

Just as lost

PAUL SETS BELIEVERS AGAINST BOTH THE WORLDLY AND RELIGIOUS

God is the Savior of all mankind (1 Tim. 4:10), therefore, all mankind will live with God for eternity. Yet not all of mankind will live with God for the two upcoming eons, namely the thousand years (Rev. 20:4) and the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:1). That is, not all of mankind has eonian life. (It is eonian life, not "eternal life"—as the Greek phrase "zōe aionion" is so often mistranslated—that God promises to

Human free will is crossless teaching.

believers. Nowhere in scripture is "eternal life" promised to anyone. Saints live for eternity because God makes them immortal—1 Cor. 15:54. Because of the cross, everyone eventually becomes immortal; saints simply become immortal sooner. Eonian life is what enables a saint to live up until the time God makes everyone immortal.)

1 Corinthians 1:23-24 boldly states that the religious are in the same boat as the worldly: uncalled. The difference is that religious people *appear* called; they claim to believe in Christ, but believe in their belief in Christ (free will) instead; worldly people at least dispense with the hypocrisy and state plainly their disbelief in Christ. What qualifies a person as religious? Salvation by self. To the religious person, the cross is a snare in that it is too finished. Religion says that man must work for (finish) his salvation. The most subtle way to believe in salvation by works is to believe in human free will. Human free will substitutes the will of man for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the final arbiter of salvation.

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

Crossless Christianity

When our Lord died, God rent the veil at the temple that separated mankind from Himself. The priesthood, undaunted, sewed that veil back together. This brings us to the Christian religion. Our Lord did away with the flesh of man, taking the old humanity to the tomb and rising without it. The Christian religion, undaunted, has resurrected the old humanity and now seeks to reform it with self-indulgent (they call it "self-denying") devotion and religious exercise.



Rick Warren at the Saddleback megachurch in Lake Forest, California. Crossless. Clueless.

cross shows the dissent of man at its worst, and yet it is this very dissent that Christ died for. Consequent to the cross, flesh cannot say: "Let us please you now, God." It's too late for that; the flesh already demonstrated what it is and what it does—at the cross. Flesh can neither save itself, nor please God (Rom. 8:3).

The Crucified One then said: "Flesh is finished. You need not wonder or worry any more about what flesh is or does. I have died for the worst it can do. Because of this, you can now walk in newness of life. The reason this astounds you is because you are still *in* flesh. But I know what I did, and am looking ahead to the new humanity I have created through My death and resurrection. Therefore, I see what you will become, not what you are. Do not attempt, then, to resurrect the flesh. I killed it. I died for all of its mistakes so that

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What they think of Christ crucified... 1 Corinthians 1:23-24

RELIGIOUS "Too finished." "To the Jews, a snare..." **JEWES**

WORLDLY "Too stupid." "To the nations, stupidity..." **GREEKS**

THANKFUL "Thanks, God." "Yet to those who are called, the power and wisdom of God..." **BELIEVERS**

...crossless Christianity

(Continued from pg. 1)
you can now live in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4-11)

Like the Jews of old, modern Christians get snared by this simplicity. Both Jews and Christians *must* give to man a vital contribution in "the salvation equation." For the Jews, it's the law of Moses. For Christians, it's human free will. Here is the verse that both groups reject:

"For Christ, while we are still infirm, still in accord with the era, for the sake of the irreverent, died. God is commending this love of His to us, seeing that, while we are still sinners, Christ died for our sakes." —Romans 5:6, 8

This verse spells the end of human religion. Christ did His best for us at our worst; nothing



Osteen Clan: Top: Joel Osteen preaching at the Lakeland Church. Bottom from left: Gary Simons, April Osteen Simons, Joel and Victoria Osteen

we do subsequent to Christ's sacrifice, therefore, can improve God's opinion of us. Will we kick God's best into a higher gear? How? God did His best for us while we were murdering Him. So trying to "reform for Christ" serves only to insult Christ. Should we not try to be good people then? Of course we should try, but not so as to expect a cookie afterward. Be good because God has already given you the cookie. He "gave you the cookie" based on His work, not yours. Be good because you are amazed that God would give you a cookie after you crucified His Son. Give God's Son, Jesus Christ, credit for having done something about this flesh problem once and for all at the cross: He eliminated your flesh from the salvation equation.

The world is about to become one giant, nauseating religion, with Christianity at its head. This is the essence of the prophesy of Daniel, chapter 7—the four beasts that Daniel saw rising from the sea. (These beasts are four religions, and the



the anti-cross

monstrous religion Daniel saw was a western religion, namely, Christianity. (For more information, go to my homepage at www.martinzender.com, sign up, and download the audio presentation, "The Beasts of Daniel, Chapter 7.") How will this be accomplished? Most of it is already accomplished; Christianity has already become one giant, nauseating religion. All that remains is for the entire world to come under its spell. This will occur by military force and a further diluting of the cross.

How can I call the religion that hangs the cross of Christ around its neck a nauseating religion? That cross has become a fashion statement; isn't this proof enough? Leave it to Christianity to gild death. It's like propping up a corpse in the corner so as to reform it. Christianity has taken the end of all flesh, molded it into gold and silver, bejeweled it, threaded delicate chains through it, and then sought a matching belt. This proud display of the end of all flesh is the *opposite* of the end of all flesh. It is like arguing the death of Nazism by wearing a swastika.

The end of all flesh, realized, would put the world's most popular religion out of business. Christianity still has much to accomplish for a tough-nosed Savior; there are so many people who have yet to be threatened, challenged, confused, and—chances are—condemned. After all, this is the religion that tells unbelievers how God loves them unconditionally, then prods the unbelievers to hurry up and love God in return before He burns them in hell for all eternity.

As stated in last week's edition, the thrust of Christianity is popularity and acceptance. This is as opposed as it can be to the Roman death stake of Christ, which is about humiliation and suffering. I am not saying that devotees of the cross of Christ should embark upon programs of humiliation and suffering. True devotees will study scripture, grasp the significance of Christ's accomplishment, denounce salvation by will power (human free will), and recoil in horror at the false teaching of eternal torment (which disappears in rightly translated scripture). By so doing, humiliation and suffering will, by nature, follow. They will follow in the same manner by which Christ experienced them: via religious people. ■

What a Revelation!

SATAN TRIED THREE TIMES TO PREVENT THE CROSS

I used to believe Satan wanted Christ crucified. Not so. Satan wanted Christ dead, yes, but he feared the cross; he knew its shame would eradicate human pride. And it did. But today, Satan has regrouped and resurrected human pride by gilding the cross and making it a beautiful pop icon that, when worn around the neck and gazed upon, actually inspires human pride.

Satan's first attempt at derailing Calvary was at the inauguration of our Lord's public ministry. He took Christ to a wing of the sanctuary and challenged him to cast himself down. He hoped Christ would glorify Himself ("Angels will save you") before the necessary humiliation.

His second attempt came via the mouth of a beloved disciple. As Jesus began predicting His suffering and death, Peter took him aside and said, "By no means shall this be for thee!" (Mt. 16:22).



Satan's third attempt came at the cross itself. This time, the Adversary spoke through the mouths of the priesthood, saying: "You who are demolishing the temple and building it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, descend from the cross!" (Mt. 27:40).

Thank God that our Lord resisted these temptations. Now let us resist them by fleeing the beautiful Christian religion and removing, from our necks and walls, its anti-crosses. ■

Rants & Stuff

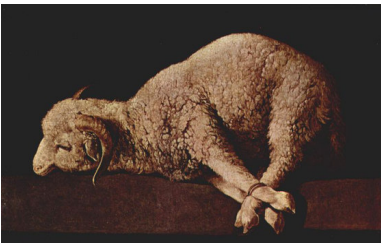
The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.



Lambs at the slaughter block

I love animals and hate to think of lambs—or any animal—going to slaughter. Our Lord is silent as a lamb as He goes to His slaughter. The lamb has the advantage in that it does not know what is happening to it. If the lamb at the block before it lays still and silent, how can the lamb behind it know? It may see the forward lamb wilt, but that lamb does not bleat—so how can it know?

The lamb we're considering is then led to the former lamb's place, where it stares straight ahead into the blackness of death. But the blackness of death, to the lamb, looks like a wall. It does not panic, for it has seen a wall before. A human hand descends upon it, firmer than usual. But still, it has felt a human hand before, so the lamb looks up, as if to eat. It *will* eat—in the kingdom of God with the lion.



Jesus Christ stares straight ahead into the blackness of death, but this One knows the enemy. The other Jews and the Romans see the morning Jerusalem sun and watch the connections ripple the pavement. But this One

stares at the unfolding depths of sheol, where He will not remember any of this. It was only after the terrible prayer in the olive grove—when He'd wiped the blood from His forehead and righted Himself—that He became the Lamb. Then, when the political forces yanked His hands behind Him and cinched them at the wrists with rope, He relaxed into the force, that is, He *let* it. Relaxing rather than pressing made the rope that much tighter, but that was all right because now everything was on

Autopilot. All He had to do now was be dumb and tell Himself repeatedly that no one here knew what they were doing.

Now, it is our turn. We are not as silent as He, or as intelligent, but we're getting there:

“On Thy account we are being put to death the whole day, we are reckoned as sheep for slaughter.” — Romans 8:36

So let the world go; relax into the ropes. Allow yourself to be defrauded, rejected, and ridiculed. The crucifixion is on Autopilot. Keep walking; breathe. Stay away from sheol; we are awaiting a Savior out of heaven, Who shall transform our bodies of humiliation (Phil. 3:20-21) into bodies of glory.

Prepare for new sights and sounds. ■

OUR NEW RADIO SHOW PREMIERES MONDAY, AUGUST 24



Dan Sheridan and I are doing radio together permanently now, broadcasting from station WBRI in Indianapolis. The show will run five days a week, beginning this Monday, August 24. You can access the show by going to my website: www.martinzender.com. Contact me with your questions, and we will answer them on the air. Chances are that other people have the same questions. We will not use your real name.

This eon is about to end, and we are making the most of our time. I exhort you to do the same by tuning in. Few things are more important right now than becoming established in the faith and avoiding the snares of our adversary, Satan. ■