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Martin Zender Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

Huckleberry Finn Explains Salvation

(In a simple, satisfactory manner.)



(Romans chapter 7 to begin next week.)

Hi. My name is Huckleberry Finn. You might know me on account of my boyhood adventures. Mark Twain, he told mostly about my life of leisure. But I come to take things serious at the ripe age of eleven. Mark, he never knowed about that, on account of I never told him.

Mainly, I started reading the Bible. The widow Douglas, she always harped on Bible reading. I tried, generally, but I never saw no use for it. But then the widow, she finally gave up on me; then I knowed for sure there was a God. Then I seen for the first time the attraction of God's Word.

I learned a tolerable great deal about God since then, though I daren't brag about it. But even Miss Watson allowed she never seen anything like it. It kind of stunned her, I guess. Tom Sawyer reckons I "got religion." But it ain't nothing of the kind.

Today, I'm down here in Big Craggy, Missouri. Likely, you've never heard of it. Big Craggy is a little bit down from Hector, but if you get to Hattieville, you gone too far. The maps give us a black dot about the size of a grasshopper eye, but it's better than what they give Tom Sawyer down in Toluca, which is nothing.

HOW THIS COME TO BE

When Martin Zender, who usually writes in this space, inquired as to me filling in a little bit for him, I says to myself, *Sounds safer than flying a kite in lightning.* But maybe I'm all wrong.

Martin brung his teaching down here a handful of years ago for a conf'rence and we set to ironing out all the problems in God's creation. Well, I reckon we got pretty far. Martin allowed he never seen a boy my age who knowed his way around God's Word so good. (I'm thirteen years old, starting next year.) I knowed he never meant no harm by it, but I got to swelling over it so bad that Miss Watson had to fetch it out with a switch. I don't give no other sickly details of what Martin said, for humbility's sake. But there it is.

I never fixed to come in on this eternal torments talk. I usually don't run up against such luck. I got lots to say on it. Since I got nothing to lose except a seashell collection (and most of them's broke), I might as well say it.

FOLKS GENERALLY DON'T FOOL WITH IT

Most folks don't fool with even the possiblens of God saving everybody. They shut their eyes on the Bible verses that teach it. (I got some of them verses down the page a ways, but there's plenty more, you can bet.) But when it comes down to verses that seem to teach Ben Whittlin's going to get the hot seat forever, they ogle at it till the tears come and somebody's got to tell 'em to blink. (Ben Whittlin, he robbed a bank in Bog City a few years back, and folks didn't take to him after that.)



ENRICHED CLASSIC

ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN
MARK TWAIN

Such is folk's hearts. You'd think they'd fix on the good news, then sweat blood trying to see how the bad fits in. Nope. They ignore the good news and sweat blood to keep Whittlin in the fire. According to them, any verse what puts Ben Whittlin in their camp by and by, can't be right. So they whack the verse short to line up with their view. According to them, if God had knowed Ben Whittlin, He'd 'a' been a little carefuller on them verses that gives Jesus's crosswork to all.

I don't take no stock in it. Paul was the dangedest sinner of all, worse than Ben Whittlin. Paul said so hisself (1 Tim. 1:15). Jesus cured Paul with a light brighter than the sun. It took somewhere near half a second, I think. I always figured that light was a glow from the cross and all it done. After Paul, it's all downhill to Jesus.

WHICH VERSES YOU GOING TO WHACK OUT?

I ain't blind. I know there looks to be a tug o' war in the Bible on this matter, so I penciled it up on a chart, in case you never seen it so plain. It ain't as nice as them pictures Martin puts up, but I already told you—I ain't worried. Besides, I can't work a computater.

Everybody justified Rom. 5:18 ? Some punished foreven? Mt. 25:46

Everybody made alive 1 Cor. 15:22 ? Dead Foreven? Rev. 20:14-15

All turned back to God Col. 1:20 ? Tormented foreven? Rev. 14:11; 20:10

It's better to believe all God's Words, rather than whack some out. You got to believe the bad and the good. So how can both sides in the chart I drew up be true?

FANCY TALK

This word "forever" in them verses on the right side is what throws everything out of kilter. Make this word to do with time instead of eternity and everything makes sense and fits right.

This word "forever" is drawed up on a Greek word "aion," which don't mean forever no how; it always has to do with time. The transmudators bungled it. All a common man has to do to see that for hisself is look up aion in a concordance (See Young's Concordance, page 311. If you got Strong's, look up word numbers 104 and 165 on pages 8 and 9 of the dictionary).

Don't let this upset you. God made truth hard to find on purpose so a body has to work for it. Proverbs 25:2 says that it's the glory of God to conceal a matter and the glory of kings to investigate it. If you don't investigate



this matter, it'll stay concealed to you and you'll miss out on how much sense the Bible really makes and what a joy it is when you read it aright.

CHECKING UP ON THE TRANSMUTATORS

The King James transmutators transmuted this word aion “ages” a couple times. They should have done that all times, but they got nervous other places, like above. But look at Ephesians 2:7. Here, they done aion right. This verse talks about “the ages to come.” You can see plain why they didn't transmutate aion “forever” here. Can you dream up more than one forever? Can you conjure up “the forevers to come?” Unless I get hit in the head with a steel pipe, I'll never make mention of such.

For consistency sake, the transmutators should have done like they done in Ephesians 2:7 every place. But they got all panicky where aion described God, torments, and the life of believers. Here's where they gummed it up. The transmutators reckoned they knowed what God meant to say (they already “knowed” God was going to fry up the sinners forever, you see), and they judged to help Him out. In the places they was sure God meant to say eternity instead of time, they transmuted aion “eternal” and “forever.” Do you reckon God was pleased for their help? Other times, when they took an itch to it, they transmuted aion “world,” never mind God already had a fit word for

that, kosmos. One time—on a dare, I reckon—they even transmuted aion “never.” (This confusion is documented on page 57 of the Index-Lexicon in Young's.) If you got a sound mind, you can see that something terrible fishy is going on. One word can't mean different things, and sure not contrary things.

So now you can believe all them verses above. Don't it make sense now? God does all them things on the right side, for sure, but He don't do them forever—that's the thing. God ain't crazy. He disciplines a body or supervises his torments or makes him dead only as long as necessary to bring about the things on the left side.

I ain't never seen anything make so much sense in all my life.

A GOOD ENGLISH WORD

Now, we have an English word that matches up good to aion. It means the same and it nearly sounds the same and it only misses the spelling by a hair. The English word is eon. What's an eon? Why, it's a tolerable long time, that's what. I know, because the widow once sent me to my room for an eon. It seemed an eternity, but mind, it was still a time because I ain't there now. The way I figure it, time is t'opposite of eternity.

The widow Douglas, she says that our English word eon was drawn up on this Greek word aion. So it's a fair trade-off, like I told you.

So why didn't the transmutators use it? Why, because it does away with the notion of eternal torments! And without eternal torments, the preachers can't scare anybody into their churches. Taking eternal torments away from a church man is like taking a switch away from Miss Watson. Things just don't go right for 'em without it.

DON'T GOD GO ON FOREVER?

I know you got questions on this. Likely, here's one of them: "If aion don't mean 'eternity,' then what about when it talks about God?" Now, don't be like Tom Sawyer and jump to occlusions.

In the Bible, God sometimes calls Hissself the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Does that mean He's not the God of you and me? I don't think you'd jump to that occlusion. So why jump to a similar occlusion in Romans 16:26, where God calls Hissself the "eonian God?" (This is from the Concordant Literal New Testament. I know your Bible might say "eternal God," but that ain't what God has said here. The transmutators gummed it up, remember? Don't panic, because it ain't good for your stomach.)

Try reading "eonian God" with fresh eyes. God says here that He's the God of the eons—time. Ain't that pleasant? He ain't just some fuzzy God out in the hairy forever; He's a now God. Does that mean He don't go on forever? There's the similar occlusion I was speaking of! Of course He goes on forever. But other verses say that, like Psalms 102:27, which says that His years don't end. Romans 16:26 don't say what Psalms 102:27 has already hashed out.

"Taking eternal torments away from a church man is like taking a switch away from Miss Watson. Things just don't go right for 'em without it."



Romans 16:26 gives special information: He's the God of now. He cares about you this minute. If I says to you, "He's the God of today," would you jump to the occlusion that He's not the God of tomorrow? Not unless you either lost your mind or you're in love. I seen both things, and I don't care to see 'em again.

DON'T MY LIFE GO ON FOREVER?

Likely, here's another one of your bothers: "If aion don't mean 'eternity,' then I reckon my 'eternal' life ends." Hold your horses.

This may rattle you at first, but God don't talk much in the Bible about eternal life. He talks about eonian life, which—like I been straining to tell you—has to do with time.

This don't at all mean that you don't live forever with Jesus. You do! But you do that because Jesus makes you immortal. I know that's a big word, but all it means is that you can't die no way. First Corinthians 15:53 explains it. It's this verse, not them eonian life verses, that proves you live forever.

Eonian life is a special kind of life that gets you through the eons. Not all have it. Thank God you have it. The widow says there's five eons talked of in the Bible; two is past, we're sweating through the third, and two good ones is future. Them two good ones is the ones we're fixing to live through. Them are the ones eonian life gets us.

But eonian life ends. It ends when the eons end. This time when the eons end is called the consummation. That's just a fancy word for "finish," but I like to use it. You can read about it in First Corinthians 15:24.

What happens at the consummation? First Corinthians 15:26 tells that, at that time, death is abolished. That's just a fancy word for "threwed out." Now, if death is threwed out, what is left? If you answered, "life," then you are right. At the consummation, you don't need eonian life no more because time is done. This lines up exactly to when death is threwed out. If you have enough life to make it to a time when there's nothing but life, do you die? Not the way any sane person reckons it. You don't die no more than you would die of thirst if you have enough water to make it to a well. That makes more sense than anything I ever heard.

MORE ON BEN WHITTLIN

Don't think Ben Whittlin's going to waltz into Paradise. He's got to weep and grind his dentures first, then die a second time (Rev. 20:13-15). That sounds fearful,



“Ben Whittlin’s got to weep
and grind his dentures first.”

until you know that Jesus throws out death. Then you find peace, especially if you’re Ben Whittlin’s mother, and I s’pect he’s got one—or had one, anyways.

It’ll make some hard-hearted folks happy to hear that Ben Whittlin comes up short. But it’s true. Only those God calls now live during the kingdom for a thousand years and during the new heavens and new earth. This is eonian life. Ben apparently don’t have it. But Ben and billions others will come out into life when Jesus throws out death (1 Cor. 15:26). The Bible speaks of God being the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers. That’s First Timothy 4:10. The especially part is eonian life. If you ain’t got it, you don’t live for the eons. But you still live for eternity after the eons is finished and death is throwed out. See, everybody lives for eternity, because God is the Savior of all mankind. But not all live for the eons—that’s the rub. A Savior of all mankind has to save all mankind. If He don’t, He’s not the Savior of all mankind. Even Tom Sawyer’s got that much ironed out.

AND THE WINNER IS: ADAM?!

I’ll ask you something: Who is greater, Adam or Jesus? Unless you ain’t been getting enough sleep lately, your

answer’d be: “Jesus.” But look! If Adam pulls down more than Jesus pulls out, how is it Jesus is greater? Here’s a chart I dictated to Miss Watson, who typed it up:

Adam: All mankind condemned because of him--Rom.5:18.

Jesus: On account of the stubbornness of all mankind, this Man can justify only a smidgen of them who Adam condemned.

If that’s how it lays, here’s the score:

Adam: 10,876,455,906

Jesus: 2,795

How does that answer? If each body stands for a point, and this was the score of a tiddlywinks match (and a tolerable long one), what player gets the trophy? As long as you ain’t been insomniating, your answer’d be: “The one with the most points.” I lay with you there. I don’t see how it can be no other way. Who’s got the most points? It’s right in front of you: Adam. The way you’d have to reckon it, then, would be: Adam gets the trophy. Do you allow that’s how you reckon it?

Huckleberry Finn



Produced by Martin Zender/www.martinzender.com
© 2015 by Martin Zender/Published by Starke & Hartmann, Inc.
email: mzender@martinzender.com