

2002
SECOND ANNUAL
LOTHAIR LECTURESHIP
OCTOBER 9TH - 13TH

THEME:
YOUR QUESTIONS, GOD'S ANSWERS

LOTHAIR CHURCH
OF
CHRIST

**SECOND ANNUAL
LOTHAIR CHURCH OF CHRIST
LECTURESHIP
P.O. Box 760
Hazard, KY 41702**

Elders:

Charlie Hammonds

David Gody

Deacons:

David (P-Jib) Glemors

Randy Sanders

Troy Smith

Ministers: Barry Hendrix

Troy Smith

2002 Lothair Lectureship

October 9th - 13th

Theme:

Your Questions, God's Answer

SCHEDULE

Wednesday 7:00p.m. How Are We Saved By Grace, Not Of Works, Eph. 2:8-9?
..... Keith Bowling

Thursday 7:00p.m. Does Hebrews 4:6 Teach If One Falls From The Grace
Of God It Is Not Possible To Save Him?
..... Don Stidham

Friday 7:00p.m. Should I Forgive A Man Even Though He Doesn't Repent?
..... Tim Hall

SATURDAY

10:00a.m. Will We Know One Another In Heaven?
..... Everett Spencer

11:00a.m. Please Explain The Ministry Of Angels
..... Larry Cole

Lunch

1:00p.m. What Is Meant By "Day" In Genesis One?
..... Charles Huff

2:00p.m. How Can We Reconcile Pre-Historic Man, Dinosaurs, The Ice Age, etc
In The Time Frame Of The Bible? Do We Know The Chronology Of Time
In The Bible And How Old The Earth Really Is?
..... Wesley Simons

3:00p.m. What Is Meant By The Binding Of Satan In Revelation 20:1-3?
..... Eddy Craft

4:00p.m. What Is The New Heaven And The New Earth Of Revelation 21:1
..... Jerry Brown

SUNDAY

10:00a.m. What Is The Purpose And Design For Water Baptism?
..... Clarence Howard

11:00a.m. Will Only 144,000 Be Saved?
..... Dairl Strange

Keith Bowling
P.O. Box 1510
Hyden, KY 41749

Topic:
Saved By Grace And Not Of Works

INTRODUCTION:

A. Saved by grace and Not of WORKS

1. Ephesians 2:8-9 “ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.* ”

B. These are scriptures that are so misunderstood in our world today. People are so quick to apply these wrongly

C. It is clear from the word of God that people are saved when they obey the Gospel of Christ.

1. This is a process, a plan brought into place by the Lord

2. A system that Jude 1:3 calls the *common salvation* and the Hebrew writer calls *so great salvation* in chapter 2:3

D. People become saved when they hear God’s word, believe it, repent of sins, confess Christ and are baptized for the remission of sins

E. When people do this they are saved by the Grace of God

BODY:

I. Saved By Grace And Not Of Works - Mans Part

A. The scriptures declare that by grace are ye saved through faith

B. God does not save us without our part in the process

C. Our part is faith

1. We must have faith - Hebrews 11:6 “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”

2. We get faith through a process - Romans 10:17 “*So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

D. If someone has faith that means he or she believes what they have heard; how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard (Rom. 10:14)

E. Mans part is also repentance - Jesus said:

1. Luke 24:47 “*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem*”

2. Luke 13:3 “*I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*”

2. Acts 17:30 “*And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:*”

3. 2 Peter 3:9 “ ¶*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

4. Matthew 10:32 “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.*”

6. Acts 8:37 *"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*
7. 1 Corinthians 12:13 *"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."*
8. Galatians 3:27 *"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*
9. Acts 2:38 *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*
10. Acts 22:16 *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*
11. Acts 2:47 *"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."*
12. Revelation 2:10 *"... be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."*

II. Saved By Grace And Not Of Works - God's Part

A. God's part is that He provided the saving process. All we need to be saved is provided by Him

1. He spoke into existence His word that provided knowledge for us.
2. All the prophecies of scripture has given us direction toward God.
 - a. Romans 15:4 *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*
3. The scriptures told us of a coming Savior, Jesus fulfilled all that the prophets had spoken.
 - a. John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*
4. Jesus would prove by all he did that he was the Son of God, He had the power to save the whole world.

B. He spoke into the world the creative process of the Church.

1. Hebrews 1:1 *"¶God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last day's spoken unto us by His Son."*
2. Jesus spoke the words of salvation to save all that would obey them.
 - a. Hebrews 5:9 *"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"*
3. The prophets had said that the word of the Lord would go forth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3). These words would have the power of God in them.
4. Those at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost had the Gospel preached to them and asked what they should do and were told to repent and be baptized in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of there sins (Acts 2:38)

C. They that gladly received Peter's words were baptized

III. Saved By Grace And Not Of Works - Not Ourselves But Him

A. God provides the great grace, the love toward us that provides everything for us to be saved

B. This grace does something - Titus 2:11 "*¶For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*"

C. God provides the means of our faith to operate toward his revealed will that comes from hearing His word

D. He gives us the faith through His word that we can respond to and obey

1. We step through doors that he has provided yet we must open
2. He offers us salvation yet we must receive it
3. He offers us life yet we must embrace it

Conclusion:

A . The faith that saves us is a faith that responds to God's word

B. It doesn't sit still but moves ahead

C. When the word of God speaks, we hear and obey

D. Just because we are saved by grace does not mean we don't have a part in the process

E. Our faith is one that obeys

F. Thank God that He gives us a way to be saved from the world through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ

G. That is why Peter could say at Pentecost **Save Yourselves**

Don Stidham
Mt Zion Church of Christ
London, KY 40743

Topic:

**Does Heb. 6:4 Teach If One Falls Away From The Grace Of God,
It is Impossible To Save Him?**

INTRODUCTION:

Hebrews 6:1-8 (read)

1. The lesson question is found in verse 4, however it is necessary to read verses 1-8 to understand what the writer is saying.
2. The main thought of the paragraph is the importance of Christian Growth. Or , to state it differently, the danger of falling away.
3. The approach to the lesson question will be:
 - A. To look at the important phrases before and after the text
 - B. Draw a conclusion from the text
4. The lesson question is vitally important. If one can fall away to the point where it is impossible to be saved, all should want to know and how to prevent doing so.
5. With these thoughts in mind let us begin a study of the text phrase by phrase.

BODY:

I. Verse One: The first phrase is one word: "Therefore" This word indicates a conclusion is being drawn. And this conclusion is based on what is stated in the closing verses of chapter five:

1. Hebrews 5:12-14 (read)
2. Obviously these Christians had not grown as they should have. So the writer begins chapter six with admonition concerning how to grow.
3. Hebrews 6:1-2 (read)
 - a. The way to grow is: after having been well grounded in the basic principals of the doctrine of Christ, go on to more mature teaching, (perfection)
 - b. I Peter 2:1-3 "*¶Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:*"
 - c. Christian growth comes from a sincere desire for the word of God, and making appropriate application while going on to more mature teaching, (solid food).
 - d. The writer is not saying that these basic principles are not important, they are. What he is saying is once we have these principals in our mind, part of our belief, we should go on to maturity.

II. Verse Four And Five: Before considering the "It Is Impossible" phrase, let's look at the phrases that describe the Christian state or experience.

1. Hebrews 10:32 "*But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions;*"
2. Ephesians 1:18 "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the*

saints,”

- a. These scriptures refer to the time when they learned the gospel and understood what they needed to do be saved.
3. Have tasted the Heavenly gift.
 - a. “Tasted” means an element of deep personal experience.
 - 1) Hebrews 2:9 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour: that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
 - b. Taste the heavenly gift means experienced and enjoyed the soul satisfying peace that comes from the gift of salvation received when they obeyed the gospel.
4. Become partakers of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. At baptism Christians receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and if Christians do not quench the Holy Spirit, He will bear fruit in and through them (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - b. So, the writer is describing some of the blessings experienced by Christians.
5. And have tasted of the good word of God and of the power of the age to come.
 - a. The “Good word of God” may refer to the promises of God’s word, which are not a few, or it may refer to the “good news” the gospel, or both.
 - b. The “Power of the age to come” refers to the Christian Age, the last days, which began with the first appearance of Christ and will end when he comes again.
 - c. All these phrases describe one who has been truly converted to Christ, and is doing his or her best to live faithfully to His teachings. Therefore, they are enjoying the blessings of being a child of God.

NOTE: This should forever silence those false teachers who teach it is impossible to fall from grace by saying that if a person goes back into the world he was never converted in the first place.

6. Once a person has been converted to Christ by obeying the gospel from the heart, has all his past sins forgiven, and experiencing all the blessings of being a child of God, as described above, If he should fall away it is impossible to come back. The following verses tell why

III. Verse Six Seven and Eight *“If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.”*

1. The world sees them turn their back, turn away, fall away from the Son of God, who once they embraced as their savior.
2. Bearing fruit for Christ, remaining faithful to him, results in blessings from God.
3. Rejecting Christ, ceasing to bear fruit, results in eternal destruction.

CONCLUSION:

1. Lesson Question: Does Hebrews 6:4 teach if one falls from the GRACE of God, it is impossible to save him.

2. Answer: YES

3. One who was a faithful Christian and experienced all the blessings involved, can go so far that it is impossible to come back and be saved.

4. The impossibility is with the fallen person, not with God.

5. It is impossible for him to repent, his heart is hard, his conscience has been seared with a hot iron.

NOTES:

Tim Hall
2722 Oakland Ave.
Johnson City, TN 37601

Topic:
Should I Forgive A Man Even Though He Doesn't Repent?

Introduction:

1. Matthew 6:12, 14-15 - Christians who submit to the teachings of Christ know how important it is to forgive people who wrong them. If we fail to forgive, we put our own forgiveness from God at great risk!
2. But not everyone who sins against us will ask to be forgiven. Should we forgive the offender anyway? Christians need to know the answer to this - and God has given the answer.

Body:

I. The Connection Between Repentance And God's Forgiveness

A. Has anyone been wronged more than God Himself? He has clearly set forth the terms of forgiveness for those who have sinned against Him - and those terms include repentance

1. Acts 5:30-31 - Jesus, by His death and resurrection, has made repentance and forgiveness possible. Could we expect forgiveness without repentance?
2. Acts 2:38 - Repentance and remission of sins were clearly linked together by Peter on the day of Pentecost (baptism would also have to take place)
3. Acts 17:30 - Paul put the matter clearly: "*God now commands all men everywhere to repent.*" Can repentance be viewed as less than necessary?
4. Revelation 2:4-5 - The Ephesian church had left their love, and were in danger of having their lamp stand removed - unless they repented.
5. Luke 13:3-5 - Jesus could not have been any plainer than this: "*Except you repent, you will perish.*"
6. Obviously, repentance is linked to our forgiveness by God. If a man will not repent, there is no hope of his being forgiven by God for all the sins he has committed

B. Gods demand for repentance is based on His love

1. Revelation 3:9 - The Lord's words to the church at Laodicea were strong. Why did He rebuke them so harshly? Because of His love and His desire for them to repent
2. II Peter 3:9 - God's love causes Him to be longsuffering toward us. He doesn't desire that any perish, but that all should come to repentance
3. Romans 2:4 - It is God's goodness - not His meanness - that leads us to repent
4. A parent should be firm on some things. Their insistence that their child take a bath, brush their teeth, eat their vegetables, etc. is based on love. God's insistence that we turn away from sinful behaviors is based on a far greater love

C. Our view of repentance and God's forgiveness

1. We must accept the absolute necessity of repentance. Otherwise, we have no reason to expect God to forgive us

2. We must realize that God's demand for repentance is based on His love for us. Anything less would not turn us from destructive deeds

II. Should We Forgive Offenders Who Haven't Repented?

A. As we have seen, repentance is good for us. It means we have come to see the error of our way. It means we have committed to not doing that sinful thing again. Repentance is not bad - it is needed. If I forgive without insisting that the offender repent, have I done him or her a favor? Or have I encouraged continuance in their erroneous ways?

B. Forgiving others - a conditional command

1. Luke 17:3-4 - Jesus' command to forgive offenders was based on the condition (if) that they repent. Can we bypass that condition?
2. Other examples of conditional commands:
 - a. Luke 19:31 - Were the disciples to explain why they were taking the colt if no one asked them why they were doing so? Jesus' command was conditional
 - b. Matthew 5:23-24 - Should we leave our gift at the altar every time we bring it? Or only when the condition Jesus spoke of applies?
 - c. Mark 9:43 - Should all Christians cut off their hands? Or only those to whom Jesus' condition applies?
 - d. Luke 17:3-4 - Do we forgive every offender "seven times in a day" or is it just those who sin against us and repent seven times in a day?
3. Clearly there are some commands that are conditional. If the conditions are such as the Lord described, then we are to proceed to His further command. But **ONLY** if the conditions exist

C. What Christians should and should not do

1. Luke 17:3-4 - Jesus is very clear: When someone sins against us, we must (1) rebuke them of their sin (so they know they need to repent), and (2) forgive them if they repent. Do most Christians fail to rebuke those who have offended them?
2. Matthew 18:15-17 - Rather than confront those who have sinned against us, though do we not pretend the offense never happened? Or just cut off the relationship, never seeking to restore it? The Lord's way is always best!
3. David Lipscomb, Questions Answered: **"There are two sides to this question. If one does us wrong, it is our duty to tell him of his wrong, and thus rebuke him for his wrong. Then, if he repents, we must forgive him; but if he will not repent, he is not worthy of forgiveness. But we have no right to hold malice against him, not in any way take vengeance upon him."**

Conclusion:

1. I Corinthians 5:5 - Paul commanded strong action to rebuke the man who was living in immorality. Why? So that his spirit might be saved
2. II Corinthians 2: 5-11 - But when one has been rebuked and recognizes his/her sin, we must receive them back with love. Otherwise, they might be overcome with sorrow and guilt.
3. God's ways are always best. Let us determine to treat one another, as much as possible, the way God deals with us

Everett Spencer
HC 30 Box 375
Krypton, KY 41754

Topic:
Will We Know One Another In Heaven?

Introduction:

1. Knowledge of heaven, inhabitants of heaven, and our part in eternal things come from the Bible
2. Future recognition in heaven has provoked no little curiosity
 - a. I John 3:1-3
 - b. Phil 3:18-21
3. What we will be in eternity far exceeds our present state of being. Our expectation of what heaven will be like is our motivation for living a consecrated life on earth
4. Changes take place in the physical realm, but one does not lose his identity or personality
5. God has glorious things prepared for Christians
 - a. Col. 1:5-6
 - b. I Pet. 1:3-5
 - c. Heb. 10:32-35

Body:

I. What Does The Bible Say Mankind Will Be Like In Heaven?

- A. We change form suited for eternity - I Cor. 15:53-54
 1. **“The sum is that the bodies of the saints, when they shall rise again, will be greatly changed from what they are now, and much for the better. They are now corruptible, flesh and blood; they will be then incorruptible, glorious, and spiritual bodies, fitted to the celestial world and state, where they are ever afterwards to dwell, and have their eternal inheritance”** (Matthew Henry)
 2. There is a difference between **“...the body as adapted to its residence here and as adapted to its residence in heaven”** (Albert Barnes)
- B. There will be a transformation (change) of the body
 1. I Thess. 4:13-17
 2. I Cor. 15:51-52
 3. Phil. 3:20-21
 4. Habitation in heaven demands a change of condition in order to be there
- C. God will fashion mankind as it pleases Him - I Cor. 15:35ff
 1. The natural body will give way to the spiritual body - I Cor. 15:42-44, 54
 2. Earthly and heavenly form will be different - I Cor. 15:49
- D. Our bodies will be fashioned like unto the glorious body of Jesus - Phil. 3:21
 1. **“Vile”** body means one that is subject to sickness, disease, injury, and death
 2. Our redemption is made complete in heaven - II Cor. 5:1-9
 3. Mt. 13:43; I John 3:2; Luke 20:36

II. What Does The Bible Say About Future Recognition In Heaven?

- A. Do we maintain identity after death and in heaven?
 - 1. Identity remains though what one is has changed - II Cor. 5:17
 - 2. In heaven we will maintain identity though in a different and higher state
 - 3. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven necessitating a change in form, but not a loss of recognition
 - 4. A spiritual body can retain what makes one distinctive
- B. Recognition of individuality is maintained in heaven
 - 1. Angels are named in heaven
 - a. Michael, the archangel - Jude 9
 - b. Gabriel is named in Luke 1:9,26
 - 2. Mankind will be "as the angels"
- C. The transfiguration of Jesus implies identity after passing into the eternal realm
 - 1. Mt. 17:4
 - 2. Mt. 17 provides evidence of the identity maintained by the presence of Moses and Elijah
- D. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob have not lost their identity, though in another state of being
 - 1. Mt. 8:11; Mt. 22:32; Acts 3:13
- E. Personal identity will be rewarded because identity is what makes one distinctive
 - 1. Jn. 5:28-29; Acts 24:15

III. What Does The Bible Say About Recognition Of Others We Have Known On Earth?

- A. David said, "*I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me*" - II Sam. 12:23
- B. The rich man in Luke 16 recognized Lazarus as one he neglected on earth
- C. Paul implies recognition of rejoicing over saints in heaven
 - 1. Phi. 2:16; I Thess. 2:19
 - 2. Lk. 15:7-10 - There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
- D. Paul taught regarding the return of the Lord and the dead and shows that the Thessalonians would see them (the dead) again - I Thess. 4:17

IV. What Are Some Objections To Future Recognition?

- A. Some say they cannot see or understand how there could be recognition in heaven
- B. If we recognize each other in heaven, then we will tend to fellowship only those we know
- C. What about those you love who will not be there?
 - 1. We accept God's judgments - Rev. 16:7; 19:2; Psa. 19:9
 - 2. Can we enjoy fellowship with those who are there?
 - 3. Can we enjoy salvation now though we know loved ones who are not Christians?
 - 4. Can we be happy with knowledge that someone you love is there?
 - 5. Can we be happy where God is?
- D. There will be no marriage in heaven
 - 1. Angels know one another - Lk. 20:34-35
 - 2. Human relationships will not be there
 - 3. We will all be children of God

E. Since we lose our physical characteristics, we will not be able to recognize one another
I Jn. 3:2

1. Change of state does not necessarily mean that it will be without means of recognition
2. A spiritual body does not necessarily mean that it will be without means of recognition

Conclusion:

1. We will know (recognize) Jesus in heaven. I will know who I am (not lose my identity)
2. In order to enjoy my reward reserved in heaven, I must know who I am
3. After all is said, we must live to “...*be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless*” - II Pet. 3:14

NOTES:

Larry Cole
49 Lakeside Dr.
Carthage, TN 37030

Topic:

PLEASE EXPLAIN THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

There is much about angels we shall never know, but the fact that God's word mentions them some 283 times, it would stand to reason that He wants us to know something about angels. We will attempt to look at several different points concerning angels in hopes of better understanding the ministry of angels

A lot of interest has been generated concerning angels over the last several years. Various television programs and movies that deal with this subject has helped to bring about interest. Then there are those who believe that an angel spoke to them, or an angel did something to or for them that was beneficial. We will look at what God's word says

I. Definition

A. What is an angel?

1. The word "angel" simply means "a messenger"
2. It suggest the idea of sending a messenger
3. It can be used simply to represent one who brings a message (Matthew 11:10)

B. Origin of angels

1. Angels are not deity, they are not eternal
2. Thus, they have a beginning and they were created
 - a. Psalm 148:2,5
 - b. Nehemiah 9:6
 - c. Colossians 1:16
3. When were they created?
 - a. We do not have an explicit statement as to when
 - b. A plausible conclusion based on scripture would be that God created angels at the commencement of creation week
 - (1) Exodus 20:11
 - (2) Job 38:4,7
 - (3) Conclude they were brought into existence during the initial stages of Jehovah's creative activity

II. The Nature of Angels

A. They possess the nature of neither deity or humanity

B. Scriptures affirm that they are "spirits"

1. Hebrews 1:14
2. Luke 24:39
3. Thus, they do not engage in physical relationship (e.g. marriage--Matt. 22:30)

C. It seems that angels were capable of assuming any form in which God was pleased to employ them

1. Exodus 3:2 (cf. Hebrews 1:7)
2. Genesis 18:1,2

- D. Angels are higher in creation scale than humans
 - 1. Hebrews 2:7
 - 2. They themselves are subject to God (Hebrews 1:6)
- E. Angels are accountable to some type of heavenly law
 - 1. Some have sinned (II Peter 2:4)
 - 2. Sin is transgression of divine Law (I John 3:4)
 - 3. Plan of redemption evidently does not apply to angels
 - 4. Hebrews 2:16
 - 5. Wayne Jackson stated, "Is it possible that their intimacy with God made angelic rebellion inexcusable, and thus beyond the pale of redemption. The Bible does not explain this mystery." (The Growing Interest in Angels, Christian Courier: Penpoints, Monday, April 22, 2002)
- III. The Mission of Angels
 - A. Angels serve primarily as the ministers of God's providence
 - 1. They are "ministering spirits" (Heb 1:14), who carry out the bidding of the Creator
 - 2. Matthew 18:10
 - B. Angels watch with anxious consideration for the salvation of sinners
 - 1. Luke 15:10
 - 2. Luke 2:14
 - C. They were involved in the birth announcement (Matthew 1:20,21)
 - D. Angels serve to carry the saved home when they fall asleep in Jesus (Luke 16:22,23)
- IV. Destiny of Angels
 - A. Bible seems to indicate that rebellious angels are beyond the means of redemption (Hebrews 2:16)
 - 1. II Peter 2:4
 - 2. Jude 6
 - 3. Matthew 25:41
 - B. Good angels
 - 1. Lord's return will be accompanied with the voice of the archangel
 - a. I Thess. 4:16
 - b. II Thess 1:7-9
 - 2. Matthew 25:31
 - 3. Matthew 13:41-43
- V. What role do angels play today?
 - A. Angels are ministering spirits (Hebrews 1:14)
 - B. Does each person have a guardian angel?
 - 1. Psalm 34:7—God provides protection for His people, as a nation
 - 2. Psalm 91:11,12—prophecy concerning Christ
 - 3. Matthew 18:10—study the context..(especially verses 6-10)
 - 4. It is apparent that angels do have an interest in the activities of Christians
 - 5. These passages do not teach that each person has a personal guardian angel
 - C. It seems then, that God employs angels in the implementation of His providential will on behalf of his saints in the world today
 - D. By faith we know that, in an overseeing providence of God, the angels are doing what we

cannot do for ourselves

CONCLUSION:

Let me encourage you to spend some time studying the subject of angels. There is considerable more information found in the scriptures that we simply do not have time to address. Keep in mind that the Bible is to be our source of information on this subject. Much material has been written on this subject, but many times there are vast differences between what they say and what the Bible says. Study what God's word says about angels

NOTES:

Charles Huff
Pleasant View Church of Christ
155 Glendale Road
Limestone, TN 37681

Topic:
What Is Meant By 'Day' In Genesis One?

INTRODUCTION:

1. In recent years there has been much needless confusion relative to the length of days in the first chapter of Genesis. Some have yielded to the positions of theistic evolution
2. Some have been confused by trying to rationalize the false theories of Charles Darwin, whose "Origin of the Species" positions have now been abandoned by many eminent scientists
3. If evolution were true, thousands (even billions) of years would be required for the development of the magnificent universe we inhabit, and the millions of species of life on planet earth
4. It takes a lot more faith to believe that we came from "slime" than from the hand of the "Sublime"

BODY:

I. What About The "Gap" Theory? (Gen. 1:1-2)

Genesis 1:1-2 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters"

A. "...Two alternatives are advanced by those who seek to align evolutionary geology with the Genesis record: insert the geological ages **before** the creation week, or during it. In this section, we will deal with the attempt to insert the ages **before** the creation week; the next section will deal with the attempt to insert the ages **during** the week" (Bert Thompson).

B. How we know that the gap theory is fake

1. The same Moses who wrote Genesis wrote this in Exodus 20:11 *"For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it"*

2. The first two verses of Genesis combined with this verse from Exodus is all inclusive. God made everything in the six day creation week

3. Gap theorists assert that the phrase *"without form and void"*, can refer only to something once in a state of repair but now ruined. To that Dr. John Whitcomb replies:

"Many Bible students, however, are puzzled with the statement in Genesis 1:2 that the earth was without form and void. Does God create things that have no form and are void? The answer of course, depends on what those words mean. 'Without form and void' translates the Hebrew expression 'tohu wabohu' which literally means 'empty and formless.' In other words, the earth was not chaotic, not under a curse of judgment. It was simply empty of living things and without the features that it later possessed, such as oceans and continents, hills and valleys—features that would be essential for man's well-being. In other words it was not an appropriate home for man..."

1)Exodus 20:11 stands as God's own word on what He did and how He did it

II. Genesis 1:5,12,19,23,31,: Twenty-Four Hour Days Or Long Geological Periods?

A. Since evolutionary time cannot be “crammed” into the space *before* the creation, and since it obviously does not fit *after* the creation, then some advocates have suggested it occurred *during* the creation week, and the days of Genesis 1 are not days at all, but rather extensive eons of geologic time

B. Dr. Bert Thompson asserts: “Were the days of Genesis approximately twenty-four hour days, or eons of time?” make no mistake about it. They were days just as we know them today! The day-age theory is false!”

C. What else could God have said? Dr. Henry M. Morris remarks:

“If the reader asks himself this question: ‘Suppose the writer of Genesis wished to teach his readers that all things were created and made in six literal days, then what words would he use to best convey this thought?’ He would have to answer that the writer would have used the actual words of Genesis 1. If he wished to convey the idea of long geological ages, however, he could surely have done it far more clearly and effectively in other words than in those which he selected. It was clearly his intent to teach creation in six literal days. Therefore, the only proper way to interpret Genesis 1 is not to ‘interpret’ it at all. That is, we accept the fact that it was meant to say exactly what it says. The ‘days’ are literal days and the events described happened just the way described...”

III. The Genesis Creation Is Limited To Six Days, Of Twenty Four Hours Length

(The following taken from Old Testament Survey by Clayton Winters, p10)

A. “Day” of Genesis 1 is defined in the framework of ‘light’ and ‘darkness,’ ‘evening and morning’ (Gen. 1:5, 16)

B. “Evening and morning” suggests days of twenty four hour lengths (Gen. 1:5,8,13,23)

C. “Day” is used 177 times in the Old Testament with a numeral, and in every other instance it refers to twenty-four hour periods (or at least involves this understanding.) Why should the creation days be an exception?

D. The seven-day week of the Jews was based on the seven-day-week creation (Exod. 20:8-11). How could it mean two different things in the same context?

E. If a “day” refers to thousands (even millions) of years, plant life (a third-day) creation would have had to exist all this time without benefit of sun, moon, and stars (a fourth day creation) (Gen. 1:11-16)

F. Assuming that a “day” means an age of thousands of years, then Adam lived through part of the sixth age, all of the seventh age, and then some into the period when all acknowledge time as being measured by days, months, and years. Assuming again that Adam was created as late as the last “hour” of the sixth age (which we shall compute at 48,000 years in length), he would have lived 2000 years in the sixth “day”, through a 48,000 year Sabbath, and into the next period, making him over 50,000 years old. But the Bible says that Adam died at the age of 930 yrs. (Gen. 5:5)

CONCLUSION:

Genesis 1:31 “¶And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day”

Genesis 2:1 “ Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them”

Wesley Simons
RT 5 Box 2487
Elizabethton, TN 37643

Topic:

How Can We Reconcile Pre-Historic Man, Dinosaurs, The Ice Age, etc. In The Time Frame Of The Bible? Do We Know The Chronology Of Time In The Bible And How Old The Earth Really Is?

Introduction:

A. Young people, ask your teachers:

1. What known law of science one would have to violate if he believed in the Bible account of creation?
2. If he/she knows of any law of science that would contradict the theory of evolution?
3. 1 Timothy 6:20 *"O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called."*
4. We have nothing to fear because He who gave us the Bible gave us the laws of nature
5. Evolution can never be proven
6. The Bible can be proven to be the word of God. Therefore, we know how we got here

B. What Is Evolution?

The hypothesis that millions of years ago, **lifeless matter**, acted upon by natural forces, gave origin to minute living organisms, which have since produced all living and extinct plants and animals, including man

(The Other Side Of Evolution by Jon Gary Williams)

C. Reasoning From The Seen To The Unseen - the evolutionist do it but they do not want us to do it

1. Psalm 19:1-3 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard"*
2. Romans 1:18-20 *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."*

Body:

I. Things Essential To Existence

- | | |
|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Time | In the beginning |
| 2. Force | God |
| 3. Action | Created |
| 4. Space | The heaven |
| 5. Matter | And the earth. |

Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"*

II. Questions For An Atheist

- _____ 1. Atheism implies evolution
- _____ 2. Evolution is a fact
- _____ 3. All men are under obligation to become an atheist
- _____ 4. Men must pursue truth
- _____ 5. All men who do not pursue truth are wrong
- _____ 6. It is impossible for God to exist
- _____ 7. It is impossible for evolution to have occurred
- _____ 8. I (Carletta Sims) know the mechanism by which evolution works
- _____ 9. Some scientist somewhere knows the mechanism by which evolution works
- _____ 10. I know there is no God
- _____ 11. I do not know whether God exists or not
- _____ 12. The age of the universe is between 5-8 billion years old
- _____ 13. Matter is eternal
- _____ 14. Fossils prove that evolution occurred
- _____ 15. Everything brings forth after its own kind
- _____ 16. One can find the geological table on the earth
- _____ 17. Evolution is a very slow process
- _____ 18. Evolution is a very rapid process
- _____ 19. Spontaneous generation does occur
- _____ 20. In the evolutionary process, the baby evolved first
- _____ 21. In the evolutionary process, the mother came first
- _____ 22. Everything that exists is either human or non-human.
- _____ 23. Two ape-like creatures gave birth to a human being
- _____ 24. An ape-like creature turned into a human being
- _____ 25. The first and second laws of thermodynamics are true
- _____ 26. If one found a watch in the woods, it would prove that there was a watch maker
- _____ 27. When you see a man with an artificial limb, you know that someone made the limb
- _____ 28. A computer implies a designer
- _____ 29. Moral value did not exist before the first human being
- _____ 30. Moral value is the product of the human mind
- _____ 31. The Nazis did real objective moral wrong in killing six million Jews
- _____ 32. The Nazis violated American law in putting to death six million Jews
- _____ 33. It is morally wrong to kill a cat
- _____ 34. It is morally wrong to kill a human being
- _____ 35. The Nazis violated the law of England in putting to death six million Jews
- _____ 36. The Nazis violated German law by putting to death six million Jews
- _____ 37. Dinosaurs lived before man
- _____ 38. Dinosaurs became extinct when a meteorite hit the earth
- _____ 39. Dinosaurs are mentioned in the Bible
- _____ 40. If I (Carletta Sims) am right and there is no God, then Wesley has lost everything
- _____ 41. If Wesley is right and there is a God, then I (Carletta Sims) have lost everything
- _____ 42. Jesus is a fraud
- _____ 43. Mans's conscience evolved
- _____ 44. The respiratory system evolved over a long period of time

- ___ 45. I (Carletta Sims) believe in what some scientist call the hopeful monster
- ___ 46. There is proof that the hopeful monster existed
- ___ 47. I (Carletta Sims) know that the universe was started by the big bang
- ___ 48. I (Carletta Sims) believe that the universe is somewhere between 4-6 billion years old
- ___ 49. It is objectively, morally wrong to rape a six year old girl even if the laws of the land say that it is legal
- ___ 50. If O.J. Simpson killed his wife Nicole and Ron Goldman, and since our judicial system has set him free, then he did nothing wrong

III. The "Evidences" Of Evolution

1. Comparative Anatomy
2. Vestigial Organs
3. Embryonic Recapitulation
4. Taxonomy, or Classification
5. Genetics
 - a. "Hopeful Monster" -----Richard Goldsmith
 - b. "Punctuated Equilibrium" -----Stephen J. Gould
6. The Fossil Record
7. The Dating Of Remains
 - a. "In Search Of Noah's Ark
8. The Problem Of Evil
 - a. This Is The Only Argument The Atheist Has
9. Dayton "Monkey Trial"

IV. Scientific Foreknowledge In The Bible

1. Psalm 8:8 *"The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas"*
2. Job 38:16 *"Hast thou entered into the springs of the sea? Or hast thou walked in the recesses of the deep?" (ASV)*
3. Ecclesiastes 1:7 *"All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again"*
4. Leviticus 17:11 *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul"*
5. Leviticus 17:14 *"For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof: whosoever eateth it shall be cut off"*
6. Genesis 3:15 *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel"*
7. Isaiah 40:22 *"It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:"*
8. Genesis 1:11-12 *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb*

yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good”

9. Genesis 2:1-2 *“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made”*
10. Hebrews 1:10-11 *“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment;”*
11. Psalm 19:5-6 *“Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof”*
12. Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”*
13. Job 26:7 *“He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing”*
14. Hebrews 1:3 *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*
15. Jeremiah 33:22 *“As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me”*
16. 2 Samuel 12:9-10 *“Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife”*

Conclusion:

1. Evolution is false
2. They have no mechanism to make it work
3. The fossil record kills them
4. The laws of science proves that the theory of evolution is false
5. The Bible account of creation is in harmony with known scientific laws
6. Psalms 14:1 *“The fool hath said in him heart, There is no God. They are corrupt they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good”*

**Eddy Craft
137 East C Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643**

**Topic:
WHAT IS MEANT BY THE BINDING OF SATAN?
REVELATION 20:1-3**

TEXT: Revelation 20:1-3 *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. [2] And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, [3] And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season”*

INTRODUCTION:

- A. In this chapter we have eternal terminology dealing with temporal matters. Heavenly setting referring to temporal matters
- B. We must never forget the major message of Revelation: *“Victory In Jesus.”* We also need to remember that our text is found within the context of the whole book
- C. Cardinal features of the book of Revelation are the series of sevens:
 - 1. The seven churches of Asia
 - 2. The seven seals
 - 3. The seven trumpets
 - 4. The seven vials containing seven last plagues
- D. The woman travailing in birth, and the great red dragon ready to devour her child (12:1-17). The beast with seven heads and ten horns coming up out of the sea to blaspheme God and make war with the saints (13:1-9). A second beast coming up out of the earth, having all the power of the first (13:8-10). The great whore sitting upon many waters (17:1-18:24). The marriage of the Lamb, the reign of the martyrs, and the New Jerusalem (19:1-22:21)

Body:

I. THE OVER-ALL THEME OF THE REVELATION IS VICTORY IN JESUS:

- A. Notice this point by the following:
 - 1. With each church those who overcome are rewarded
 - 2. When the sixth seal is broken, God’s wrath is poured out
 - 3. When the seventh trumpet sounds, the mystery of God is finished
 - 4. The great red dragon who attacked the woman and her seed is destroyed
 - 5. The beasts and false prophets are cast into the lake of fire
 - 6. Various victory scenes are constantly flashed before the reader
- B. Revelation, then, depicts the battle of the ages, the struggle between Christ and Satan, the struggle between good and evil, the horrible battles but the sweet victory. It is a message of hope to all faithful children of God, if they do not get bogged down in overly liberalizing the symbolism. It is a message of doom for those who oppose Christ and His kingdom of righteousness

II. A LOOK AT VERSES 1-3:

A. The unrighteous are cast down

B. Satan is bound:

1. Restrained his deceit

2. Emperor worship will go out because the people will see its falseness. Context refers to emperor worship. Picture of Devil's deceptive powers to deceive people regarding emperor worship is bound; the Devil being bound is figurative speech so it represents something - binding of emperor worship. Satan had his power in emperor worship

3. He deceived many through this device

C. 1,000 years (completeness). Not a literal 1,000 years (Psalm 50:10). For a period of time the church was free from emperor worship

D. Little season. (Diocletian and Gallorius) These tried to revive emperor worship. This attempt did affect the church. Gallorius signed an edict that all Christians be put to death; then on his death bed he issued the Edict of Toleration. The whole context is limited to emperor worship

III. LOOSED BUT BOUND:

A. There is a sense in which Satan has always been bound. He has always been bound to God.

God is always in control!

B. Satan was loosed for a little season on Job. But he was also bound or restricted as to what he could do

C. While it may be the case that Satan will be loosed for a little season on your life you need to remember that God is in control. There will never be a time when Satan is loosed that he will not be bound by God

CONCLUSION:

A. What a great book the book of Revelation is. What a great message that it brings to the broken hearted Christian. A message of victory in the face of defeat. When it looks like the devil is going to win God stops Satan in his tracks

B. If you are not a child of God you cannot enjoy the victory that is in Christ

C. Just as Satan deceived some of the people of God through emperor worship he does the same thing through denominationalism. Be not deceived through the ploys of the Devil

Notes:

Jerry Brown
Mt. Zion Church of Christ
P.O. Box 215
London, KY 40743

Topic:
The New Heaven And The New Earth of Revelation 21:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many opinions about the question of Revelation 21:1
 - 1. Traditions - Bases of most opinions
 - 2. Best interpretation - Scriptural answer
- B. Two related Scriptures
 - 1. Text - Revelation 21:1
 - 2. Relevant Text - II Peter 3:10-14
- C. Needed background for answer to question
 - 1. Approach to study of Revelation
 - 2. Background of Revelation 21:1
 - 3. Concluding thoughts for answer to question

BODY:

I. Approach To Study And Interpretation Of Book Of Revelation

- A. Past Tense (Preterist) View
 - 1. Major point: "Fulfillment of all events of Revelation before the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70"
 - 2. View exception: Some events, not fulfilled until 300 A.D
 - 3. Weakness: Application only to first century Christians
 - 4. Advocate: Foy Wallace
- B. Present Tense - (Continual Historical) View
 - 1. Time - Christian Age to Second Coming of Christ
 - 2. Symbols - Specific historical events
 - a. Emphasis on rise of Catholicism
 - b. Rise of Mohammedanism
 - 3. Weakness - book of little or no value to first-century Christians
 - 4. Advocates
 - a. John T. Hinds - Gospel Advocate Commentary
 - b. Albert Barnes - Notes on New Testament
- C. Futuristic (Future Tense) View
 - 1. Events of chapters 4-22 yet to come
 - 2. Symbols - literal, not symbolic
 - a. Days mean days, not years; blood means blood
 - b. Events - all future
 - 3. Plagues - all actual earthly events
 - 4. Weakness of interpretation
 - a. Teaching of all literal events
 - b. Teaching of pre-millennialism

5. Advocates
 - a. John T. Rice
 - b. Modern prophets like Hal Lindsey
- D. Contextual/Historical View
 1. Design of Revelation
 - a. Encouragement to Christian to fight against evil
 - b. Symbols: Emphasis on constant battle between right and wrong, regardless of time or location
 - c. Major conclusion: Triumphant victory of righteousness and the Christian over evil and Satan.
 2. Advocates: Howard and Clayton Winters, Commentary on Revelation

II. Background Of Revelation 21

- A. Chapter 20 - Final defeat of Satan
 1. Satan's challenge
 - a. From time of Christ to Judgement
 - b. Never ending assault on Christians
 - c. Last assault of Satan before the bottomless pit
 2. Satan's eventual defeat
 - a. Follows a strong uprising on four corners of Earth - Rev. 20:8
 - b. Followers of Satan - destruction by fire and brimstone - Rev. 20:10
- B. Triumph of Saints over all evil
 1. Judgment - a time of reward and punishment - Rev. 20:11-15
 - a. All to be judged - Ecc. 12:13-14, II Cor. 5:10, Acts 17:30-31
 - b. Certainty of judgment - Heb. 9:27
 2. Reward and Punishment
 - a. Judgment of the dead - Rev. 20:12
 - b. Judgment according to works - Rev. 20:12,13
 - c. Punishment to devil and his followers - Rev. 20:14-15
 - e. Saints reward, not of this earth - Rev. 21:1-4

III. Different Interpretations Of Revelation 21:1

- A. End of God's Covenant with Israel
 1. Interpretation - a symbol of change in covenant from Israel to Christians in Church
 2. Pentecost - the day of Church establishment - a new covenant relationship through Christ
 3. One Advocate - Clem Thurman, Gospel Minutes, Nov. 9, 1990
 4. Personal View: Disagreement
- B. Pre-millennialist interpretation
 1. Holy city, new heavens, new earth - represent saints taking over the earth for 1000 years.
 2. Jehovah Witness interpretation
 3. Hal Lindsey - There Is a New World Coming - 1976-1977
 - a. Denial of heaven as an eternal home
 - b. Death before the "Rapture" go to God, but not to live there in eternity
 - c. Advocates a re-created heaven and earth after 1000 year reign

4. Scriptural, Realistic Interpretation

- a. Eternity - destruction of death - I Cor. 15:22-26
- b. Eternity - earthly experience cease - Rev. 21:1
- c. Eternity - a heavenly home - II Cor. 5:1
- d. Eternity - a heavenly home of many mansions - John 14:1-3

5. Personal View: Total disagreement with Pre-millennialist interpretation

C. Scriptural, Realistic Interpretation

1. Destruction of earth and heavens - Rev. 21:1

- a. Review text
- b. View of II Peter 3:10-14
- c. Total destruction of earth
- d. Total destruction of heavens (sun, moon, stars)

2. Vision - A new heaven and a new earth - Rev. 21:1

- a. Final dwelling place with God - Rev. 21:10-27
- b. No defilement there - Rev. 21:8
- c. Place of eternal life - Matt. 25:46
- d. Place of eternal rest - Rev. 14:13
- e. Place of the Crown of life - II Tim. 4:6-8, Rev. 2:10
- f. Place of inheritance - I Peter 1:4

3. Conclusion: New Heaven and New earth - eternal home of the saved of all generations

IV. Conclusion:

A, Revelation 21:1, a summation of final victory of saints

- 1. Saints final victory over Satan and Sin
- 2. Elimination of Satan and his influence

B. Pattern for New Testament

- 1. First four books - Life of Christ
- 2. Acts - History of establishment of Church and growth
- 3. Epistles - Directions of faithful living
- 4. Revelation - Vision of Saints final triumph over Satan and Sin

NOTES:

Clarence Howard
P.O. Box 47
Busy, KY 41723

Topic:

What Is The Purpose And Design Of Water Baptism?

INTRODUCTION:

Romans 6:1-6 *“¶What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?*

2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. “

1. It is not our desire to belittle nor over emphasize the subject of baptism
2. We are going to present an open study in two areas
 - a. #1 - What Baptism cannot do
 - b. #2 - What Baptism does in the saving of the souls of mankind

BODY:

I. What Baptism Cannot Do

A. We of the Church of Christ do not believe nor teach “Baptismal Regeneration”

1. This is the work of faith - Acts 15:9 *“And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.”*

B. We of the Church of Christ do not believe nor teach that baptism changes lives

2. This is the work of repentance - Matthew 21:28-29 *“¶But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.”*

C. We of the Church of Christ do not believe nor teach that Baptism removes temptation

1. James 1:14 *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.”*

D. We of the Church of Christ do not believe nor teach that Baptism prevents one from doing wrong after Baptism

1. Galatians 2:11,14 *“¶But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?”*

2. 1 Corinthians 9:27 *"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."*

F. We of the Church of Christ do not teach nor believe that Baptism gives life to one who is already dead

1. Colossians 2:12 *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."*

Baptism Was Not Designed To:

Change The Heart
Change The Life
Remove Temptation

Prevent All Wrongs
Assure Eternal Life
Give Life To The Living

II. What Baptism Can And Does Do In The Plan Of Salvation

A. The Bible teaches that Baptism puts one into Christ

1. Galatians 3:26-27 *"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."*

B. The Bible teaches that one is Baptized into Christ's death

1. Romans 6:3-4 *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

C. The Bible teaches that Baptism saves from sin

1. Mark 16:16 *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

2. 1 Peter 3:20-21 *"Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. ¶The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"*

D. The Bible teaches that Baptism is for the remission of sins

1. Acts 2:37-38 *"¶Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."*

2. Acts 2:41 *"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."*

E. The Bible teaches that in Baptism our sins are washed away

1. Acts 22:10 *"And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do."*

2. Acts 22:16 *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."*

F. The Bible Teaches that one is Baptized into Christ's name

1. Matthew 28:19 *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

G. The Bible teaches that one is Baptized into the body of Christ

1. 1 Corinthians 12:12 *“¶For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”*

H. The Bible teaches that Baptism brings newness of life

1. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

I. The Bible teaches that Baptism sets one free from sin

1. Romans 6:17-18 *“But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”*

2. Romans 6:3-4 *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”*

J. The Bible teaches that Baptism is a request for a good conscience

1. 1 Peter 3:21 *“¶The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”*

CONCLUSION:

1. What does the inspired word of God say that Baptism does for the alien sinner?

- a. Puts one into Christ - Gal. 3:27
- b. Puts one into Christ's death - Rom. 6:3-4
- c. Saves from sin - Mark 16:16
- d. Gives remission of our sins - Acts 2:38
- e. Washes away sins - Acts 22:16
- f. Puts one into His name - Matt. 28:19-20
- g. Puts one into His body - I Cor. 12:13
- h. Puts one into newness of life - Rom. 6:3-5
- i. Frees one from past sins - Rom. 6:16-18
- j. Answers a good conscience - I Pet. 3:20-21

NOTES:

**Dairl Strange
P.O. Box 197
Millstone, KY 41838**

**Topic:
Will Only 144,000 Be Saved?**

INTRODUCTION:

Text - Revelation 7:1-4
Revelation 14:1

1. Is the language of Revelation 7:1-4 and Revelation 14:1
 - a. Figurative?
 - b. Literal?
2. Chapter seven of Revelation is an interlude between chapters six and eight
 - a. In chapter six, six seals had been opened
 - b. In chapter eight the seventh seal was opened
3. Term "sealed" denotes 'ownership or genuineness'
4. 144,000 - symbolic 'completeness'

BODY:

I. Religious Error

A. Jehovah Witness

1. Two classes of saved individuals
 - a. Anointed class (144,000 will be in heaven)
 - b. Other sheep - these saved will not go to heaven but will remain on earth

B. Bible does not divide the saved into classes

1. One Body - Eph. 4:4, 1:22-23
2. Every eye shall see him - Rev. 1:7

C. Another religious error

1. 144,000 represents the saved among the Jews
2. Multitude in v9 represents Gentiles who are saved

D. Bible makes no distinction between Jew and Gentile Christians

1. All are one in Christ - Gal. 3:28
2. God is no respecter of persons - Acts 10:30,35
3. Jew and Gentile are made one through the death of Christ on the cross - Eph. 2:14-16
4. If 144,000 are Jews, then only Jews are sealed

E. What are the mathematical odds of exactly 12,000 from each of the twelve tribes of Israel being saved?

II. Who Are These 144,000 Mentioned In Our Text?

A. These are the number of the church on the earth at any one given time

1. Church often described as the Israel of God - Gal. 6:16, Rom. 2:28,29
2. Same as the multitude in v9
3. Verses 4-8 represent the church on earth

4. Remaining verses represent the church triumphant in heaven
- B. In Rev. 7:4 the 144,000 are the sealed
 1. Christians sealed with the Holy Spirit
 - a. Eph. 1:13,14
 - b. Eph. 4:30

III. The Great Multitude Of The Church In Heaven

- A. Multitude “cannot be numbered”
- B. Fulfillment of the great commission
 1. Matt. 28:18-20
 2. Mk. 16:15-16
 3. Luke 24:47
 4. Acts 1:8
- C. The invitation to obey the gospel extended to all
 1. Matt. 11:28
 2. Rev. 22:17
- D. If the gospel invitation is extended to all, then do not all who obey the gospel and remain faithful have the opportunity to go to heaven?

IV. Will Only 144,000 Be Saved?

- A. Matt. 7:13-14
- B. Rom. 5:8
- C. It is God’s desire to save all people
 1. II Pet. 3:9
 2. I Tim. 2:4
 3. Acts 17:30

CONCLUSION:

1. Will only 144,000 be saved?
2. Is the language of Rev. 7:1-4 and Rev. 14:1 figurative or symbolic?
3. Heaven is large enough to save all who are willing to obey the gospel and remain faithful - Rev. 22:17

Notes:

