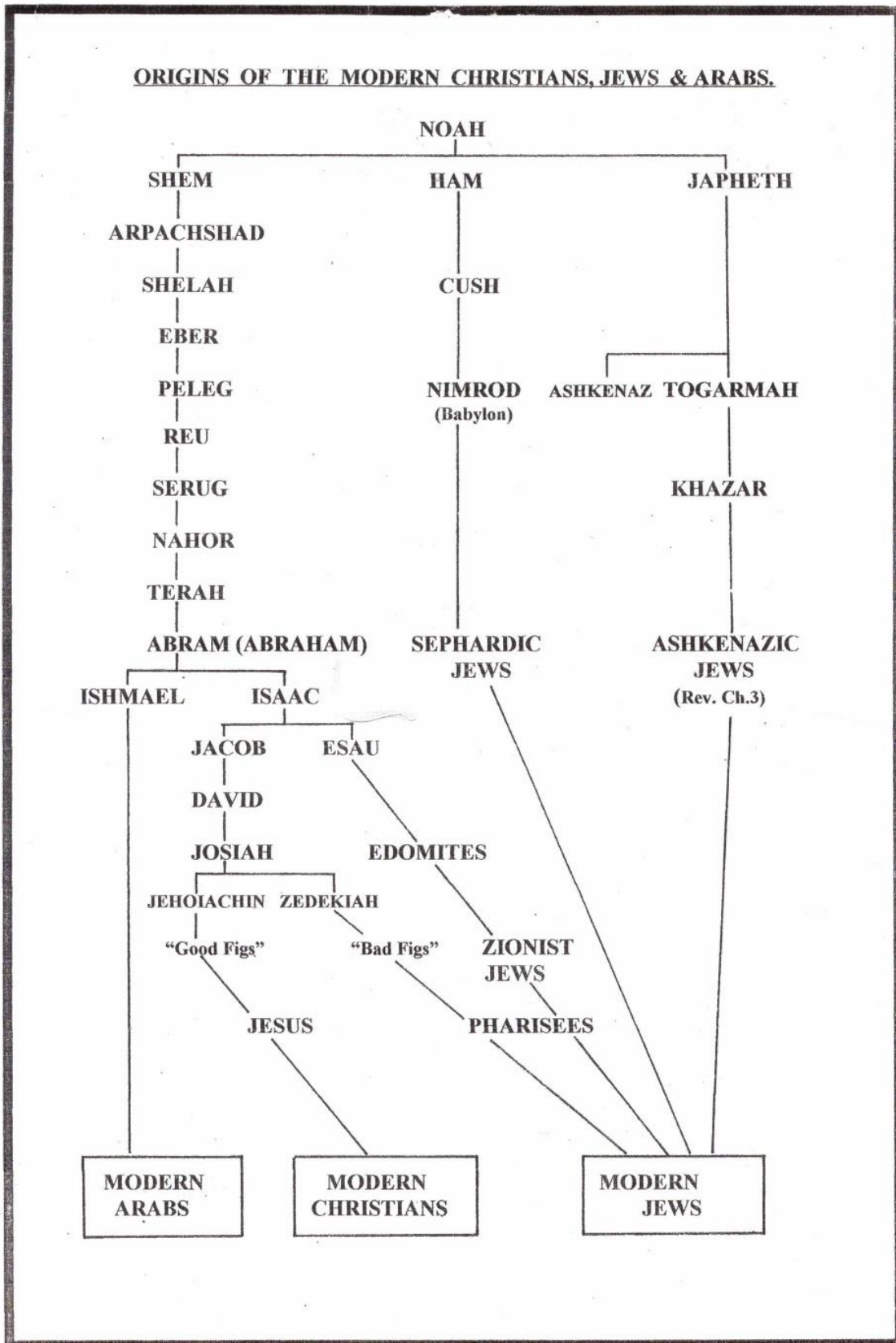
From the truths on 'Origins' discussed in the diagram attached, the unfaithfulness, disobedience and evil attitudes and actions of God's people – the Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity in Assyria 722BC and the Southern Kingdom of Judah was about to go into captivity in Babylon in 586BC. The Holy Scripture below was recorded by Jeremiah c597BC: *"After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Lord showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the Lord . One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten. Then the Lord asked me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "Figs," I answered. "The good ones are very good, but the poor ones are so bad they cannot be eaten." Then the word of the Lord came to me: "This is what the Lord , the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord . They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart. " 'But like*

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the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,' says the Lord , 'so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule and cursing, wherever I banish them. I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their fathers.' " (Jeremiah 24:1-10).

The 'good figs' would be the faithful remnant through Jehoichin – the remnant saved by the Messiah, the Anointed One to come – Jesus.

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Paul records: *“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished - he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”* (Romans 3:22-26). Jesus saves the Old Covenant remnant and the Gentiles of the New Covenant who believe in Him; as Paul records his sorrow: *“I speak the truth in Christ--I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit - I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.”* (Romans 9:1-8).

Paul records the reality of the people who rejected Jesus: *“Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of*

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them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?" (Romans 11:11-15).

The 'bad figs' came through Zedekiah as the 'Origin', in the attached diagram explains.

PART 2

THE GLORY OF GOD'S SOUND DOCTRINE

In PART 2 the focus is the Bible's teaching in Sound Doctrine.

In view of the liberal, post-modern, existential, relativistic (dualism) neo-tolerant evil defined in this work, there is a crisis. Concerning this crisis in Christian civilizations where lawless dogma reigns, I have taken in-depth study of all appropriate Biblical references about God's Attributes of Greatness and Goodness. Also extensive references about Reformation truth is listed.

I know that in the liberal church there are faithful and obedient true Christian members and leaders. I pray that others being deceived or deluded may repent.

Romans 1.16-17

16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

2 Thessalonians 2.7-12

7 For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

9 The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders,

10 and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

11 For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie

12 and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

Each day, are you reading the LORD'S glorious sound doctrine in your Bible?

When you depart this wonderful life – what will Jesus say to you? He knows you!

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Have you ever heard it said “I know who you are”? There is one Person who knows each one of us. He is the LORD of the Holy Bible – God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Psalm 139: 1-10, 13, 16, 23-24

1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. 5 You hem me in—behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

13 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. 24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

It is so wonderful how Holy Scripture teaches that the Father loves each one of us so much. The One True God of the Holy Bible is a Glorious God.

Psalm 66: 1-5

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For the Director of music: A Song, A Psalm.

1 Shout with joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious! 3 Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you. 4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name.” Selah 5 Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man’s behalf!

God’s Glory is the excellence of His Being. This doctrine is called Ontology. I define now two classifications of His Glory – Attributes of Greatness and Attributed of Goodness from a previous book²³.

²³ The Glory of God – Abridged Edition by Dr Graham Whelan

SOUND DOCTRINE AND GOD'S ATTRIBUTES OF GREATNESS

1. Spirituality

God is Spirit, not physical except for Jesus in His second nature as Perfect Man (Athanasian Creed above).

John 4:23-24

23.....the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the **kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers **must worship in spirit and in truth.**”

God the Father, Jesus' Glory, His Divinity and the Holy Spirit is Invisible.

John 1:18

18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 which God will bring about in his own time—God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

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16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.

God is not limited by a physical body nor the limitations of the geographical location.

Acts 17:24

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

God is not limited by flesh and bones (except Jesus second nature as above).

Luke 24:36-39

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”

39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

2. Personality

The One True Lord God of the Holy Scripture is a personal God. A Triune God of three Persons in perfect unity – again see Creeds above. As a personal God He has self-consciousness and a will. (See Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6). God has Names. In this passage-

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Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Here we see the Name – God

God (Hebrew is Elohim – a Plural noun)

Created (Hebrew is bara – a singular verb)

In Holy Scripture God has several Names – His important Name is taught:

Exodus 3:14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

Commentary on His Name follows under the sub-heading: Life.

Exodus 20:7

7 “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

God, emphasizing The Person of the Father, is personal and warm in relationships of love and obedience.

3. Life

Here we simple say – God is

Exodus 3:14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

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God says “I AM WHO I AM”. The Hebrew for this phrase is YAHWEH. This word is not printed in our Bibles and is translated for us as “LORD”. Throughout Holy Scripture this word means the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit acting in perfect unity.

God is always living:

Jeremiah 10:10-12

10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

11 “Tell them this: ‘These gods, who did not make the heavens and the earth, will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.’”

12 But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

John 5:24-27

24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

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I Thessalonians 1:9-10

- 9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,
- 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

God needs nothing.

Acts 17:25

- 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

God chooses to use us. As elect we are part of **His Life**, for His perfect purposes. God first chooses and calls the elect and then chooses to use us.

John 6:37-40

- 37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.
- 38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.
- 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.
- 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

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Ephesians 1:3-6

- 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love
- 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—
- 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 2:10

- 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

4. Infinity

In our humanity with finite minds I find it totally beyond my powers of reason to think of this.

In this attribute or quality, God is:

- ✓ Unlimited;
- ✓ Unlimitable;
- ✓ Boundless;
- ✓ Not subject to limitations of space;
- ✓ Before space;
- ✓ He who brought space (the Firmaments) and time into being.

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Psalm 139:7-12

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away?"

24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

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Acts 17:24-25

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

In relation to the above qualities God is in charge of all time and all the ages.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The One True God of the bible The Holy Trinity is infinite over **all false gods:**

1 Kings 18:20-39

20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

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22 Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

23 Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire— he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.”

26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “O Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins.

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- 31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.”
- 32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.
- 33 He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”
- 34 “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time.
- 35 The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.
- 36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.
- 37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”
- 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.
- 39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

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Confirming other attributes already mentioned, God of the Bible is **always being**. He is YAHWEH – I AM who I AM, I will be who I will be. God was, is and will be.

Psalm 90:1-2

1 LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Ephesians 3:21

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Jude 25

25 to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

God is before all things and at the end of all things.

Isaiah 44:6

6 “This is what the LORD says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

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Revelation 1:8

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 21:5-7

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Revelation 22:13

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

A further dimension in God’s quality of infinity is the truth that His understanding is immeasurable.

Psalms 147:4-5

4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

God is all-seeing, He sees everywhere.

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Proverbs 15:3

3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Matthew 10:29-33

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

God sees our hearts.

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

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The reality is simply that God knows.

Psalm 104:24

24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

In the above verse – God knows, and wisdom is His actions of being totally successful in His knowledge and sustaining of His creation. Further this is expanded with His New Covenant Truth –

Romans 11:33-12:2

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

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This truth is true wisdom in action – the action of being successful – not only now in this life, but through faith of Jesus the gift of God -faith in Jesus – successful for all eternity! (Romans 3:22).

In this study of the attributes of God’s Glory, there are further considerations concerning the infinite or unlimited power in God’s Name. The power in a Name –

Genesis 17:1

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

Here God is called “God Almighty”. In Hebrew, this is “El Shaddai”, emphasizing God’s invincible power and requiring us to acknowledge our faith and obedience to Him as LORD. God is almighty and nothing is “too hard” for Him for He has **determined His will**.

Genesis 18:10-14

10 Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

11 Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’

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14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”

This happened! Nothing is too hard for God’s limitless or infinite power. Nothing impossible.

Jeremiah 32:17

17 “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and out-stretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Matthew 19:26

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Further concerning God’s attributes and qualities especially in limitless power –

2 Kings 6:1-7

1 The company of the prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us.

2 Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live.” And he said, “Go.”

3 Then one of them said, “Won’t you please come with your servants?” “I will,” Elisha replied.

4 And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees.

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- 5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!"
- 6 The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float.
- 7 "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

Matthew 14:22-33

- 22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.
- 23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,
- 24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.
- 25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.
- 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.
- 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
- 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."
- 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.
- 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"
- 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.
- 33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

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Mark 4:35-41

- 35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side."
- 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.
- 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.
- 38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"
- 39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
- 40 He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"
- 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

When we read the truth of Lazarus we are amazed at the limitless power of God. There are over 300,000 sub-systems in the human body – and all were restored perfectly by a word from Jesus "come out". Lazarus was dead for 4 days and this was a type-foretelling of Jesus teaching on His own resurrection. Awesome limitless power!!

5. Constancy

God's constancy describes His endurance and eternal faithfulness and changelessness and awesome power to stand firm eternally.

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Psalm 33:10-12

10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Psalm 102:12

12 But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever; your renown endures through all generations.

Psalm 102:26-28

26 They will perish, but you remain, they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.

27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

28 The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you.”

And again, the LORD does not change for He keeps His promises unlike those who are disobedient.

Malachi 3:6-7

6 “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

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James 1:16-18

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

It is important to add to the above truth that where God seems to change, His final decision is not actually altered, but rather He is waiting for a change of heart by those needing to be obedient in the working of His commands and plan. This is seen clearly in the truth about Jonah when he went finally in obedience to God and saw the LORD's compassion on the city which repented.

Jonah 3

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days.

4 On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

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7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

SOUND DOCTRINE AND GOD'S

ATTRIBUTES OF GOODNESS

1. MORAL PURITY

God's Goodness we begin by understanding and knowing that His goodness is His virtues in action. When I think of the concept of virtue I am reminded of three basic virtues of faith, hope and love or charity.

1 Cor 13:13 says

"13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love".

God's goodness as virtues are seen in His excellence in influencing or guiding people through the conviction of His Holy Spirit. As God works out His Purposes for humanity, His attributes of goodness are seen in His perfect moral qualities as follows.

(i) Holiness

God is without evil or sin. As will be seen from the references below, His attributes of holiness is about uniqueness. He is unique and separate from all creation.

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Exodus 15:11-13

- 11 “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?
12 You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.
13 “In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

Concerning verse 11 above “Who amount the gods is like you...” Please read 1 Kings 18.20-39 again and Acts 4.12.

1 Samuel 2:2

- 2 “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Psalms 99:1-3

- 1 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.
2 Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.
3 Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy.

Isaiah 6:1-4

- 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

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- 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.
- 3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”
- 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Isaiah 57:15

- 15 For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is
contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite.

In the above references to “holy”, the Hebrew root is “qds” meaning “to cut”, “to separate” – “cut off” from all that is evil and sinful. It defines sacred. This equals God’s absolute purity, His goodness untouched by evil. God is Holy.

Leviticus 11:44-45

- 44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground.
- 45 I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

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Job 34:10-12

10 “So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong.

11 He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves.

12 It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

Isaiah 6:5

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Habakkuk 1:13

13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Matthew 5:48

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect. As we will see latter in this book the only way to be perfect is to be perfect in all one says and; the only way to do that is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

James 3:2

2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

How important it is for his elect to walk in The Holy Spirit.

(ii) Righteousness

God's Righteousness is the second quality of God's moral purity. This is God's Holiness applied to His relationships with people. In this truth of the subject of God's Glory, His truth is not discussing man's righteousness – righteousness credited to man from God through faith but – it concerns the subject of God's Righteousness. God's Righteous is all to do with His commitment to His purposes. His purposes in Holy Scripture is salvation of His elect. So, God's Righteousness is His commitment to do for His people, His chosen, His elect whom He regenerates and saves, what they cannot do for themselves. We cannot save ourselves for eternity. It is to do with the side of God's perfect justice which deals with our rescue and acquittal, through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus our Lord and Saviour and substitute. God's righteous actions are always in line with His perfect law. It needs to be said here, but it is a different subject, the difference between law and its relation to sin in humanity.

Romans 8:1-5

- 1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
- 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.
- 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,
- 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the

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Spirit.

- 5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

In the above passage “the law of the Spirit of Life” refers to the controlling power of God’s Holy Spirit in the life of the elect. Also “The Law of sin” refers to the controlling power of sin. The Law only defines or points out a sin. It can condemn a sin but cannot remove sin. Only Jesus can do this – and this is a separate subject.

This subject in the attributes of God’s Glory and His Righteousness at this point focuses on God.

Genesis 18:25

- 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Psalm 9:8

- 8 He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.

Psalm 19:7-9

- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

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Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,”

Jeremiah 23:6

6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called:

The LORD Our Righteousness.

Micah 7:9

9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD’s wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

(iii) Justice

As defined in notes on God’s Righteousness above, God’s Justice acts in conformity with His law. He administers His rule with perfect Justice – Justice which deals with the rescue, redeeming and acquittal of the elect in Jesus His Saving Son.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it

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and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

Deuteronomy 7:7-12

7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh, King of Egypt.

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.

Psalms 58:11

11 Then men will say, "Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth."

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Amos 5:24

24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:19

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

2. INTEGRITY

(i) Genuineness

The attribute or quality of God's Genuineness focuses on the fact He is a real God not a false god. The wonderful truth of Elijah on Mount Carmel and the fact that the God of Holy Scripture is the one and only true God (I Kings 18:20-39), is proven in this reference. Also the above shows God's integrity – definitely His genuineness, soundness, honesty and wholeness. True God.

Jeremiah 10:1-10

1 Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel.

2 This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them.

3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.

4 They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails

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so it will not totter.

5 Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”

6 No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.

7 Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.

8 They are all senseless and foolish; they are taught by worthless wooden idols.

9 Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple—all made by skilled workers.

10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

John 17:1-3

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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I Thessalonians 1:9

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

1 John 5:20

20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Revelation 3:7

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation 6:10

10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

(ii) Veracity

This quality refers to the fact that God is truth and thus represents things as they actually are.

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1 Samuel 15:29

29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.”

John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Titus 1:1-2

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God’s elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

Hebrews 6:13-19

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

14 saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

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18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure....

The above last reference is a great encouragement to the elect in our ministry to continue to be true and honest in the teaching of Holy Scripture enabled by the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

(iii) Faithfulness

God's faithfulness is true proof of His genuineness, that is being true, and His veracity, that is always telling the absolute truth.

1 Corinthians 1:9

9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

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2 Corinthians 1:17-22

17 When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, “Yes, yes” and “No, no”?

18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,

22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2 Timothy 2:13

13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

1 Peter 4:17-19

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the

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ungodly and the sinner?”

19 So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

Further in this attribute of the Faithfulness of God we know from Holy Scripture that God always fulfils His promises. So should we.

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.

5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

Matthew 5:37

37 All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No';.....

Hebrews 13:5

5 ...God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

3. LOVE

To begin this section before looking at relevant attributes there are some important truths from scripture on God's Love.

Matthew 3:17

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

John 14:30-31

30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,
31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

1 Corinthians 13:11

11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 John 4:8, 16

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

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(i) Benevolence

God's Benevolence is His charitable qualities in action – His faithfulness in meeting the specific needs of His people – His elect – those born-again and in Him and His Son Jesus and filled with His Holy Spirit. Simply it is God's welfare for those He loves eternally. Concerning welfare of those mentioned above Holy Scripture gives a perfect example in three parables in Luke's Gospel. They are all printed for emphasis. God seeks us out.

Luke 15

- 1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.
- 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."
- 3 Then Jesus told them this parable:
- 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?
- 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders
- 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'
- 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.
- 8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?
- 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.'

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- 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
- 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.
- 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.
- 13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.
- 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
- 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
- 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
- 17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!
- 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
- 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’
- 20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
- 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

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- 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.
So they began to celebrate.
- 25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.
- 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.
- 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’
- 28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.
- 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.
- 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’
- 31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.
- 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

John 3:16

- 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 15:9-17

- 9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.
- 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.
- 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

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- 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.
- 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
- 14 You are my friends if you do what I command.
- 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
- 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.
- 17 This is my command: Love each other.

1 John 4:10

- 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:6-10

- 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
- 7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.
- 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
- 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

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(ii) Grace

When I was young – a long time ago – there were two definitions for God’s Grace:

- The free unmerited favour of God – The One True God of the Bible.
- G God’s favour and
R Righteousness
A At
C Christ’s His Son’s
E Expense – The carrying out of His mission to save the elect.

Grace is the epitome of His outworking of His wonderful Love. Grace is God’s love in action for His elect, His people, His chosen ones. It is nothing to do with our merit. It is all to do with why we worship Him – His Glory – it is His “Worth” – His “Worth Ship” – Our worship of a great, glorious true loving God who has redeemed us through the mission of His Glorious Son our Lords Jesus – our Saviour. God is so loving and gracious.

Exodus 34:6

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

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Psalm 86:11-15

11 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness, give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me—they have no regard for you.

15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Psalm 103:1-4

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

Ephesians 1:5-8

5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

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8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it
is by grace you have been saved.
6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly
realms in Christ Jesus,
7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches
of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.
8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from
yourselves, it is the gift of God
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.
10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good
works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all
men.
12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions,
and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present
age,
13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of
our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

Titus 3:3-7

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and
enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in
malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

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- 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
- 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
- 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
- 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

It is a joy to focus on the truth that our salvation – our Holy faith is a gift. Through the faith **of** Jesus, we have Holy faith **in** Jesus (Romans 3:22 and Jude 20-21).

(iii) Mercy

God's Mercy is His attribute of being eternally tender-hearted with loving compassion to those who are faithfully obedient to His perfect will and commands.

Psalm 86:1-7

- 1 Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.
- 3 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long.
- 4 Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.
- 6 Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.

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7 In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.

Psalm 103:8-14

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Matthew 9:35-36

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed (by spirits & pharisee's) and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 1:40-41

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

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41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

Mark 6:30-34

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

(iv) Persistence

This attribute of God's Glory is to do with His eternal "keeping on – Keeping on" – continuing in His purposes.

Exodus 34:5-7

5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

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7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.”

Psalm 86:11-15

11 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God, ruthless people are trying to kill me - they have no regard for you.

15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Matthew 6:12

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

John 15:12

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

1 Peter 3:18-20

18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison

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20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 John 2:7-11

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1 John 3:11-18

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

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- 13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.
- 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.
- 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.
- 17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.
- 18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

I am so thankful that this question was asked when I was commenting on the miracle of Our Lord Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead.

This was a type/foretelling of what Our Lord would do about His death and resurrection. What hope we have in Him!! What joy about our eternal future! May we all take strength in the power of His Holy Spirit in our lives as we strive in this evil world to please Our Lord Jesus.

Again, the question – What is God’s Glory?

When we discussed the truth of the raising of Lazarus a wonderful friend – a senior army officer in our lunch group named Barnabas mentioned it was about the “Glory of God” and yes, it is!

SOUND DOCTRINE INSPIRING

REFORMATION TRUTH

For a person truly responding to the effectual call of the Father I believe there is only one fundamental doctrine revealed in Holy Scripture. Fundamental is defined as adhering to orthodox tenets where 'ortho' means right or straight, 'dox' means opinion and tenet is belief or doctrine. – Sound doctrine found in Holy Scripture.

The theologian John Calvin truly understood the doctrine of effectual calling and grace at the Synod of Dort where five points – the five points of Calvinism were discussed defining mankind's rebellious relationship to the LORD as a result of The Fall. These are:

Total inability

Unconditional election

Limited atonement

Irresistible grace

Perseverance of the Saints

TOTAL INABILITY

Again, Paul's letter to the Romans begins this reality –

Romans 3:10-12

10 As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;
11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.
12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, not even one."

As can be seen mankind is in trouble. The above truth is the correct situation and shows the pathetic position of the person to be saved. Total sin, total inability to save him/herself. This does not mean that a

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person could not do good or be obedient to God's will – it means that The Fall has affected belief, emotions, attitudes and behaviours.

Romans 1:18-20

18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Romans 3:22

22 This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,

Romans 5:12

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—

2 Timothy 2:25-26

25 Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

In the above truth notice that it is God who grants repentance. This is because through the Holy Spirit, the Father will effectually call those who will come to Him – those still blind, still not perceiving or understanding.

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Mark 4:11-12

11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables 12 so that, “ ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’ ”

The above is explained by the Apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 2:14

14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

From the truths above, men and women in terms of their relationships with God are as a result of The Fall – dead, blind and deaf. How then in this state can men and women have new life, see and perceive and hear and understand. As I said before we could not do it ourselves – get back into a relationship with a God who is holy and pure who hates sin. Who will help us? Help the helpless?

This reminds me of the Lord’s truth about Lazarus who was physically dead:

John 11:11-44

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”
12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. 14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”
16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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Jesus Comforts the Sisters

17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. 20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” 25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27 “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” 28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37 But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

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Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

We are now perceiving and understanding that God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – the Holy Trinity – the One True God of the Bible through His One and only Son, Jesus, can help us.

Ephesians 2:1-10

Made Alive in Christ

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his

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grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Eternal salvation thus is not of us – it is completely of the Father, through His Son Jesus and Holy Faith through His Holy Spirit guiding a regenerate heart.

UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION

Our acceptance or rejection of total inability as a true Biblical statement of man’s and woman’s condition by nature will largely determine our attitude towards the next heading that came under review at the Synod of Dort. Unconditional election is well set forth in the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689, which I here quote as a convenient summary. It is also stated in almost identical terms in the Westminster Confession and the Thirty Nine Articles of the Church of England and all the major confessions.

‘Those of mankind who are predestinated unto life,’ says the Baptist Confession, ‘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 other thing in the creature as a condition or cause moving Him thereunto.’ (Chapter 3, Article 5)

The doctrine of unconditional election follows naturally from the doctrine of total inability. If a man and woman are, indeed, dead and held captive, and blind, then the solution for all these conditions must lie outside man and woman themselves. It is with God. I asked in the last chapter: ‘Can the dead raise themselves?’ and the answer must

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inevitably be: 'Of course not.' If, however, some men and women are raised out of their spiritual death – 'born again' as John's Gospel puts it – and since they are unable to perform this work for themselves, then we must conclude that it was God who raised them. On the other hand, as many men and women are not 'made alive', we must likewise conclude that that is because God has not raised them. If man is unable to save himself on account of the Fall in Adam being a total fall, and if God alone can save, and if all are not Saved, then the conclusion must be that God has not chosen to save all.

This is supported by, and revealed in the Scriptures of God. The subject is one that is vast. We can do no more than quote just a few key verses of scripture.

The truth of the Bible is the truth of unconditional election. It is strange that those who oppose themselves to its doctrine fail to recognise this. Some believers have difficulty in believing that God could pass by some and choose others, and yet they have no apparent difficulty in believing that God called Abraham out of the heathens and left the others to their heathenism. Why should God choose the nation of Israel as His 'treasured possession'? There is no need to speculate, for God gives us the answer:

Exodus 19:5-6

5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

Deuteronomy 7:7-9

7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. 8 But it was because the LORD

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loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

God's purpose in election are beyond our finite minds – as Paul records:

Romans 9:8-13

8 In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. 9 For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son." 10 Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac.

11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: 12 not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13 Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

In the above truth God is not 'hating' but rather choosing Jacob instead of Esau.

The disciples saw Jesus preaching about unconditional election:

Luke 4:25-27

25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian."

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John 3:16

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

In this above verse “the world” refers to those chosen – the elect in all the nations of God’s world. Those given faith, given by the Father to the Son, Jesus, for eternal salvation that is never lost. This is seen as follows:

John 5:24

24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 6:37, 39-40, 44, 65

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

40 For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

65 He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

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The Apostle Paul also records about Jesus' truth about unconditional election, guided in Holy Faith through the Third Person of the Holy Trinity – the Holy Spirit:

Romans 9:14-25

14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

19 One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" 21 Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

22 What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath— prepared for destruction? 23 What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory— 24 even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles? 25 As he says in Hosea: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"

I need to mention that election is the positive side of predestination.

Ephesians 1:4-6

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be

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adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

There is a kind of election that is held by many believers today. This is based on Romans 8:29: 'For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestined.' This is like this: God foresaw those who were going to accept Christ, and therefore He 'elected' them to eternal life. Against this view:

God's foreknowledge is spoken of in connection with a people and not in connection with any action which people performed. The Scripture reads: 'Whom He did foreknow'... Again God speaks thus through Amos: 'You only have I known of all nations of the earth.' That is to say, irrespective of any action good or bad, performed by them, God 'knew' them in the sense that He loved and chose them to be His own. It is thus that He foreknew His elect.

It will not do to say that God elected us because He saw something that we would do – that is, accept His Son. We are not chosen because we perform such a holy work as 'accepting' Jesus, but we are chosen so that we might be able to 'accept' Him. 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.'

When given by the Father to the Son and given faith to keep on believing in Jesus then this is the reality of our position in Jesus. Regenerated, born again and given power through holy faith (Jude 20, 21) guided by the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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Neither will it do to say that God foresaw those who would believe. Acts 13:48 makes this abundantly clear: 'And as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.' Election is not on account of our believing, but our believing is on account of our being elected – 'appointed to eternal life.'

Again, to say that we exercised faith in accepting Jesus and that God foresaw this faith, and, therefore, elected us, only drives us a step further back; for, where did we get the faith to exercise? The Scriptures provided the answer: 'It is the gift of God, not of ourselves.'

Ephesians 2:4-9

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

LIMITED ATONEMENT

This is the central fact of the gospel, that is, the purpose of Christ's death on the Cross. This is not accidental. The theologians who had set themselves the task of defending the truths of the Protestant Reformation against the attacks of the Arminian theology were following a Biblical line in their formulations and had now arrived at the very pivot of salvation. First of all, they had asked, 'Who is to be saved?' The answer was Man and Woman. But the Bible's teaching with regard to man and woman showed that man and woman, in their natural state, are totally unable to save themselves. Thus we have the teaching of the Bible on man and woman set under the general heading of total

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inability. Secondly, as some men and women are undoubtedly saved, then it must have been God Himself who had saved them in contradistinction to the rest of mankind. Hence:

Romans 9:11

11 Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand:

This atonement was accomplished through Jesus’ voluntary submission to the death on the Cross where He suffered under the justice of God, and procured the salvation that He as Saviour had ordained. On the Cross, Christ bore punishment, and procured salvation.

The question now arises: “Whose punishment did He bear, and whose salvation did He procure?”

- Christ died to save all men and women?
- Christ died to save no one in particular?
- Christ died to save some?

The first view is that held by Universalists, namely Christ died to save all men and women, and so, they assume, all men and women will be saved.

Concerning the above statement some well-intentioned people attending Church have said to me the world means all. They misunderstand -

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John 3:16-17

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

1 John 2:1-2

1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2 He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The truth of 1 John above is very relevant. The word atonement simply means at-one-ment between the elect and God. Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins Jesus did this for the elect. This truth is further stated:

1 John 4:10

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

God’s holiness requires punishment for man and woman’s sins. God because of His love (1John 4:10 above) sent His Son Jesus to make atonement as the substitute for each elect chosen. This is called propitiation meaning satisfied or appeasing. Where the word “world” is mentioned it means worldwide or saving the elect in each nation – it does not mean all people as some wrongly believe. It means those chosen – again:

Matthew 1:21

21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

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Ephesians 1:4

4 For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love.

John 17:1-9

Jesus Prays for Himself

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

6 “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.

IRRESISTABLE GRACE

I have mentioned verses above which clearly explain that God chooses those to be saved for eternity and that His perfect Son Jesus died to pay the price for the sins of those chosen.

Matthew 20:28

28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Romans 3:23-26

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

The Bible is clear on the grace and truth that Jesus brought to this earth as the Eternal Second Person of YAHWEH (LORD).

John 1:14

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The doctrine of effectual calling and grace is a wonderful reality.

Romans 10:8-17

8 But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the

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dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” 16 But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” 17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

My ministry of evangelism has to do with being faithful in being there and telling of the love of Jesus – so that as the above passage teaches – people hear. Grace is God’s unmerited favour – God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense – God’s unity in Trinity working perfectly teaching Righteousness in Jesus Accredited to the elect by Christ’s atoning sacrifice giving Effectual calling. Grace is the epitome of the outworking of God’s wonderful love for those chosen. Grace, as I have already mentioned earlier, is part of the excellence of God’s Being described in the attribute of His Goodness. Irresistible Grace is about the call – the effectual call seen above in Romans 10:8-17. It is about God’s enabling also mentioned earlier in John 5:24; 6:37; 39-40, 44 and 65. The call is outward as seen above and also inward. The inward call is irresistible when the Holy Spirit convicts a man or woman.

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John 15:26; 16:11

15:26 “When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

16:11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Thus, through the inward call of the Holy Spirit the chosen heart will respond to irresistible grace. Jesus used parables which are illustrations of spiritual responsiveness where hard hearts are softened, allowing Jesus to heal sins and save for all eternity.

The following truths about ‘hearing’ the Shepherd’s voice help us to understand that Jesus’ words – words from the Eternal Living Word are awesome.

On the Thursday afternoon before Good Friday Jesus said to His disciples:

John 17:3

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

Jesus words here are about ‘knowing’ – to ‘know’ is the perception of absolute certainty. It is all to do with the action inwardly of irresistible grace in a welcoming heart. Concerning this heading of Irresistible Grace, my comments begin with:

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me

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in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Jesus was there with David as He was in Psalm 110:1. Psalm 23 is wonderful as it links the Old Testament grace of Jesus with the New Testament as we will see as we proceed in context.

In the Psalm, the Lord is the shepherd (my shepherd) and in John 10:11, Jesus is the Shepherd – the Good Shepherd.

In the Psalm, the Lord saves and restores souls (my soul), the Lord is with David, the Lord anoints David, the Lord gives David an eternal dwelling – forever in the House of the Lord. In the New Covenant, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who saves – John 10:11 lays down His life for the sheep. Jesus saves His people who answer His Call through irresistible grace - Mathew 1:21.

In the Psalm the Lord provides – I shall not want, you prepare a table, cup runs over, provide an eternal home. Also the Lord guides – guides me in paths of righteousness. In the New Testament Jesus provides and guides – John 6:35 Jesus said “I am the bread of Life” – He sustains us physically and spiritually – especially now through the conviction of His Holy Spirit. Jesus also guides – John 8:12 “I am the light of the world” – He guides our way when we follow him.

In the Psalm the Lord comforts – lie down in green pastures – restores my soul – walk through the valley of the shadow of death – no fear – you Lord are with me – your rod (symbolising the Lord’s strength) and staff (the Lord’s protection) are with me. The Lord’s goodness and mercy follows me and I will be forever with the Lord. In the New Covenant Jesus comforts:

Matthew 11:25-30

Rest for the Weary

25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. 26 Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. 27 "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

In the Psalm we see a wonderful eternal future for all who respond to the irresistible grace – those who hear the Shepherd's voice and know their salvation in Jesus – dwell in the House of the Lord forever. In the New Testament - revisit John 14:1-9.

Continuing these truths on irresistible grace our context now focuses on the truth that Jesus knows each one who is chosen - as explained earlier in Ephesians 1:4. These thoughts about hearing the Shepherd's voice will conclude with Jesus' teaching:

John 10:1-11

The Shepherd and His Flock

1 "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. 3 The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5

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But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice." 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but they did not understand what he was telling them. 7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

But where does this context begin? Well, I suggest:

Mark 1:15

15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Jesus knew all along His effectual calling and irresistible grace began with the call of Nathanael:

John 1:43-49

Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

43 The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me." 44 Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. 45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. 47 When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false." 48 "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." 49 Then Nathanael

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declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel.”

The above truth for Jesus then and for us now was and is spiritually guided in theirs and our spiritual guidance in believing in, and knowing Jesus as saviour. In context I move to relevant truth recorded by John, a truth related to Mark 1:15, John 1:43 and all the truth of Psalm 23. This is concerning the work of God:

John 6:25-29

Jesus the Bread of Life

25 When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” 26 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. 27 Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” 28 Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” 29 Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

As can be seen it is all about believing in Jesus. All about ‘understanding’ Jesus’ irresistible grace. All about:

1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Many are not ‘listening’. Why? Jesus teaches:

John 8:19

19 Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

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Then:

John 8:27-30

27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. 28 So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. 29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.” 30 Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

Notice in Verse 30 many put their faith in Him. This is irresistible grace in action – they know Jesus is Lord and were saved for all eternity. They ‘heard’ and ‘understood’ and were effectually called to believe and know Jesus is Lord.

As we move further in understanding the context of this truth we see the Pharisees are not listening!

John 8:37-58

37 I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. 38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father’s presence, and you do what you have heard from your father.” 39 “Abraham is our father,” they answered. “If you were Abraham’s children,” said Jesus, “then you would do the things Abraham did. 40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. 41 You are doing the things your own father does.” “We are not illegitimate children,” they protested. “The only Father we have is God himself.”

The Children of the Devil

42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me. 43 Why is my language not clear to you?

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Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? 47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

The Claims of Jesus About Himself

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?" 49 "I am not possessed by a demon," said Jesus, "but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. 50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. 51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

52 At this the Jews exclaimed, "Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. 53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?" 54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.

55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." 57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

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And now in further context in relation to ‘hearing’ the Shepherd’s voice - a blind man initially physically blind and now physically, spiritually and emotionally seeing. In context with the truth of the grace of Jesus this revelation is awesome and as far as grace is concerned – irresistible. In the account of this man, Jesus brings together all His truth about spiritual acceptance, spiritual growth and spiritual wastage in the life of the listener(s). Let us read very carefully:

John 9

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. 4 As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. 5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. 7 “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

8 His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?”

9 Some claimed that he was. Others said, “No, he only looks like him.” But he himself insisted, “I am the man.” 10 “How then were your eyes opened?” they demanded. 11 He replied, “The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.” 12 “Where is this man?” they asked him. “I don’t know,” he said.

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. 14 Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the

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man's eyes was a Sabbath. 15 Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. 17 Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." 18 The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. 19 "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" 20 "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. 21 But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. 23 That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." 24 A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God, b" they said. "We know this man is a sinner." 25 He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" 26 Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" 28 Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! 29 We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will. 32 Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born

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blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

Spiritual Blindness

35 Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” 37 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” 38 Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.” 40 Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, “What? Are we blind too?”

41 Jesus said, “If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

As we see the above truth is simply about listening. Hearing and truly understanding. Not resisting the still small voice of Jesus through His Holy Spirit – His calling – spiritually asking for a response. The blind man listened and we see in V5 he saw the light – Jesus is the light. He saw the way to eternal life in Jesus.

PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We have come to the final heading in this teaching which is the main thrust of this book. Once born-again, regenerated, salvation is never lost.

The Calvinist position is both clear and forthright on this matter: “They whom God hath accepted in His Beloved, effectually called and sanctified by His Spirit, can neither totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace; but shall certainly persevere therein to the end, and be eternally saved.”

Through the continual strength and guidance of God’s Holy Spirit, the elect person walking each moment in holy faith – God Himself provides perseverance.

I give grateful thanks to Dr Barry Gumm for his insights on praying in holy faith – a discussion over viewed at the beginning and ending of this book.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Praise to God for a Living Hope

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our salvation is incapable of being destroyed.

Romans 8:31-39

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him,

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graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Also with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Himself constantly makes intercessions for us and He said the Father always listens to His prayers.

Some of the following verses have been repeated for emphasis.

Hebrews 7:25

25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

John 11:42

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

Romans 8:26

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. . 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

There is a hymn I love which I print below:

Hymn 279²⁴

DW Whittle (1840-1901)

1 I know not why God's wondrous grace

to me has been made know:
nor why – unworthy as I am –
He claimed me for His own.

*But 'I know whom I have believed;
and am persuaded that He is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto Him against that day.'*

2 I know not how this saving faith

to me He did impart;
or how believing in His word
wrought peace upon my heart.

*But 'I know whom I have believed;
and am persuaded that He is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto Him against that day.'*

3 I know not how the spirit moves,

Convincing men of sin;
revealing Jesus through the word,
creating faith in Him.

*But 'I know whom I have believed;
and am persuaded that He is able*

²⁴ Mission Praise – Words Edition

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*to keep that which I've committed
unto Him against that day.'*

4 **I know not what of good or ill**

May be reserved for me –
Of weary ways or golden days
Before His face I see.

*But 'I know whom I have believed;
and am persuaded that He is able
to keep that which I've committed
unto Him against that day.'*

It was inspired by verses in 2 Timothy which are also listed below.

2 Timothy 1:12

12 That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

I have already touched on several of these verses below and they all teach clearly the doctrine that those in Jesus are never lost or fall from His grace.

John 5:24

24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

Here, above, faith, life and eternal life are connected and are the permanent state of the true believer.

John 6:37

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

Above, the words "never drive away" promise the unfailing love and mercy to each elect saved eternally.

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John 6:39

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

Above, Jesus tells the truth and states that none of those given by the Father to the Son will be lost.

John 6:44

44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Again, above, effectual calling and grace where each one called and truly believes in Jesus is not lost – never falls from grace.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

An awesome truth which is self-explanatory. Please read this truth above again.

Romans 5:9-11

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! 10 For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

In verse 10 above, eternal salvation is assured.

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Romans 8:1, 28-29

Life Through the Spirit

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

In the verses above there is a positive result to the effectual calling – the elect, each one, no longer under “the law” which eternally condemns.

Philippians 1:4-6

4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

In verse 6 above Paul is confident that these saints will have eternal salvation – that being the day of Jesus in glory.

In this wonderful truth above I begin by saying I believe the Apostle Paul wrote the letter. Many other scholars would disagree. I say this because of Paul’s comments in the following reference:

Romans 11:11-14

Ingrafted Branches

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. 12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring! 13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the

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Gentiles, I make much of my ministry 14 in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

Paul loved his people – after all, the faithful Jews were God’s treasured possession – the House of Israel. But salvation is only in Jesus.

Acts 4:12

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must save.”

It was difficult at that time for Jews who believed in Jesus. So, I believe Paul wrote the letter to the Hebrews for a specific purpose. You can imagine the stress and pressure these Jews, faithful and believing in Jesus, would be under. The above reference of Hebrews 6:1-20 has to do with a warning to Jews who have been called to true faith in Jesus – but see the wonderful journey that has been given them – eternal life – salvation in Jesus the Eternal Second Person of YAHWEH the LORD of their Old Testament Scripture – but more than that all Scripture as recorded from Genesis to Revelation!

I have emphasised that after regeneration then new believer will want to know and grow. Thus you will note that the passage starts with the word “therefore” which refers back to a previous warning about falling away. I ask the question, “Can a Christian fall away?” In the passage quoted Paul suggests that we “leave the elementary teaching about Christ and go onto maturity.” The passage raises the question about falling from grace or losing salvation. I suggest that the passage does not teach that one of the elect can ever lose salvation as suggested in verses 4-6. I suggest that this is a “hypothetical argument” which warns Christians from a Jewish background that being born in the Spirit will result in encouragement from the Holy Spirit to want to know more about Jesus and to grow to maturity in Him. I also suggest these verses are a warning against backsliding. I do not consider that this passage is suggesting that the believer can ‘Lose their salvation’ for the truth is that this cannot happen. What can be the case is that the person had never been regenerated in the first place. I have included the whole

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passage (Hebrews 6) to emphasise that even though this Scripture “speaks like this” (verse 9) there is confidence that God is at work in their hearts and that they are regenerated and that these words in Scripture here are a great encouragement to those who are regenerated but who need emphasis by God of His promises and that they need to constantly look to Him whilst waiting patiently for His continual blessings. If there is any doubt on the part of the believer, this should not be seen as a sign that the believer is not a regenerated person. Doubt should send the believer back to God’s word in order to reconcile any differences or address any doubts. For example, if prayer is unanswered, a believer would not turn their back on God and His promises, but would go back to God’s word to confirm that God’s ways are far better than ours (cf John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; Philippians 1:9-10; 3:12-17). I include the whole of Hebrews 6 passage for context purposes. It is dangerous in some cases to take a verse of Scripture by itself to prove a particular point.

This study was written to focus on Calvin’s heading – perseverance of the saints. In our daily walk it is becoming more and more evident that the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion – but to those who trust in Jesus and are born-again, he is a paper tiger. It is all about perseverance. We know that in the last days when tribulation becomes more insidious and severe we need to trust and persevere. Remember:

Romans 5:1-5

Peace and Joy

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God

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has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

With the above in mind, the Apostle Paul helps and encourages.

Ephesians 3:16-21

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Paul was always thankful to God and a great encourager – encouraging perseverance with rejoicing.

Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of

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righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

I feel very sorry for those who do not know the love of Jesus. When I reflect on end times and the fear that faces the ungodly, I remember what Holy Scripture taught:

2 Timothy 3:1-5

Godlessness in the Last Days

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

2 Peter 2:1-3, 10-12

1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours: 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Making One's Calling and Election Sure.

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Prophecy of Scripture. 12 So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have.

2 Peter 3: 2-3

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2 I want you to recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the command given by our Lord and Saviour through your apostles. 3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires.

How important it is to have perseverance and to have and give Godly, self-sacrificing, selfless love:

Matthew 22:37-40

37 Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

In conclusion and for great encouragement I am reminded again of:

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise to God for a Living Hope. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

REMEMBER GOD'S LOVE AND PROVISION

When we look at all the turmoil in Almighty God's world, we see the devil is fearfully active in his powers of darkness. The devil is destroying our Christian civilizations, heritages and ways of life given to us by God and the sacrifice of our forefathers. I am reminded and reflect again on some Editorials, namely:

Further, the article: ²⁵“The Force in our Midst Defying Almighty God while Christian prelates deny the Power of His Covenant Word” is precisely what I wish to address: ²⁶ “Millions of Christians thinking and commonsense patriotic people today are being hounded out of their peaceable living **by a ‘woke’ culture that is undermining the very foundations of society in the covenant nations.** This may seem to be a very sweeping statement; it is nevertheless true and is a fact that must be faced by discerning minds **as a matter of priority importance.**”

I am still reminded of the wonderful Editorial ²⁷ focusing on the “...mixing ourselves and our laws and culture with other nations and pagan supranational organisations...”

The above highlights the problems of globalist and green state ‘last days’ godless evil fueled by political correctness and an “ ‘unclean’ spiritual onslaught by pro-EU legal Lords”. Will there be a real stand against this as with Churchill’s stand against the

²⁵ The Covenant Nations Vol 5 No 7, 2021 p5

²⁶ The Covenant Nations Vol 5 No 7, 2021 p6

²⁷ The Covenant Nations Volume 5, No. 4 2020 p5

total evils of 1939-1945?

Following is a prayer remembering the service of our forefathers – please pray this with me:

Commemoration of the Fallen

O Lord, through the mouth of your Prophet Ezekiel you declared that all faithful souls are Yours, we Thank You for the brave and faithful dead, who willingly laid down their lives on the battlefield in war or succumbed to the perils of the deep or of the air. We bless you for the dauntless courage of those defenders of our Commonwealth who have fallen in the cause of truth and righteousness. In Your hands, O Father, we leave their departed spirits. **Grant us to follow in their good example in faithfulness and endurance, even unto death, that we may with them be found worthy of the crown of everlasting life. In Jesus' name. Amen. LEST WE FORGET.**

In my book ²⁸ I focus on the decline of our society and the alleged treasonous attitude of many in 'authority'. Again I am thankful to Richard Eason who I again quote in due course.

It is critical to remind ourselves of the truth of who is our temporal leader and **who lawfully holds all authority. The authority of our Lord God of the Holy Bible.**

I am thankful to share some research by Richard Eason, BEc (Hons) jssc, on the principles of leadership and good

²⁸ While Australia Sleeps p55 ff.

government in our Westminster System²⁹:

“The leader heeded the words that God – the One True God of the Holy Bible – spoken through the prophets insomuch that it became established forever in the nation that a leader should:

- Profess faith in Jesus as Saviour and Lord
- Worship regularly with the Church
- Be acclaimed by multitudes, as God's appointed leader, before taking office
- Promise to govern lawfully, justly and mercifully and to maintain God's law and the true message of the Gospel to the utmost of his power
- Regard the Bible as the rule for the whole of life and government; as the most valuable thing that this world affords; and as the lively oracles of God
- Acknowledge publicly that only a powerful anointing of the Holy Spirit can equip a leader for government and preservation of the nation in wealth, peace, Godliness, wisdom and justice
- Seek that powerful anointing before accepting any of the trappings of power and authority by humbly participating in a national Christian service of prayer and worship
- Accept the responsibility to do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the church, help and defend widows and orphans, restore and maintain things fallen into decay, punish and reform what is amiss, and confirm

²⁹ Ibid

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what is in good order

- Desire that kind of sincerity and wisdom which attracts
- God's protection and unites both leader and people.
- Publicly proclaim that the whole world is subject to the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer
- Display the kind of leadership that is rich in faith, blessed in all good works and reigning with the King of kings”.

In Australia we actually have on paper and in reality this leader, as Defender of the Faith – Faith in Our Lord Jesus. What did the Coronation Service protect? Is the service still protecting?

“For over a thousand years the framework of the Coronation service has hardly changed, **yet its details and central message are today kept well hidden from popular view.** The service used for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, for example, descends directly from the service by Archbishop Dunstan at the Coronation of King Edgar at Bath in 973AD.

This means that long before the advent of the Church of England as a denomination, and long before Henry VIII, the Church in England had **so inspired and elevated politics** that the nation adopted this unique, indeed, sublime approach to Christian government and leadership. And its relevance still challenges us in the 21st Century.

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Conceiving this enduring approach to Christian leadership and government is one of the most outstanding achievements in the history of the Church anywhere in the world. And it is part of Australia's heritage. It is as practical as it is spiritual, and is a powerful prophetic statement by the Church to the nation.

God is calling Australian Christians, particularly Ministries, to voice that statement to this generation”.

But does the Church actually care? Unfortunately I believe that the liberal, postmodern, existential, relativistic (evil dualism), neo-tolerant Anglo-Catholic churches who have discarded the Book of Common Prayer 1662 and the 39 Articles **do not really care!** Honestly – **do they truly pray** for the Monarch and government every service?

Eason continues:

“Obviously, the Coronation service of itself cannot turn Monarchs or their advisers into perfect people, but it does reveal clearly the standard. And the standard for Australia is shown by the Coronation service to be nothing less than complete submission of our government, its institutions and leaders, **to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His word.**

When the churches stop being apologetic and stop feeling threatened and when we come out of hiding to proclaim this standard as a settled and accepted part of our national life

and heritage, ordinary Australians will at last have some clear simple guidelines against which to judge political actions and proposals.

Ungodly kings, corrupt judges, malevolent Ministers of the Crown and bad bureaucrats will be seen by the people for what they are.

In the system of government that God has given us, with its strong emphasis on loyalty and servant-hood, the wicked have an Achilles heel: they can never fully implement their policies without grabbing for more power than is legitimately available to loyal servants. This point was well made in a TV documentary entitled “The Royal Family”, when one commentator said that what is important is not the power that the Queen exercises personally, **but the power that she denies to others.”**

Treasonous republicans wake up and trust Almighty God as did our forefathers!

I simply want to add here that many politicians are gradually changing our Federal Constitution by stealth. It was called the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Australia – but now Australian Constitution. I also add that it is a disgrace that politicians push for a republic – **after giving an oath or affirmation of allegiance!** Perhaps I am old fashioned but isn't this actually treason?

Eason continues:

“Demagogues and potential dictators are frustrated and even infuriated by our quaint “old fashioned” loyalty to the Crown. I often smile, for example, as I hear a Prime Minister use the phrase ‘my Government’. Prime Ministers really do know better than to refer to the government as their own, but it frustrates some of them that Section 61 of our Constitution says “The executive power (i.e. government) of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen...” and she says it is **all subject to the Power and Empire of Christ!**”

I truly believe that our Gracious Queen Elizabeth II – our Monarch has been faithful and obedient to Almighty God as promised in the Coronation Service. However will Her heirs be so faithful and obedient? Do they truly, by their lives and doctrine, accept Jesus as Lord – or are their lives trivial pursuits? Under them will the Crown survive? Will they wake up to Godly reality?

Eason continues:

“Ambitious politicians and most of the power lusting media barons would love us to believe that the Prime Minister is the one who holds authority. However, the Constitution of Australia does not even mention either the Prime Minister or the Cabinet.

What a glorious conception of government our forefathers

had: a Royal line appointed by God, publicly in submission to Christ the King of kings, serving the people and ably served by loyal advisers who are in turn responsible to a Parliament which faithfully represents the views of the people to the Crown.

No wonder humanists and ambitious unbelievers in the media and in politics have worked so hard to convince our people that our Monarchy is out of date. If that were true, why would they want to get rid of it?

It has even been suggested that because its roots are in Great Britain, the Monarchy could give offence to those from other countries who have now sought refuge under its protection.

We in Australia have the good fortune to remain under an **authority clearly appointed, and anointed, by the Lord of Hosts. Far from giving offence to new settlers, the Monarchy is one of the clearest examples of the blessings to all people - the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10).**"

Most countries in today's world, have rejected their God-appointed head and adopted some secular humanistic form of government. Having thus removed themselves from the Godly protection of Romans 13:1-4 *"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has*

instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer" (Romans 13:1-4).

What is this truth actually saying?

What if the 'governing authority' changes promises, follows the devil and becomes totally evil?

Failure to obey Almighty God will plunge us into humanistic darkness and be subjected to a succession of ungodly tyrants such as Hitler, Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Idi Amin, Colonel Gaddafi, etc. Surely in 21st century Australia we are wise enough to learn from these mistakes of history! Are we?

"Some may even be tempted to doubt that anti-Christian humanistic forces could grow so powerful in Australia, even in a republican Australia. But consider what Professor Manning Clark is quoted as saying about the late Lionel Murphy: "It had been one of Murphy's aims to dismantle the Judaeo-Christian ethic of Australian society."³⁰ If Australia's churches will obey God's command to pray for the Queen and give honour and loyalty to her, and if we will teach the nation that vital

³⁰ Sydney Morning Herald, 30 Oct 1986, p 8

principles of loving Christian leadership and government are embedded in our Monarchy, the whole humanist programme will be shaken as the light shines on **their sinister grab for illicit power in so many areas.**

One of the most insidious challenges to the Lordship of Christ over our national life, an error that the churches need to expose, is the idea that it is possible to have “secular” government divorced from fundamental Bible truth and belief, NOT:

- a belief in Platonic dualism; or NOT
- a belief that there is no God; or NOT
- a belief that man is sovereign.

Naturally, the so-called “non-theistic religion” of humanism, which is the basis of socialism, has produced some of the strongest advocates of “secular” government.

But government divorced from Bible truth and belief is a complete impossibility. In his book “The Changing Law”, Sir Alfred Denning (now Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls), perhaps the greatest judge of our time, said: “Without Bible truth there is no morality; without morality there is no law. To suggest that one can frame a system of law without reference to moral values is nonsense.”

I thank Eason for his truth.

I am mindful of Jesus' loving care for us and the way that He helps us each step of our way even though we may not know it at the time. You all know, because I have mentioned it several times, that I am encouraged by the words Psalm 121: "I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of Heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip - He who watches over you will not slumber...the LORD will keep you from all harm – He will watch over our life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more." (from Psalm 121).

I give thanks and praise for the joy and encouragement that He helps us in the good times and the bad times.

Hence separation of belief in Holy Scripture and government turning away is a dangerous deception. It disguises the real issue which is this: **whose beliefs will prevail** as the basis of our law and government - **man made guesses, or the word of Almighty God**. God is the One True God - the God of the Holy Bible, not any god.

I thank Him for antidisestablishmentarianism. So, this is a reason to reflect on the thought - 'why Australia Slept' - and the awful, awful reality of what's happening "While Australia sleeps."

Reminder - SALVATION FOR YOU TODAY

Repeated here for emphasis – that you may be a child of God. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8.14.

Let not your Heart be troubled – there is a way out

Prayer in Tongues Empowers Prayer and Limits communication to the Trinity.

I thank Dr Barry Gumm for his insights explaining how a Christian can be totally empowered with power from the Holy Spirit.

We know Jesus is the only way to the Father and for our Salvation.

When praying in the understanding of the language you normally converse in, be it English for example, the devil knows what you are praying.

When praying in the Spirit only the Father and Trinity knows what you are praying as the Holy Spirit makes intercession for you to the Father.

Therefore, your prayer is limited to The Father but through the Father your sealing in the Holy Spirit enabled prayer is so powerful that you can move mountains or problems the size of mountains.

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Isiah 28:11-12

11 Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues
God will speak to this people,

¹² to whom he said,

“This is the resting place, let the weary rest”;
and, “This is the place of repose”—
but they would not listen.

Matthew 24.3-8

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

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6 You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains”.

John 3 – Jesus says how to get saved.

John 3.3-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

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6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Let me explain. Everyone who received the Holy Ghost in the past (since the day of Pentecost and until Jesus returns), that person is by The Holy Spirit enabled to speak in tongues. When the person truly believes Jesus is Lord they are saved, but their power is limited.

That is where the wind blows, for you to hear the sound as the scripture says, where the Holy Spirit is accepted by a person into that person's life, this is the evidence of that acceptance, and they are enabled with the sign and gift of the Holy Spirit, to speak in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in Tongues.

No speaking in Tongues means you have not received the awesome power available in the Holy Spirit or the power of Holy Faith as Jude 20 records.

Again:

Jude 17-21

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18 They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires."

19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

John 4.23-24 – Jesus states how God wants to be worshipped:

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, **for they are the kind of worshipers** the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Let me explain – God the Father actively wants you and everyone to worship Him in God the Holy Spirit – speaking in

tongues which He gives you when you accept Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit into your life, **for these are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

Acts 1.4-8

Jesus says wait to be baptised or immersed in the Holy Spirit

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Then we see the very first pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, just as Jesus had prophesied and promised in John 3.

Acts 2.1-4

120 people initially then 3000 on this day speak in tongues as they are enabled by the Holy Spirit

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Then we see that the Holy Spirit was poured out on non-Jewish people, the Gentiles – you and me.

Acts 10.44-48 - Holy Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

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47 Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

How do we know they received the Holy Spirit back then and today? Verse 46 "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." There is NO other way to receive the Holy Spirit and NO other evidence of receiving The Holy Spirit except to hear someone speak in tongues.

Acts 11.16 – Immersed in the Holy Spirit

16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Jude 20-21

Praying – building or immersing yourself in the Holy Spirit

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

To be clear, to be saved the way Jesus said it is best to be saved if you will, John 3, you must repent of your separation from

God, be Baptized by being fully immersed in water and be Baptised, fully immersed in the Holy Spirit. You will hear the Holy Spirit when you speak in tongues in prayer to God and as John 4:24 says – this is the way God the Father desires and wants you to worship Him.

Why? Why does God seek such worshippers?

John 4.24

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

To speak to someone in a language or read or translate language, primers of that language are needed to enable the process.

The Miriam Learners dictionary explains a “primer” as following:³¹

1 chiefly US : something (such as a book) that provides basic information on a particular subject

The article is an excellent primer on foreign policy.

2 : a small book that helps teach children how to read

So to communicate efficiently, effectively with The Father a primer is needed. God gives us His Primer – God the Holy Spirit. Jesus died so that God could give us The Holy Spirit.

³¹ <https://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/primer>

Acts 1.5

5 For John baptized with a water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1.8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;

Part of the power one receives when the Holy Spirit comes upon you is that you speak in tongues.

Acts 2.4

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

When you receive the Holy Spirit it is He who enables you to communicate in effectual Holy Faith prayer to The Father.

The Holy Spirit provides you with the primer to speak with The Father who is a Spirit. No primer and you do not know how to pray to The Father as you ought to pray or speak with Him.

Romans 8.26

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

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Without the primer, The person, The Holy Spirit you do not know how to express the right communication in the spirit. What a wonderful gift and sign that God has given us, He enables us to speak with Him by God the Holy Spirit the person who intercedes for us.

Jesus died so that we could have this wonderful gift from God the Father.

First God gave us Jesus the Son of God made flesh. Next He gives us the Holy Spirit to enable clear intercession with the Father.

How kind, thoughtful and loving is our God!

In summary to be saved the way Jesus said you must, know the following:

- Repent
- Be Baptised by full immersion
- Be baptised by the Holy Spirit – voice evidence (speaking in Tongues) of this baptism
- To stay saved pray without ceasing, praying in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in tongues. Follow Him and you will receive the gift of Eternal Life.

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Notes: