

REMINDER

Others May, but You Cannot -

Since God called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility, and put upon you such demands of obedience that you will not be able to follow other people to measure yourself by other Christians. In many ways, He may seem to let other people do things, which he will not let you do.

Other Christians and ministers even, who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull strings, work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it, and if you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you sorely penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writing, but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing, and if you begin it, he will lead you unto some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may be allowed to succeed in making money or may have a legacy left to them, but it is likely that God will keep you poor, because He wants you to have something far better than gold, namely, helpless dependence upon Him that he may have the privilege of supplying your needs day by day out of an unseen treasury.

The Lord may let others be honored and put forward and keep you hidden in obscurity, because He wants to produce some choice fragrant fruit for His coming glory, which can only be produced in the shade and not the sunlight. He may let others be great but keep you small.

He may let others do a work for Him and get the credit for it, but He will make you work and toil on without knowing how much you are doing. And then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get the credit for the work, which you have done and thus make your reward ten times greater, when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put strict watch over you with a jealous love and will rebuke you for little words and feelings or for wasting your time, which other Christians never become, distressed about.

So, make up your mind that God is an infinite Sovereign and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things, which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you, but if you absolutely sell yourself to be His bond slave, He will wrap you up in a jealous love, and bestow upon you many blessings, which come only to those, who are in His inner circle. Settle it forever then that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit, and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, or chaining your hand, or closing your eyes in ways that He does not seem to use with others.

Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the power of God in your life.



Dr. H. A.
Ironside

Eternal Security of the Believer

by the late Dr. Harry A. Ironside

(continued from last week)

We're continuing our discussions of common questions raised by people who object to the Bible doctrine of Eternal Security:

❑ Question 5 – John 6:67 -

“Will ye also go away?” What about this question?

The question and the answer bring out the very thing I am speaking of. He turned now to the apostles, that little group who had accompanied Him so long, and said, **“Will ye also go away?”** and Peter said what every truly converted soul always says, **“Lord to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life” (John 6:68)**. If you are really born again, that is always the answer.

I remember reasoning on this subject with a dear good brother for something like two hours one day, and he was insisting that a man could take himself out of the Lord's hand. I said, “Why do you keep insisting on this? Are you sure that you are saved?” He said, “Absolutely.” “How long?” I asked him. “Forty years,” he replied. “And you have been kept for forty years? Do you want to take yourself out of the Lord's hand that you are talking like that?” “Certainly not,” he answered. “Well,” I said, “you are better than your creed.”

That is just the point. If a man is born again, he never wants to take himself out of Christ's hand even if he could. Christ alone is the one who satisfies the soul.

❑ Question 6 – II Thessalonians 2:3 -

How about II Thessalonians 2:3 - **“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.”** ?

The word translated “falling away” is “apostasy” in the original. That has nothing to do with the question of individual salvation. It does not touch this doctrine. Can you not see that it is a prophecy of what is happening all about us at the present time? Recently, we were told that seventy-five per cent of the ministers in the church federation in the city of Chicago signed a questionnaire saying that they did not believe in some of the great fundamental truths of the Bible. There you have apostasy. Does that mean that these ministers were all Christians once and now are not saved?

My dear friends, I am afraid the whole trouble is that most of them have never been born again at all. They do not know anything of regenerating grace and therefore are quite ready to apostatize from the doctrines held sacred by the great evangelical denominations. I remember when a certain preacher came out

with a blatant attack on the doctrine of blood atonement. It shocked a lot of people who had been reading his books, and they said, “Isn't it strange that a man who was once such a fine Christian now denies the blood of Christ?” I sat down and read every one of his books and found that he never mentioned in any of them the blood of Christ or Christ's death on the cross, except in one when he spoke of the example of humiliation Jesus set by going to the cross. But there was never one other reference to the death, the blood, or the atonement. Later he stated: “They charge me with giving up the doctrine of blood atonement; I never believed it.” **He showed that he was simply an apostate.** These things had no place in his heart or life.

The apostasy is coming; it is coming fast. The great professing church is going into it, but not one born again person will ever bow to the Antichrist.

❑ Question 7 – Hebrews 12:14 -

What about Hebrews 12:14 - **“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”** ?

That is exactly what we stand for. Anyone who says “I am a Christian” and does not follow peace and holiness will never see the Lord. But I remember how that used to trouble me. When a young Christian, I was taught that when I was converted all my sins up to that moment were put away, and then it was as though God said, “I have wiped off the past and have put you back where Adam was before he fell: if you can keep the record clear from now to the end, you will be saved and you will get to heaven.”

I started out and soon began to fail, and then they said to me, “The trouble with you is you have not gotten holiness yet. If you get that you will be able to live the right kind of a life.” I asked, “What is this blessing of holiness?” and was told, “When God saved you, He only justified you.” Only justified you? “He forgave your past sin, but now you have to get sanctified, and that means you must have all your inbred sin rooted out, and you will get true holiness.” I thought, “But it didn't work very well with Adam,” and it rather bothered me. Yet they assured me that was the thing, and so I went in for it and for six years I struggled.

I was working on a text that is not in the Bible: **“Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.”** I heard many sermons preached on it, and sometimes I preached on it myself. I had a large red banner with that text in white letters, and I tried to get holiness. Sometimes I thought I had it, and then something would go wrong and I would have to try to get it all over again. I shall never forget the first time I read, **“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”** I

thought it said, “Without holiness it is impossible to see God.” I **thought** I had to get perfect holiness in this life, but what it *says* there is, if you do not follow holiness you will not see the Lord. Every Christian follows holiness. A man who says “I am a Christian” and does not follow holiness is either self-deceived or a hypocrite. I maintain this with all my heart.

❑ **Question 8 – Ezekiel 18:24 -**

Ezekiel 18:24: ***“But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live?”***

Is it not strange for anyone in this dispensation of grace to quote a passage like that, as though it had **anything** to do with the question of the soul’s salvation?

Go back and read Ezekiel 18. Of what is it treating? We read in verse 21: ***“If the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all My statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die.”*** Is that grace? No, that is law. That is just the quintessence of law. Do you believe that if a wicked man turns from his wickedness he will live? If this is true, why did Jesus die? Would you preach that to sinners? Would you have me stand up and say, *“You wicked people, you have been doing wickedness; you start in tonight to do righteousness and you will live”*? Would you have me preach that? I would be deliberately deceiving people if I told them that.

But you see, here God was testing people under law and said, ***“The man that doeth these things shall live. . . .But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.”***

And what has happened? Not one man ever continued in all the things that are written in the book of the law to do them. Therefore, they were all under sentence of death.

How then were they to be saved? By turning over a new leaf? ***Oh, no - but by confessing that they had no righteousness.*** If they had, it would only be filthy rags. But now, they find all their righteousness in the Lord Jesus Christ, ***“who of God is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.”*** Do not ever quote Ezekiel 18 as though it were gospel; it is law. And remember the “life” spoken of in Ezekiel is not eternal life in Christ. It is life here on earth prolonged under the divine government, because of obedience, or cut short because of sin.

- more next week

❑ **BEWARE OF DIETRICH BONHOEFFER** - Like C. S. Lewis, Dietrich Bonhoeffer is a patron hero of New Evangelicalism and the Emerging Church. You will find the writings of both of these heretics in Southern Baptist bookstores.

New Evangelicals pretend to hold to unity in the “essentials,”

but in reality they are willing to overlook even the “essential” doctrines of the faith for the sake of a broad-based unity. They pretend to care deeply about the “core cardinal doctrines of the faith,” but they do not plainly condemn and decisively separate from those who deny those doctrines, and this is the exact destiny of those Christians today who are flirting with the “essentials” only approach to separation.

Like other Neo-Orthodox theologians, Bonhoeffer’s writings are obtuse and often contradictory. He did not speak with the clear voice of truth. For this reason, he can sometimes be cited on both sides of theological issues, but any man who speaks with such lack of clarity on the fundamental issues of the faith should be avoided as a dangerous spiritual guide. The following list of some of Bonhoeffer’s heresies is from Don Jasmin:

1. He denied the verbal-plenary inspiration of Scripture, believing that the Bible is only a “witness” to the Word of God and becomes the Word of God only when it “speaks” to an individual; otherwise, it was simply the word of man (Testimony to Freedom, pp. 9, 104; Sanctorum Communio, p. 161).

2. He denied the biblical God, believing that the concept of God as a “supreme Being, absolute in power and goodness,” is a “spurious conception of transcendence,” and that “God as a working hypothesis in morals, politics, and science ... should be dropped, or as far as possible eliminated” (Letters and Papers from Prison, S.C.M. Press edition, Great Britain: Fontana Books, 1953, pp. 122, 164, 360).

3. He questioned the Virgin Birth (The Cost of Discipleship, p. 215).

4. He denied the deity of Christ, advocating that “Jesus Christ Today” is not a real person and being, but a “corporate presence” (Testimony to Freedom, pp. 75-76; Christ the Center, p. 58).

5. He denied the sinlessness of Christ’s human nature and further questioned the sinlessness of His earthly behavior (Christ the Center, pp. 108-109).

6. He denied the physical resurrection of Christ, believing that the bodily resurrection is in “the realm of ambiguity,” and that it was one of the “mythological” elements of Christianity that “must be interpreted in such a way as not to make religion a pre-condition of faith.” He also believed that such things as miracles and the ascension of Christ are “mythological conceptions” (Christ the Center, p. 112; Letters and Papers from Prison, S.C.M. Press edition, Great Britain: Fontana Books, 1953, pp. 93-94, 110).

7. He believed that Christ is not the only way to God (Testimony to Freedom, pp. 55-56).

8. He was an evolutionist (No Rusty Swords, p. 143) and believed that the book of Genesis is scientifically naive and full of myths (Creation and Fall: A Theological Interpretation of Genesis 1-3).

9. He adhered to neo-orthodox theology and terminology concerning salvation (Testimony to Freedom, p. 130), was a

sacramentalist (Life Together, p. 122; The Way to Freedom, pp. 115, 153), believed in regenerative infant baptism (Letters and Papers from Prison, Macmillan, pp. 142-143) as well as adult baptismal regeneration (The Way to Freedom, p. 151), equated church membership with salvation (The Way to Freedom, p. 93), and denied a personal/individualistic salvation (Letters and Papers from Prison, Macmillan, p. 156).

Dr. G. Archer Weniger declared, *“If there is wholesome food in a garbage can, then one can find some good things in Bonhoeffer, but if it be dangerous to expect to find nourishment in a garbage can, then Bonhoeffer must be totally rejected and repudiated as blasphemy. It is worse than garbage”* (FBB Information Bulletin, May 1977, p. 12).

- David W. Cloud

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Vicki Martin
 Cradle Roll 2: Lou Martin
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper
 Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: LeAnna White
 Cradle Roll 2: Shirley White

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 14, 2011

Sunday School ----- 28
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 40
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 26
 Wed. Eve., 08/17/11 Service ----- 20

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 14, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,091.64
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 0.00
Total Received for Week of 08/14/11: \$ 1,091.64

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR AUGUST:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received during August thusfar ----- \$ 2.00
Amount still needed by Sept. 5, 2011: - \$ 271.08

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. **Admit that you are a sinner.**
2. **Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.**
3. **Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.**
4. **You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).**
5. **By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.**



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today** - **OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English, Lou & Vicki Martin, Don Diehl ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White

