



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

# Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

March 2007

## Speak As The Oracles Of God (No. 2)

by Casey Head

I have a beautiful daughter named Jenna Grace, and my wife and I take our responsibility in raising her very seriously. While she is not quite old enough to comprehend and obey complex commands, I imagine that there will come a day when I will tell her to clean her room. In order for Jenna to obey this specific command, what will she have to do? Set the table for dinner? Clean the bathroom? Those things may be good deeds, but in order for her to be obedient to my command, she will have to clean her room. That is a specific instruction.

In religion, it is the same way. God gives us specific commands, and we are told in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 that those who fail to obey God's instructions will face "everlasting destruction." We cannot substitute other "good deeds" in place of what God has commanded and then say that we are faithful to Him. The Lord instructed Noah to build an ark of gopherwood (Gen. 6:14). This was a specific command, and it excluded the building of rafts as well as the use of other types of wood.

We may be good people, and our intentions may be "good," but when we fail to submit to God's commands, the result is that we have sinned (1 Jn. 3:4; Rom. 6:23). Understand that the commands of God are **exclusive!** We do not need a "thou shalt not" to know that something is wrong.

Doesn't God deserve our utmost obedience?

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# Cancer And Surgery—Sin And Salvation

by Byron Smith

Suppose with me that a person is diagnosed with a severe form of cancer. Such that demands a surgical removal or it will surely cause death. This person is financially unable to afford the necessary surgery and has no health insurance. Further suppose that a cancer surgeon hears of the person's dire situation and has such compassion that he agrees to perform the operation at no cost. The cancer patient is simply required to show up for the operation. Would anyone suppose that this patient had earned the good favor of the surgeon? **Certainly not!** The surgeon was in no way obligated to the patient. The patient was in every way indebted to the surgeon. But remember, the surgeon did make one simple demand: show up for the operation. Benefitting from the good favor of the surgeon was contingent upon the patient's willingness to comply with that one condition. If the patient stubbornly refused to comply, they would of their own choice die of cancer.

Mankind has the dreadful disease of sin eating away at his soul (Rom. 3:23). This disease is so severe that it must be removed; or an eternal spiritual death will occur (Rom. 6:23). Mankind, of his own faculties, is completely unable to cure himself (Eph. 2:8-9). Only the "great physician" (Matt. 9:12), Jesus Christ, is able to remove sin from the soul. Because of His mercy and grace He agreed to the task, yet He stated the **conditions** of the salvation He so freely gives. He demands that we hear His word (Rom. 10:17), believe that He is Lord (Jn. 8:24), repent of our sins (Lk. 13:3), confess our faith in Him (Rom. 10:9-10) and be buried with Him in baptism "for the remission of sins" (Rom. 6:3-5; Ac. 2:38). By complying with these conditions has man **earned** salvation? **Certainly not!** Nor does the **necessity of compliance** to receive salvation (Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9) negate the fact that salvation is by His grace (Eph. 2:5).

Jesus said, "when you have done all those things which you are **commanded**, say, 'We are **unprofitable servants**. We have done what was our **duty** to do.'" (Lk. 17:19) There are things man is "commanded" to do. These things are man's "duty." Yet when we

(This article continued on next page...)

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## **The Dread**

### **Awakening**

James 4:13-15

A distinguished professor of psychology once told his class of a striking case of somnambulism. It was that of a man who, one night went downstairs to the door of the house in which he dwelt, and yet he was asleep all the time. He opened the door and stepped out into the street, and so strong was the somnambulistic trance that still he slept. He passed along the street and out into the open country, and still he slept. Not till his naked feet touched a little stream that crossed his path did he awaken to the darkness of the night and the strange, unfamiliar scene.

There are souls like that. They never awaken till they touch the cold waters of death, and feel the night winds of mortality arouse them to the darkness of their night and the strange, unfamiliar scenes of eternity and judgement.

-W.M. Mackay

(Article continued from previous page...)

have done those things we are still “unprofitable servants” in dire need of God’s grace. God is in no way obligated to man. Man is in every way indebted to God.

Remember, however, that He has stated the conditions of salvation, the terms of pardon, and **demands that those conditions be met in order to receive salvation.** Benefitting from the mercy and grace of God is contingent upon man’s willingness to comply with the conditions given in His word. Failure to do so will seal the fate of man’s soul to an eternal separation from God (II. Thess. 1:8-9). Though these truths run counter to denominational views, I urge you to search the scriptures to see what God actually says and listen to Him (Ac. 17:11).

Do you wonder where all the churches came from?

Is it possible to be a Christian only?

Can we achieve unity in doctrine and practice?

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## Daily Bible Reading Schedule- April 2007

## Salvation Essentials (No. 3)

by Sonny Smith

Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven, but whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.” (Matt. 10:32-33) Just what role does confession play in God’s plan of salvation, and what does this confession consist of?

A false concept is held among many denominations in that they require their potential members to confess “that God, for Christ’s sake, has pardoned my sins.” This confession is invented by men and foreign to the pages of God’s word.

In Romans 10:9-10, the apostle Paul states, “that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth *the Lord Jesus*, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Confession is a part of the plan of salvation, and it is easy to determine where it fits in. In the eighth chapter of Acts, as Philip preached to the Ethiopian eunuch, they came to a certain water and the eunuch said, “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” Philip replied, “If thou believeth with all thine heart, thou mayest,” And he (the eunuch) answered and said, *‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’* Following his confession, the eunuch was baptized by Philip the evangelist.

Romans 10:9-10 and Acts 8:36-37 are two examples that God approves of, and we don’t have to guess about it. We are confessing our faith in Christ Jesus! However, just saying that “Jesus is the Christ” is not enough. It must be a deep, genuine conviction that truly comes from the heart.

Is confession essential to salvation? Absolutely!

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Deut. 25-26	Phil. 3-4
2	Deut. 27-28	Col. 1-2
3	Deut. 29-30	Col. 3-4
4	Deut. 31-32	1 Thess. 1-2
5	Deut. 33-34	1 Thess. 3-4
6	Josh. 1-2	1 Thess. 5
7	Josh. 3-4	2 Thess. 1-2
8	Josh. 5-6	2 Thess. 3
9	Josh. 7-8	1 Tim. 1-2
10	Josh. 9-10	1 Tim. 3-4
11	Josh. 11-12	1 Tim. 5-6
12	Josh. 13-14	2 Tim. 1-2
13	Josh. 15-16	2 Tim. 3-4
14	Josh. 17-18	Titus 1-3
15	Josh. 19-20	Philemon 1
16	Josh. 21-22	Heb. 1
17	Josh. 23-24	Heb. 2
18	Judg. 1-2	Heb. 3
19	Judg. 3-4	Heb. 4
20	Judg. 5-6	Heb. 5
21	Judg. 7-8	Heb. 6
22	Judg. 9-10	Heb. 7
23	Judg. 11-12	Heb. 8
24	Judg. 13-14	Heb. 9
25	Judg. 15-16	Heb. 10
25	Judg. 17-18	Heb. 11
27	Judg. 19-20	Heb. 12
28	Judg. 21	Heb. 13
29	Ruth 1-2	Jam. 1-2
30	Ruth 3-4	Jam. 3-5

Contact us to receive previous Bible reading schedules.

# A Plea For Bible Studies

by Casey Head

You know, it's hard to find people anymore who are willing to study the Bible. I have asked countless people and "pastors" if they would be willing to get together for a Bible study, and few have agreed. But why on earth would anyone refuse to study the Bible? After all, we are told in 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Shouldn't it be our aspiration to know more about the word of God?

People today have become so apathetic when it comes to searching for the truth. They are content to remain where they are—going to some church occasionally and doing a good deed every now and then. Rarely do people study. We are content to "go with the flow" and to never question common practice. Society is constantly telling us, "don't tell anyone that they are wrong," and I hear from people all the time, "it doesn't matter what you believe or what church you go to."

Don't get me wrong, it is difficult to change. Regularity may be fine when it comes to the kind of cereal we eat every morning or the time that we wake up and go to bed, but in the realm of religion, change is sometimes necessary. It is possible to believe falsehood and error (i.e. Ac. 19:1-7).

It is noble to step out of our comfort zone in search of the truth of God. In fact, it is vital to do so, as our soul may very well depend on it! We should be like the Bereans in Acts 17:11 who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily." Are you willing to do that?

I have a series of Bible studies that I like to have with people in their home. All I want is to sit down with you and have a cordial Bible-centered discussion. Maybe you will learn something new about the word of God. Maybe you can help me. Either way, let's work together to further our understanding of God's will.

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## LIGHTNING LESSON

Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 concerning the second coming of Christ, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." While this passage is often misused to support the "rapture" doctrine, it actually denies the concept of a secretive, silent return of Christ. In verse 16, we are told that Jesus will descend with a **shout**, the **voice of the archangel**, and with the **trump of God**. The return of Christ will be anything but secretive and silent. Consider also 1 Cor. 15:52. According to Revelation 1:7, "**every eye shall see Him**," and in John 5:28 it says, "For the hour is coming, in the which **all** that are in the graves shall hear His voice." It will be loud! It will be visible!

# Fulfilled Prophecy

by Andy Mitchell

The Bible is 100% accurate! Its prophecies and fulfillment testify to it. It's full of them. Consider those just about Jesus! Here's half of a list of 60 predictions made 1000 years before Christ came (from www.bible.ca ; more next article).

## Concerning His Birth

1. Born of woman's seed
2. Born of a virgin
3. Seed of Abraham
4. Seed of Isaac
5. Seed of Jacob
6. Seed of David
7. Tribe of Judah
8. Family line of Jesse
9. Born in Bethlehem
10. Herod kills the children

## Concerning His Nature

11. He pre-existed creation
12. He shall be called Lord
13. Called Immanuel
14. Prophet
15. Priest
16. Judge
17. King
18. Anointed by the Spirit
19. His zeal for God

## Concerning His Ministry

20. Preceded by messenger
21. To begin in Galilee
22. Ministry of miracles
23. Teacher of parables
24. He would enter temple
25. Ride donkey to Jerusalem
26. Stumbling stone to Jews
27. Light to Gentiles

## Propheesied

- Gen. 3:15  
Isa. 7:14  
Gen. 22:18  
Gen. 21:12  
Num. 24:17  
Jer. 23:5  
Gen. 49:10  
Isa. 11:1  
Mic. 5:2  
Jer. 31:15

## Propheesied

- Mic. 5:2  
Ps. 110:1  
Isa. 7:14  
Deut. 18:18-19  
Ps. 110:4  
Isa. 33:22  
Ps. 2:6  
Isa. 11:2  
Ps. 69:9

## Propheesied

- Isa. 40:3  
Isa. 9:1-2  
Isa. 35:5-6  
Ps. 78:1-4  
Mal. 3:1  
Zech. 9:9  
Isa. 28:16  
Isa. 49:6

## Fulfilled

- Gal. 4:4  
Mt. 1:18-25  
Mt. 1:1  
Lk. 3:23+34  
Lk. 3:34  
Lk. 3:31  
Rev. 5:5  
Lk. 3:32  
Mt. 2:1-6  
Mt. 2:16-18

## Fulfilled

- 1 Pet. 1:20  
Ac. 2:36  
Mt. 1:22-23  
Ac. 3:18-25  
Heb. 5:5-6  
Jn. 5:22-23  
Jn. 18:33-37  
Mt. 3:16-17  
Jn. 2:15-17

## Fulfilled

- Mt. 3:1-3  
Mt. 4:12-17  
Mt. 9:35;11:4  
Mt. 13:34-35  
Mt. 21:10-12  
Mt. 21:1-7  
1 Pet. 2:6-8  
Ac. 13:46-48

# Test Your Bible Knowledge

## The Churches Of Revelation 1-3 (*answers below*)

1. Which two churches were not rebuked at all?
2. How does Christ conclude His message to each of the seven churches of Asia?
3. Which church stood against false apostles?
4. Is it possible for an entire church to cease being a church in the eyes of God?
5. What were the churches told to do with false teachers and false doctrines?

## Name That Bible Location: (*answer below*)

6. Where was Paul bitten by a venomous snake?
7. Where did Jesus encounter the centurion who had more faith than any in Israel?

## Challenge Question: (*answer in next issue*)

8. Nine of the ten commandments are restated in the New Testament. Which one is not?

## Bible Fact:

Perhaps you have heard the phrase "apple of my eye." Did you know that it originated in the Bible? (Ps. 17:8)

## Answers:

1. Smyrna, Philadelphia (2:8-11; 3:7-13); 2. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22); 3. Ephesus (2:2); 4. Yes (2:5); 5. Put them away (2:14-16, 20-23); 6. Melita (Acts 28:1-5); 7. Capernaum (Lk. 7:1-10).

## Challenge Question ANSWER From March 2007:

The tabernacle of the Old Testament represented the necessity of sacrifice and holiness (Lev. 1-9; Ex. 26:33-34). In Hebrews 8:2, 5-6, the church is compared to the tabernacle. The physical tabernacle of the Old has been replaced by a new, spiritual house. Christians are a holy priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5).