



ZWTF

Zapping You Whenever Thoughts Flow

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Larry Schuler is mad as hell and he's not taking it anymore.



I have a friend in the body of Christ named Larry Schuler and he is a pain in the ass—in the best possible sense. He's from Ohio, like me, and somehow he found my work on the Internet and began devouring it, along with articles and audios from the Concordant Publishing Concern by the likes of A.E. Knoch, Dean Hough, and James Coram. These were some of the same teachers who helped me during my formative years to unlearn everything Christianity had taught me.

The truth about Christ's death and resurrection and what it meant for humanity hit Larry like a tsunami. He had lived much of his life trying to be perfect for God. Why? A lot of it was a fear of hell. Larry worried that he was not one of God's chosen. In his mind, to solidify his calling required him to obsess over his behavior and his every thought, trying to bring himself into conformity with the perfection of an angry God. He was living the life of the apostle Paul when he was still the Pharisee Saul, striving to become blameless as to law. Looking back, he realizes now that he was living as though the cross of Christ had never happened.

As Larry was coming out of these things, his relief was palpable. At the same time, his rage against the system was nearly maniacal. Worse even than mine. Larry would sometimes write me six times a day with a new revelation, followed by a new diatribe against the system that had enslaved him for so many years and kept him from seeing the glories and accomplishments of Christ. This is what earned him his "pain in the ass" status—his non-stop emails. But it is also what earned him this spot in the ZWTF. His was and is a righteous indignation. I think that many of us have become slightly calloused to the horror that is Christianity. Not Larry. His horror grows by the day. Here is a man after my own heart, the only man I know who could knock me off of my Pain-In-The-Ass throne in the "expose-Christianity-for-what-it-is" department. Here are excerpts from some of Larry's emails. He did not write these intending them to be published, but has given me permission to do so.

LARRY GOES OFF; IS THE NEWS GOOD OR BAD?

Zender, you've heard the phrase, "I have good news and bad news." Well, ultimately, it can only be one or the other. It cannot be both. The message, or news, of Christianity is ultimately bad.

This religion has death, indignation, sin and Satan on its mind. It puts separation from God as an eternal reality. That is *bad* news. Let's cut through all the crap, Zender, and admit to the following:

Christianity attempts to distract from and evade its own hypocrisies. Its view of things is that ultimately the vast majority of human beings will be in extreme pain forever. You can boil everything down to that. That is their ultimate viewpoint. How could anyone construe this as good news? Could there be a more sad or depressing "gospel"? Back when I was drenched 24/7 in this religion, I was full of despair, sadness and anger. I thought it was normal to be this way. But then some sort of light went on that told me something was very wrong and that I had to find a way out.

THE PROBLEM OF SIN

I've been told my entire life that sin is a huge problem, and that Christ made a respectable effort and *some* progress towards beating sin, but that somehow His effort fell short. I know His effort fell short because sin is still presented to us as an unsettled matter. God is still presented to us as angry with us and most of the human race. I was taught that sin will ultimately have the upper hand and will doom and then hurt the majority of humanity forever.

Even while all of this tragedy was transpiring, these same people (the Christians) used phrases and words such as "grace" and "Christ died for our sins," and "love" to describe the tragedy. Everyone except them would consider the eternity of sin to be a tragedy. Not them. No, they called it "victory over sin."

WHY DOES SIN STILL WRECK EVERYTHING?

Why can't I believe in Christ and, at the same time, sin? I am not joking here. I'm not saying that I would do this; I'm simply putting this out hypothetically and theoretically. But think about it. Why can't I do both, that is, believe in Christ and sin? Christians act like a person has to quit sinning in order to believe the Gospel of Christ. Why so?

If I decide to rob a bank one day, I cannot, at the same time, believe the Gospel of Christ? Why not? If I tell lies and commit adultery, *this* makes the Gospel of Christ untrue? If I murmur throughout the day, or if I have thoughts of envy or hatred throughout the day,



“Christians call eternal torment Christ’s ‘victory over sin.’”

—Larry Schuler

does this mean that I cannot believe the Gospel of Christ? Why not? Who says so?

It seems to me that what Christians are really saying is that a person is saved by his or her own works and righteousness. The death of Christ “for our sins” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) apparently means nothing. One must be reconciled to God by one’s own righteousness. What Christians mean when they talk about “believing in Christ” is this: *quit sinning*. What they mean is: *do good works; be righteous; love God and love your neighbor. You never know if you have done enough, so keep trying really really hard every day. And do this for fifty years. If you do all of this, then God might not punish you by burning you in fire forever.*

In this scheme of “salvation,” the death of Christ is useless. It’s a fiction. A joke. To Christians, Christ being crucified on the cross is an interesting story, but it does not do anything. *You* are the deciding factor as to where you will spend eternity. Will you be in pain forever or will you be happy forever? It all depends on your behavior. It all depends on your ability to overcome sin, the same sin that Jesus Christ is advertised to have died for, but failed at. If this is success, I’d hate to see failure.

ADAM VS. CHRIST

Adam brought sin and death onto every human being, and then Christ came to undo the works of Adam. I was under the impression that Jesus Christ succeeded against Adam. I thought He took care of everything. Didn't He? Did not Christ overcome and fix everything that Adam wrecked? If He did, then what is all of this teaching by Christians that people must do this and that, or else they cannot be reconciled to God? What is all of this talk about God hating sinners and sending them to hell? I thought Christ was successful and that His success is why God raised Him from the dead. How does most people going to hell stand in the same room with a successful Savior? It can't.

The simple and shocking fact is that the Christian religion doesn't have the well-message ("gospel"). It doesn't have the evangel of the grace of God that Paul spoke of. It has no good news whatsoever. Instead of good news, this religion puts forth threatenings, conditions, challenges and warnings. The result of all this is uncertainty in the hearts of those hoping to "make the grade."

HONESTY ABOUT SIN

What it comes down to is being honest about our sin and being honest about what Christ accomplished *for* our sin. Christians are *dis*-honest about their sin. They pretend that they love righteousness and that they hate breaking God's commandments, even while Scripture tells us that we are all shut up under sin and that we all go our own way. Scripture tells us that we love sin and are servants of sin. Scripture tells us that we are without understanding and blind. Scripture tells us that not one of us is righteous.

It is miserable bondage and incredible arrogance to pretend to be something that one is not. Christians pretend to be righteous, but it's just one big charade, day in and day out. The things that they believe, alone, prove how unrighteous they truly are. This is not even to mention their behavior.

One day, I finally got to the point where I realized that I was a completely bankrupt, fallen, dying child of Adam. By nature, I loved myself and was at enmity with God. By nature, I wanted to exalt myself above God. By nature, I was full of impatience, murmuring, ingratitude, hatred, envy, covetousness and hundreds of other things. God already knew all of this. *I* was the one who was shocked when I started to see what I really was. Do you think that God is shocked? I think not. The shock is ours.

MERIT, ENDEAVOR AND STRENGTH, OH MY

Christians are obsessed with human merit, human endeavor and human strength. That's all they talk about at church and Bible studies. Pick up any one of their books or flip on any one of their radio shows. It's all about human merit, human endeavor and human strength.

Until one comes to the knowledge of the truth about oneself and about what God and Christ did to rescue humanity from itself, one will remain a giant hypocrite. But oh—how God's perfect law thoroughly shuts a person's mouth and shows him how sinful he really is. Anybody who is honest with himself will realize that sin, Satan and death are *way* too powerful for humans to deal with. Who the hell do we think we are? It's not even a contest. Anyone who thinks it's a contest is a moron. Sin versus a human being? Death versus a human being? Satan versus a human being? None of this is a fair fight.

THE POPULAR DELUSION

If you are a person who thinks that all you need to do is apply yourself to doing righteousness and loving God and loving your neighbor as yourself, and that this will bring you success with God, then you are one deluded son of a gun. The Scriptures tell us that we are completely helpless and that we are in bondage to sin and Satan. The sooner we realize this, the sooner we will experience the joy and peace in believing the Gospel of Christ and power of God for daily salvation, and the sooner we will experience the love of God and the fruit of the Spirit. These things have to do with the truth, and not with a denial of the truth.

What is the safest thing in the world and the surest way to become the spiritual people we want to be? It is simply to be honest before God and to claim the death of His Son for sins. That's it. That's the secret to everything. It sounds simple, but Satan has put so many religious exercises in front of it that distract people from noticing what Christ has done. Any path toward God that comes by any way other than an acknowledgment of complete helplessness, is idolatry.

LUCKY GENTILE SINNERS

Zender, imagine if you were a Thessalonian, Galatian or Corinthian. Imagine that you are just a poor old Gentile sinner. This won't be too hard for you, Zender.

There was no Christianity back then, no church, none of the monstrous, corporate, money-making operations that we have today. Paul presented a message to you. He talked about Christ crucified. He called it “good news.” It was a gospel. You heard it, and it made you glad. You were like, “Wow, this is fantastic. God and Christ have done something great for me and for all humanity. What amazing news. This is victory. This message is *so good*.” The news that you heard was not a challenge presented by Paul, it was an announcement. It was an announcement of a fact that made you so happy that all you could do was stand there in front of Paul, slack-jawed, and feel exhilarated inside. You did *hear* the message, yes, but other than that all you did was stand there and feel exhilarated inside.

There were no religious games then; no “buts.” You, as a groping, Gentile sinner, simply heard Paul’s good news and you believed it. It was true whether you believed it or not, so why not just believe it? The message was so beautiful in your ears. It was great news that rejoiced your heart and conscience.

Imagine that, if you can.

But then—watch out. Other men creep in and they pervert all of it. All of a sudden, Christ crucified is *nothing*. It is now all about you versus an angry Deity. Everything somehow goes back to the way it was before the cross.

Christianity, like those detractors of long ago who sprinkled flies into the ointment of saving grace, spews a message of doom, threats and demands. Their message is that God is angry with us. Their message is that we are children of eternal wrath and that if we don’t hurry up and “get saved,” we may soon die and end up in hell. It could happen at any moment, too; don’t fall down the stairs, don’t get into a car wreck, don’t get a virus; don’t choke on your hot dog. You are one step away from eternal torture.

Think about how sad this is. Gentiles today do not simply get to hear and embrace and rejoice in the good news that Paul preached, without roadblocks. Instead, seekers are confused by Satan right out of the gate. For messengers, Satan uses the pastors and “evangelists” of Christianity. As soon as God begins calling a person, this person is bombarded with all kinds of demands and strange terminology—“Christianese”—that sound like the buzzwords of a cult. They are introduced to “hell,” “free will,” “victorious living,” “church membership,” “unpardonable sin,” “prayer circles,” “altar calls,” “discipleship,” “accountability,” “worship services” and a hundred other strange and unscriptural things.

I say, let’s block out all of this demonic noise, because that’s just what it is. None of this belongs to Paul’s message. Let us simply hear the well message and get back to the evangel that Paul spoke; the same message that thrilled these early Gentiles and that ought to thrill us today. And it does thrill us and will thrill us—if we divest it of all the external, add-on noise.

Christ crucified *means* something. It’s not nothing. It’s *something*.



“It was true whether you believed it or not. The message was so beautiful in your ears.”

—Larry Schuler

As it was then, God works today through the Gospel of Christ. It’s the life-source of all. The life-source is in Christ, and Christ is in the announcement. The *announcement* of the truth is what has power, not someone’s (anyone’s) reaction *to* the announcement. The announcement of a fact concerning what Christ accomplished at Calvary, without our help, gives us power and life through His spirit. Any other message, or any tainting of the Gospel or additional words or requirements, is death. It’s death because it twists the pure message beyond recognition until it becomes a non-message.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY

Okay, Zender. I guess you could call this my official testimony.

All I ever heard from Christian preachers and teachers was that God was angry with me and all of humanity and that there was eternal punishment coming unless we all behaved ourselves. (Oh yeah, they would mention “grace” and “Christ crucified” every now and then, but they would never say how “grace” and “eternal punishment” could exist simultaneously.) These people constantly talked about sin and God’s law and “striving to enter the narrow gate.” They presented this as the ticket to “eternal life.” So I applied myself as hard as I could. I’m not talking mere externals. No, I went right to the heart. I would try and fight and guard against “all manner of covetousness” (Romans 7:7-13). I tried to love God and my neighbor with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength. I would be keenly aware of every thought of sin. But just like Saul of Tarsus, I soon found that I had all kinds of sin inside that did not even necessarily manifest itself on the surface (Romans, chapter 7). Inside there was envy, pride, hatred, contempt for God, ingratitude, murmuring, impatience, ignorance, unbelief, and a hundred more transgressions. Oh, but I was determined to beat all of it. You have no idea how zealous I was to do this, Zender. I was a man on a righteous mission.

All I knew was that God sent Christ to die for the sins of the world, but that God would ultimately send the majority of human beings to a place called Hell forever. Try dealing with that. Think about *that* for even one second, if you can. So off to work I went.

I labored under the Arminian scheme for a long time, the Arminian scheme, of course, being that everyone had a free will and an “equal opportunity” to believe in Jesus Christ. Then I labored under the Calvinist scheme, which says that Jesus died for the chosen, the only problem being that no Calvinist is ever one-hundred percent sure that he or she is chosen. I tried both schemes with all my might. The result? As it says in Mark 5:26- “...[I] was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse.”

I was told that a true Christian should be displaying all kinds of “evidence” that he or she is “saved,” and that the Christian should be living “a holy life.” So I put the cart before the horse and tried as hard as I could to be perfectly righteous, lest I end up in Hell. When I say “cart before the horse,” I mean that I was trying to impress a Savior who was sitting on the sidelines, watching me. Instead of operating through the power of that Savior, I was trying to *impress* Him.



The people telling me this crap gave lip service to “grace” and to “the perfect work of Christ crucified,” but they proceeded to preach nothing but the law and nothing but “eternal hell.” They couldn’t *overtly* promote human merit, so they came through the back door with phrases like, “we don’t *have* to do good works, but we want to,” “we’re doing good works as a result of salvation,” “we’re just living lives of gratitude,” “we’re serving Christ,” “these are fruits, not merits,” “it’s not me, it’s the Spirit working inside of me,” “of *course* I’m not saved by my works”—and so on. But if they weren’t saved by their works, then why were other people going to hell because of their *lack* of works? They secretly savored their own righteousness, but overtly gave God the “credit” for it. What hypocrisy.

“Exhausted and disillusioned, I finally had to admit that I could not attain to the righteousness of God.”

—Larry Schuler

The irony is that, the more that one resolves and sweats and trusts in oneself, the more one will despise others, scorning them (Luke 18:9). Such ones are full of hatred and pride. The more one sweats and labors to keep God’s Law by way of some self-supposed, inherent righteousness, the more *self-righteous* one becomes. It’s an endless loop. Like Saul of Tarsus, one kicks against the goad. Seeking one’s own righteousness is the occupation of the spiritually blind. This is “a zeal for God, but not in accord with recognition” (Romans 10:2). This virus infects Christianity as it infected the Jews before it, so on it goes in its delusions.

Finally, little by little, I just had to be honest before God. I raised the white flag of surrender. Exhausted and disillusioned, I finally had to admit that, left to myself, I could not attain to the righteousness of God. Thus began my deliverance. Who could have guessed that such a great deliverance would begin with the white flag of surrender?

I’m a sinner. Period. Adam brought sin and death to all his posterity. Only the truth that Christ acted alone, without me, could save me from myself. Only the truth that Christ saved me whether I believed in Him or not, could save me. Oh, I fought against the truth innumerable times, kicking against the goad. People like to call

themselves sinners, but this is just window dressing. They don’t really think that they are sinners. They’re better than the reprobates who don’t or can’t believe in Jesus. They think that there is yet some noble thing inside of them that is able to calmly assess the situation and choose God and Christ. God and Christ then look on in awe—according to them—happy for another wise person on the earth that they won’t have to send to hell.

My self-righteousness was caused by a combination of my own native pride mixed with false teaching. The false teaching *fanned* my pride, and was designed by Satan to do so. I am on guard against this still, wary about being bewitched or entangled in a yoke of bondage like the Galatians. Nobody wants to be like the stupid Galatians.

“Christianity/Churchianity” is obsessed with human merit. On and on they go with their “Christianese” (mentioned earlier), which is just a collection of code words for *self-righteousness*. I tried it. I tried it with all my might. It cannot be done. All flesh is grass. “Those in the flesh cannot please God” (Romans 8:8). Any attempt at pleasing God is a big empty show.

The modern Christian church has repeated the history of Israel’s idolatry and false religion. It’s a cult.

There is something so simple and liberating about casting everything on Christ crucified. Christianity won’t let you do this, however. It always has a “but,” as in, “*buuuuuu* you have to do this, do that,” and so forth.

I am here to tell anyone who will listen that it is impossible to love God and one’s neighbor until one is consciously freed from sin and death through hearing the glad tidings of Christ’s accomplishment at Calvary. Period. Any other route is idolatry.

One must nail it down, in the organ between one’s ears, that Christ took care of everything. *We come to believe that there is no way we can believe.* The only alternative, then, is to realize that belief is a gift of God (Romans 12:3).

I’m still trying to be established and confident in all these things. The old flesh rises up on occasion and I go back to the old haunts of self-righteousness. But I’m learning day by day.

Christ crucified is the greatest message on this planet.

—Larry Schuler

Larry Schuler, 45, is an eligible bachelor (hint, hint), living in Youngstown, Ohio. He is an ex-Pentecostal, ex-Baptist, ex-Catholic, ex-Presbyterian, ex-Arminian, ex-Calvinist, and is currently a staunch proponent of the grace of God, through Christ, that will eventually reconcile the entire universe to its Creator.