

“Thus God loves the world”

Concordant Literal New Testament

One would think that the King James Version would at least get the most famous verse in Christendom right. Yeah. One would think.

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

The verb “loved” is in the aorist tense, not the past. Few Greek scholars get this right. The aorist tense indicates timeless truth. It is



taken from the Greek prefix “a,” meaning “not” and “orist,” meaning “horizon.” Thus, the aorist tense has “no horizon.” Did God once love the world, or does He continue to love it with no borders in the past, present, or future?

Now you know! ■

Fact!

To engender confidence in Him and a healthy distrust of yourself is God’s ultimate reason for every experience that He brings into your life. EVERY ONE.

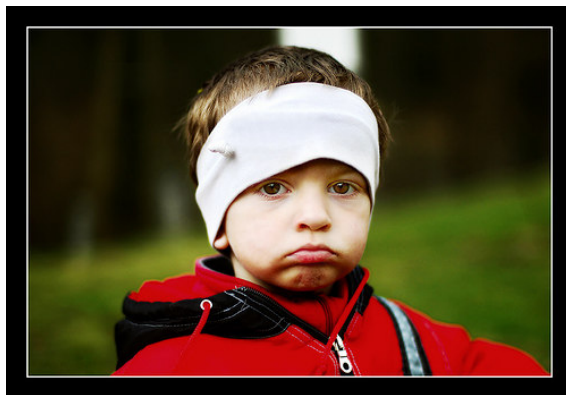
Martin Zender's
Clanging Gong News
“If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong” --1 Cor. 13:1-2

 Two out of three isn't bad.

God’s peace: for all—but few believe it

God, through Christ, “conciliated the world to Himself” (2 Cor. 5:19). This means that God became at peace with the world after Christ’s trauma at Calvary. Conciliation is a one-way deal: from God to man. If man accepts this truth and becomes conciliated to God, then there is reconciliation, which is mutual peace. The King James Version says that God was in Christ “reconciling the world,” but this is clearly untrue; thanks to the preaching of the Christian religion, most people think God is a loveless lunatic.

This conciliation of the world is much like the righteousness God brought to the world through Jesus Christ’s faith, i.e., salvation. It is “for all, and on all who are believing (Rom. 3:22).” This peace of God (conciliation) is FOR all (it’s true now even of unbelievers), but it is only ON those who know about it (believers).



God’s truths have two degrees: one for the believer now (it’s ON them), and one for the unbeliever later (it’s FOR them). The difference between the two? *Enlightenment.* ■

The apostle Peter *not* a member of the body of Christ

Whenever people attempt to prove to me that there are not two gospels (the gospel of the Circumcision and that of the Uncircumcision—

(Gal. 2:7) in scripture, they always bring up the point that, in Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek (Gal. 3:28). This is true *for the body of Christ*. They also like to say that the body of Christ is one body, not two. This is also true (Eph. 1:4); the body of Christ is without faction. But even as Paul wrote these truths, another man lived for whom the truth, “neither Jew nor Greek” did not apply. And that man was the apostle Peter. Paul forfeited his Israelite identity (Phil. 4:7); Peter never did—and *neither was he supposed to*. Jesus promised Peter that he would sit on one of 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of *Israel* (Mt. 19:28). The Circumcision, too, is one body. ■

1 Tim. 4:10: “Especially of believers”

God is the Savior of all mankind, especially of believers (1 Tim. 4:10). As stated in the above article, God’s truths have two degrees: one for the believer, and one for the unbeliever. That principle is upheld here. God’s salvation is FOR all (He’s the Savior of all mankind), but it is only ON those who know about it (“especially of believers”). This is how God can be gracious to all in the end, but still give more to believers. Even though He is the Savior of all mankind, God still distinguishes between believers and unbelievers. Thus, you should, too. ■



You determine whether people live or die

Relatively speaking, you determine whether people live or die for the eons: *“Now thanks be to God, Who always gives us a triumph in Christ, and is manifesting the odor of His knowledge through us in every place, for we are a fragrance of Christ to God, in those who are being saved and in those who are perishing: to these, indeed, an odor of death for death, yet to those an odor of life for life (1 Cor. 2:3-5).*



The most important experience anyone will ever have in this life is their contact with you, God’s messenger. When you speak of God’s love and of His grace, you manifest the odor of His knowledge. To some people it stinks;

to others it is the scent of life itself. When a person rejects your testimony, they are by extension rejecting God. To them, you are an odor of death *for death*. In other words, their rejection of your message separates them from God for the eons; their brief meeting with you will stand as a testimony against them. ■

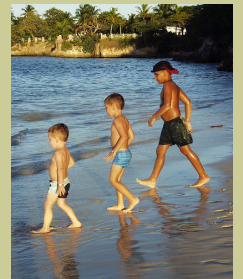
WHAT A REVELATION!

THREE MEN ILLUSTRATE GOD’S THREE PROGRAMS

God has three big programs boiling on His stove: **1)** He will have a kingdom on earth with Israel at its head, **2)** He has made faith the channel by which humans grasp salvation, and **3)** He will eventually bless all mankind with eternal life.

God loves making human beings the representative heads of whatever He does. For His kingdom on earth, God continually references the throne of *David*. Whenever God speaks of salvation by faith, *Abraham* is the poster boy. And

when God’s purposes for all mankind are in view, out comes *Adam* as the representative head of humanity.



Adam, Abraham, David; the “holy trinity” of human beings. To us, these are more than names. It is by the grace of God that, whenever we hear these names so common and meaningless to most people, we know precisely what God is up to. ■



Want to feel like you matter?

God cannot cleanse the earth of evil until we are off it ; people go along their merry way today—because of us. 2 Thess. 2:6-8

Conference videos available

Our friend Jean F. Douglas of Georgia has videorecorded dozens of fantastic scripture conferences over the years, including the recent gathering in Chicago featuring Dan Sheridan, Clyde Pilkington, Dean Hough, and yours truly. Jean travels thousands of miles and invests hundreds of hours in editing, all on a contribution-only basis. Write him for his catalog at: perfectgraceministries@yahoo.com. ■



We are ambassadors of Christ

2 Corinthians 5:20 tells us that we are ambassadors of Christ. Are you depressed because you don’t have an “official title” in this world? Well, here is the most noble title any human being could possibly dream of:

“For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ’s sake, “Be conciliated to God!”

Today, God is beseeching mankind through us. Do you realize the import of this? God is personally silent today, but

has determined that we should be His voice to this dying world. How many people have the message of the conciliation of God to the world? Probably only a few hundred. Did you get that? *Only a few hundred people on a planet of 6.8 billion know what the gospel is.* The conclusion of being an ambassador of Christ through whom God speaks could not be more profound:

When people reject your message, they are—by extension—rejecting God Himself. ■

Q&A

Who is God? —Beverly J. New York

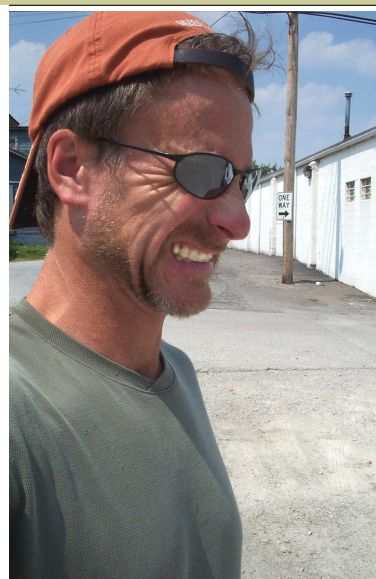
Dear Beverly. Well, holy cow. I must admit that I’ve never quiet gotten as broad a question as this one. It seems so simple, yet it may be the hardest question I’ve ever fielded. Here is the best I can do for now:

God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 1:3).

The Lord Jesus Christ is His pride and joy. God is invisible, and we cannot know Him apart from Christ, who unfolds Him (Jn. 1:18). I could do no greater honor to God that to associate Him with the Son of His love, and with all He has accomplished on His behalf. ■

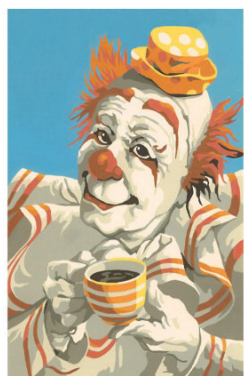
Rants & Stuff

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



I am still “the clown outside the tent”

The “Crack O’ Dawn Report” is my new video feature running every other Saturday. I have always considered myself, “the clown outside the tent,” the tent being the body of literature from esteemed publishing houses such as the Concordant Publishing Concern. Such material is scholarly and sound, but sometimes hard for regular folks to grasp. I used to tell myself—and still do—that if I could put humor and some sparkly sentences into the presentation, then maybe more people would want to dig deeper. The clown outside the tent juggles three grapefruit in the hopes that passers-by will want to come in and spend an hour or two with the highly polished professionals.



I hope no one stumbles at the Crack O’ Dawn Report. It is yet another means of bringing attention to the greatest show on earth: *God’s Gospel of Grace*. We teachers and evangelists all work for the same outfit. The truth never changes, though everyone’s presentation is different; even

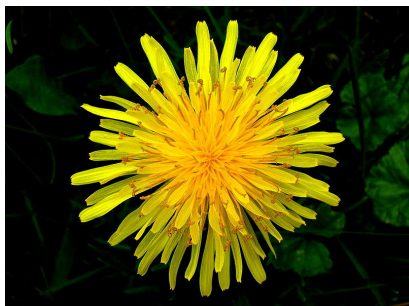
my presentations differ from one another.

If my soul had a face and a wardrobe, it would probably resemble the dude at left: a little eccentric, somewhat happy, and simultaneously sober. I pray that my various “Barnum and Bailey” testimonies make you seek deeper into the glories of the Great One we serve: the Lord God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. (www.concordant.org). ■

AND FINALLY

“The only difference between a flower and a weed is...perspective.”

—Anonymous



JUST BELIEVE THE OPPOSITE

by M. Zender

