

Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

December 2007

Neither Could They Blush

By Larry Ray Hafley

"Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15). The brazen sinner is bold. He acts without conscience. His heart is hardened. He is cold blooded. His victims are objects of scorn. He feels no remorse, no pity. He shows no mercy. The Bible describes such people as "having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (1 Tim. 4:2). "Even their mind and conscience is defiled" (Titus 1:15). "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" (Eph. 4:19).

"They were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush." Was Jeremiah defining psychopathic killers? No, he was referring to children of God, "from the prophet even unto the priest" (Jer. 6:13). We would like to think these horrible depictions of sinners are far removed from ourselves. They are not!

Drinking, gambling, immodest dress, and sexual immorality may be engaged in without shame. Women may parade their exposed bodies without any sense of modesty. Men may curse and boast of fornication, noting acts of immorality with pride. Of all such, Paul said, "Whose glory is in their shame" (Phil. 3:19). Each sin serves to smother the pangs of conscience. Before temptation, we hesitate; we doubt; we ponder. Then, we sin. Afterwards, we feel guilty, but we do it again, and again. Sin becomes easier and easier to commit. Finally, we sin without shame, without remorse, without regret.

Return to Jeremiah. "Therefore they shall fall...at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the Lord" (Jer. 6:15). We may choose to sin. We may reach a point where we can sin without fear, without regret, and without shame. We may not even blush when our sins are known. However, when the Lord comes in judgment, we "shall fall." We "shall be cast down, saith the Lord."

Jehovah's Witnesses are WRONG (No. 3)

By Casey Head

In our last article, I addressed the Jehovah's Witnesses rejection of the deity of Jesus Christ. He is not an angel, or "a" god as the Jehovah's Witnesses claim. He is a part of the Godhead (1 Jn. 5:7). Already, we have destroyed the very foundation of the Watchtower Society, but let us continue our examination of the Jehovah's Witnesses by refuting one of their favorite doctrines- paradise earth.

If you have ever encountered a Jehovah's Witness, I'm sure you are familiar with their doctrine of paradise earth. They teach that only 144,000 will make it to heaven, while the rest of the faithful will remain on earth for eternity. The earth will be transformed into a paradise similar to that of Eden in Genesis 2. Animals and humans will dwell together in harmony, and their will be perfection and bliss. We are forced to ask the question- are the Jehovah's Witnesses right when it comes to paradise earth? As I will show, they are dead wrong!

First of all, the New Testament teaches that heaven, not paradise earth, is the reward of all saved people. Jesus speaks sweet words in John 14:2-3: "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you.* And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself: *that where I am, there ye may be also.*" When Jesus returned to heaven (the house of God), He began to prepare it for us (the saved). When He returns, He's going to take the saved to heaven. Colossians 1:5 says, "For the hope *which is laid up for you in heaven.*" Where is our hope? In heaven, not in paradise earth! "To an *inheritance* incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, *reserved in heaven for you.*" (1 Pet. 1:4) Again, heaven is our inheritance, not paradise earth. And then, there is the whole concept of the resurrection and meeting Christ in the air, as seen in 1 Cor. 15:51-52 and 1 Thess. 4:16-17.

Furthermore, when Christ returns, the earth will be destroyed! We are told in 2 Peter 3:10, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." Now, the Jehovah's Witnesses try to get around the plain meaning of this verse by saying that the "governments" and "human systems" will be destroyed, but not the actual earth. But this verse says that the works of the earth *as well as* the earth itself will be burned up and destroyed.

Another pillar of the Watchtower Society has been decimated!

Is there anything that we can do for you
Fill out the form below and mail it to:

"Anchor Of The Soul"
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Check any of the following FREE Bible study offers that interest you.

1. Home Bible study _____
-Choose a day: M T W Th F S
-Choose a time: AM PM
2. Correspondence Course _____
3. Bible Tract/Material _____
-Subject: _____
4. Audio Bible Study _____
5. Sermon CDs _____
-Subject: _____

**In order for you to receive the material that you have requested, please provide a way for us to contact you.
Thanks!**

Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Email: _____
Address: _____

Bible Trivia

Religious Days of the Old Testament:

1. Which feast commemorated the Jews' wandering in the wilderness prior to their entrance into Canaan?
2. Which two-day feast commemorated the lawful rise of the Jews against the Persians under the reign of Ahasuerus?
3. This seven-day period was related to the Passover.
4. What Jewish holiday occurred fifty days after the Passover?
5. The year of Jubilee was observed how often?

Religious Holidays of the New Testament:

1. What religious holidays are authorized in the doctrine of Christ?
2. What does Paul say about the observance of religious holidays in the book of Galatians?

Challenge Question:

10. What Bible principles can be applied to modern dancing?

Bible Fact:

The scheme of the Bible is redemption. We see the first promise of redemption in Genesis 3:15 when Adam and Eve were thrust from the tree of life. Throughout the Bible, God's eternal plan unfolds until eventually Christ comes in the "fullness of times" (Gal. 4:4). Through the blood of Christ we can again access the tree of life (Rev. 22:14).

Answers:

1. Feast of tabernacles/booths (Lev. 23:42-43); feast of Purim (Esther 9:18-32); feast of unleavened bread (Lev. 23:6-8); Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-22); every fiftieth year (Lev. 25:8-17); no religious holidays are authorized; the observance of religious holidays lead to vain religion (Gal. 4:10-11; cf. Col. 2:14-16)

Challenge Question ANSWER From October 2007:

No, there will not be different levels of rewards in heaven. There are not different levels of perfection, and furthermore, to say that we can "earn" rewards in heaven denies the grace and mercy of God, for heaven cannot be earned. The parable of the hired laborers denies different levels of rewards (Mt. 20:1-16).

-Daily Bible Reading Schedule- December 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Dan. 9-10	Zeph. 1-2
2	Dan. 11-12	Zeph. 3
3	Gen. 1	Haggai 1-2
4	Gen. 2	Zechariah 1-2
5	Gen. 3	Zech. 3-4
6	Gen. 6	Zech. 5-6
7	Gen. 7-8	Zech. 7-8
8	Gen. 9	Zech. 9-10
9	Gen. 11	Zech. 11-12
10	Gen. 12	Zech. 13-14
11	Gen. 19	Mal. 1-2
12	Gen. 22	Mal. 3-4
13	Gen. 49	Mt. 3-4
14	Gen. 50	Mt. 5
15	Ex. 3	Mt. 6
16	Ex. 12	Mt. 7
17	Ex. 14	Mt. 13
18	Ex. 20	Mt. 15
19	Ex. 32	Mt. 23
20	Lev. 10	Mt. 25
21	Num. 13-14	Mt. 26
22	Num. 16	Mt. 27
23	Deut. 6	Mt. 28
24	Deut. 28	Lk. 16
25	Josh. 2	Jn. 6
26	Josh. 5-6	Jn. 10
27	Jud. 7	Jn. 11
28	1 Sam. 16	Jn. 14-15
29	1 Sam. 17	Jn. 17
30	1 Kin. 3, 11	Jn. 18
31	1 Kin. 18	Ac. 1

NOTE: For previous Bible reading schedules, please contact us and we will provide them to you free of charge.

“Anchor Of The Soul” is distributed monthly by the **Spruce Pine church of Christ**. We are a non-denominational church whose primary goal is to follow the New Testament pattern. Below, you will find our meeting times and the location of our building.

Meeting Times

Sunday

Bible Class.....10:00 AM

Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

Evening Worship.....6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class.....7:00 PM

Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. If you turn onto 226 South from Hwy 19, drive past Don Smith Ford/Subaru to the top of the hill. McHone Road will be on your right. Once you turn onto McHone Road, we are the second driveway on the right. You will see the sign on the top of the hill.

This issue marks one full year of “Anchor of the Soul.” Twelve issues have been mailed out, and our mailing list has grown to several hundred not only in western North Carolina, but all across the southeast! We thank you for your interest in this free monthly publication, and we hope that you will continue to benefit from the Bible-centered articles and activities. If you would like to order any of the back-issues of “Anchor of the Soul” (free of charge), or if we can do anything for you, please let us know. We are here to help! -CH

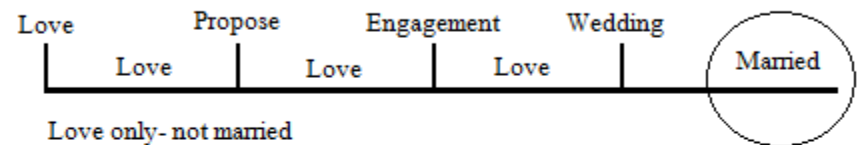
their faith) and be “**baptized into Christ...into His death.**” (Rom. 6:3-5; cf. Gal. 3:26-27) If one is saved by faith **only**, then baptism is not necessary for salvation, but Jesus (Mk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-19), Paul (Rom. 6; Gal. 3), Peter (Ac. 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21), and Ananias (Ac. 22:16) say that it is!

The point is this: a person is married when they act upon their love and get married and a person is saved when they act upon their faith and obey the gospel (Mt. 7:21). Man is saved by an active, obedient faith (Heb. 11:1; Gal. 5:6) that motivates him to meet the conditions of salvation stipulated in the word of God. A passive faith will no more effect our salvation than the faith of the rulers among the Jews who “did not confess Him” (Jn. 12:42-43), or the faith of the demons who tremble (Jas. 2:19).

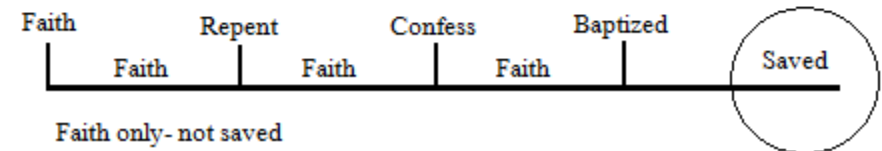
Yes, when two people get married, they are married **because of their love**, and when a person is saved from their sins, they are saved **because of their faith**, but not until they **consummate** their faith by repenting, confessing, being baptized, and being faithful in their service to God. Praise God for salvation that comes by faith!

The following chart corresponds with this article...

Married because of love:



Saved because of faith:



We WANT to help you!

Do you or anyone you know struggle in any of the following areas? Circle any that may apply.

Marital problems

Drugs or alcohol

Gambling

Troubled teen(s)

Depression

Contemplating suicide

Anger

Pornography

Other- _____

Understand that Jesus Christ is the only true answer to these problems.

Are you ready to take that first step? If so, then cut out this coupon and mail it to P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. Or call us at (828)467-1463.

He Still Loves Us

There is a strange power in the consciousness of being loved...it is said that one of the most distinguished statesmen of the times of the American revolution was once a hopeless drunkard. He had been engaged to a beautiful girl, but his dissipation had compelled her to break the engagement and sever herself from his influence, which was dragging her down. She had not ceased to love him, or to pray for him. One day, she was passing along a suburban road. She saw him lying intoxicated by the sidewalk, his face exposed to the broiling, blistering sun, and swollen with drink and exposure. Her tender heart was moved, and, as she passed by, she took her handkerchief and gently spread it over his stupid, sleeping face. An hour or two later he awoke and saw the handkerchief and her name upon the corner of it. He sprang to his feet, and a glad thrill of hope and courage came to his heart. "She loves me still," he said, "all is not yet lost. For her sake I will redeem my life." And he did. Oh, how much more power there is in the love of Christ to save lost men from despair, if they can only believe that He loves them!

-A.B. Simpson
in the Alliance Weekly

Do You Want To Subscribe?

Perhaps you are reading this newsletter while sitting in the waiting room at the hospital, or maybe you found it while waiting to have your hair cut. If you would like to subscribe to "Anchor Of The Soul" for FREE, all you have to do is fill out the form below and mail this coupon to the following address...

P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Name: _____

Address: _____

Would you like to sign up any friends or family members? If so, write down their names and addresses and send them to the address listed above. Again, this is absolutely FREE!

Lightning Lesson

Calvinism, a false system of theology that is prevalent in the religious world today, says that God foreordained before the world began all that would eventually come to pass. This false doctrine is partially rooted in a misunderstanding of God's sovereignty. Calvinists believe that in order for God to be truly sovereign, He must be in control of everything that happens. In other words, God must determine the outcome. In this short lesson, let us consider a few biblical examples where God changed His mind because of the choices of men. Genesis 6:6 says, "And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart." Just prior to the flood, we see that God regretted the fact that He had made man. Similarly, God "repented that He had made Saul king over Israel." (1 Sam. 15:35) Finally, in Jonah 3:10, it is recorded, "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not." Undoubtedly, God is sovereign, but He certainly does not control the decisions that men make. We have free-will (Josh. 24:15).