

CALVINISM AND ROMANS 5:12

Every tenet of the sad system of Calvinism is 100% in conflict with the natures of God, man, sin, salvation, and with the gospel of Jesus Christ. God is no respecter of Person (Acts 10:34,35). Thus, unconditional election is false. Anyone can come to salvation (Rev. 22:17). Therefore, the doctrine of the limited atonement is error. Man choose to obey God or rebel against Him (2Thess. 1:8,9). Consequently, irresistible grace is against the truth of God. Sin is the transgression of the law of God (1 John 3:4), so, since an infant cannot transgress the law of God, they are not born in a depraved condition.

Over the past thirty or forty years much error, including Calvinistic error has crept into the churches of Christ. Some, for instance, claim that once a person has obeyed Christ, that he no longer has free will, but no will at all! Unless we miss our guess, sprinkling them with rose petals and calling it a baby dedication is a mere half step from sprinkling them with water and calling it infant baptism.

Calvinism is having success without any help from those who know it is a false system. We must make sure that our interpretation of scripture does not assist the proponents of Calvinism or even imply that Calvinism may be true. The devil has enslaved enough people in that error without any help from us.

Consider, for instance, Romans 5:12. Brethren have debated over whether the “death” in this Romans passage refers to physical death or spiritual death. Those who insist that Adam and Eve died spiritually when they sinned in the garden, hold that Romans 5:12 refers to spiritual death. Rom. 5:12 states: ”Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” Notice that the death that entered into the world and passes unto all men was the consequence of the sin of one man, Adam. If the death that passes to all men as the result of Adam’s sin is spiritual death, then all are born spiritually dead, the Calvinist is right, and we should accept infant baptism. But the death, Paul refers to is physical, not spiritual death. Verses 13 and 14 bolster this interpretation.

Someone asks, why did Adam and Eve not die the day they ate the forbidden fruit? Gen. 2:17 says, “in the day” they ate they would die, not on the day. In other words, in the day Adam ate of the fruit, the consequences came into effect, not that he would die in that twenty-four hour period. Calvinism is a deadly doctrine with widespread acceptance without incorrect interpretations giving them support.

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BELVEDERE BEACON
"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am.
Morning Worship 11:00 am.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.
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CONVERSION OR HARDNESS OF HEART

In admonishing Christians of their responsibility to continue to speak the God-saving truth that they may grow thereby (1 Pet. 2:2), the apostle Peter reminds them of how the Jews did not accept Jesus as the only begotten Son of God. Peter declared: □They stumble at the Lord, being disobedient (1 Pet. 2:8). We learn from the Greek word translated *being disobedient* that its meaning is not to allow oneself to be Persuaded. (see Thayer or any reputable Greek lexicon). Implied is the fact that man has the power to reject obvious truth.

He can close his understanding to adequate evidence if he does not love the truth above everything else (2 The. 2:10-12). When the truth is offered to an honest man in error, one of two things can happen:

- (1) He will keep his honesty by giving up his error and embracing the truth, **or**
- (2) He will reject the truth, give up his honesty, and keep his error.

Speaking for God, Isaiah said to Israel: □Come now, and let us reason together□ (Isa. 1:18). God created man a rational creature and has never bypassed man’s rationality in seeking to lead and guide him. God does not force Himself upon man against man’s will (Rom. 1:28). If man will not receive the abundant and adequate evidence regarding man’s spiritual needs, God is not going to force it on him. The people in Isaiah’s day were unreasonable and would not accept God’s Word. They simply would not allow themselves to be persuaded (Isa. 6:9-13). Thus, they lost their honesty and retained their error. In the words of Peter:□They stumble[d] at the word, being disobedient. Hence, Paul’s request to the Thessalonians that they pray that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all *men* have not faith□ (2 The. 3:2). If you want to become wicked, just stop being reasonable. In doing so, you will lose your honesty and harden your heart as you embrace the strong delusion of error.

David P. Brown
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The following is a letter written to the editor of the Augusta Chronicle, for publication, in response to an article that appeared in the July 17, 2010 issue:

Dear Editor,

The Chronicle (July 17, 2010) in the “Your Faith” section had an article under the title “*Bible should not block path to God*” by Lt. Col. Mark Thompson. I was shocked that a man whose career is one in which he should be helping people “seeking a relationship with God” would make such a statement as he does at the conclusion of his article: “How you understand the Bible should never be a wall or stumbling block in the path of that relationship.” How can that be so?

In the article he disparages those who believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God (as the Bible itself teaches – II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:3) with his statement “Biblical literalism, infallibility, historical factuality, and moral and doctrinal absolutes have crushed the efforts of many seeking a relationship with God.” He further states: “As a human product, the Bible is not absolute truth or God’s revealed truth but relative to a time and place.” Either the Bible is literal, infallible, historically accurate, containing moral and doctrinal absolutes or it is not. If it is, then it is God’s Word that needs to be obeyed and followed if one is to have a “relationship with God” or it can be **completely** ignored as irrelevant to man today. There can be no “middle ground.” It is interesting to note that those who were the founders of the denomination in which Thompson is a “pastor” in, taught that the Bible is God’s Word and, it is clear from their writings that they would have denounced the position taken by Thompson in his article.

Further Thompson makes statements that **contradict** the clear teaching of the Bible. No wonder he sees the Bible as being “a wall or stumbling block.” He writes: “Though many of the teachings of the Bible are relevant for us today...” How can we determine what is relevant or what is irrelevant if one accepts the concept that the Bible is only “the product of two historical communities” and not the inspired word of God? Thompson also states: “...it was never written for us or meant to be put together as a book.” Jesus taught that the Holy Spirit would guide the apostles into **all** truth after the Spirit has come upon them (John 16:13). As we have noted those who wrote the pages of the New Testament indicated that what they wrote was inspired of God (the Greek literally means “God breathed”) If what the writers penned was inspired, then it is clear that Christ indicated that the Holy Spirit would give, by inspiration, that which the writers of the New Testament would write as they revealed the truth. Thompson further states: “The documents that make up the Bible were not sacred but became sacred, as declared by a community, over the centuries.” Such a statement “flies in the face” of the strong declaratory statements of the inspired writers.

Again, Thompson writes: “If we can see the Bible like this, we can understand the stories of creation, Adam and Eve, the flood as metaphorical narrative that can be profoundly true but not literally factual.” How can such be “profoundly true” if not “literally factual”? How does one determine what parts of the Bible are not “literally factual”? He continues: “Did God create the Earth in six actual days? Does it matter? The truth is God created.” Actually, the six days of creation, as recorded in Genesis, speak of the **whole** creation not simply the earth. Yes, it does

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NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

There will be a pot luck will be after the morning worship today. Plan to stay and eat and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

The bulletin has been run early as the Chumbleys are on a short vacation.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Ken Chumbley is working on an update for the church directory. Those who were in the previous one, please check the information and let him know of any changes. If you have an e-mail address, please let him know that if it is not already listed. For newer members, please let him have a note with your name, address, telephone number(s), birthday, and anniversary (if applicable). Thanks.

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matter whether or not it occurred in six literal days. The Bible tells us that He did. Is that fact or fiction? If one believes the Bible to be the word of God, that settles it. If one believes, as Thompson clearly believes, what the Bible has to say is irrelevant.

Thompson begins his article with the question: “Why have so many people left the church? Could it be the lack of ability to make sense of what is being taught?” Maybe the reason has to do with the “gobbledygook” that is spoken in many pulpits like that which is found in this article whereby the very basis and foundation of the Christian faith, the Bible, is disparaged by those that the people believe should proclaim it. Further, it could be, as there always has been, those who will reject the Bible because it does contain “moral and doctrinal absolutes” and they don’t desire to be bound by them.

Thompson does not indicate that he believes in the judgment that the Bible clearly teaches (Matthew 25:31-46; II Corinthians 5:10 etc.). However, he clearly does not believe that it is relevant but one day, he along with others, will find out that it is relevant!

If one is “seeking a relationship with God,” he will examine the Bible, the inspired word of God, and respond in obedience to its teachings in order to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. Don’t let what others say. In casting aside the Bible, become a “wall or a stumbling block” to you having a true relationship with God in your obedience to His teachings.

Ken Chumbley