



ZWTF

Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

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MZQA

Ask, and you shall be answered.



HOW MUCH SHOULD I BUG MY SISTER ABOUT TRUTH?

Hi, Martin. My sister is a very Godly woman. I would love for her to realize the truth about God. We are very close. At first she was very interested, but after talking with her husband, she wrote it off. My first question would be, should I keep trying to tell her or should I sit back and hope God tells her?

Titus 3:10 might be a good rule-of-thumb for you: “A sectarian man, after one and a second admonition, refuse, being aware that such a one has turned himself out, and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

God bless your sister, but she is sinning by refusing the truth and has, relatively speaking, turned herself out (of the body of Christ, that is; which is to say that she was never

in the body of Christ to begin with).

If you will allow me a slight diversion here: This passage has been used against me, as if I am the sectarian man. This is due to a mistranslation of the passage in the KJV, “A man that is an heretick, after the first and second admonition reject.” It is supposed that I am the heretick (archaic KJV spelling there) because I reject the mainstream doctrines of archaic church councils in favor of scriptural truth. The *Concordant Literal New Testament* translates this “sectarian,” as the Greek word simply means “one who follows his preferences.” There is a way that seems right to a human, but that way leads to death. Many people prefer the demonic doctrine of eternal torment to the Scriptural doctrine of the salvation of all—as well as preferring the doctrine of free will to the doctrine of God’s sovereignty—and so this makes the holders of these teachings the sectarian individuals, not me. It is true that I now prefer truth to error, but this does not make me sectarian in the sense of the passage. The sense of the passage makes sectarianism a negative thing, and it is when following one’s preferences leads one to human doctrines and away from Scriptural ones. My human preference for eternal retribution for my enemies has given way to preferring that Jesus save all those He promised to save, and my human preference for running my own life has given way to preferring to relax in God’s will for my life.

Back to your sister: try telling her again. God tells people things through other people, and you may be the person God uses. After a second admonition, however (and make it a good one), lay off. It doesn’t mean you can’t try again later when times may be different.

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE GOD ORCHESTRATING EVIL?

If God created evil, does He now orchestrate it? This is really hard to swallow from my peon human perspective. I’m struggling with recon-

ciling the concept of a loving God with a God Who orchestrates evil. The way I comprehend things right now, I'm seeing a God with a split personality.

God doesn't have a split personality, any more than a parent has a split personality who one day feeds his child chocolate chip cookies and hugs him, and the next day disciplines him for doing wrong. You must get over the fact that you're never going to like certain horrible evils God effects in this world. You're trying to come to a point where you're "fine" with evil, but that point will never come in this life; do yourself a favor and stop striving for it. You know the truth of God's absolute control, and that's good enough. Be at peace with not being at peace. God will make sense of it all for you *then, not now.*

IS THE SPIRIT CONSCIOUS? WHEN DO WE GO TO HEAVEN?

How did the idea that our spirit goes to heaven when we die get started? Does Scripture verify this? If so, where? Do we ever go to heaven? When?

The spirit returns to God at death (Ecclesiastes 12:7), but there is no consciousness in the spirit itself, only when it is combined with a body. Thus, there is no consciousness in death. When God gives us our new bodies at the resurrection, *then* we will rise together and be taken to heavenly realms. I don't know when this will happen. Tomorrow would be fine with me.

HOW CAN I HAVE A WILL BUT IT'S NOT FREE?

Martin, you have said over and over that we have wills, but they're just not free. Can you tell me how this works out in practical life?

Sure. You still have all the fun and drama of making decisions every day (or not making them), but this doesn't keep these decisions from being of God.

A decision is the result of being painted into a corner. God holds the paint can and the brush. Some corners are nice, some are not. The trick is pretending you have a free will before something happens, and then resting on the fact that you don't have a free after something

happens. Use this to your advantage. Here's how you do it: Feel good and take credit (relative credit) for something you do well, but then when something you do goes haywire, try to learn from it and then rest in the fact that, "well, it had to happen that way; it's ultimately (that is, absolutely) not my fault." Getting the picture? Live relatively when it gives you peace, but when it stops giving you peace, switch over—in your mind—to the absolute viewpoint. I switch, in my mind, from the relative to the absolute viewpoint all day.

WHY IS ETERNAL TORMENT A FALSE DOCTRINE?

First of all, I would like to thank you for responding to my e-mail despite my state of mind as I wrote it.

The best time to write is when you're in an honest state of mind.

I apologize for having even suggested that your book, *How to Be Free From Sin While Smoking a Cigarette* had anything to do with the events surrounding the breakup of my marriage, as I do not believe that to be the case at all. I found it sad, however, that my wife would grasp at straws, citing your book about being free from sin to justify her sinful actions. In hindsight, it was unfair for me to have



suggested your book had anything to do with the events that transpired. Please accept my apology.

People can use anything to justify their sinful behavior, including the truth of justification. Even Paul, the first transmitter of the truth of justification, was accused of encouraging people to sin. This comes with the territory of teaching truly on the topic of grace being greater than sin.

Divorce is more devastating than suffering the loss of death, as it affects the lives of so many.

I know that to be a fact.

I would like to hear more as to why you believe that eternal torment is a false doctrine, especially since your response is so dogmatic regarding your view on this. It leaves me with some unanswered questions. Am I missing something in the context of passages like Revelation 14:10, 11?

Verse 11 of Revelation 14 in the CLNT reads: “And the fumes of their torment are ascending for the eons of the eons. And they are having no rest day and night, those worshipping the wild beast and its image.” Whoever is worshipping the wild beast will, according to verse 10, be “tormented in fire and sulphur in the sight of the holy messengers and in the sight of the Lambkin.” This is bad, but



it’s not eternal. Note that it’s not the torment that lasts for the eons of the eons, but the *fumes* of the torment. The fires that will eventually consume God’s enemies (no human being can live long in fire and sulphur) will continually smolder (I believe this is literal) for a long time as a continual remembrance—for the eon—of what happened to God’s enemies. But what happens to these enemies? You will agree, I think, that they rise at the great white throne to be judged, and then are delivered to the lake of fire, which is the second death. They are not tormented in the second death; they are dead. At the consummation of the eons, God abolishes death—read 1 Corinthians 15:26—

and God becomes all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28). These people have a Savior, just as we do.

I’m sure that you have likely been over passages like this a thousand times on your radio broadcasts, however, I have not heard your view. Are you suggesting that because Christ died for the sins of the world, that the entire planet has received salvation despite whatever world religion mankind affiliates with?

Yes. All people will one day come to believe the truth, no matter what religion they’re messed up in now. The truth is found by combining 2 Corinthians 5:14, “One died for the sake of all, consequently all died,” and Romans 6:7, “One who dies has been justified from Sin.” God will eventually give to all the faith needed to apprehend this great truth, just as He gave it to you and me.

Do all return to God for eternity despite their belief system?

God has no trouble changing people’s belief systems. This is a stumbling block for you, but it shouldn’t be. Just as God changed your mind about Himself, so He will just as easily change other people’s minds. It’s all a matter of timing. It’s you now, them later.

By the way, I do believe that God apportions the faith necessary for mankind to come to Himself.

Then you have received a major revelation. Since God gave it to stubborn people like you and me, what’s to stop Him from giving it to everyone? We are saved by Jesus Christ’s faith. God gives us faith to believe what Jesus Christ already accomplished.

Do you believe in soul sleep?

If by “soul sleep” you mean that the dead are dead and that death is comparable to sleep in that there is no consciousness in death, then yes. I don’t like terms like “soul sleep.” I just like to say that the dead are dead and that it is *like* they are asleep.

Do you believe that “All Dogs go to Heaven”?

Do you mean literal dogs? I hope so. I absolutely believe that literal dogs return to God. The jury is still out on cats. (Just kidding. Cats are included.) Read Romans 8:20. God is going to deliver all creation, not just all human beings, from the bondage of corruption.



I know this may sound like another mundane question, but can you sum up in a nutshell what you are trying to communicate in your books regarding the twin topics of sin and salvation?

The work of Jesus Christ on the cross to deliver humanity from sin and death worked. He did it. Since Jesus took away the sin of the world, nothing now stands in the way of the salvation of all. God saves all, but over a period of time. These periods of time are called eons. (The word “eon” or “eonian” appear in scripture over 176 times, but they have been obscured by bad translations.) God saves every human, but each in his own order (1 Corinthians 15:22-23). We are saved by Jesus Christ’s faith, and not our own (Galatians 2:16). And yet personal faith is a gift given us by God (Romans 12:3), enabling us to believe that Jesus Christ’s faith accomplished everything.

WHAT IMPACT HAS YOUR STUTTERING HAD ON YOU?

I have enjoyed your web site and your views on hell and church. I also read on your web site that you used to stutter. I have had a stuttering problem since I was a kid and with the views I hold about church I sometimes never could get my point across to people. What impact has stuttering had on your views of God and how He shapes His clay?

When I look back, I see how God used stuttering to help make me the person I am today. I don’t believe I would have become a writer had I not stuttered. Because I could not communicate the way I wanted to verbally, I turned to writing. God has mercifully lifted the worst of my affliction, though I still have it in measure. As I said in the letter, the more I am able to get my thoughts off myself and onto Him, the less I stutter. Self-awareness makes stuttering worse. Like writer’s block, it’s a case of performance anxiety. Have you checked into the latest speech therapy techniques? I hear there are some programs that can really help. I sympathize with your plight, believe me. Rest assured, in any case, that God has a reason for afflicting you, and that somehow He will use it for His and your good. This doesn’t mean that you shouldn’t try to find a way out of it, if God leads you in that direction.

Martin, you have sometimes been accused of being arrogant, conceited, and a general pain in the ass. How do you deal with

this? I sometimes have to deal with the same thing. I have listened to you for years and read your articles and, while you are a strong teacher, I have found you to be a very humble person—maybe not on the outside, but on the inside. How do you put up with the criticism?



On the whole, not too many people level this criticism. I find that people who do criticize me this way project their own latent arrogance upon me. In other words, if such people were in my position of having influence in the body of Christ, then *they* would be conceited. So they assume that I am this way, when I am not.

Additionally, because we live in such an era of political correctness where causing offense is socially unacceptable and where people put stickers on their cars that say things like, “Be nice!” “Coexist!” and “Tolerance!” anyone making a strong stand—as I do—will be seen as arrogant or conceited. In an era of moral relativism where everyone is right



and no one is wrong, the person who actually *is* right—and who therefore realizes that everything else *must* be wrong—offends every tenet of relativism. Unfortunately for the relativists, there is no such thing as *their* truth, but



only *the* truth. Simply standing for something, therefore, will offend many people. But I find that, in the body of Christ, more people appreciate strong, sure teaching than those who criticize it. As for me, I would rather risk looking arrogant than land on the side of, “Gee, let’s not offend anyone by being too insistent about the truth.”

I have to share a funny story with you. Someone took a picture of me about four years ago where I blinked just as the photo was snapped. When I saw the photo, it immediately struck me that my face looked like the supposed face of Christ on the Shroud of Turin. It just did—what can I say? Now, I have been accused of some really bizarre stuff. For instance, someone once accused me of thinking that I was the Pope, and they made a Photoshop of the Pope with my face on it. (I guess that, to some, authoritative teaching is only a small step from the Vatican.) I thought it was really funny. I took it as a compliment. Another Photoshop job depicted me as a Catholic priest (see previous page).

Being somewhat of a rebel, I like to tweak people who think, for instance, that because I am part of the vanguard of those announcing the evangel of Paul, that therefore I have a Messiah Complex; that therefore, I think I’m the savior of everyone and that apart from me no one comes to God. This is so over-the-top that a) I laugh really hard at it, b) I actually enjoy it (more Photoshop jobs, please) and c) I will sometimes do things to encourage it and make people believe that I really do think of myself this way—just to aggravate these folks and see how high I can raise their blood pressure.

So I was looking at this photo of myself and I said to the person who took the photo, “Am I crazy, or does this look like the image on the Shroud of Turin?” The person who was with me said, “Oh my God, it actually does.”

“Please,” I said. “You can call me Martin.”

Anyway, I forwarded the photo to my sister who thought it was so great that she promptly put it next to the image on the Shroud. Naturally, I saved it.

So here is photographic proof that I not only have a Messiah Complex, but I believe that I am the Messiah Himself. Funny, no?

So here is a little piece of political incorrectness for anyone looking for it: *I am the Christ. Suck it up, losers.*

—MZ

