

# CHRISTIAN ANSWERS

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## UNPOPULAR TOPIC: HOW SOVEREIGN IS GOD?



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**Unlimited Sovereignty of God:** God cannot be defeated; He rules and controls everything and everyone. Read: Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Is. 14:24,27; 46:9-11; 55:11; Psalms 115:3; 135:6; Jer. 32:17; Daniel 4:35; Matt 28:18, Rom. 9:20-23; Eph 1:11,22; Lamentations 3:37-39; Is. 40. **Divine Foreordination:** God has decreed the end from the beginning beforehand. Read: Psalm 139:16; Luke 22:22; John 9:1-3; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 13:48; Rom. 8:27-30; 9:11-13, 23; 11:7-10; I Cor. 2:7; Eph. 1:5, 11; 2:10.

**God's Plan is Eternal:** All future events and actions of men are absolutely certain from God's perspective. Read: Psalms 33:11; 139:16; Is. 37:26, 46:9-10; Jer. 31:3; Matt. 25:34; Acts 15:18; II Thess. 2:13, II Tim. 1:9; I Peter 1:20

**God's Plan is Unchangeable:** No one can frustrate God's eternal plan. Read: Numbers 23:19; Is. 14:24; 46:10-11; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17.

**The Divine Plan Includes Future Acts of Men:** The acts of men, whether minor or great are already accounted for in God's plan. Read: Daniel 2:28; Matt 20:18-19; John 6:64; *including Biblical prophecies.*  
**The Divine Plan Includes Chance/**

**Events:** God cannot be taken by surprise and in fact controls chance occurrences. Read: Gen. 37:28; 45:5; I Kings 22:28, 34; Job 36:32; Proverbs 16:33; Jonah 1:7; Mark 14:30; Acts 1:24, 26.

**Some Events are Inevitably Certain:** Anytime God reveals a prophecy it means that the future event or events is absolutely certain because God will make it come to pass. Read: Gen. 41:32; Job 14:5; Jer. 15:2; 27:7; Hab. 2:3; Matt. 24:36; Luke 21:24; 22:22; John 8:20.

**Sinful Acts are Overruled by God and Included in Plan:** God works even evil acts of men into good for His elect. Read: Gen. 50:20; Is. 45:7; Amos 3:6; Acts 3:18; Rom. 8:28.

**All Things are Made and Maintained by God:** God is in complete control. Read: Neh. 9:6; Acts 17:28; Eph. 4:6; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3.

**God's Plan is Prearranged:** The destiny of each individual is determined before he even comes into existence. Read: Job 23:13-14; 28:26-27; Psalm 139:14-16; Jer. 1:5; Amos 3:7; Rom. 9:11-23.

**Satan and Evil Spirits Carry Out God's Plan:** Satan and his legions, knowingly or unknowingly, accomplish God's plan. Read: Judges 9:23; I Sam. 16:14; II Sam 12:11; (24:1, 10 -I Chron. 21:1); I Kings 12:15; 22:20-23; I Chron 5:22; Psalm 105:25; Is 45:7; 63:17; Amos 3:6; (Luke 22:3-John 6:70-71-Acts 3:18).

**Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom:** All men, knowingly or unknowingly, carry out the plan of God. Read: Gen 42:21; 45:3, 5, 8; 50:20; Ex. 4:21; 7:3; 8:15, 32; 9:12, 16; 14:4, 17; 12:36; 34:24; I Sam. 2:25; II

Sam 17:14; I Kings 12:11, 15; Ezra 1:1-3; 6:22; 7:6; Prov. 16:9; 21:1; Isa. 10:5-15; 44:28; Jer. 10:23; Matt 21:42; 26:31, 39; John 18:11; 19:10-11; Acts 3:18; 4:27-28; 13:27-29; Rev 17:17.

**God's Plan, at the Appointed Time, Allowed Non-Jews to be Saved:** God gave His electing grace to the Gentiles. Read: Acts 11:18; Eph. 3:4-6; Col 1:27. This was a revolutionary idea to the Jews: John 4:9; Acts 10:1-11:18.

**God Intervenes Directly in the Affairs and Attitudes of Men:** God has direct control over all of His creatures. Read: Gen. 20:6; 39:3, 4, 21; 45:8; Ex. 34:24; Num. 23:8, 20; Psalm 37:38; 48:14; 97:10; 145:20; Prov. 21:1; Isa. 26:12; 40:29; Dan. 1:9; Micah 3:8; Luke 1:15; Acts 7:10; 22:6-10; Eph. 2:10; Phil 2:13.

**Man is Declared to be Totally Wicked, Dead in Sin and Trespasses:** God declares all men to be completely dead in sin and therefore unable to help themselves attain salvation. Read: Job 14:4; Psalm 51:5; Prov. 30:12; Jer. 13:23; John 3:19; 5:21; 6:53; 7:7; 8:19; 14:16; Acts 13:41; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; 5:12; I Cor. 1:18; 2:14; II Cor. 1:9; 5:17; Eph. 2:1-3, 12; James 3:8.

**God Sovereignly Chooses Some Sinners to be Saved:** God, after the counsel of His own will, not man's, elects some to salvation when none deserve to be saved. Rom 9:18 states: "*He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.*" Read:

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*"exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9)*

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## THE GOSPEL IN BRIEF

There is one, and only one, eternal, true, holy God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Matt 28:19). He created everything by His word. God has told us the truth about Himself in the word He has given us, the Bible, which He commands us to obey. God is compassionate and just to all. God is pure and Holy; sin is destroyed in His presence (Numbers 14:18). However, we have all sinned, falling short in the evil we do, and the good we fail to do. Yet our problem is not just what we do, but also who we are; we are selfish, corrupt, and estranged from God. Because God is just, He will punish sin impartially, yet God still bestows his love to all men. So our Savior, Jesus, the only begotten Son of God (the God-man, John 1:1,14), was graciously sent to suffer and die on the cross for our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness by the sacrifice of His body and blood. He was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and was physically raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus will physically return to judge the world. God commands everyone to repent and to believe in Him. God's Spirit lives in each of us who believe in Him to guide us into truth, convict us of our sins, and to work in us to sanctify us to live a more holy life, pleasing our Lord. God's children will dwell forever with God, and those who reject Jesus will suffer eternal torment. There is no other way for anyone to come to God except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6). Please do not depend on anyone else, your own efforts, your religion, but simply put your faith in Christ our Master. So as Rom. 10:9 says, "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart the God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You are urged not to despise God's mercy but call out to the Lord and trust ONLY in Him.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Larry Wessels

People today want a marshmallow god rather than the Biblical God. This particular newsletter is on a very unpopular Bible topic, namely, the sovereignty of God. I was inspired to put this subject in newsletter form by the simple fact that it is not only a very important and pivotal Bible doctrine, but it is a subject that has generated great interest through our internet video outreach on **YouTube**.

Our most popular videos are listed on page 10 of this newsletter and as you will notice our number one most watched video is "Unpopular Bible Doctrines #1: The Biblical God No One Wants to Know" which is closing in on 400,000 views. Many of you may not realize it but we have produced an entire series of "Unpopular Bible Doctrines" videos that are posted on YouTube (now numbering 13 episodes at the time of this writing-just type "Unpopular Bible Doctrines Wessels" in the YouTube search box to find them or go to our YouTube channel page **CAnswersTV** and click on the playlist "Dealing with Hell, Lake of Fire, Unpopular Bible Doctrines").

If readers take the time to really study what the Bible teaches about the sovereignty of God they will find an awesome God there that is nothing like the Santa Claus or Grandfather figure that is represented by so many false prophets in pulpits today. They will discover a Biblical God that is nothing like what modern American religionists claim. When you discover the true God of Holy Scripture it will either turn you away from Him in disgust or it will transform your life & ministry. Accurately understanding God's sovereignty will energize personal evangelism and lead to a far closer walk with the One who made all things. **II Timothy 2:15**

## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS ?

Our ministry name is derived in part from I Peter 3:15 which states, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (KJV). This is the goal of **Christian Answers** in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed. Christians are to know what they believe and why they believe it.

The Biblical commands to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to be "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:17), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), to "put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), "with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the marching orders for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, which is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth" (Rom. 1:16), is the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow: it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of **Christian Answers**— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 28:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God's word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 138:2b, Isaiah 40:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

**Christian Answers** utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to stand up for Jesus Christ in public forums or wherever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, "one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last," and as Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God's eternity is only a moment away for all.

Our ministry is "exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code as an organization described in section 501 (c) ( 3 ) by the Internal Revenue Service". Donations to our ministry are tax deductible, therefore those who contribute will receive a donation receipt good on your US income tax. This applies to donations only, not sales. We are legally registered in the state of Texas.

Deut. 7:6-8; 10:15; I Kings 19:18; Psalms 65:4; 147:19-20; Amos 3:2; Matt. 11:20-24 (raising the question: Why weren't the miracles done in those cities so that they might be saved?) 25-27; 24:24, 31; Mark 4:11-12; 13:20; John 5:21; 6:37, 44, 63, 65-66, 70; 8: 42-47; 10:4-5, 17; 13:18; 15:16; 17:9-10, 24; 18:9; Acts 18:9-10; 22:14; Rom 11:7; 8:33; 9:11-24; I Cor. 15:10; 4:7; Eph. 1:4-5; I Thess 1:4; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 1:9; 2:10; Titus 1:1; I Peter 1:1; 2:9; 5:13.

**God Decrees Reprobation for the Non-Elect:** Sinners that have not been chosen by God for salvation are left to die in their sins. Rom. 9:11 states: *"...for though the twins were not yet born, and had not done anything good or bad...Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."* Read: Joshua 11:20; I Sam. 2:25; Psalms 18:40-42; Proverbs 16:4; Is. 6:9-10; 63:17; Dan. 12:10; Amos 3:2; Matt. 7:6, 23; 11:25; 13:10-15; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 2:34 8:10, (10:20; Dan. 12:1; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 17:8; 20:15 = The Book of Life is already established), 16:30; John 9:39; 12:39-40; Acts 13:41, 48; 14:16; 28:27; Rom. 1:26-28; 2:5; 9:11-13, 19-23; 11:8-10; Eph. 2:3; II Thess. 2:11; I Peter 2:7-8; II Peter 2:9, 12-15; Jude 4; Rev. 13:8; 17:17; 21:27; 22:11; Heb. 12:5-8; I John 3:8-10; III John 11. The doctrine of Reprobation does no injustice to the nonelect because they will receive what they justly deserve for their freely exercised sins. Every human being who ever lived (except the Lord Jesus who IS GOD: John 1:1-3, 14; Col. 2:9) deserves to go to hell, but to some, God has shown His unmerited mercy and grace through the Blood of Christ. In this matter, as in all others, we must trust in God that He will do right (Psalm 19:7-9; 119:75; Rom. 11:33-36).

**The Heathen are Lost:** All those, after a certain age, who never had an opportunity to hear the Gospel will still go to hell. Read: Ezekiel 33:8-9; Luke 12:47-48; John 3:36; 6:53; 14:6; 15:5; 17:3; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:18-32; 2:12; 10:13-14; I Cor. 3:11; Hebrews 11:6; I John 5:12.

**Particular Redemption:** The Lord Jesus Christ gave His Blood for the SINS of His elect and not for the SIN of all mankind. Read: (High Priesthood of Christ for atonement of particular sins of particular people, His elect: Ex 28:6, 9-12, 29; Heb. 2:16-17; 5:1, 4-6; 7:27; 9:11, 14-15, 28; I Pet. 2:24); Gen. 3:15; Is. 53:4-12; Matt 1:21; 13:38; 20:28; Luke 1:68, 8:21; 19:10; John 6:70; 8:44; 10:11, 14-15, 26-30; 13:1; 15:13; 17:6, 9-10; 18:9; Acts 20:28; Gal. 3:16; Eph. 5:25; II Pet. 3:9; I John 4:10; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9. Christ only makes intercession for HIS people (Rom. 8:34 and Heb. 7:25) and the Father hears Him always (John 11:42). Also Rom. 8:9.

There are only three possibilities: 1) Christ died for all men's sins, 2) Christ died for all of some men's sins, or 3) Christ died for some of all men's sins. If the first is true, then all men must be saved because all men have had all their sins paid for, including the sin of unbelief. If the third is true, then there are still some sins for which Christ did not pay; therefore, all men must go to hell, not having had all their sins paid for. If the second is true, Jesus paid in full all the sins that some men (the elect) committed, and these men are truly redeemed.

**God Does NOT Love Everybody:** The love of God extends only to His elect. Did God love Esau (Rom. 9:13; Heb. 12:16-17, Mal. 1:3); the wicked (Psalm 5:4-6; 73:18-20; II Pet. 2:9-15; Psalm 11:5); the Amalekites (Ex. 17:14; I Sam. 15:3); the Canaanites (Deut 20:16-18) the Ammonites and Moabites (Deut. 23:3); Jezebel (II Kings 9:36); the sons of Eli (I Sam. 2:25); Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:20-33; 19:24-25); idolaters in Jerusalem (Ezek. 8:18; 9:6-8, 10); those who blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:29); the vessels of wrath (Rom. 9:21-22); Judas (Luke 22:22; John 6:70-71); the Pharisees (Matt. 23:13-36; John 8:42-47); those who love the world (I John 2:15), other nations outside of Israel (Lev. 20:23; Amos 3:2); the works of the

wicked (Proverbs 6:16-19); Ephraim in reference to Gilgal (Hosea 9:13-15), the assembly of evildoers (Psalm 26:5, Psalm 139:21-22), them that hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:15)? How can the "offer" of salvation be sincerely made to those who God foreknows will despise and reject it, especially when their guilt and condemnation will only be increased by their refusal (Ex. 3:18-19; Is. 1:18-19; 6:9-13; Ezek. 3:4-11; Hab. 1:5; Matt. 23:33-37; Acts 13:41)? John 3:36 clearly shows that the wrath of God is presently on unbelievers. The text does not say, "...will abide on him," but "...abides on him." If Jesus wanted everyone to be saved, why did He speak in parables? Jesus explains why in Mark 4:11-12. Read Matthew 7:23. Did God not know who these people were or does "...I never knew you..." have a different implication?

**The Holy Spirit of God CANNOT be defeated:** No one can frustrate or stop the Spirit of God from accomplishing what He has set out to do. Read: Psalm 110:3; Isa. 42:6-7; Jer. 13:23; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26; Hosea 2:23; Matt. 16:17; Acts 16:14; Rom. 8:14; I Corinthians 4:7; 12:3, 11; II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 1:15; Eph. 1:19-20; Col. 2:13; 3:10-11; Titus 3:5; Heb. 12:2; I Peter 5:10. If God intends to save a lost sinner that sinner will be saved, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to come to the Lord Jesus Christ and to believe on His name. (John 6:37, note: "...shall come to me...") Those who die in their sins never had the saving power of the Spirit; see John 6:45; II Peter 2:9-10. The question is: How do men become willing to believe? Jesus Himself said, "Ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life." (John 5:40). Paul said, "...the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7). Men can only become willing by God's act of granting repentance to them and this is something that God only gives to His elect. Jer. 31:18-19; Acts 5:31; 11:18; Rom. 2:4; II Tim. 2:24-26, A person does not

believe to get saved but rather he believes because he is saved by God.

Of course there are some that attempt to downplay the power of the Holy Spirit by quoting Acts 7:51. At first glance it would appear that God's grace is after all resistible but remember, in Acts 7 Stephen is speaking to the Jews concerning the words of the prophets which came to the Jews in the past. In resisting the words of these prophets, the Jews had resisted the Holy Spirit. How did they do that? The Holy Spirit reveals God's Word to holy men: prophets and apostles. The Holy Spirit uses ministers of the Word to proclaim the Word of God throughout all ages. To the Jew of the Old Dispensation, and to every nation, tribe and tongue in the New. And what do these who hate the Word do? They resist. They rebel. They show scorn. They take those whom the Holy Spirit uses to proclaim the Word, and kill them. Of all this Stephen is speaking. He is not telling them that the Spirit of God was given to all to lead all to repentance-but many resisted God's power. Certainly not! But the Spirit is resisted when these resist the holy men whom the Spirit sends.

**Salvation is by the Sovereign Grace of God, NOT by the Works of Man:**

Men cannot will their salvation, run for it, or work for it; salvation is totally in the hands of the Lord to give to whom He will. Rom. 9:16 says: "*So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.*" The sinner does not make a decision whether to accept or reject Christ because that option does not lie with the sinner, but with God. The lost sinner can only reject Christ unless God sends His Holy Spirit to save him. True conversion is only by the power of God, not by the will of man. If a person thinks he can save himself by performing the "work" of "deciding for Christ" or "accepting Jesus" at his leisure, then that person

believes salvation can be earned by his efforts and not God's. Read: Rom. 3:20, 27, 4:4-6, 6:23, 9:11, 16, 11:6, 35; I Cor. 1:31, 15:10; Gal. 2:16, 21, 3:2-5, 11-12; Eph. 2:8-10.

**God's Elect Will Never Lose Their**

**Salvation:** Once a sinner is "born again" he is eternally secure. Read: Psalm 1:3; 34:7; 92:12; 125:1; 138:8; Jer. 31:3; 32:40; Ezek. 11:19-20; Matt. 24:24; Luke 10:20; John 4:14; 5:24; 6:47, 51; 10:28; 14:19; Rom. 6:14; 8:10, 26-29, 35-39; 11:29; 14:4; II Cor. 4:8-14; 9:8; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 1:5; 4:30; Phil. 1:6; 3:20; 4:3; II Thess. 3:3; II Tim. 2:19; 4:18; Heb. 10:14; I Pet. 1:5; I John 5:13; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8. Since salvation of the saints from the beginning has been of God then quite naturally God will keep His chosen ones from falling in the end; the perseverance of the saints to eternal joy is therefore assured by the power of God. Of course there are those who deny God's power in preserving His elect by quoting verses such as Heb. 6:4-6; I Tim. 1:18-19; etc. But these verses fail to disprove this doctrine. I John 2:19 states, "*they went out from us but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were never of us.*" John makes it clear that not all who say they are Christians really are. A person might be a member of a church, a "partaker" of the Holy Ghost, that is, enjoyed the other means of grace given the church such as baptism and the Lord's supper; and for all intents and purposes people have labeled such a person "saved" but then, for example, this person renounces his faith and leaves the Church. Has he lost his salvation? Not at all! Biblically speaking this hypocrite was never saved in the first place. A hypocrite does not have to renounce his "faith," his manner of speech, action, and lifestyle will reveal whether he is truly saved or not (Matt. 7:20). Also read: Rev. 2:7, 11, 17; 2:26; 3:5, 12, 21, 21:7.

**Men Naturally Object to God's Power and Sovereignty:** Men, due to their carnal pride, like to limit God's sovereignty in various areas, especially in the area of salvation. Men such as these, try to say that God loves everybody and that God wants everybody to be saved. They say that God has no power to actually save anyone until after the lost sinner, of his own "free-will," makes a "decision for Christ." In other words, it is the sinner, not God, who secures salvation. God merely offers everyone a chance (as if he owed it to everyone or anyone), leaving the sinner to perform the work of saving himself by "accepting Christ." Basically from this theory, God does not save anyone in particular, just anyone who will have Him; and of course this would then make God a respecter of persons; choosing people to be saved based on their own efforts to attain salvation. If this theory is true, then John the Baptist must have "accepted Christ" while still in the womb (Luke 1:15)! These false doctrines do little more than exalt the will of man over the will of God:

**They reflect a God who is helpless and unable to keep countless multitudes from going to hell forever.**

**They reflect a God whose plan of salvation and eternal purposes are being defeated and overruled by the devices of the devil and the "free-will" of man.**

**They reflect Christ as dying in vain for all the lost sinners who have despised and rejected Him. If this is the case, then the precious Blood of the Lamb is cheapened because of the fact that Christ's blood was and is insufficient and ineffective in saving all that He gave His life for.**

Men holding these doctrines attempt to prove their claims by using verses that supposedly teach universal redemption. Some of their favorite verses are: John 3:16; I Cor.

15:22; I Tim. 2:4; Heb. 2:9; II Pet. 3:9; I John 2:2 and Rev. 3:20. To them, the terms “world; all; every; whosoever; and any; without distinction or qualification, mean EVERY LAST LIVING SOUL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. Is this the proper understanding of these terms? If so, then to remain consistent we must define these terms the same way every time they appear in Scripture. Use the “universalist” definition in the following verses:

For the term “all”: Luke 21:17; John 1:6-7; 12:32; Acts 4:21; 21:28; James 1:5. Does Mark 1:5 mean that every last man, woman, and child living in Judea and Jerusalem was baptized?

For the term “world”: Gen. 41:57; John 15:18; Luke 2:1, 3; Acts 2:5, 9-11; 19:27; Col. 1:23; Rev. 13:3. Does not II Peter 2:5 imply that if there is a “world of the ungodly” there is a “world of believers” consisting of both Jews (who have always been known as the “chosen people”) and elect Gentiles (who comprise the rest of the “world”)? Does John 6:33 mean that God gives eternal life to every last man, woman, and child on earth? If so, then everyone must be saved. Does the word “give” mean the same thing as “offer”? “Offer” implies that something has been presented for optional acceptance or rejection; “give” means to bestow, to grant, to place in the hands of, simply an action already accomplished with no bearing on optional decisions. Are we being offered something or given something in the following passages: John 3:27; 5:21; 8:36; 17:2?

“Whosoever” believeth that Jesus is the Christ, is born of God...” I John 5:1 (KJV). Does the word “whosoever” mean everybody everywhere or is it making a distinction between who believes and who does not believe? “Whosoever” is not an interchangeable term with “universal

redemption” but is simply a qualifying term denoting a specific individual or group who actually carries out a task, action, etc. (“Whosoever” were elected by God’s grace to believe in Jesus did believe: Acts 13:48; Eph. 1:4-5, 11; etc.

What does Hebrews 2:9, “...tasted death for every man” mean? The word “man” is not in the original Greek, therefore, the more accurate rendering of this verse is, “...tasted death for everyone” or “...tasted death for everything” (according to some Greek interlinear New Testaments). Technically speaking, the Greek rendering would make everybody and everything eligible for redemption, i.e., animals, demons, and even the devil himself! This interpretation is, of course, absurd. Therefore, the only proper understanding of this verse, in context with the rest of the Bible, would be “...tasted death for everyone” who are called and chosen of God.

I Corinthians 15:22 shows how far men will go to support their unscriptural viewpoints. When the verse is taken into context with verses 20-21, and 23-24, the meaning of the verse is clearly understood: Christ is the first to enter resurrection life, then **WHEN HE COMES**, His people also enter into resurrection life (for all those who are in Christ). The verse literally means, “For as all born in Adam die, so also all born in Christ shall be made alive.” This verse is merely proclaiming the fact that those in Christ will live, it is not offering universal salvation, and thus has no bearing on the argument.

Revelation 3:20 shows that the lukewarm and self-sufficient church in Laodicea does not even have Christ within it. Christ is pictured standing outside the Laodicean church, not outside of people’s hearts (as many would have us believe). It is clear from innumerable passages of Scripture, that those who do hear Christ’s voice are the elect and chosen

of God (John 6:44,65; 8:42-45; 10:14, 26-30; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 1:9; to name a few).

In dealing with verses such as these and others, the diligent Bible student must follow the command of the Lord: “*But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.*” (I Thess. 5:21, NASB). The student should also know the value of sound doctrine (Eph. 4:14; I Tim. 4:6; 6:3-5; II Tim. 4:2-5; Titus 1:9) and sound interpretation of words, verses, and passages (II Tim. 3:16-17). Always, when possible, let Scripture interpret Scripture and lean not on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5). If words, verses, and passages are not logically interpreted within the context of the entire Bible, then the Bible itself will be turned into a mass of contradictions (II Tim. 2:15). And of course, always seek God’s guidance in the study of His Holy Word.

### **Why Preach the Gospel if God has Already Predestinated a Limited Number to be Saved?**

The Gospel is not an invitation (“good advice”) but a proclamation (“Good News”), a proclamation concerning Christ, whether it is believed or not. The Gospel announces the terms upon which men may be saved (expressly, repentance and faith) and, without exception, all are commanded to fulfill them. As already stated, men in their natural states cannot achieve repentance and faith without God first sending his Holy Spirit to save them. The question arises: How can God hold men responsible for something they are unable to do (the very same question that appears in Rom. 9:18-19)? Paul answers that question in Rom. 9:20-24. The point is: God very often commands men to do things, which they are unable to do of themselves. Did Lazarus have the power within himself to rise from the dead when Jesus commanded, “Lazarus, come forth!” (John 11:43); or the dead girl of Luke 8:49-56? What about the paralytic of Luke 5:24-25? Did the



paralytic have the power within himself to rise up, pick up his stretcher, and walk? No! So naturally the Bible is filled with examples such as these. These miracles, like the miracle of being "born again," are a mighty work of God.

The Gospel is preached because God has ordained it to be preached "unto all the nations" (Luke 24:47) so that it reaches all of God's elect who are "scattered abroad" (John 11:52) among all nations. It is by the preaching and hearing of God's Word that the elect are called (Rom. 10:13-17), and logically in order for the elect to hear the Gospel, it must be preached to the elect and non-elect alike (Matt. 22:14).

Men cannot save anyone, God must do that. Men are commanded to simply preach and teach the Word of the Lord while God takes care of the business of saving souls (John 6:29; I Cor. 3:5-9). It must be a glorious relief to the Christian to know that his eternal destiny does not depend on his own effort but on God Almighty Himself. The "born-again" Christian need never fear losing his salvation but can rejoice always that God had mercy, unmerited and undeserved mercy on him. God's love for His elect is everlasting and has no beginning and no ending (Jer. 31:3) and God will make sure that not one of them is ever lost (John 18:9). As Habakkuk said, "Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. The Lord God is my strength, and He has made my feet like hind's feet, and makes me walk on my high places (Hab. 3:18-19).

Knowing that God is sovereign over salvation instead of man will make an optimist out of anyone. No matter how hard-hearted and stubborn a sinner may be, hope is never lost because God can melt the heart of even the chief of sinners (I Tim 1:15) and bring him to Christ. The eternal optimist then is the one who knows the sovereignty of God, the complete power of God; and

knowing this he realizes that if God so desired, He could save everyone on the face of earth in a moment of time. The one who denies God's unlimited sovereignty has no such hope. *"Whosoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God: whosoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen (I Peter 4:11).*

*This article was written and edited by Larry Wessels, much of the material was taken from the book, The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination by Lorraine Boettner (Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co.), The Sovereignty of God by Arthur W. Pink (Baker Book House), and The Five Points of Calvinism by Hanks, Hoeksema, and Baren, published by "Reformed Free Publishing Association."*

*Other valuable books concerning these doctrines are:*

*Awakening to God by James Montgomery Boice (Inter-Varsity Press)*

*Redemption Accomplished and Applied by John Murray (Eerdmans)*

*In addition, recommended are all sermons and books by: Charles H. Spurgeon, Jonathan Edwards, J.C. Ryle, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, Matthew Henry, and William Hendriksen.*

## 10 Questions on God's Election

### 1. What is the meaning of the word "election?"

It means choice. In fact, the words "chose" and "chosen" are used interchangeably with the words "elect" and "election" in the Scriptures, when referring to this doctrine. The word "election" is used in the Scriptures six times, "elected" once, and "elect" twenty times. Roughly looking through a concordance, we find that the word "chosen" is used at least twenty-one times in reference to the doctrine of election. So the word "election" simply means choice.

### 2. Are there Scriptures which teach that God elected individuals to salvation before the world began?

Yes: Romans 8:29, 30; Ephesians 1:4; II Thessalonians 2:13; II Timothy 1:9; and Revelations 17:8. These are the basic Scriptures.

### 3. How can you reconcile election

### with "whosoever will?"

It is very simple. If God had not elected individuals to salvation, no one would have ever responded to "whosoever will." Only the elect, by God-given grace, respond to this call. Jesus said that none would come, except those to whom God gave the will to come. (John 6:44, 64) Men do not come to God of the natural will. But the elect come to God since God works in them both to will and to do of His good pleasure. (John 1:13; Romans 9:16; Philippians 2:13).

### 4. I think that election is too mysterious to be understood. Do you not agree with me? If so, why do you preach election?

That election is mysterious we do not deny. And we hasten to add that so is the rest of the Word of God and the doctrines therein to the natural man (I Cor. 2:14; Rom. 8:7).

But that election cannot be understood so far as the Scriptures teach, we deny. If we have the Spirit of God, we can understand the doctrine because it is revealed throughout the Bible. The thing about election that cannot be understood is why God elected such ungodly, wretched sinners to salvation when they deserved Hell. The only thing we can say to this is that it pleased God to do so. We preach election because it is taught in the Bible and because from it we draw the blessings of God (II Tim. 3:15-17).

### 5. What about II Peter 3:9 which says that God is not willing that any should perish?

II Peter 3:9 does not say that. Let us read it in full:

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come, to repentance."*

Peter is not writing here to everybody. And what he says about the Lord's not being willing that any should perish, does not refer to everybody. He plainly says that

God's longsuffering is to "US-WARD." Who are the "us-ward" you ask? Well, read I Peter 1:2 and II Peter 3:1 and you will find that Peter wrote both of his epistles to the elect of God. Peter is answering here the scorners who were mocking the Christian's hope of the second coming of Christ. The scorners were saying, "Where is the promise of His coming?" etc. (v. 4) The reason Peter gives that the Lord has not come yet is that He is long-suffering to His elect and is not willing that any of them should perish, but that all of them should come to repentance. To say that God is not willing that anyone in the world should perish reveals total ignorance as to the attributes of God on the part of the individual who says so. For if God does not perform His will, then it proves that He is not sovereign and omnipotent and it makes His will subject to man's will. God's will, and not man's will, is sovereign. And since there are people who die and go to Hell, it is evident that it is not God's will that they be saved.

*"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"* Daniel 4:35

**6. If election is true, then isn't God unjust?**

No. The same Bible that teaches election also says that God is just (Isaiah 45:21). When God chooses some unworthy sinners to salvation, He does no injustice to the rest of the unworthy sinners. They have merited Hell by their sins, and they deserve to go there. God's election does not send them there, but their sins send them there. God's election simply blesses with salvation a great number which no man can number. (Rev. 7:9, 10)

**7. Does not everyone have an opportunity to be saved?**

It is foolish to talk of an

unsaved man's having an "opportunity" to be saved, for the only opportunity which he wants is the opportunity to live his life as he so desires. Apart from God's own choice we have never known a single person who wanted to be saved. Jesus said that men love darkness rather than light (John 3:19).

**8. What do you mean by Unconditional Election?**

By unconditional election is meant that God made His choice without being influenced by anything foreseen in those whom He elected. God's choice was made according to His own good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself (Eph. 1:9). Man did not, in the least, influence God to elect or not to elect.

**9. Why preach the gospel if some are elected to go to heaven anyway?**

God's elect are not chosen simply to go to Heaven, but they are chosen to be saved in this life, and thereby go to Heaven. We preach the gospel to all men because the Spirit uses it in calling out the elect from among the nations of the world. The elect are called unto salvation by the gospel of Jesus Christ. All the elect will hear the gospel and will be saved during their lifetime, for this is what God has ordained. "And as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:48 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me." John 6:37

**10. Does election mean that God foresaw who would repent and believe, and thus knew beforehand who would be saved, and so chose them to be saved?**

Absolutely not. There would have been no need for God's choosing them to be saved if He saw beforehand that they would be saved. There is no election whatsoever about such doctrine. It is no less foolish than would be a decree on the part of the President of the United States that there may be daylight tomorrow. There will be daylight tomorrow regardless of the President's decree. God did not fore

foresee repentance and faith in anyone, but He predestinated that those whom He elected would receive the gifts of repentance and faith from the Holy Spirit of God, these gifts being purchased for the elect by Christ in His atonement. Repentance is given by God. (Acts 5:31; II Timothy 2:25; Jeremiah 31:18, 19). And faith is given of God. (John 10:6, 26, 27; John 6:67-70; Matthew 16:17; I Corinthians 3:5-8; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 1:29). The idea that God elected on the basis of something foreseen in an individual is Biblically unsound Arminianism.

Dear reader, do you owe your salvation to God's free grace election, or to your own wise choice? Who gets the glory, you or God?

### See Our Related Videos on This Subject

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**John Wesley, Founder of Methodism & an Arminian, Said He "Did Not Love God & Was an Honest Heathen"**

## Steve's Q & A



Director of Research,  
Ministry Webmaster

### Question: Druze Religion

Hey guys,

I just stumbled on to your website and I'm looking up some information about the Hikma. I am Lebanese born in Beirut and I have a pretty dramatic testimony. Basically a Lebanese Druze that was born in Beirut comes to America, joins the U.S. Military, marries a Christian woman and God opens his eyes to the truth...Jesus! This was in 2004. Now we have 3 baby boys and they will get to know Jesus the right way as they grow and become warriors of Christ. My family is incredibly happy and being blessed in many ways from God.

On the other hand, there is still my side of the family back home in Washington state. I am writing to you because I have been trying to talk to them in very passive ways (since most of our talk is over the phone) about my love for Christ and the changes in my life and how He is nothing but good. But the thing is, most Druze seem to me as uneducated country folk who heard these stories of the Hikma from their father's father and then they tell it to their kids with no data backing it and the kids just believe because they're kids. That is what happened to me, and the stories these people tell you! They should be directing the next *Lord of the Rings*.

My problem is that when I try to think of ways to get through to them I just get angry and want to shove it down their face and call them all idiots. If they would just pick up a book and read it they would see the truth, I mean they should see the truth. I did! Even the information you guys put out about

their history I had never heard that before, and the sad thing is they haven't either.

Is there anything you guys can do to help me out? I see there is a ton of information on your website [www.muslimhope.com](http://www.muslimhope.com). I am not sure how I can put a good amount of it together though and serve it to them.

I'll end with this: I honestly think that all other religions outside of Christianity try so hard to fight against Jesus and don't believe because they are taught at a young age that their way is superior to everyone else's. They also live their lives like that as well, even when they have nothing. They will puff up their chests and put their finest nothing on and walk around just for the show. I have lived with that and seen it too long in my family. It's pathetic. I feel that they would rather avoid truth then reveal and find it.

God Bless.

-Hani

### Answer:

Hi Hani,

I praise God for His work in bringing you to Him. Let me explain the situation to you, that you may better know what to pray about.

You have an enemy you are contending with. This enemy is not your family or the people you talk with. Your enemy is Satan, who is smart, powerful, and ruthless in doing everything He can to keep your family in bondage and drag as many people with him to Hell as he can. We would have little chance against this enemy, were it not for the Holy Spirit and the promises of Christ through prayer. Even the disciples of Jesus could not cast out demons without prayer. We have to realize our own powerlessness without prayer, and we have to realize the importance and urgency of praying.

Now imagine yourself, say five or ten years before you came to Christ. Honestly, how open were you then to the truth of the gospel? For you to come to Christ took time, the Holy Spirit working, and He may have used not just one person, but a number of people. What you said about your family and many Druze, is equally true of many Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Muslims, atheists, and others.

Now Satan may put up spiritual ob

stacles, but Satan and his unwitting servants are pretty good at putting up man-made obstacles too. One of these is the Druze religion. The most important two things are to demonstrate the love of Christ, and to share the truth of Christ, as it sounds like you are doing. Fourth, you might take the material on our website about the Druze, and perhaps copy and paste it or rearrange it as you think best for them. Then you can show them and ask if they see anything wrong with this. Attached is a copy of the material on Druze in Word software.

FYI, there is some difference of opinion on what Druze believe on some points, such as women's souls. I show both views in the paper.

But before you do the fourth point, you should do the third. The third point is to ask them: "if someone was shown that the religion they grew up with was not what the True God wanted, but rather was against God, what should they do? Should they follow what is most comfortable for them, and not be surprised in the end if they experience God's wrath, or should they come to God on His terms, and want to follow the truth no matter what it is? There is someone who was faced with that dilemma whom we all respect. Ever since the time of Abraham of Ur, do you think that God would ever ask anyone else to leave the gods they were comfortable with and follow Him, and Him alone? If God were to show you what was true and what was false, either directly or through other people, would you follow or not? Then after you say something similar to the previous, and they agree that we all should seek the truth, you go to the fourth point.

I will keep you family in prayer. I pray that the best thing possible could happen to them; that they come to know the Real God and live forever with Him, you, me, and all the other saints in Heaven.

Your Brother in Christ,

-Steve

### Question: Jehovah's Witnesses

Steve,

Thank you so much for your help and sending the information. It is invaluable because the first thing they say is, "where is the proof?" They are so convinced



and so deluded. This next time I will have the information you sent me printed out and ready to hand them to look at and I can't wait to see their faces.

I feel sorry for them. The truth is right there in front of them, and yet they would reject God. I really do have a heart for some of them for some strange reason. The two that came to my door seemed interested and paid me respect and wanted to listen. The other turn-tailed and ran and told the other to come with him. And he was the one saying "we're not running away, we will be back when we have time."

Just a side note: What do you think of this? Steve you know what is ironic? Many years ago before I was saved I was having a very hard time and I had a Jehovah's Witness *New World Translation* version of the Bible. When I read through it I could still see Jesus as God. I could see the Holy Trinity. I still have that Bible. In fact, I painted a cross on the front page of it. I think it's ironic and kind of funny. Like Joseph with the "meant for evil God used for good."

May God bless you guys in your ministry and I hope to see you either here or there in glory with our Lord and Savior.

-Phillip.

**Answer:**

Hi Phillip,

Praise God for your salvation, even through the *New World Translation* Bible. Romans 8:28 says that all things word together for good, for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose. Actually if everything the cults said was a lie, no one would believe them, because it would be too obvious. As long ago as Irenaeus (182-188 A.D.) Christians noticed that cults do say some truthful things too. Like good food with deadly poison mixed in with it. Remember to pray for them, and that your main point is that they would not so much lose an argument but rather that they "win," in the greatest way possible, that they would leave their delusions and come to the light of salvation in Christ.

In Christ,

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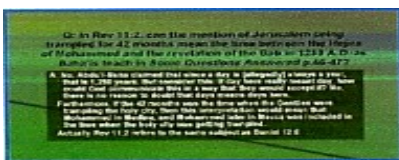


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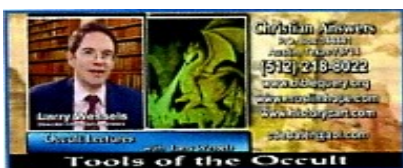


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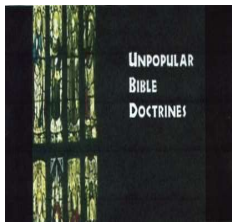
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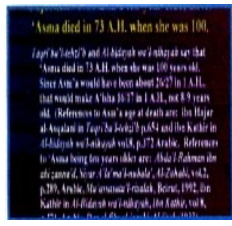
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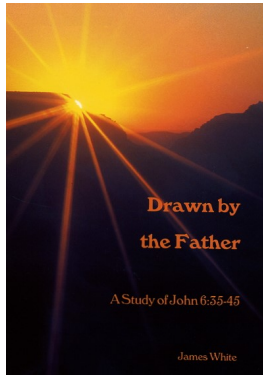
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# Drawn by the Father

## A Study of John 6:35-45

(by Dr. James White)

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one coming to me, I will never cast out." This is what Jesus taught the people in the synagogue at Capernaum many years ago. "No man is able to come to Me, unless the Father, who sent Me, draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day." Some of the most striking and challenging statements by Christ on the nature of the Gospel are to be found in these verses from John chapter 6.

**Drawn by the Father** calls the Christian to listen to the words of Christ anew, and ponder again the wonder of the sovereignty of God in salvation.

James White is Director of Alpha and Omega Ministries, a Christian apologetics and experienced counter-cult missionary based in Phoenix, Arizona (website: [AOMIN.org](http://AOMIN.org)). He holds a B.A. degree in Bible from Grand Canyon College, and an M.A. degree in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. He has written and published numerous tracks and articles, and is the author of *The Fatal Flaw*, *Answers to Catholic Claims*, and many others.

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*“exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict” (Titus1:9)*

## LETTERS FROM THE FRONTLINE



Christian Answers,

I would like to know more information in depth to research Ellen G. White. I have come across a video on YouTube and would like more information as I am having Bible studies with a member of the 7th Day Adventists, and would like to look into this more so I can make the right choice. Kind Regards.

-D. (from the internet)

Larry,

Hello from WA. You've sent me lots of information regarding cults, especially the J.W.s. I got your postcard the other day and want to be kept up-to-date with your ministry. Thank you for your stand over the years for Christ and providing us all with good information as to why we believe what we do and why we reject all other gospels other than the Grace of God through Jesus Christ given to the apostles for us today (Acts 20:24, Gal. 1:6-9). I hope this e-mail finds you encouraged in the Lord. I look forward to hearing from you soon. In His service.

-D.B. (Monroe, WA)

Dear Larry,

Many thanks for the "Christian Answers" material that you have sent to me by post. I will read all and be benefited spiritually by understanding the truths of the Bible as it is. God bless you in all that you are doing for Him through your hard labors in the Holy Scriptures. With Christian love.

-B.D. (from the internet)

Christian Answers,

Greetings and thanks for your great work, clarifying God's message in a confused world. Please send me your newsletters on Christian Answers on topical subjects for my studies. Yours sincerely.

-P. (from the internet)

Gentleman,

I just discovered your website (www.BibleQuery.org) and am very thankful for it. God bless you! Greetings from Germany.

-N. (Germany)

Hello there,

My name is John, a New Zealand citizen studying the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses and who was about to be baptized in the Watch Tower organization. I have had an illness for the past 15 years and of that the last 4 I have studied with the witnesses. The lies and deception I have witnessed I could write you a very long letter, however, I will refrain.

I would personally like to thank those involved in Christian Answers for leading me to Jesus as my saviour. I have not been baptized yet, however I pray for Jesus to be my Lord. Thanks for your hard work.

I knew very little about the Watch Tower organization. It's something that hasn't been discussed yet. However, the pressure on me is very heavy to be fully fledged. I have so many nerves about my meeting next week, I'm heartbroken to learn the people I opened my heart to are about to shun me.

I choose Jesus over any man and this is my first test.

Thank you ever so much. I hope you understand how helpful and inspirational all of your research is. I do feel a bit lost as my belief system has been shattered. I pray for Jesus to fill my heart with the strength and insight to continue reading a new bible and understand our Lord's teaching.

I am very humbled, finding words is difficult, I really just want to say thank you will all my heart. Kindest and warmest regards.

-J. (New Zealand)

Christian Answers,

I just wanted to say how much I have learned from watching your **Citywide** call-in videos you have been uploading to YouTube. Keep posting as many as you can! How many in total do you think you will be uploading? Thanks again for everything that you do!

**Christian Answers' Website CD  
is free for the asking.**

### *Christian Debater Guide*

-L.N. (from the internet)

Greetings,

Thank you very much, I really appreciate it! It was such a struggle getting my wife out of the Mormon cult, and we have almost no contact with any of her family because they are still Mormons, and her dad is a Mormon minister. Now I have JW people coming to my door so I watched your videos on that. I feel like, especially in this day and age, a Christian can never have too much information on the cults. Thank you again and may God bless you and your ministry.

-Pastor T.S. (from the internet)

Greetings,

I have been watching several of your sermons/teachings on YouTube and will continue to watch them as often as possible for they have encouraged and challenged me greatly. They have also opened my eyes to truths that are crucial to all the believers of Jesus Christ.

I want to thank you for the good work that you are doing for the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the sound doctrine that you are teaching the church. I would also like to pay my tithes and offerings to your church so that the true gospel of Jesus Christ can continue to be preached and reach more people. Please let me know how I can send the support considering that I am not in Austin.

Please know that you are in my prayers and may the Lord continue to give you wisdom and strength to continue preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

-F. (from England)

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