

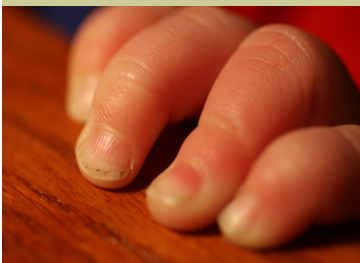
## Cease Striving

Psalm 46:10 reads this way in the New American Standard Bible: "Cease striving and know that I am God." In the Concordant Version, this reads, "Relax, and know that I am Elohim." This is a much deeper truth than, "take it easy."

In the NASB, this Hebrew word, *raphah*, is translated "fall limp" in Isaiah 13:7. The context here is negative, but Psalm 46:10 flips it and makes it a recommended procedure.

**Isaiah 13:6-7**— "Wail, for the day of the Lord is near! It will come as destruction from the Almighty. Therefore all hands will fall limp (*raphah*), and every man's heart will melt."

Transfer the physicality of the above to Psalm 46:10— "Fall limp, and know that I am God."



The essence of Isaiah 13:6 is, "there's no getting around this; it comes from the Almighty Himself." Convert that to your use. There's no getting around that now is the time of our humiliation, not our exaltation. Now that you know that, consciously let your fingers go limp; pretend they're paralyzed; stop grasping for things. You'll get everything later, not now.

Heart attacks are caused by the stress of grasping for too many things *now*. Leave that stress behind. Let your heart melt, that is, feel your cardiac muscle becoming loose. Limp fingers? Loose heart? Great. You're finally beginning to realize that He is God.

# 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.

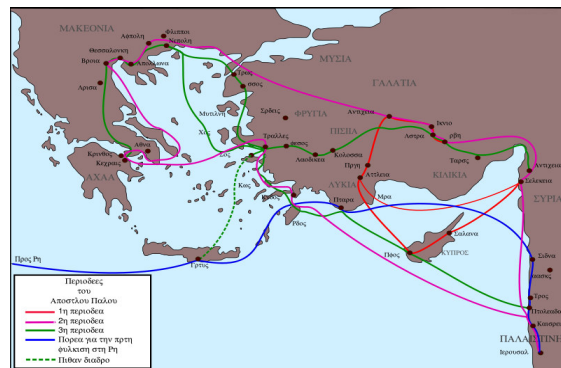
## Shocking Revelation: I'm a Slave of Christ

**A**fter all these years of walking with Christ, I thought I knew what a slave of Christ was. But I have been like the pre-trial Job in that I held this particular truth theoretically. Or, at best, I *thought* I was a slave of Christ. Only recently have I grasped the reality and *become* a slave. Before his trial, Job said: "I had heard of You, God." Afterward he said: "Now I see You."

As I have shared before, one of the severest trials of this calling has been God's creative ways of taking away money that He Himself has given. As the saying goes; "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." I wish the saying went: "The Lord letteth thou keepeth," but it doesn't.

With the latest financial humiliation, I finally felt the breaking point; I *felt* it. A breaking point, by my definition, is when the "fight" leaves you and you relax in the stream of how things must be. Besides my own revelation, I saw this marvel of "letting go" enacted three nights ago on a stage in Cleveland, Ohio.

A friend of mine graciously bought my sister and me tickets to the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. My sister Kelly and I have been fans of this production since the movie and



"Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle" (Rom. 1:1).

soundtrack came out in 1973. What made me especially want to attend was that the lead role in the stage production is still played by Ted Neeley, star of the film.

How many times have I suffered at the suffering of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane. He knows what has to be done, but He balks. Momentarily off His game, He resorts to fight mode, questioning God to see if maybe there is another way. I had heard of His agony, but I had not quite seen it as I saw it that night in Cleveland.

Maybe it was the particular expression on Ted Neeley's face. Maybe the oblique lighting  
*(Continued on page 2)*

## As long as you're not Bernie Madoff, you should be all right

**I** spoke last week of ruling and reigning with Christ, and used the exaggerated example of a person who gives up on Christ to the extent that she becomes a whore in New Orleans. Are there subtler ways to disown Christ? No. Just different ways.

"Be not deceived. Neither paramours, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor catamites, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor

drunkards; no revilers, no extortioners shall be enjoying the allotment of God's kingdom" (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Christians have used this verse to water down the truth of salvation by grace. And yet this verse has nothing to do with salvation, but rather with ruling and reigning with Christ. Note the specific wording: "enjoying the al-

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ...slave of Christ

(Continued from page 1)

hollowed his eyes just so. Perhaps it was a tremor in the voice. Whatever it was, I physically felt the moment of our Lord's surrender; it felt like water to me—flowing water. It was like a giant branch snapping, but without sound. The sensation I felt coming from Christ was what shocked me: relief.

This battle in the Garden, *not* the cross, was our Lord's crisis. After that—*Thy* will be done—the walk was easier. Not easy, but lubricated with the knowledge that this *was* the Father's will. All He had to do now was move through it. As He tells Pilate later during His trial: "Everything is fixed, and you can't change it." Neither could He.

A literal slave owns nothing: not his clothes, not his food, not his lodging, not even his

## ...Bernie Madoff, *et al.*

(Continued from page 1)

lotment of God's kingdom." Having a part *in* God's kingdom does not assume an allotment *of* God's kingdom. An allotment is a special portion. As we discussed last week, this special portion is ruling and reigning; it is above and beyond salvation.

Career sinners are in view here. Occasional greediness is one thing; we're all guilty of that. "The greedy" are those people chronically and fatally attracted to acquiring stuff. A person can drink too much alcohol on occasion without become a drunkard. Who personifies an extortioner? Bernie Madoff.



family. Everything he has comes by the grace of his master. It was only as I contemplated the life and station of a literal slave that my own position in Christ hit home. In the coming eons I shall inherit everything. For now, I own nothing. It is all the Master's, to do with what He wills. "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away." I can only flow like water and bow down; He has already broken me. Fighting is useless. Being broken by Him, however, may well be the greatest relief known to man. ■



We're not sure if you have eonian life, Bernie, but we know for a fact that you won't be reigning with Christ.

A paramour is a male prostitute; a sodomite is the aggressive gay man; a catamite receives the sodomite's aggression in unseemly places. (Inclinations are one thing, actions another. Gay females are not indicted here; women cannot penetrate one another. Penetration—apart from marriage—is the bad, bad thing.)

Stay clean. If you have ungodly inclinations, have the decency to refrain from enacting them—it counts for something. Walk worthily of your calling (Eph. 4:1). ■

"In the grace of God we behaved ourselves in the world."

—the Apostle Paul;  
2 Corinthians, 1:12

## What a Revelation!

### EONIAN LIFE

God's great calendar consists of eons, which are periods of time. This scriptural word ("eons") appears about 75 times in the Greek scriptures (the New Testament), but has been obscured by bad translations such as "worlds," "forever," and "eternity." Every human ever born will live endlessly with God, because God eventually abolishes death (1 Cor. 15:26), through Christ. A few people chosen by God, however, will live with God *before* He abolishes death, during two future, glorious eons. This is known as "eonian life."

### Q&A

#### IS REIGNING NOT OF GRACE?

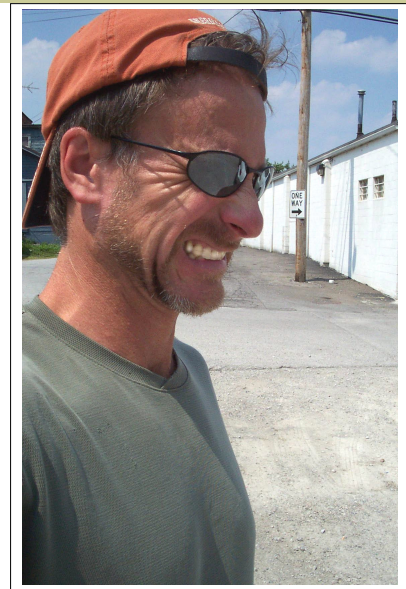
**I know you don't make salvation a matter of a person doing his or her "part," but it seems like you are making ruling and reigning that. Is salvation by grace, but ruling and reigning by works?**

Both are by grace. The difference is that the qualifications for ruling and reigning are *presented* as something that we do—or rather don't do. For instance, I might tell you, A) "You can't do anything unless God enables you." But then I may follow with, B) "Please don't streak at the football game tonight; you made a fool of yourself last Friday." Fact "A" does not contradict exhortation "B." "A" is the absolute viewpoint; "B" the relative. "B" includes "A," while temporarily ignoring it.

It is not that God awards a place of rule to the person refraining from, say, career adultery. Rather, it is that the person God has predestinated for rule will be refraining from career adultery.

# Rants & Stuff

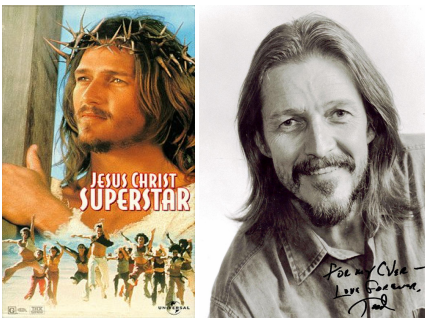
The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.



## The Judas of *Jesus Christ Superstar*

The rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* melds the Passion of Christ with the unlikely element of rock and roll. If that isn't revolutionary enough, it then tells the story of the last days of Christ from the perspective of Judas Iscariot.

To the credit of lyricist Tim Rice, Judas is not a Christian. How could he be, when he tells Christ in Act II (or sings to Him, rather), "I only did what you wanted me to!" Later, as he is about to hang himself, he laments to God: "I'll never know why You chose me for Your crime!" *JCS* evokes empathy for the fallen apostle. Christians despise this about it. They would never agree that God chose Judas for the crime, and certainly not that betraying Christ was ultimately what our Lord wanted Judas to do. Their "God" stands by hoping Judas will exercise his free will in accord with the ancient prophecies. The Christian version of *JCS*



would have God in it, crossing His long, velvety fingers all the way through.

Two hours before the show, our host took us to dinner at *Bricco* on Euclid Avenue, directly across from the Palace Theater. As we walked past a window on the way in, I said, "Holy cow now, but I think I just saw Ted Neeley sitting by that window." Well, it was Ted Neeley! We approached him (reverently, of course),

**Oh, go on. No, I mean it. Go on. And on...and on...**

Thank you for all the nice things you've been saying about *Clanging Gong News*. If you haven't said anything nice about it yet, there is still time.

If there is a particular issue you really like, you have my permission to send it to your friends. We're in the process of archiving the back issues on [www.martinzender.com](http://www.martinzender.com). Tell your friends to sign up on my homepage and start getting *Clanging Gong News* for themselves.

I'm thinking of sending this issue to Ted Neeley. ■

**"The Christian version of *Jesus Christ Superstar* would have God in it, crossing His fingers all the way through."**

and spoke with him for several minutes. What a nice guy! It was only when shaking his hand in parting that I noticed his meal. I kid you not—the man was dining on bread and water. ■

