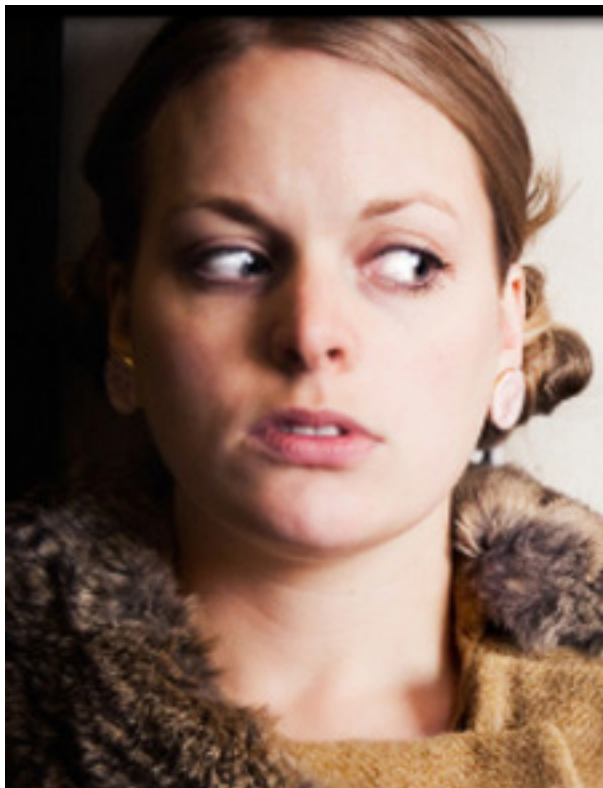




# ROMANS Part 46

Chapter 5:15-19

## Greater Than Adam, Part 5



**But not as the offense, thus also the grace. For if, by the offense of the one, the many died, much rather the grace of God and the gratuity in grace, which is of the One Man, Jesus Christ, to the many superabounds. And not as through one act of sinning is the gratuity. For, indeed, the judgment is out of one into condemnation, yet the grace is out of many offenses into a just award.**

**For if, by the offense of the one, death reigns through the one, much rather, those obtaining the superabundance of grace and the gratuity of righteousness shall be reigning in life through the One, Jesus Christ. Consequently, then, as it was through one offense for all mankind for condemnation, thus also it is through one just award for all mankind for life's justifying. For even as, through the disobedience of the one man, the many were constituted sinners, thus also, through the obedience of the One, the many shall be constituted just.**

**I**n this section of Romans, Paul compares and contrasts Adam and Christ. He does it again in 1 Corinthians 15:21-23—

For since, in fact, through a man came death, through a Man, also, comes the resurrection of the dead. For even as, in Adam, all are dying, thus also, in Christ, shall all be vivified. Yet each in his own class.

These verses are very important to your well-being. If you can read them for what they say and not for what you have been told they say, these verses will change your life. They are important for your certainty and thus for your comfort concerning friends and loved ones. You have been taught that those who believe in Jesus Christ are saved, and that those who don't will burn in hell for eternity. This has been a huge grief to you, considering that possibly your own children do not believe in Jesus Christ. It has been a huge grief to you, considering that your own view of God has been compromised. You are supposed to feel comfortable and loving concerning God, but the doctrine of eternal torment has made you queasy and unsure of Him—at best. You may even be afraid of Him. You may say that you love Him and you may even sing all the “we love God” songs at church, but deep down you doubt His love. You doubt His care. At worst, you may deep down hate Him for

bringing so many people into the world whose ultimate destiny is to suffer forever. What kind of fiend can torment someone for eternity? God must have a dark side—an incredibly terrible and unspeakably evil facet. But you have kept these thoughts to yourself. You refuse to think anymore. You try to stay busy in order to put these troubling thoughts from your mind.

### COME TO THE LIGHT

For you, Paul has comforting words. Paul is inspired; your pastor is not. Your so-called friends who so-called know their so-called Bibles are not inspired. Paul is saying in this passage from Romans that everyone who has inherited death from Adam will be raised to immortal life (“vivified”) by Jesus Christ. It’s this simple. But you haven’t been able to see it because you’ve been blinded by years of false teaching that has filtered out light.

“Vivified,” in 1 Corinthians 15, means “life beyond the reach of death.” This is not a life forever in hell. That



**“Eden after Adam’s sin was quite bad enough, but the Christian version of hell is conspicuously absent.”**

would be a living death. How could Christ be greater than Adam if Christ delivers people into a worse fate than that which befell the first man? Was the penalty for Adam’s sin eternal torment? Read Genesis for yourself. Try to find eternal torment there. In my reading, flames are absent from Eden. Because of Adam’s sin, God cursed the ground and increased Eve’s pain in childbearing. Roses became thorns. Some of the sweet little animals

now became predators. God drove the first couple from the Garden and removed His intimate fellowship from them. It is all quite bad enough, but the Christian version of hell is conspicuously absent.

Forget for a moment that Christ is greater than Adam. If Christ were lesser than Adam and we were all penalized in accord with Adam’s sin (rather than blessed in accord with Christ’s righteous act), why would any of us suffer more than the first man? What have any of us done that is worse than Adam’s screw-up? If we were all to partake eternally in the fruit of Adam’s disobedience (rather than in the fruit of Christ’s obedience), then we would remain in the struggling condition in which Adam found himself, and then eventually die and stay dead. That’s what happened to him. Adam lived a hard life, and then went the way of all mortals. He died, and he’s still dead. The thing that befell Adam would befall everyone—if Adam were greater than Christ. But Christ is greater than Adam. This is a “slight detail” missed by those drunk and staggering beneath the intoxicant of mainstream theology.

### THE FIRSTFRUIT

In Colossians 1:15, Jesus Christ is called “the firstfruit of every creature.” This means that, whatever has happened to Christ in His most fruitful state, will happen to every creature. What happened to Christ? He rose from the dead and has stayed alive, never to die again. He rose to be with His Father in glory, and there He shall always be. As the firstfruit of every creature (Colossians 1:15), Jesus Christ must vivify not only every person condemned to death by Adam, but every creature—celestial or terrestrial—that has ever come from His hand, which is every creature. This requires nothing less than a life forever in the loving embrace of God.

This is Paul’s teaching. It agrees with every other of his teachings. It agrees with every other verse of Scripture, though Paul is the only writer to detail the glorious future of humanity as a whole—and of every created being in either heaven or Earth—rather than merely the fortunes of one Middle-East nation. Romans 11:36 says that “all is out of, through, and into God.” Everything that came out of God, returns to God. It does not return to an eternal burning, for it was never in an eternal burning. Only Paul reaches this height and breadth. Only Paul explains the depths of what Christ’s cross accomplished. Christ had to explain it to Paul. He did this some time after His ascension. While walking among Israelites disguised as a Jew, Jesus Christ never divulged this secret to anyone. When



our Lord appeared to Paul, He was no longer operating as a humble Jewish carpenter. His glory shone brighter than the sun. The time was right to unveil secrets far beyond Israel's ken.

To the Jews—including Peter and the other disciples—the death of Christ was “merely” the propitiation for the sins of the inhabitants of a tiny, despised nation east of Egypt. To Paul was given the secret of Christ: this Son of God is not merely the Chief Priest of Israel, but the Head of the Universe. As such, He eventually reconciles that Universe to Himself through the shedding of His blood. Colossians 1:20 says that the cross of Jesus Christ will,

... reconcile all to Him, making peace through the blood of His cross, through Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens.

As the stars of heaven transcend the sand of the sea, surely this truth from the pen of Paul transcends anything previously revealed concerning Israel. The “all” of the context is the all that was created by Him (Colossians 1:16), which is everything. This verse is even more sweeping and

inclusive than those verses comparing Adam to Christ, for here in Colossians, the context is not only all humanity, but all creation.

### THE SALVATION OF UNBELIEVERS

“But my daughter is not a believer,” you say. For you, Paul writes Romans. But not only this. I have another line from another of Paul's letters: 1 Timothy 4:10, 11—

For for this are we toiling and being reproached, that we rely on the living God, Who is the Saviour of all humanity, especially of believers. These things be charging and teaching.

God is the Savior of all humanity, especially of believers. With Paul, I am charging and teaching this. I'm also being reproached for it from mainstream Christian camps. This verse flies in the face of Christian teaching, which purports God to be the Savior *exclusively* of believers while damning the rest of humanity. Yummy.

Is this what the verse says? (What a glorious day back in 1982 when God caused me to start reading Scripture for what it said and not for what I was told it said.) It says that God is the Savior, *especially* of believers. This means that He has more in store for believers than for unbelievers, but it also assumes that He still has something in

**“If God is responsible for giving faith, then He must also be responsible for withholding it.”**

store for unbelievers, and it is this: SALVATION. *God saves unbelievers?* How can this be?

Belief comes from God (Romans 12:3), and only from Him. In this life, He obviously does not give it to everyone. What is not so obvious is that a lack of faith is just as “from God” as is faith. This is what the Calvinists have figured out. If God is responsible for giving faith, then He must also be responsible for withholding it. If He withholds it from someone who eventually dies, then whose “fault” is it that this someone died an unbeliever? It's God's. If the penalty for not believing is eternal torment, then God is responsible for unbelievers being tormented forever. The Calvinists have no problem with this. Normal people (Calvinists are not normal people) have a major problem with it. I have a major problem

with it. Paul has a major problem with it. Jesus Christ has a major problem with it. (Jesus Christ is not a Calvinist—FYI.)

### BELIEF AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD

The simple but difficult-to-believe fact (difficult only in light of the complexity of the lie) is that God does not want everyone believing in Him now. Rather, He actively prevents such a thing from happening. To fulfill His purposes, God needs antagonists. (Think of the Romans and the Jews who crucified Christ. Think of Judas. Think of Pilate. Going back further, think of people like



Pharaoh and the witch of Endor.) To make sure He has antagonists, God purposely withholds faith from them.

If God revealed Himself to everyone, in all His majesty, in accord with His inherent nature, then everyone would believe in Him. Who wouldn't? Resistance would be futile. God has made no one so dense or so stupid as to see Him plainly unveiled and not believe in Him. (Wax is more likely to avoid melting in contact with the sun.) Since God does not want so many worshipers now but rather intimate friends, He veils Himself. Since no one is capable of believing in a veiled God (Jesus Christ on Earth was the veiled Image of God), it takes a miracle for anyone to believe in Him. God provides the miracle when it pleases Him and upon whom it pleases Him. Belief is an act of spirit gifted upon few (Romans 12:3).

It took an act of spirit for Peter to say, "Thou art the

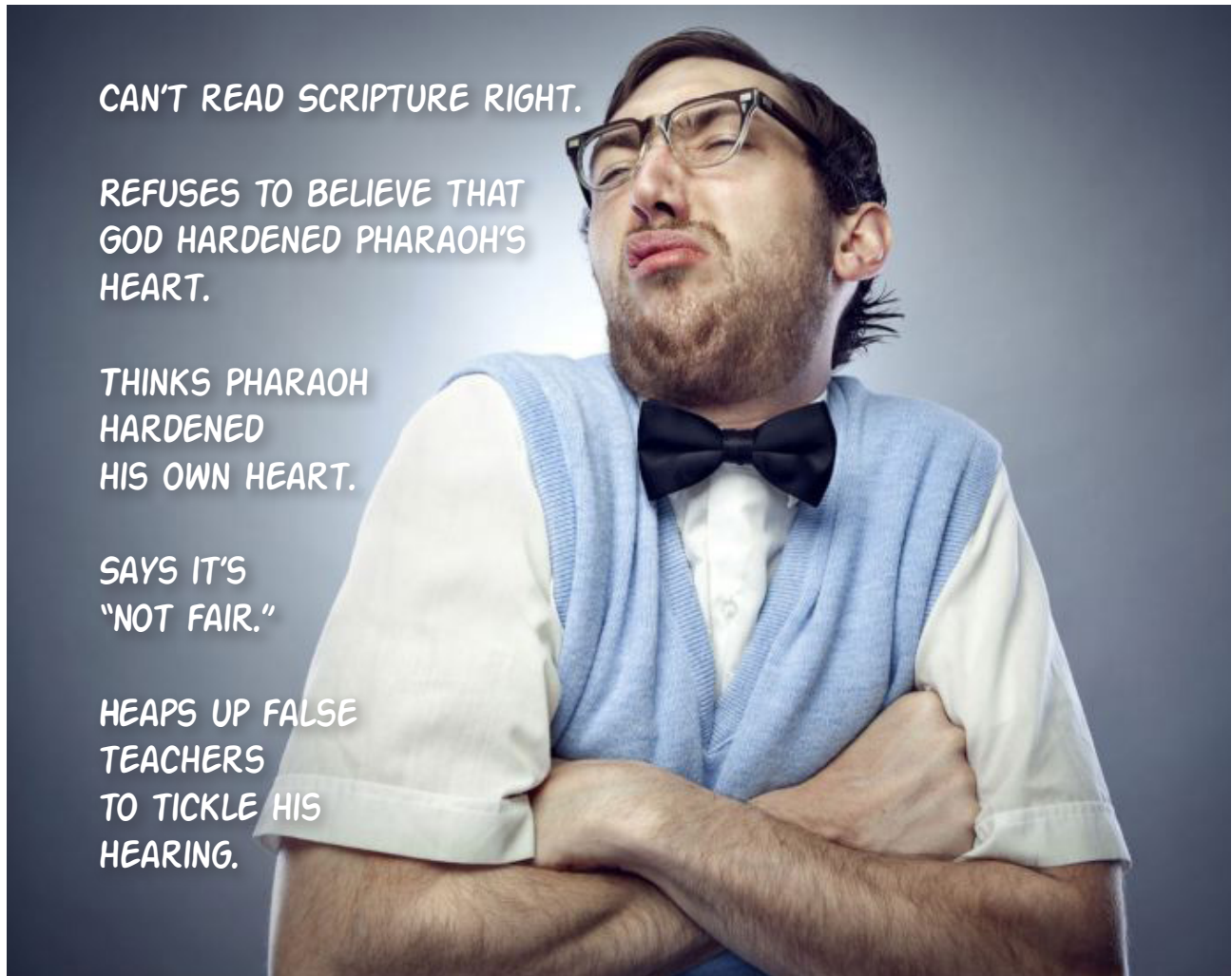
Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). This took Jesus aback, I think. You can tell it in the passage. Startled, Jesus answered the Rock, "Flesh and blood does not reveal it to you, but My Father Who is in the heavens" (Matthew 16:17). It always surprised Jesus when someone believed in Him; it always made His day; it was always a nice present to Him—a special treat—given Him by His Father. Most people hated Him and thought He was nuts.

By observing flesh and blood only, no one could recognize Christ on Earth. Jesus looked like everyone else, only worse. Perhaps Peter did not consciously feel the power of God, but a wallop of spirit overcame him that moment for him to stare at an ordinary-looking man and say, "Thou art the Christ." This was no less a miracle than water turning to wine. In an instant, Jesus turned Peter's common human sense into a flash of spiritual perception. It was a silent, invisible flash, yet more powerful than any force from heaven you have ever seen. Jesus nearly jumped from His skin, I think, when Peter said it. Jesus felt the power. Others only heard the words. Jesus loved it. It made His day.

### TRUE POWER

In the days of our Lord's earthly sojourn, Jesus and God were making a point. The plan was to let in only a few select humans on the presence of Christ in the world. Everyone else would be blinded. (Likewise, only a few human beings today are let in on His plans and purposes. Everyone else, for now, can only appreciate whatever they perceive with their five senses.)

A point had to be made. The point was (and is) that the power able to resurrect dead bodies and turn evil into good comes from spirit rather than from vast fighting forces and heavy weaponry. Exhibit A: Jesus on the cross. Human beings require armies to conquer enemies. The better the weapons, the more people, the better chances of success. That's the human way. God operates on another principle. God overcomes the most powerful of all enemies—sin; evil; death; Satan—by means of a naked human on a Roman stake of execution on the lowest depression on Earth Who is pinioned so completely to that stake that He cannot even swat flies from His face. From this most unlikely place, He "strips off the sovereignties and authorities, with boldness He makes a show of them, triumphing over them in it" (Colossians 2:15). He, on the cross, was making a show of *them*. He did this while stripped Himself. God!



CAN'T READ SCRIPTURE RIGHT.

REFUSES TO BELIEVE THAT  
GOD HARDENED PHARAOH'S  
HEART.

THINKS PHARAOH  
HARDENED  
HIS OWN HEART.

SAYS IT'S  
"NOT FAIR."

HEAPS UP FALSE  
TEACHERS  
TO TICKLE HIS  
HEARING.

*That* is spiritual power. It is the point of all spiritual power. It is why you are sick and discouraged today. It is why you feel weak. You're not imagining things. God is still making the point. It always will be the point. Wait until you see what God does with you. (For a sneak preview, see what He did with Christ.)

#### NO, IT'S NOT FAIR

It may not seem fair to you that God should refuse to reveal Himself to most people. It's not. Fairness has nothing to do with any of this. This is why you should thank God rabidly that He has given you faith. He could just as easily have not given it to you. I mean, really easily. The vast majority of people do not get it. Not only does God not give most people faith, He hardens them. Paul's example of this phenomenon is Pharaoh (Romans 9:17). Pharaoh is called a vessel of dishonor (Romans 9:21) because he was born to resist God so that God could glorify Himself through Pharaoh's resistance. The thing that

keeps people from believing in God is not only God's artful methods of Self-masking, but His imposition of stubbornness upon people's hearts. He hardens whom He will in this life. Romans 9:18, "To whom He will, He is merciful, yet whom He will, He is hardening."

Because of belief in eternal torment, most people cannot believe the simple statement of Romans 9:18. I keep saying Jesus hid Himself on Earth, but on the other hand He also performed many open miracles. Why couldn't the religious leaders believe in Him? Ultimately, they were blinded. The intermediate cause, however, was their own prejudices. It was the "nothing good can come from Nazareth" syndrome: Jesus had no pedigree: His father was a carpenter; He had missed signing up at the best schools; He dressed poorly. Even though the religious leaders witnessed—or heard firsthand accounts concerning—the miracles, it was the filters over their eyes that kept their vision in the mud.

Thus also with Christians today. Belief in the false teachings of eternal torment and free will filters out plain

Scriptural passages teaching both the sovereignty of God and the reconciliation of the Universe through Christ. As soon as a person realizes the dual satanic scams of eternal torment and free will ... whammy! ... many passages of Scripture suddenly emerge from the fog. One of the most common exclamations I've heard from those newly illuminated is, "How long has *that* verse been in the Bible?" My common answer is, "A long time."

Where does this leave people like Pharaoh? Where does it leave simple unbelievers like your son or your daughter? "God is the Savior of all humanity, especially of believers" (1 Timothy 4:10). God is the Savior of Pharaoh, and of your son and daughter. He will save them later, not now. He will save them by sight, not faith.

How are believers saved "especially"?

#### "ESPECIALLY" SALVATION

Those to whom God gives belief enter into His glory before other people. It is no credit to them, just as it was no credit to Peter, Andrew, and the others whom Jesus chose to be His disciples over hundreds of other working-class schmucks in Israel. (None of the twelve disciples volunteered to be Jesus' disciples. They were all daft and drafted. Same with you: God pulled you out of whatever boat you were content to stay in and called you to Himself.) Believers live with God before others and will help the Deity run His affairs throughout the Universe (Ephesians 1:9-12). This is what is meant by, "especially of believers." Everyone eventually comes, but believers get more and they get it early.

This obviously does not exclude the rest. It gives believers special privileges. Belief is a great thing. Have the believers earned these privileges? Again, no. It is purely a matter of having been chosen ahead of time (Ephesians 1:5), before birth. When God chooses you before your birth and you are finally made aware of this fact, you realize that your calling has nothing to do with you being either a good or a bad person during your lifetime (Romans 9:11-12). Wow. That spells the end of religion, right there. When salvation is based on God's choice rather than a person's behavior, religion loses its power. Religion is the ultimate self-appointed behavior modifier. Religion believes it must keep you attending the program in order to keep you on the good side. If you quit the program, you'll hit the skids. Religion has a vested interest in salvation being based on conduct, for they have appointed themselves the motivators and en-



**“Can a one-month old accept Jesus as his Savior? I’ve never seen it happen.”**

forcers of said conduct. But you were already chosen in Christ for glory before you could have done anything good or bad. Conduct doesn't matter. Ouch! That's the death knell of religion. No wonder religion hates the truth of salvation by grace; it messes with their programs of salvation by conduct.

Is it fair? I can't blame you for continuing to ask that question. The answer, again, is no. God is not an "equal opportunity" Employer or Chooser. That's the Christian teaching, that "everyone has a chance to accept Jesus." Really? In what world does everyone have a chance to accept Jesus? In the real world, no one has a chance. Remember? "Not one is understanding. Not one is seeking out God" (Romans 3:11). The Christian viewpoint is bogus. It is a bad check (free will) written to cover a bad check (eternal torment). To prove this, we need only think of those born before the time of Christ. We need only think of our contemporaries in the jungles of Africa or the Australian Bush of who have never heard of Jesus Christ. For that matter, we need only to think of babies. Can a one-month old accept Jesus as his or her Savior? I've never seen it happen. (So what happens to the kid? The kid is in Adam, so figure it out yourself. Read Romans 5:18-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:21-23.)

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITY BLINDNESS

For that matter, we need only think of the people standing in Jesus Christ's literal presence, hearing Him teach, watching His miracles—but who still disbelieved Him. What is the difference between these people and those who lived before His time? I would rather speak about what these two groups have in common: the common denominator here is a God-imposed sanction against realization. There are two ways to not see Christ: Either you can live in a time before Christ, or you can stand right in front of the Man and be blind as a frickin' bat. The result is the same: no realization. The purpose of God is the same: He keeps most people in this life from knowing the real Christ. This goal is more readily accomplished by birthing people into times B.C. It's much harder—one would think—when You've got A.D. people standing in front of the Man Himself. No worries, though. As Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 13:11, "To you has it been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of the heavens, yet to those it has not been given." Just don't give it. Simple. To the masses, God did not give the secrets of the kingdom:

And filled up in them is the prophecy of Isaiah, that is saying, "In hearing, you will be hearing, and may by no means be understanding, And observing, you will be observing, and may by no means be perceiving" (Matthew 13:14).

How can people hear and not understand? How can they observe but not perceive? They must be actively blinded. See? It's a miracle. But to God, miracles are easy.

Even as it is written, God gives them a spirit of stupor, eyes not to be observing, and ears not to be hearing, till this very day (Romans 11:8).

"EVENTUALLY"

Those finding themselves (or never finding themselves) as vessels of dishonor now (such as nearly all of Israel) are eventually saved, and that is the key word to everything: "eventually." This is the import of the last part of the 1 Corinthians 15:21-23 reference, "As in Adam all are dying, thus also in Christ shall all be vivified. Yet each in his own class." The KJV says, "each in his own order." There is an order to who gets resurrected and vivified when. It does not happen to everyone at once. Just as people have to be born in order to experience death through the channel of Adam, so everyone is made alive at different times — "in his own order, or class"—in order to experience resurrec-

tion life through the channel of Christ. Here is another verse backing up this truth. It's 1 Timothy 2:5-6—

For there is one God, and one Mediator of God and mankind, a Man, Christ Jesus, Who is giving Himself a correspondent Ransom for all, the testimony in its own eras.

The key phrase here is, "the testimony in its own eras." Each person will have his or her own era in which he or she will be saved. Some come sooner, some later. I'm sure many of you have been told that this present age is "the only age of grace." Really? Ephesians 2:7 says that,

[He] rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in Christ Jesus, that in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the transcendent riches of His grace.

Grace keeps flowing, not only now, but in the oncoming eons, or eras.

## THE DELIGHT OF HIS WILL

God's choosings are in accord with the delight of His will (Ephesians 1:5). God can do whatever He wants with His creation. He can do whatever makes Him happy. Lucky for us (I speak as a man), He is a good God and has decided to save His creation. To save it, He had to lose it first. He provided for the loss through Adam; the salvation He provides through Christ. What I have

**"To save His creation,  
God had to lose it first.  
He provided for the loss  
through Adam; the  
salvation He provides  
through Christ."**

just told you is a given, or ought to be. Paul proves it with Colossians 1:16-20, Ephesians 1:10, Philippians 2:10, Romans 11:32, and Romans 11:36. In the realm of humanity only, He proves it with Romans 5:18-19, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22, and 1 Timothy 4:10. This information ought to be Scripture 101, but it isn't. Instead, worldlings want their hearing tickled ("eternal torment"; "free will"). They get what they want in church

via mainstream pastors and priests who have memorized standard denominational lies from man-made institutions and their sickly curricula. Because the professors there mount diplomas and wear snappy suits, the young, empty heads in attendance believe whatever they are fed from the fancy spoons. These students-become-graduates are then dispatched into the world to teach other worldlings the same hoey of which they themselves imbibed. The masses are dazzled and dulled—not necessarily in that order.

### THE BIG CONCERT

To borrow from an example I once gave in a video, it is as though I am buying everyone in my family and extended family tickets to an Elton John/Billy Joel concert. For this, I buy 5000 tickets. (It is quite an extended family.) I am so generous that I buy everyone front row seats. (It is quite a large concert venue.) Everyone is overjoyed. Many of these family members I have not even seen in years. Most of them I have never even met. Every ticket recipient thanks me with kisses and hugs. Apart from me, most of them have no means or opportunity to enjoy such a world-class performance. This gesture shows the depth of my grace and love. Or does it? I have even more grace and love than this. But how do I show it when I've already been so generous? To demonstrate the depths of my benevolence, I decide to cull from this group a select few. Why only a select few? I want the distinction made between those I love dearly and those I love especially dearly. Think about it. We love everyone, but especially our families. Even within families, we love our children more than aunts and uncles. We want no one in this world to suffer, but we want our children to be especially comfortable. (It doesn't mean that we give our children electric blankets while electrocuting strangers.) We love our parents more than our cousins, without hating our cousins. Paul said in Galatians 6:10—

Consequently, then, as we have occasion, we are working for the good of all, yet specially for the family of faith.

Is this not the same principle? Is not God at least this good? Galatians 6:10 is a parallel passage to 1 Timothy 4:10 in that it is the same construction in the Greek. Does Galatians 6:10 prove that we are to work *only* for the good of the family of faith? On the contrary, we are to work for the good of the whole world, but especially

for the family of faith. While you might send Christmas cards to the whole world (that would be a large mailing list), you send popcorn balls to the family of faith. You get the idea. No one reads this passage and thinks: *we are to work exclusively for the family of faith, and then do mean things to everyone else.* Everyone recognizes in this passage that the special attention to the family of believers is not to exclude those outside of that sphere. Then why do so-called Bible students abandon the same common sense in 1 Timothy 4:10 and insist that the simple sentence “God is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers?” means that He is the Savior *exclusively* of believers, and then damns the rest to an eternity of torment? The answer is simple: People read 1 Timothy 4:10 with a gigantic theological bias hung around their necks. People really don't want everyone to be saved.

### MY PLAN

My plan is to choose a select group out of my extended family and give them more than the standard concert experience. You're probably thinking, “backstage pass.” That would be something. But no. I have arranged for this group to spend two days before the concert with Billy Joel and Elton John. I am personal friends with the artists. My select group will share meals with the artists, and go wherever they go. They will spend the night not only in the same hotel as these musicians, but in the same suite. In fact, they're going to help Billy and Elton choose the set list for the concert. They will then assist them backstage before the show.





My elect are flabbergasted. They ask what they did to deserve such grace. I say, “You didn’t do anything. I haven’t even seen some of you in years. I wanted to lavish acquaintances of my choosing with an incredible blessing simply because it makes me happy. You are the beneficiaries of my delight. I have the right to do it, because I can do what I want with what is mine.”

Even among the twelve disciples, Jesus’ favorites were Peter, James and John. Only these three witnessed the Master’s transformation on the mount (Matthew 17:1-2). Even among these, John was called, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23). See? “Playing favorites” is a God thing. Screwing the rest is not.

### “WHERE WILL YOU SPEND ETERNITY?”

I once saw a terrible church sign (sorry for the redundancy) that said: “Where will you spend eternity?” The plan of God deeply eluded the placer of this damning (and damned) sign. It is one of the worst questions that can be asked because it assumes that some will spend eternity with God while others will spend it in a much warmer zip code. This is the concept that fuels people’s nightmares: heaven or hell? The question enforces the lie of eternal torment.

The truth is that everyone will spend eternity with God. Why? Because everyone descended from Adam. What the sign needed to say was, “Where will you spend the eons?” I could live with a church sign like that. This is the unknown thing. Not everyone spends the eons with God. The Bible has nothing to say about “eternal life.” The phrase does not appear once in any correctly translated Scripture. No one ever heard of “eternal life” until the Greek Scriptures got translated into Latin, and the Greek word *aionion*, which means “having to do with a period of time,” got translated with the Latin *aeternus*, which means “having nothing to do with time.” (Thanks a lot, Jerome, and your *Vulgate* of 402 A.D.) Any Concordance will expose this error. Good translations (he *Concordant Literal New Testament* is one; *Young’s Literal Translation* is another), put the truth into the text.

When I say, “no one ever heard of eternal life,” people think I’m saying that we don’t live forever. Um, no. We do live forever, but not because the phrase “eternal life” appears anywhere in the Bible, because it doesn’t. We know we live forever because of the Greek word *athanasia*, whose two part elements *a* and *thanasia* literally mean “un-death.” Something that is “un-death” cannot die. Thus, it is immortal, and it is translated “immortal” in the *Concordant Literal New Testament* in 1 Corinthians 15:53-55:

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal put on immortality. Now, whenever this corruptible should be putting on incorruption and this mortal should be putting on immortality, then shall come to pass the word which is written, Swallowed up was Death by Victory. Where, O Death, is your victory? Where, O Death, is your sting?

This is the verse that proves we live forever.

It is *this* word (*athanasia*), not the words *aion* or *aionion* that speaks of eternal life. These other two words always have to do with time. Never in all Scripture is the Greek word *athanasia* used to describe death, punishment, or separation from God. God was very careful



**Thanks a lot for the Vulgate. Moron.**

about this. Separation from God is never immortal, not for anyone. It is the life that is immortal. This other stuff—the bad stuff—is *aionion*, or eonian. In other words, it is temporary.

What properly translated Scriptures *do* incessantly refer to is “eonian life.” This is the special-privilege life, the backstage pass to “the Big Show.” This is life that endures throughout the two coming eons. This is the life that the unbelievers don’t have. Later, they will certainly live forever with God. Why? They’re in Adam. Christ

saves everyone Adam condemns. Jesus Christ is greater than Adam.

### SOME NEVER WILL BELIEVE

Some people never will believe in Jesus Christ. “Belief” comes from the same Greek root from which the word “faith” is derived. Faith is “conviction concerning matters which are not being observed” (Hebrews 11:1). Because God and Christ are now invisible, faith is also a present reality. As already discussed, faith is a miracle. Salvation by faith is rare because God rarely gives it. Most people will be saved by sight. Standing before the Great White Throne, these people will see God unveiled in all His majesty (Revelation 20:11-12). They will be in the same position then as we have been in here on Earth: beholding the greatness of God, they will realize their lack. They will be humbled. The purpose of this humbling is not to torment them for eternity, but to acquaint them with God and save them. (“God is the Savior of all humanity”—1 Timothy 4:10). For those not written in the book of life, the second death ensues (Revelation 20:14). Death is not torment but rather utter oblivion where nothing is known including the passage of time. As noted in a previous edition, death is eventually abolished (1 Corinthians 15:26). Thus, when the eons have run their course, everyone will have been made alive. Romans 5:18-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 will have come to pass.

The two special days with Billy Joel and Elton John correspond to the two coming glorious eons, namely, the thousand-year kingdom of Christ, and the New Heavens and the New Earth. God can’t wait to lavish this upon believers.

### THOSE NOT ELECTED

What happens when the family members receiving the free concert tickets but not the two-day privilege get wind of the extra gratuity? Some may become jealous and bitter. They will be like the workers who worked all day in the field in Jesus’ parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-15). The householder agreed to hire workers for his vineyard, and offered them a denarius for a day’s labor. He hired many of the worker in the morning. The first-hires were happy with the wage. Throughout the day, however, the householder hired more workers, even those who did not punch-in until the last hour. To these, he promised the same wage. When payment time came, the householder paid the last workers first. Seeing this, the early hires as-

sumed better pay. Instead, they got what was promised to them. This angered them. They wanted more. It wasn’t fair. Fair? They agreed to a denarius, and a denarius they got. The graciousness of the householder infuriated them.

Thus, many so-called Christians are incensed at the mere suggestion that God will, in the end, give everyone eternal life with Him. This only demonstrates the hardness of their hearts. In my analogy, everyone was happy with front row seats at the concert. In our Lord’s analogy, everyone was happy with a denarius.

In the ultimate analogy of the salvation of humanity, “God is the Savior of all humanity, especially of believers.” Will the “all humanity” become jealous of the “especially believers?” Or even, will the “especially believers” resent the graciousness of God in eventually saving “all humanity”? The “especially believers” do get more. In the end, everyone ends up in the Creator’s loving arms.

As far as resenting God’s graciousness goes, I, for one, will shut my mouth about it. Were I still in Adam (through no voluntary action of my own), I would die and stay dead. But because I am in Christ (through no voluntary action of my own), I will live with God forever. The price? Jesus on the cross. My *personal* cost? A brief existence of misery here on Earth to set me up for the breathtaking contrast of glory. Not only this, but I have “won the lottery” and have been chosen to spend “two days ahead of time” (two eons) with the Star of the Show. Wow. Amazing. Freak me out.

It’s all about the set-up, folks. It’s all about the contrast. God is not screwing us, and neither is He punishing us. He does not hate us. Rather, He is preparing us for the mind-blowing reality of glory. He is doing this by intelligently utilizing the only thing able to properly contrast it: evil.

No groveling, no glory. The groveling lasts a few years; the glory lasts forever. —MZ

**“MY %\$@#! SISTER  
IS GETTING  
WHAT?!”**

