



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

# Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

March 2007

## Reasoning For The Rebellious

by Byron Smith

In Isaiah 1:18-20, the prophet calls upon a rebellious people to “reason together” with him. We might suspect that rebellious people would be impossible to reason with, but apparently this is not always the case for this is the very thing the prophet is trying to do. Based on our text, how should we appeal to the rebellious?

① **How unnecessary it is to remain in sin-** “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool”- God is willing to remove any and all sin! Sin contaminates our spiritual being, yet God will purify our souls. Please read Lk. 23:34; 1 Tim. 1:15; Heb. 8:12.

② **The conditional nature of God’s good blessings-** “If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land.” “If” is a powerful word, and it emphasizes here that our relationship with God is contingent upon our response to His word. We must be “willing” (we have a choice) and “obedient” (which is willingness put into action). Please read Jn. 5:40; Matt. 23:37; 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9.

③ **There are consequences in refusing compliance with God’s will-** “But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword.” As long as the disobedient refuse to repent, there is no hope for them. “The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; *but He will by no means clear the guilty...*” (Num. 14:18). Please read Rom. 11:22; 2 Thess. 1:8-9.

④ **The surety of what has been spoken-** “For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” It is beyond question or doubt to Isaiah that God would forgive the sins of those willing to obey Him. It is equally absolute to the prophet that God would judge their failure to do so. Why is he so sure? Because this message was from the “mouth of the Lord.” Please read Titus 1:2.

# Speak As The Oracles Of God (No. 1)

by Casey Head

One of the most neglected subjects in the religious world today is Bible authority. If all religious people understood this subject, there would be much less division, as there is just one New Testament pattern. Let us prove that the Bible is the only standard to which Christians are bound.

The people of Israel were instructed in Deuteronomy 4:1, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye make keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you." Likewise, in Proverbs 30:5-6, "Every word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in Him. Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." In both of these Old Testament passages, God's people were instructed to perfectly follow His word-not to add or take away from it. They were to act ONLY within the confines of His law. Most people do not realize that it is the same in the New Testament.

Just prior to His ascension into heaven, Jesus told His apostles, "All authority is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," and we are told in Colossians 3:17, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus." Our standard of faith is Christ! We must do what He says, and abstain from what He has not commanded. The words of Christ will judge us in the last day (John 12:48). In Galatians 1:6-10, Christians are commanded not to heed any other gospel, and as seen in 1 Peter 4:11 we must "speak as the oracles of God." It should be clear that when Christians seek to justify or authorize a given activity, we MUST turn ONLY to the New Testament.

We are to speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where it is silent- even if what God commands is emotionally difficult for us to accept; even if it is not what we are accustomed to.

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**When A Man Cannot  
Be Pardoned**  
Romans 1:16

In 1829 George Wilson, In Pennsylvania, was sentenced to be hanged by a United States Court for robbing the mails and for murder. President Andrew Jackson pardoned him, but this was refused, and Wilson insisted that it was not a pardon unless he accepted it. That was a point of law never before raised, and the president called the Supreme Court to decide. Chief justice John Marshall gave the following decision: "A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it be refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged!" And he was hanged. Provisionally the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation is for everyone irrespective of what he may be or what he may have done. Potentially, it is only to "every one that believeth." God does not force His grace upon man.

-Sunday School Times

**Daily Bible Reading Schedule-  
March 2007**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>
1	Num. 1-2	1 Cor. 7-8
2	Num. 3-4	1 Cor. 9-10
3	Num. 5-6	1 Cor. 11-12
4	Num. 7-8	1 Cor. 13-14
5	Num. 9-10	1 Cor. 15-16
6	Num. 11-12	Jn. 1-2
7	Num. 13-14	Jn. 3-4
8	Num. 15-16	Jn. 5-6
9	Num. 17-18	Jn. 7-8
10	Num. 19-20	Jn. 9-10
11	Num. 21-22	Jn. 11-12
12	Num. 23-24	Jn. 13-14
13	Num. 25-26	Jn. 15-16
14	Num. 27-28	Jn. 17-18
15	Num. 29-30	Jn. 19-20
16	Num. 31-32	Jn. 21
17	Num. 33-34	2 Cor. 1-2
18	Num. 35-36	2 Cor. 3-4
19	Deut. 1-2	2 Cor. 5-6
20	Deut. 3-4	2 Cor. 7-8
21	Deut. 5-6	2 Cor. 9-10
22	Deut. 7-8	2 Cor. 11-12
23	Deut. 9-10	2 Cor. 13
24	Deut. 11-12	Gal. 1-2
25	Deut. 13-14	Gal. 3-4
25	Deut. 15-16	Gal. 5-6
27	Deut. 17-18	Eph. 1-2
28	Deut. 19-20	Eph. 3-4
29	Deut. 21-22	Eph. 5-6
30	Deut. 23-24	Phil. 1-2
31	Deut. 25-26	Phil. 3-4

# His "I AM" Statements

by Andy Mitchell

In the last article in this "Do You Know My Jesus?" series, we listed some of Jesus' names. Now allow Jesus to describe Himself in His "I Am statements that appear in the book of John.

**I am the bread of life.** "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and He that believeth on Me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

**I am the light of the world.** "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12)

**I am the door of the sheep.** "Then said Jesus unto them again, verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep." (John 10:7). "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." (John 10:9)

**I am the good shepherd.** "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." (John 10:11) "I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of mine." (Jn. 10:14)

**I am the resurrection and the life.** "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25)

**I am the way, the truth, and the life.** "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6)

**I am the vine.** "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman." (John 15:1) "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)

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"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workmen that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15)

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Eph. 6:17)

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## “In Thy Name”

by Jeremy Angel

One of the most sobering verses in the Bible is Matthew 7:21-23 which says, “Not every one who saith unto Me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord have we not prophesied in Thy name? And in Thy name have cast out devils? And in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess to them, I never knew you; depart from Me ye who work iniquity.”

This passage says that it is possible to have a false sense of security about our relationship with God. The people mentioned in the above verses believed in Jesus; they performed many great works in His name; they thought they were doing the work of God...but there was a problem- their “good” works were not authorized by God. We may do something in the name of God, but that doesn’t mean that God will accept it. I look around the world today and see ministries for every imaginable cause, and I wonder- does God approve?

We must have biblical authority for everything we do in God’s name if we are to be pleasing to Him. I am reminded of Saul in 1 Samuel 13. The Philistines had gathered against the Israelites in vast numbers preparing for invasion, and Samuel had told Saul to wait for seven days at which point he would come and make a burnt offering before the battle. But at the end of the seven days, Saul grew impatient and lit the fire himself. When Samuel arrived, he rebuked Saul for his disobedience and told him in verse 13, “Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord which He commanded thee.” Saul thought he was doing right in the sight of God, but he did not have authority for his actions.

If we are going to be pleasing to God, we MUST seek to do God’s will and not our own! How are you doing?

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## LIGHTNING LESSON

What did Jesus mean when He said in Matthew 7:1, “Judge not, that ye be not judged?” Was He saying that we can never point out error or tell others that they are wrong? No. After all, He made the point in John 7:24 that we are to use “righteous judgement,” and we are told throughout the New Testament to point out error when it arises (2 Cor. 10:5-6; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 4:2). What then is the point of Matthew 7:1? Let us notice the context of the statement. He says in verse 2, “FOR with what judgement ye judge, ye shall be judged,” and in verse 3, “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” The message is clear- do not judge others in such a way that you are not willing to be judged yourself. Don’t be hypocritical! Hopefully, we have clarified such a commonly misused passage.

## Salvation Essentials (No. 2)

by Sonny Smith

In the last article, we considered the necessity of faith as it pertains to salvation. Many denominations will argue that faith is all that is required to obtain salvation and then contradict themselves by agreeing that repentance is also necessary.

To repent is to turn from one direction to another, to turn from sin which would include immorality, false doctrine, and anything that stands in opposition to the word of God. In order to repent, we must abandon the old life of transgression and iniquity and take on the new life- walking in the truth and in the light of God's word.

My dad preached the gospel for many years and I remember him making the observation several times that it was not too hard to get people to believe or to be baptized, but it was difficult to get them to repent. I agree with his assessment. Folks just don't want to change their ways.

Jesus said in Luke 13:3, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." The apostles also instructed those on the day of Pentecost to "repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:37-38). Later at the temple, when the lame man was healed and the people were filled with wonder and amazement, Peter seized the opportunity and instructed them to "repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." (Acts 3:19)

In God's plan of salvation, repentance follows faith. There would be no reason to repent if you did not believe. Likewise, baptism follows repentance (Acts 2:38). Baptism is a waste of time and effort if you refuse to repent.

Is repentance essential to salvation? Absolutely!

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## Test Your Bible Knowledge

### **Name That Bible Character???** (*answers below*)

1. He was the king of Salem and a priest of God to whom Abram gave a tenth part of all.
2. He was a tax collector before becoming an apostle of Christ.
3. A young man who spoke against Job and his three friends.
4. She killed Sisera, the captain of the army of Hazor, by driving a nail through his temple.
5. This man was almost persuaded by Paul to become a Christian.

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

6. The hometown of Tabitha (Dorcas) where Peter also stayed with a man named Simon.
7. This is where John was living when he received the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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

8. What was the purpose of the tabernacle in the Old Testament? What, in the New Testament, is compared to the tabernacle? What lessons can be learned here?

### **Bible Fact:**

While three gifts were given, the Bible never says that there were three wise men. The number of wise men was never specified (Matt. 2:1-12).

### **Answers:**

1. Melchisedec (Gen. 14:18);
2. Levi (Lk. 5:27-28);
3. Elihu (Job 32:1-6);
4. Jael (Judg. 4:21);
5. Agrippa (Ac. 26:28);
6. Joppa (Ac. 9:36-43);
7. Patmos (Rev. 1:9)

### **Challenge Question ANSWER From February 2007:**

The only scriptural reason for divorce is adultery (Matt. 19:9), and the only way to remarry is for your spouse to die (Rom. 7:2-3) or for you to divorce for the cause of adultery (Matt. 19:9). Marriage is a lifelong commitment (Matt. 19:4-6).