

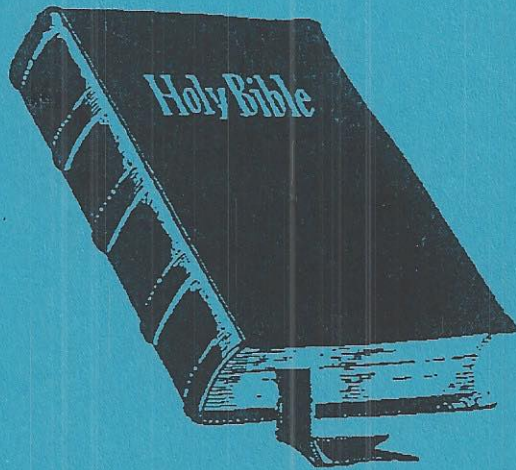
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CHAPMAN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
LECTURES

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THEME

SOUL SEARCHING QUESTIONS  
FROM THE BIBLE



August 6th—9th

# Chapman Church of Christ Lectures



## THEME: SOUL SEARCHING QUESTIONS FROM THE BIBLE

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# **“AM I THEREFORE BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE I TELL YOU THE TRUTH?”**

**(Galatians 4:16)**

Fred House

**INTRODUCTION:** It is a disappointment to have some with whom we have spent time, helped them with many things, and saw great promise for them in the days ahead: now to have them develop animosity toward us.

2. At one time, the Galatians counted themselves blessed having Paul in their midst, but this is passed.
3. The truth had been spoken from a loving heart, and the Galatians now reasoned that from these truths Paul must hate them.
4. Let it be stated that it is the best and the truest friend who honestly tells us the truth, even when he knows it will strike home.
5. Paul was doing no more than what Christ had done (Mark 10:21). The truth never hurts, unless it ought to!
6. False teachers were at work among the Galatians and God is not going to let it pass. Therefore, Paul preaches the God-given truth.
7. From this we need to observe some important lessons.

## **I. WHO IS AN ENEMY?**

- A. Throughout the Bible the people of God are called on to make a choice...that is to say, *make the distinction* (Joshua 24:15; I Kings 18:21; Luke 10:41, 42; Matthew 19:20-22; II Timothy 2:15).
- B. Paul was no threat to the Galatians.
  1. Paul writes by the inspiration of God, and he preaches by the inspiration of God (Galatians 1:11, 12).
  2. God, who inspires Paul, knows the heart and thinking of the people, and they were thinking that Paul, by what he is saying, must be their enemy.
  3. He said they had been “*troubled,*” “*hindered,*” “*entangled,*” “*bewitched,*” “*removed,*” “*made Christ of no effect,*” and “*fallen from grace.*”
- C. There was a large number who looked upon Christ as being their enemy. He said He was King, has all authority, forgives sins, equal to God, and in fact, the promised Messiah! He preached the resurrection of the dead, that the scribes and Pharisees were hypocrites, salvation is for the Gentiles, that the scribes and the Pharisees are children of the devil, and He spoke out against their human traditions!
- D. He had no intent to destroy them, but to destroy their ungodly ways...that is no enemy!

- E. Doesn't the Bible speak of an enemy who will destroy us? Yes!
  1. Jesus said we must ever be on guard because of enemies (Matthew 13:25, 28a). Elymas on the island of Cyprus and in the city of Paphos was an enemy (Acts 13:10). Some are to be marked as enemies (Philippians 3:17, 18).
  2. You cannot have the world and its ways and at the same time have God (James 4:4). Some were so described, but found help in Christ (Colossians 1:21).
- F. Friends, we must know who is our enemy and who is not our enemy.

## II. ENEMIES WITH US TODAY

- A. The enemy has said you shall surely not fall from grace.
  1. Grady Davidson, a Baptist preacher who has a local television program from Fulton, Mississippi, stated on his television program, "I have a sinless soul, my soul commits no sin because it is sinless...my body sins but not my soul." May we note I Corinthians 6:19, 20.
  2. The passages warning against such a false doctrine are many, but a few are: (Luke 8:13; I Corinthians 10:12; I Timothy 3:6; Hebrews 4:11; Galatians 5:4).
  3. Paul, by inspiration, taught one could fall from grace, not that one could not fall from grace.
- B. The real enemy will pervert the gospel of Christ by saying the church is not important to one's salvation and entering heaven.
  1. Paul said *IT IS IMPORTANT!* When I say "*important*"—what do I mean?—a person or thing with great value and of significant worth.
  2. These Scriptures should make its value and worth clear (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 5:25; Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47; Matthew 16:18).
- C. The enemy to truth will say that mechanical instruments of music in worship to God is a personal choice not a doctrinal matter (Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19).
  1. Listen to this question and the answer given. (QUESTION) "Do you believe people will be in Heaven who use mechanical instruments of music in worship?" (ANSWER) "I'm still struggling with this."
  2. There is not one passage in all the New Testament that gives us the authority for such a practice.
- D. The enemy to truth boldly declares that water baptism does not meet any of the requirements of God for redemption and entering Heaven...that is a real enemy!
  1. The Lord Jesus Himself said it is a commandment if one will be saved (Mark 16:15, 16).
  2. The apostles preached this as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:37, 38). (Also note Acts 22:16.)

### III. THE MATTER OF CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY

- A. I wish to say a thing or two about this before bringing this to an end.
- B. No doubt this was another problem Paul laid at their feet.
- C. Some burdens (responsibilities) we alone must bear (Galatians 6:5).
- D. Some burdens are to be shared with others (Galatians 6:2; Philipians 2:4).
- E. The key to verse two is found in verse one.
  - 1. In burden bearing, we should seek to help those about us who have gone astray.
  - 2. *Restore* (in the original) means “to set in joint again,” as a dislocated bone is set in joint again by the physician.
- F. How do we do this?
  - 1. There is the burden of sorrow (Romans 12:15; I Corinthians 12:26).
  - 2. There is the burden of leadership.
    - a. The elders (Hebrews 13:17).
    - b. The preacher (Ephesians 6:19, 20; II Timothy 4:1-4).
    - c. There are civil rulers (Romans 13:1-3; I Timothy 2:1, 2).
  - 3. This is done by living the right kind of life ourselves (Ephesians 4:32).

#### CONCLUSION:

- 1. I do not, brethren, want to be an enemy to truth.
- 2. I know, however, I am so considered by the false teachers both in and out of the church of our Lord.
- 3. I pray, as would Paul, that you not consider me your enemy because I have spoken the truth in love.

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**“AND WHY CALL YE ME, LORD, LORD,  
AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY?”**

(Luke 6:46)

Fred House

**INTRODUCTION:** I consider this a high honor and certainly a thrill for me to have the invitation and presented the opportunity to participate in this lecture series. *The topic I have been assigned must catch our attention with its great importance!*

- 2. The word/term *Lord* is commonly translated in the New Testament from the Greek and the basic meaning is, “he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has the power of deciding; Master, Lord.” (Thayer, p. 365). The admission of the Christ as Lord is more than simply speaking such (Matthew

- 7:21-23). Therefore, with a submissive mind and heart we gladly direct our lives over to Him as our Lord!
3. We know Christ Jesus is our Lord, therefore, we know He is our: *Hope, Strength, Rock, Bread of Life, Shepherd, High Priest, Redeemer, Saviour, Friend, Brother, Advocate, Light, King, Helper, Without sin, The Lamb of God, The perfect law giver, Our example in suffering, The Resurrection and Life, Lord of lords, Prince of Life, Prince of Peace, and God!!!*
  4. The question is a mighty warning against pretense or hypocrisy. It strikes at the very center of our heart. It is indeed a searching question about what we are doing. We probe our heart with this rod of truth. This is why Paul said to the church at Corinth, “ye are not your own” (I Corinthians 6:19).
  5. Consider now our Lord, and why we must do what He commands. I shall cover two areas.

## I. THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST

- A. To note the “supremacy” of Christ we therefore notice Him to be supreme in authority or power (Isaiah 9:6).
- B. This truth of Christ and Him being Lord is expressed a great number of times in the New Testament.
  1. Some asked Him, “By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” (Matthew 21:23).
  2. He made the announcement one time, “All power (authority) is give unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).
  3. Only He has the power to deliver and to translate (Colossians 1:13).
    - a. The word “deliver” means “to rescue from, to save.” The word “translate” means “remove, turn, change position.”
    - b. We were delivered from the power of darkness!
      - 1) Now we are admonished as Christians: people who now have a Lord of light, to avoid this darkness (Ephesians 5:11).
      - 2) The works (*deeds*) of darkness (*sin*) are called unfruitful (*without value*) because they produce nothing of lasting value or honor. They will add nothing to the quality of life (John 10:10).
      - 3) No fellowship means there will be no joint-participation, making no contribution.
      - 4) No fellowship is not enough...we are to expose them (Luke 3:19; John 3:20).
    - c. Translated into the kingdom of the “Son of His Love.”
- C. He has the authority to declare the way of *righteousness*, and to command people to avoid all unrighteousness.
- D. Where was the “far country” the prodigal chose to waste his life?
- E. Is it for some reason we think it could not have been our country? (Note: II

Timothy 3:1-5; Isaiah 30:10; I Peter 4:3; II Peter 2:10)

1. We might study the facts of our society and see who or if we are considering Him as Lord.
  2. The United States is not only the number one superpower of the world, but may also be number one in denying Christ as Lord.
    - a. We (U.S.A.) are number one in the world in teen pregnancy.
    - b. We are number one in the world murders of young males between the ages of 15 and 24.
    - c. We are number one in the world in percentage of population in prisons.
    - d. We are also among the leaders in the use of illegal drugs. Consider:
      - 1) Over 60% of the world's illegal drugs are consumed in the U.S.A.
      - 2) There are over 5,000 new cocaine users every single day in the U.S.A.
      - 3) An estimated 10% to 23% of workers use drugs on the job.
      - 4) Federal agencies estimate that substance abuse costs nearly \$100 BILLION in lost productivity each year.
- F. We have forsaken the Lord and His loving and caring authority evidence to the fact of word only life style right in our homes.
1. If we have a television, we must wonder about our hearts and its intake! There are two words which describe filth on television...HOWARD STERN."
  2. Bill Maher, host of a late night show, hit the nail on the head. He said, "Recently, there's been a trend in America that I find very disturbing...rewarding immoral and illegal behavior...for example, we now give free needles to junkies, which seems to me to be only a step away from giving condoms to rapists."
- G. Indeed, "*Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*"

## II. HE IS LORD OF THE HOME.

- A. This is such a point, time will not permit for us to deal with any more than two things concerning the home. If we can get these two things to have Christ as truly Lord, all else will be correct!
- B. I shall deal first with the head of the home...the husband.
- C. What the Lord has said in the Bible about the home is not the same as society is saying. This caused a teenager to ask his grandpa one day: "Grandpa, your generation didn't have all these social diseases. What did you wear back then to prevent that?" The wise and godly grandpa replied, "A wedding ring." "
- D. Call Him Lord, Lord but do the things He says. Husbands, you are, by the Lord to be the head of your home. Just what does that mean to you?
  1. The *HEAD*, and with Christ as his Lord recognizes the needs of his beloved! (Ephesians 5:28, 29). Her needs and desires are for her man to

show her *LOVE, ATTENTION, and TENDER AFFECTION*. She needs praise and compliments to reassure and affirm her in her role. “*Her husband praiseth her*” (Proverbs 31:28).

2. The *HEAD*, and with Christ as his Lord will continue to be the *Protector and Guardian*.
  3. The *HEAD*, and with Christ as his Lord will be the *Facilitator* “to make easy” and *Initiator* “to instruct” (Matthew 11:28-30; James 1:2, 3; I Corinthians 10:13).
  4. The *HEAD*, with Christ as his Lord demonstrates *Honor and Respect* (I Peter 3:7; Colossians 3:19).
  5. The *HEAD*, with Christ as his Lord is noticed for his *Tenderness and Affection* (Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:10).
- E. I now wish to deal with the second part of the home...the wife. I want us to consider Titus 2:5.
- F. Believe me ladies, when I say some of your own (women) would lead you in another path. Consider:
1. “Marriage has existed for the benefit of men and has been a legally sanctioned method of control over women...end of the institution of marriage is a necessary condition for the liberation of women. Therefore, it is important for us to encourage women to leave their husbands and not live individually with men...we must work to destroy it (Marriage).” [From The “Declaration of Feminism.”]
  2. “We must destroy love. Love promotes vulnerability, dependence, possessiveness, susceptibility to pain, and prevents the full development of women’s human potential by directing all her energies outward in the interest of others.” [Women’s Liberation, Notes From The Second Year.]
- G. Now back to Titus 2:5 - “To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”
1. *DISCREET* is to be “of sound mind, self-controlled.”
  2. *CHASTE*. The word is “Pure” and/or “Modest.” Notice...“neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself **pure** (chaste)”...not only is this for women, but men as well. It goes much further than one not modest in their dress (which can be immodest) an example is found in I Timothy 3:2. “A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of **good behavior** (chaste), given to hospitality, apt to teach.” Therefore, her conduct is to be described as “good behaviour.”
  3. *KEEPERS AT HOME*. The phrase comes from one word, and more needs to be noticed. Many have taken the phrase and given to it uncalled for restrictions. The word from which we get the phrase is a military term and is saying “to guard.” The wife is as much involved in the well-being of the home as is her husband. There is a God-given role she has in, and for the



home, and she must “guard” it as her Lord has instructed!

4. **OBEDIENT TO THEIR OWN HUSBANDS.** A number of other passages must be noted along with this one (Ephesians 5:21-24; Colossians 3:18).
- H. The word “*sacrifice*” is part of her life and its full meaning.
  1. Sacrifice is no stranger to her. She will sacrifice for her family without a second thought.
  2. The teaching of the Scriptures are taken to heart! (Romans 12:1; Matthew 5:41). She is always there...there as seamstress, doctor, cook, planner, supporter, and friend.
- I. Above all she has One to rule her life! One who is her Master. The results are:
  1. She is a woman of the Bible (II Timothy 2:15).
  2. She is a woman of prayer (I Thessalonians 5:17).
  3. She is a woman who is found worshipping God (Hebrews 10:25).
  4. She is a woman who is happy because of her Master and her trust in Him (Hebrews 13:5).

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Why call me friend if you never think of me?
2. Why call me Lord, Lord, when your love is not seen?
3. Why call me Lord, Lord, when your heart is bitter?
4. Why call me Lord, Lord, and ashamed of my words?
5. Do not just say He is Lord, but may He truly be Lord!

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## “WHO IS ON THE LORD’S SIDE?” (Exodus 32:26)

Joel Morrison

**INTRODUCTION:** Explanation of the context (Exodus 32).

- a. Seeing their unfaithfulness Moses posed the question: “*who is on the Lord’s side?*”
- b. Obviously in their rebellion and idolatry they were **not** on the Lord’s side.
2. God has a side and Satan has a side.
  - a. Elijah asked, “*how long halt ye between two opinions?*” (I Kings 18:21).
  - b. Jesus declared that one is either on His side, or on Satan’s side (Matthew 6:24; 12:30).
  - c. There is no middle ground (Ephesians 5:11).
3. Who **is** on the Lord’s side?
  - a. The answer is simple: **FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS!!!**

- b. With that answer the lesson could end — but the matter needs more attention.
- c. The matter will be approached negatively: “*Who is **not** on the Lord’s side?*”

## I. ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS AND INFIDELS

A. These abound in our world.

- 1. “*Atheist*” - “*a person who believes there is no God.*”
  - a. In order to believe something there must be evidence to support that belief (Romans 10:17).
  - b. Thus, the atheist claims there is evidence proving there is no God — where is the evidence?
  - c. He must know everything and have all evidence, otherwise the one thing he does not know or the one bit of evidence he does not have may prove that God does exist.
  - d. He would have to be deity to have such knowledge.
- 2. “*Agnostic*” - “*a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known about the existence of God*” — “*a person who believes it is impossible to know whether or not there is a God.*”
  - a. Again, the agnostic is affirming that he has evidence (belief) proving that it is impossible to know whether or not God exists.
  - b. If he has evidence, then he should know one way or the other.
  - c. To affirm that it is impossible to know is to affirm all knowledge.
- 3. “*Infidel*” - “*a person who has no religion; irreligious.*”

B. These are definitely not on the Lord’s side.

- 1. They do not acknowledge God (Psalm 14:1; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 1:28).
- 2. They do not believe Christ to be the virgin born Son of God (John 8:24).
- 3. Many are given to idolatry (Exodus 32; I Kings 18:21 - not all idolaters are in idol’s temples - Colossians 3:5, 6).

## II. THOSE IN DENOMINATIONAL, SECTARIAN GROUPS

A. Some sectarian groups deny the Deity of Jesus.

- 1. They teach that He is the Son of God - but a created son of God.
- 2. They teach that both Christ and Satan were created - Christ “turned out” good, and Satan “turned out” bad (John 1:1, 2; 14; 8:24).
- 3. These also deny that man is a soul that will live beyond physical death (Ecclesiastes 12:7; Zechariah 12:1; Hebrews 12:9).

B. Those in denominationalism are **not** Christians.

- 1. They are **not** children of God. They are not on the Lord’s side! (John 8:44).
- 2. They have **not** obeyed the gospel (Matthew 7:21; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Romans 10:16; I Peter 4:17).

- a. The gospel must be **obeyed** — not merely believed!
  - 1) The facts of the gospel (I Corinthians 15:1-4): death, burial and resurrection — are to be believed.
  - 2) Romans 6:18 - "**obeyed from the heart**" - facts cannot be obeyed.
  - 3) I Peter 1:22 - "**obeying the truth**" - truth can, and must be obeyed (John 8:32; 17:17).
- b. To be saved one must **obey** the commands of the gospel (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3, 4; Galatians 3:26, 27; I Peter 3:20, 21).
- c. Those who have not obeyed are not saved—and they are not on the Lord's side! (Matthew 7:21-23)

### III. UNFAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

- A. Faithfulness is essential.
  1. Obedience to the gospel puts one on the Lord's side, but faithfulness is necessary to keep one there.
  2. I Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10; II Timothy 4:6-8
  3. Constant, diligent effort is required in order to remain faithful and stay on the Lord's side.
    - a. Matthew 7:21 - "**he that doeth**" - "**he that keeps on doing**"
    - b. Matthew 7:24, 25 - "**and doeth them**" - "**keeps on doing them**" - (quit doing them and you cease to be wise - you become foolish - vs. 26, 27).
  4. One who is not faithful is not on the Lord's side - there is no middle ground (II John 9; I John 2:3, 4).
- B. Many Christians become unfaithful.
  1. Some are openly rebellious and disobedient.
    - a. These have become unfaithful and make no effort to conceal their sins. (Like the Jews - Exodus 32; Jeremiah 6:15.)
    - b. Efforts to restore them fall on deaf ears (Jeremiah 44:16).
    - c. They "**know**" but refuse to obey (Galatians 5:4; 1:6-9; II Peter 2:20-22).
  2. Some are knowingly rebellious and disobedient - but are more discreet.
    - a. These attend the services (fairly regularly on Sunday morning, but are rarely there on Sunday night and Wednesday night).
    - b. These want to be considered as faithful, but they know they are disobedient (Matthew 15:8).
    - c. These "**sneak**" around and try to conceal their sins — hoping not to be found out (Hebrews 4:13; Proverbs 15:3; I Corinthians 6:9, 10).
  3. Those who do not put the Lord first (Matthew 6:33).
    - a. Who or what is first in your life? (Colossians 1:18)
    - b. Examine yourself (Matthew 10:37; 16:24; 6:24; I Timothy 6:17, 9, 10; II Timothy 4:10; I John 2:15-17; James 4:4).

- c. We are not on the Lord's side unless He is on our side! (Matthew 22:37)
- d. If He is not first — He is not on our side.
- 4. Those who are seeking to destroy the church - ("*change agents*")
  - a. These are trying to "*erase*" the line that separates.
  - b. Jesus warned of such (Matthew 7:15).
    - 1) These came into our midst "*disguised*" as sheep and "*established*" themselves as faithful, trustworthy sheep.
    - 2) In time their "*wolf*" character began to emerge — little by little.
    - 3) Now they have pulled off their disguise and are showing their full, true character.
    - 4) Sadly, many shepherds are allowing them to remain among the sheep to destroy and devour.
    - 5) Others keep inviting them into the midst of the flock, encouraging and endorsing them in their devastation.
  - c. It is time to "*draw the line*"! (God has already drawn it.)
    - 1) We must refuse to fellowship and acknowledge brotherhood with those who have "*chosen*" to stand with Satan (Joshua 24:15).
    - 2) We must cease to refer to, and to identify them as "brethren" - "brother" so-and-so.
      - a) How far must one depart from the truth before such an one is acknowledged as being gone?
      - b) How long must they be encouraged, admonished, begged and pleaded with, before it is realized that such are not coming back to God's side?
      - c) These have abandoned the truth, embraced error, and refuse to give it up — they are as denominational as any group anywhere! (I John 2:19).
    - 3) "Oh, but they are still our brethren, and we must recognize and identify them as such."
    - 4) Consider God's Word!
    - 5) John 8:44 - To whom was our Lord speaking? (John 8:31, 33, 39).
    - 6) Matthew 23:15 - Who were these "*children of hell*"?
    - 7) II John 9-11 - These had been "*in the doctrine of Christ*" — such "*hath not God!*"
    - 8) Revelation 2:5 - What is the candlestick? (Revelation 1:20).
  - d. These have "*stepped over the line*" - they are now on Satan's side!
    - 1) As long as they are referred to as "*brethren*," those in denominationalism and the weak among us will think that we are in some way in fellowship with them and our problems will continue!
    - 2) God has "*drawn the line*" and we dare not step across it!

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Those on the Lord's side will go to heaven (Matthew 25:31-34, 21).
  2. Those on Satan's side will go to hell (Matthew 25:41, 30).
  3. Don't you want to be on the Lord's side?
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# **“FOR WHAT IS A MAN PROFITED, IF HE SHALL GAIN THE WHOLE WORLD, AND LOSE HIS OWN SOUL?”**

**(Matthew 16:26)**

Mike Kiser

## **INTRODUCTION: The Question of Profit or Loss**

1. Every man keeps two shops. One is more important than the other. Which gets the most attention from you—your body, or your soul?
2. From childhood days men learn to think about the soul. “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.”
3. We are considering a question asked by our blessed Lord. He is qualified to speak—He made both body and soul.
4. This is one of the weightiest questions in the Bible. Duly considered or disregarded—great impact upon society and religion.
5. Let us consider these four truths from this text:

## **I. EVERY MAN HAS A SOUL.**

- A. It is said to be worth more than any member of the body (Matthew 18:8).
- B. It can live apart from the body (Matthew 10:28; Acts 1:25; Philippians 1:21-24).
- C. It can be comforted or tormented as the body lies in the earth (Luke 16:19-31).

## **II. EVERY SOUL IS OF GREAT VALUE.**

- A. Consider its origin. It came from God (Genesis 1:26, 27). (This cannot be talking about the physical body.)
- B. Consider the price paid to redeem it.
  1. You cannot redeem yourself with money, good works, morality, human or animal sacrifice (I Peter 1:18, 19; Ephesians 1:7).
  2. Jesus left heaven, bore poverty, ridicule, misunderstanding, and persecution (Philippians 1:5-9; Matthew 12:24; John 15:20).
  3. Finally He suffered and died a sinner's death (II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:24).

- C. Consider the contention of heaven and hell to have the soul.
  1. Heaven's sacrifice and provision to save the soul (John 3:16; Revelation 22:17).
  2. Satan's constant effort to have the soul (I Peter 5:8; II Corinthians 4:3, 4).
- D. Consider the eternal bliss or woe that awaits the soul in eternity.
  1. The present is only a seedtime for eternity (Galatians 6:7, 8; Matthew 25:46).
  2. Everything in this life is material and temporal. Only thing you have is an exception to that rule is your soul (II Corinthians 4:18).

### **III. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR THE SOUL TO BE LOST.**

- A. What does it mean for the soul to be lost?
  1. Not annihilation—the wicked will wish it were so.
  2. To be eternally out of fellowship with God (II Thessalonians 1:7-9).
- B. This great danger is constantly set before us in the scriptures (Matthew 7:13, 14; Psalm 9:17; I Corinthians 6:9).
- C. Who are those that face this great danger?
  1. The impenitent (Luke 13:3).
  2. The unconverted (Matthew 18:3; Acts 3:19; 2:38).
  3. The un-regenerated (John 3:3, 5).

### **IV. THE WORLD CAN MAKE NO AMENDS FOR THIS LOSS.**

- A. What is it to gain the world? (cf. I John 2:15-17)
  1. These are the things which rival or exclude our love for God.
  2. Pleasures, wealth, and honor.
  3. Some men have gained much (Solomon, Alexander the Great, Bill Gates, Sam Walton); but none could have gained it all! What if they could have?
- B. Suppose you have everything in this world you wanted!
  1. You would reach the point of dissatisfaction again (John 4:13).
  2. You probably would have gained a very dangerous master and would be a slave to your possessions.
  3. You would have only gained things that are perishable (I John 2:17; II Peter 3:10).
  4. You would only have things that in the end you cannot keep (I Timothy 6:7; Luke 12:17-21).
- C. There is no remedy for being lost.
  1. Like Esau, you look for the "space" to repent.
  2. The Rich Man of Luke 12. Little did he think that that very night his family would be scrambling for his estate, worms for his body; and the demons for his soul!
  3. Lost...gone forever (Revelation 14:11)

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. How do you attempt to answer these questions? What do you have to say?
  2. Are you acting like your soul is valuable, and that you cannot afford to lose it?
  3. I heard of a woman in Saint Louis who ran into her burning house to save her valuables, and forgot the baby sleeping in the crib. Oh her agony!
  4. How will you think of the world on your death bed? That is the only way to think about it right now.
  5. In the light of the great gospel story—why should you lose your soul?
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## **“AM I MY BROTHER’S KEEPER?”**

(Genesis 4:9)

Johnny Burkhart

**THESIS:** To show that people who stray away from God are lost and someone needs to bring them back. (Text: Genesis 4:3-16)

## **INTRODUCTION:**

1. In every congregation of any size, which has been in existence for some time, you will find members who have become unfaithful.
  - a. Question: Do we have an obligation toward them?
  - b. If so, what is that obligation?
2. If God loves a sinful world, and we know He does (Romans 5:6-10), how much more does He love His own children, even His erring (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20)?
3. Do you know “one” who has become unfaithful to God?
  - a. Are you willing to put forth the time and effort to be your brother’s keeper?
  - b. May this lesson strengthen us in reclaiming erring ones to God’s glory.

## **I. FIRST, CONSIDER THE CHAIN OF UNFAITHFULNESS THROUGH HISTORY.**

- A. God’s chosen people (Israel) had trouble remaining faithful to the God who loved and blessed them (I Corinthians 10:1-13).
- B. Consider the unfaithful people in recent years:
  1. 1850, false doctrine propagated by Jesse B. Ferguson almost destroyed the church in Nashville, TN.
  2. 1848, missionary society divided brethren
  3. 1859, instrumental music issue
  4. 1930’s, premillennial issue

5. 1950-60's, anti movement
  6. 1970's, crossroads movement
  7. 1970 'til present, the "change agent movement"
- C. The apostle Paul had a concern for "all" the churches (II Corinthians 11:28).

## **II. SECOND, NOTE THE CONTEXT OF GENESIS 4:9 — "AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?"**

- A. God has always given instructions for worship (Hebrews 11:4).
  1. Cain was the first murderer.
  2. Cain was angry with his brother and with God (Genesis 4:6)
- B. Cain was disciplined for his sin (Genesis 4:12).
  1. The church at Corinth had become "puffed up" about sin (I Cor. 5:1-4).
  2. Cain had a "mark" upon him (Genesis 4:15).
    - a. We are to "mark" those who cause division (Romans 16:17).
    - b. Cain "went out" from the presence of the Lord (cf. I Thess. 3:6).

## **III. THE CONCERN: UNFAITHFUL BRETHREN ARE LOST (Luke 15:3-7).**

- A. Unfaithful brethren are as lost as those who have never heard the gospel (II Thessalonians 1:7-10).
- B. One of the tragedies of the day is that sometimes those who stray away die in that condition (James 4:13-15).

## **IV. FOURTH, THE CHALLENGE IS TO RESTORE THE ERRING (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20).**

- A. There is no quick, easy formula to restore the erring.
  1. It takes patience (I Thessalonians 5:14).
  2. It takes wisdom (James 1:2-5).
  3. It takes a decision to do what we can, when we can, while we can (II Corinthians 2:5-11).
- B. We have great appreciation for those who reach out to help the physical needs of people (John 15:13).
  1. When we sense people have a spirit, then there is tremendous value associated with those who are dying spiritually.
  2. While the world may focus on the material aspects of man, God focuses on the eternal.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. There is every reason to take Genesis 4:9 seriously, to the point of personal application.
2. Who do you know that needs to be restored?
3. What plan do you have for their restoration?



# “CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY BE AGREED?”

(Amos 3:3)

Alan Adams

## INTRODUCTION: A Study in Foregone Conclusions

1. What do the following people, circumstances, all have in common?
  - a. Josiah (II Kings 23:29)
  - b. Adam and Eve hiding (Genesis 3:8, 10)
  - c. King Saul offering sacrifices (I Samuel 13:9ff)
  - d. David and the new cart (II Samuel 6:3ff)
  - e. Paul and the shipwreck (Acts 27:21)
  - f. All cases of people struggling against, or otherwise ignoring foregone conclusions.
2. Fact of foregone conclusions: are there such things?
  - a. Proverbs 6:27
  - b. Matthew 24:28
3. Folly of
  - a. Ignoring
    - 1) Darwin Awards: Mechanic attempting to weld crack in rim of tractor trailer rig, without first deflating the tire.
    - 2) Proverbs 14:34
  - b. Struggling against
    - 1) Present preoccupation with youth and immortality.
    - 2) I Timothy 4:8 - “For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things...”
4. Case in point as set forth in Amos 3:2.

## I. THE PREACHER — AMOS

- A. If ever there was a case in point of—my ways are not your ways—God’s choice of sending Amos to Bethel was it.
  1. Amos was a hard man for a hard job.
  2. He was the “earthy” preacher sent to the proclaim the word to 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC “yuppies.”
  3. He had not gone to finishing school, nor was he a devotee of *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.
- B. Amos was—at least in the eyes of some—an anachronism.
  1. The kind of guy you seal in a glass case, and label it “break in times when something needs to be said”, something needs to be said with economy of

- words, needs to be said with force.
- 2. Sometime, "something needs to be said."
- C. No one better than this "herdsman from the hills of Tekoah," this "dresser of sycamore trees."
- D. He could speak with force in terms
  - 1. Of roaring lions, of torn sheep;
  - 2. He could get the attention of the women in Bethel, addressing them as the "kine," or the heifers of Bashan.
  - 3. He could paint an awe-inspiring picture of the Almighty God as one who put the Pleiades and Orion in the nether regions of space.
  - 4. He knew about plumb lines, walls, and the smell of ripe summer fruit.
- E. Consider his confrontation with Amaziah (Amos 7:10-17).

## II. THE PASSAGE—"CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY BE AGREED?"

- A. Consider the background of chapters 1-2.
  - 1. Judgment upon the surrounding nations.
  - 2. Judgment upon Judah, and particularly Israel.
- B. Chapters 3-7 contain a series of six sermons, or oracles spoken against Israel.
- C. Our passage falls within the section of 3:1-15.
  - 1. First, there is a statement as to the special relationship between God and Israel (vv 1-2)
    - a. Special privileges imply even harsher judgment.
    - b. I Peter 4:17
  - 2. Second, there is a series of axiomatic statements designed to impress upon the people the reality of—the foregone nature of—the pronounced judgments. (vv. 3-7).
    - a. Something along the order of: Does a bear live in the woods? Does the sun rise in the west?
    - b. In other words, tantamount to Amos saying, "Do you think I've come here just to bump my gums; just to hear myself make noise?"
  - 3. Third, there is a summary statement of God's judgment, impending doom, and the fact that it had to be said (v. 8).
- D. In short, our passage is a statement relative to "foregone conclusions."

## III. THE PRINCIPLE—FOREGONE CONCLUSIONS

- A. The nature of foregone conclusions
  - 1. These are not matters for discussion.
  - 2. These are not seminar topics.
  - 3. We're not here to ask your opinion about these matters, or
  - 4. To throw them out for thought, discussion, and perhaps modification.
- B. Examples of foregone conclusions in the Bible.

1. Relative to who, what, when, where, why, and how a sinner is saved.
    - a. John 3:18
    - b. Luke 13:3
    - c. Mark 16:16
    - d. John 3:3-5
  2. Relative to the uniqueness of the church.
    - a. Ephesians 5:23; Matthew 16:18
    - b. Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4
    - c. Acts 2:47; 20:28
  3. Relative to sin and its sure punishment.
    - a. Numbers 32:23
    - b. Romans 1:27
    - c. Galatians 5:19-21
    - d. Colossians 3:6
- C. Worship
1. John 4:24
  - 2) Genesis 4:4; Hebrews 11:4
- D. Eschatology
1. Hebrews 9:27
  2. I Corinthians 15:21-26
  3. Matthew 25
    - a. Sheep/goats: no hybrids
    - b. Summons, separation, sentencing
    - c. Matthew 25:46
- E. Work
1. I Corinthians 15:58
  2. James 4:17
  3. Discuss "work of the Lord"

## CONCLUSION:

1. Acts 9:5 - "And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks."
2. Foregone conclusions are not subject to our likes or dislikes.
3. Blessed is the man who acquiesces in, submits to, lives his life in harmony with Divinely mandated, foregone conclusions.

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