

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

# Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

September 2007

## Take God's Warnings Seriously

By Byron Smith

God had determined to destroy the city of Sodom. However, before this destruction came, God sent two angels into the city to warn Lot of the imminent judgment. The angels spoke to Lot, saying, "Take them out of this place! For we will destroy this place, because the outcry against them has grown great before the face of the LORD, and the LORD has sent us to destroy it." (Gen. 19:12-13) Lot then passed this warning on onto his sons-in-law, "but to his sons-in-law he seemed to be joking." They did not take the warning seriously. They thought their father-in-law was joking, but he was not (Gen. 19:24). Indeed, this is a sad story. The warning had been given and they were able to avoid destruction, but they failed to take the warning seriously. The scriptures are full of warnings that relate to our spiritual well-being, but how often do we find ourselves reading these warnings in a casual way?

Consider the warning given by Peter. "Be Sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (1 Pet. 5:8) Yes, we have an enemy: the devil! He is real and he will devour us if we do not take this warning seriously!

Jesus issued a solemn warning when He spoke of "hell...where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched." (Mk. 9:43-44) The fate of the unsaved is miserable and tragic, but can be avoided if one will take this warning seriously and make preparations.

James warned, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (Jas. 1:22) Perhaps you read the scriptures often and know them well, but have failed to make application to your life. Have you deceived yourself into thinking that heaven awaits you?

Do we fail to comprehend the significance of these warnings? Do we ignore the obvious applications that we could make in our own lives? It is likely that we have been guilty of all the above. To say it mildly, **we need to take God's warnings seriously!**

## Bible Trivia

### The Death of Jesus (Matthew account):

1. What notable prisoner was released instead of Jesus?
2. Who was compelled to bear the cross of Jesus?
3. When did darkness appear over all the land?
4. When Jesus said "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani," who did the onlookers think He was calling to?
5. What was torn in two when Jesus died?

### True or False (1 Corinthians):

6. Paul commended the Corinthians for their denominational mindset.
7. Paul commanded that tongue speaking be left out of the assembly unless there was an interpreter (so that all could be edified).

### Challenge Question:

8. Are Christians bound to observe any dietary restrictions under the law of Christ? If so, what are they? What about the dietary restrictions given in the law of Moses?

### Bible Fact:

The Bible was written by over 40 authors over a span of 1500 years. It was written on three continents in three different languages. It was written during times of war and times of peace by men from different walks of life...yet it is perfectly consistent! This is a testament to the divine inspiration of the Bible!

### Answers:

1. Barabbas (Mt. 27:26); 2. Simon of Cyrene (Mt. 27:32); 3. From the sixth hour until the ninth hour (Mt. 27:45); 4. Elijah (Mt. 27:47); 5. The veil of the temple (Mt. 27:51); 6. False (1:10-13, 3:3); 7. True (14:27-28)

### Challenge Question ANSWER From July 2007:

The natural flow of Genesis 1 indicates that the world was created in six literal days. For example, Genesis 1:5 says, "So the evening and the morning were the first day." This language is clear. There is no reason to allegorize the creation account, nor is there any reason to believe that these days were symbolic of eons of time. If we simply accept what the scriptures teach, we have a literal creation account. Let us not compromise the scriptures just so that we can say, "I'm not stupid, I believe in evolution." The theory of evolution is false and unproved!

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# Books “Missing” From the Bible?

By Ethan Longhenry

In recent times we have seen an explosion of material alleging that the Bible that we have is incomplete. Many theories have been advanced that speak of all kinds of other books that were "banned" from the Bible, "taken out" of the Bible, and other such ideas, and that such was done by the Catholics in the fourth century. Perhaps you have heard something about these stories, read some of the information, or perhaps have seen the television shows. Maybe you are wondering: were there books taken out of the Bible? Can we trust the Bible?

We should first say that yes, there are books claiming to be gospels or letters of Apostles or other such works that were written in the second through fourth centuries. These books are not present in the Bible. It is important to note, however, exactly why these books are not present in the Bible. They were excluded from the Bible, not because they were banned from it or taken out of it by some conspiring Catholics, but because they were not written by the Apostles, and more often than not, were written by a group of heretics called the Gnostics.

The Gnostics were people who mixed Greek philosophy and Christianity and developed a religion unsuitable to either. On the Christian end, they were roundly condemned even in the New Testament on account of their denial that Jesus was really a man, that He really died, and that the God of the Old Testament is the one true God. We can read about such matters in 2 Timothy 2:16-18, John 1:1-18; 1 John 1:1; 1 John 4:2-3; and 2 John 1:7, where both Paul and John teach against the ideas that the resurrection was past and that Jesus was not born in the flesh. Both concepts were present in Gnosticism and featured in the various gospels and other works attributed to them. We can see why, then, the Gnostic writings were rejected.

In the end, we must recognize that these books are not in the Bible because they have no right to be in the Bible. They were not written by inspired men, the majority of them were written by people who were trying to advance views contrary to those found in the New Testament, and they were rejected on the basis of sound deliberation, and rejected as soon as they were written. Let us not be disturbed in our faith because of these books. We can be confident in the Bible.

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# -Daily Bible Reading Schedule- September 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Neh. 9-10	Ps. 119:145-176
2	Neh. 11-12	Ps. 120-121
3	Neh. 13	Ps. 122-123
4	Esther 1-2	Ps. 124-125
5	Esther 3-4	Ps. 126-127
6	Esther 5-6	Ps. 128-129
7	Esther 7-8	Ps. 130-131
8	Esther 9-10	Ps. 132-133
9	Job 1-2	Ps. 134-135
10	Job 3-4	Ps. 136-137
11	Job 5-6	Ps. 138-139
12	Job 7-8	Ps. 140-141
13	Job 9-10	Ps. 142-143
14	Job 11-12	Ps. 144-145
15	Job 13-14	Ps. 146-147
16	Job 15-16	Ps. 148-150
17	Job 17-18	Prov. 1-2
18	Job 19-20	Prov. 3-4
19	Job 21-22	Prov. 5-6
20	Job 23-24	Prov. 7-8
21	Job 25-26	Prov. 9-10
22	Job 27-28	Prov. 11-12
23	Job 29-30	Prov. 13-14
24	Job 31-32	Prov. 15-16
25	Job 33-34	Prov. 17-18
26	Job 35-36	Prov. 19-20
27	Job 37	Prov. 21-22
28	Job 38	Prov. 23-24
29	Job 39-40	Prov. 25-26
30	Job 41-42	Prov. 27-28

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

## What's in a Name?

By Andy Mitchell

*Some people say there is nothing in a name. NOT SO!*

- **Practical Uses:** If there is nothing in a name, then should I write you a check, but not sign my name to it? How could you get a birth certificate, drivers license, diploma, or call for pizza? You see, nobody thinks such nonsense until it comes to religion.
- **Name Changes.** If there is nothing in a name, why did God change the name of Abram to Abraham (Gen. 17:5), Sarai to Sarah (Gen. 17:15), and Jacob to Israel (Gen. 32:28)?
- **What a Name Says:** Would you name a country restaurant, "Buddha's Garden"? If a name means nothing, would you name your son Hitler, or daughter Jezebel? "A good name is better than precious ointment." (Eccl. 7:1; see also Pro. 22:1)
- **God's Name:** His name is holy and reverend (Ps. 111:9), and endures forever (Ps. 135:13). His name is not to be despised (Mal. 1:6), taken in vain (Ex. 20:7), nor profaned (Lev. 19:12), but it is to be loved (Ps. 69:36), praised (Ps. 54:6), and exalted (Ps. 34:3).
- **Jesus' Name:** His name is "above every name" (Phil. 2:9), to which "every knee shall bow" (Phil. 2:10) and "every tongue shall confess" (Phil. 2:11). We may have "life through his name" (Jn. 20:31). In fact, there is "none other name" for salvation (Ac. 4:12).
- **Our Name:** Jesus' followers bear HIS name and are called "CHRISTIANS" (Ac. 11:26; 26:28; 1 Pet. 4:16). None were ever called, "Mormon", "Methodist", "Presbyterian", "Catholic", "Episcopalian", "Jehovah's Witness", "Baptist", etc. If you are married to Christ, wear his name, and his name ONLY! Is your name in the Book of Life?

**"Jehovah's Witnesses Quick Reference Guide"** This is a new booklet being offered by the Spruce Pine church of Christ. And it is FREE! To order, cut out this coupon and mail it to **P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, NC 28777.**

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## Delayed Baptism

By Larry Hafley

Protestant denominationalism engages in an unscriptural practice when it sanctions "delayed baptism." Over a period of weeks, people will come forward to "accept Christ," and when they indicate a desire to be baptized, they are told to wait for a day which has been set aside for the "baptismal ceremony." The sincerity of some is questioned when their baptism is thus delayed.

This probation period before baptism is not in harmony with the New Testament. If someone thinks differently, will he send the appropriate passages which prove to the contrary?

After one has heard the truth and learns what he "must do" to be saved, his baptism must follow immediately if he is desirous of adhering to the divine pattern of the word of God (2 Thess. 2:15; 2 Tim. 1:13). To go outside or beyond the doctrine of Christ is to walk without God (2 Jn. 9). Hence, if you cannot read of "procrastinated baptism" in the Bible, do you dare practice it?

Note a few examples of "instant baptism" rather than the "delayed baptism" of man:

- "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...Then they that gladly received his word were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" (Ac. 2:38, 41).
- Philip also preached Jesus to the Ethiopian treasurer, and immediately tended to his baptism. They did not even wait for a church to vote on him (Ac. 8:35-39)!
- Further, the jailer at Philippi heard the word of the Lord about midnight and was baptized the "same hour of the night" (Ac. 16:33).
- The believing, penitent, persecutor Saul, was told what he "must do" (Acts 9:6). "Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). What was his response? Did he wait for a special baptismal service? Did he have to wait until "church officials" approved of his faith? No, rather, he "arose, and was baptized" (Acts 9:18).

Many Protestant churches claim to cling to the Bible as their "only rule of faith and practice." Will someone in those churches find the "rule" for the "practice" of delayed baptism? If they cannot do so, will they renounce it without delay?

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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.

## Honoring A Name

The story is told of a soldier in the army of Alexander the Great, who was brought before the great world-conqueror for a court martial. When the emperor had listened to the charges and the evidence, he turned to the soldier facing condemnation, and said, "what is your name?" "Alexander!" was the reply. Again the emperor questioned, "What is your name?" And the second time the soldier answered, "Alexander!" With a cry of rage, the emperor roared, "I say, what is your name?" And when the soldier answered for the third time, "Alexander!" the great general angrily replied, "You say your name is Alexander? You are found guilty of your crime as charged, and now you must pay the penalty. *Either change your conduct or change your name, for no man can bear the name of Alexander, my name, and do the things that you have done.*"

-Donald J. MacKay

"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. Call us at (828)467-1463 if you have any questions, or visit us online at [www.LookingToJesus.com](http://www.LookingToJesus.com).

### 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.

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## Did Jesus Fail? (No. 3)

By Casey Head

The question is simple- did Jesus succeed in establishing His kingdom when He came to this earth the first time, or did He fail? Many religious people are saying that Jesus failed miserably and that the events of the cross and the subsequent establishment of the church were not according to God’s eternal plan. In this third article, let us show that Jesus, while He was living, anticipated the events of the cross. In other words, His death at Calvary was not “Plan B” but the very reason He came to this world. His sacrifice not only fulfilled Old Testament prophecy, but it harmonized with His own words.

Psalm 22 begins with the powerful words of David, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me.” If you recall, Jesus echoed these very words while on the cross, therefore establishing a direct connection between Psalm 22 and His death. The entire psalm mirrors perfectly the events of Jesus’ suffering and death. Verses 16-18 say, “They pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” This prophecy was fulfilled in the death of Jesus (Mt. 27:35; Jn. 19:36).

And what about Isaiah 53? “All we like sheep have gone astray” but “for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death.” (vv. 6, 8-9) Who can deny the relationship between Isaiah 53 and the death of Christ?

Not only did the prophets of the Old Testament foretell the death of Jesus Christ, but Jesus Himself foretold the events of the cross. He compared Himself with Jonah in Matthew 12:40, saying that He would be in the belly of the earth for three days and nights. He told the people in John 12:31-32 that He would be cast out of the world and lifted up from the earth. He knew that He would be crucified (vv. 33). Finally, Matthew 16:21 says, “From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto His disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things...and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”

Jesus did not come to this world to set up a physical kingdom. He came to die for the sins of the world and to establish a spiritual kingdom (Jn. 18:36-37) according to God’s eternal plan.

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## Lightning Lesson

Jesus told the Jews in John 10:27-28, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” This verse is often twisted to teach the doctrine of “once saved, always saved.” Many turn to verse 28 to show that Christians, once they are saved, can never possibly perish spiritually, even if they revert back into a state of sin. But that is not Jesus’ point! Notice verse 29: “My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My hand.” The point is unmistakable- nothing can take us away from God against our will. No man can take us away from salvation! Only we can make that choice! As seen in verse 27, in order to remain in the flock of God, we must “hear” and “follow.” What happens when a Christian *chooses* not to hearken or follow? They have left the fold. Let us not focus on verse 28 alone while ignoring the context. Yes, Christians have been promised eternal life, but Christ expects us to hear His voice and obey it. The choice is ours!