

SEPTEMBER, 2007, NEWSLETTER

BUT IS WHAT WE BELIEVE BIBLICAL?

I just read a new book (surprise!), The Prophet's Gospel, by Wayne Scott. Wayne has some insights about church history and denominational doctrine that shed light on why the church is in such deplorable condition. His book added a lot to the insights I have received in recent months from Bill Johnson, Randy Clark, John Bevere, John Eldredge, Michael Brown, Ford Wilson, and others. Following are some statements in quotation marks that represent false doctrine, usually based on years of tradition, extant in some part of the American church family. I truly believe that much of the church in America is guilty of presenting "another gospel, and another Jesus," as Paul accused the Galatian church of doing. Then I will share what the Bible says about this doctrine (from Wayne's understanding, and mine. Not everything that follows is from his book.)

- "Everyone knows that everyone sins."(False!) - - - "*Whoever is born of God does not commit sin.*"(I John 3:9) John Wesley said: "He that is by faith born of God sinneth not, (1) by any habitual sin, or (2) by any willful sin, for his will, while he abideth in faith, is utterly set against all sin, and abhorreth it as deadly poison." D. L. Moody said: "No unrepentant sinner will ever get into heaven. Unless they forsake their sin they cannot enter there." Oswald Chambers said: "The effective working of the new birth in us is that we do not commit sin, not merely that we have the power not to sin, but that we have stopped sinning." Charles Finney said: "Sinners who would be saved must abandon *all* sin....and give a hearty obedience as long as they live." **The definition of "sin," is "Doing something you know is wrong."**
- "Christ died to give us a wonderful gift: freedom from the guilt and consequences of our ongoing inevitable sins."(False!) Please re-read and note this statement carefully. It is a common concept of "New Covenant freedom," and a common teaching in many Calvinist/Lutheran/Reformed/Baptist churches, and in seminaries of many persuasions. (This is not an attack on certain denominations, and every member of a church or denomination does not subscribe to these unbiblical beliefs.) - - - Jesus said to the paralyzed man that he healed: "*Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.*"(John 5:14) To the adulterous woman: "*Neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.*"(John 8:11) To the Jews: *Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who sins is the slave (or servant) of sin.*"(John 8:34)
 1. Note the way the famous Calvinist/Lutheran (Reformed) commentator Matthew Henry comments on this verse (Bethany Parallel Commentary, Page 569) "The truth is of universal concern: "*Everyone who sins is the servant of sin...*" yet everyone who sins is not a servant of sin, for then God would have no servants." NOTE: This honored commentator quotes Jesus' words, and then he blatantly contradicts them! This is not uncommon. Therefore, we must be careful about reading commentaries, books, sermons, doctrinal statements, and blindly accepting their conclusions. It makes a difference what we believe!
 2. If we believe that everyone sins, that Christ frees us "from the guilt and consequences of our ongoing inevitable sins," that it does not make any

difference whether we sin periodically, then we have been given a license to sin whenever the temptation or pressure gets strong. But God has said to us: *"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."* (I Co. 10:13) Do you see what is clear beyond argument? **God expects us to resist temptation and not to sin! No, not ever!**

3. Wayne has found three new unbiblical definitions of "repent" which are popular in modern preaching: (1) a certain attitude we should have toward our ongoing inevitable sins, (2) something we do each time we are through sinning, (3) "a change of mind," not necessarily accompanied by a change of behavior. **The biblical definition of repent is TO STOP SINNING!**

- Paul said in Romans 10, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved..." so all we need to do is believe to be assured of eternal life! (False!) - - For crying out loud, that is not all Paul said in the book of Romans! He also said (and you can find these verses by reading Romans): *You are called to be saints (sanctified, holy); Those who practice such things (a list of sins in Chapter 1) are deserving of death; The goodness of God leads you to repentance; Eternal life to those who patiently continue to do good; Shall we continue to sin? God forbid!; Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts; We were slaves of sin, now we are slaves of righteousness; The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life..."* And these quotes are taken only from the first 6 chapters of Romans.
 - In John, Chapter 8, Jesus said to those Jews who put their faith in Him (that is, they had become "believers"), *"If you abide in my Word (i.e., obey Me) you are my disciples indeed,"* then He said, *"You are of your father, the devil,"* because they refused to repent of their sins.
 - God closes His ears and refuses to hear the prayers of a person practicing sin unless that person first repents. *"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear."* (Isaiah 59:2) *"We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him."* (John 9:31)
- Paul says clearly in Romans 7 that "What I will to do, that I do not practice, but what I hate, that I do." Even the Apostle Paul could not refrain from sinning, and this proves that it is impossible. (False!) - - I confess that I have used this passage in a wrong way in the past, but if you read the context of this Scripture, Paul is referring to himself, or to anyone, when he was under the law. He is not referring to his present condition. If you read the next verse, and all the rest of Romans, and all of Paul's epistles, you see that he consistently affirms that he

was walking in victory, free from sin, as a Christian. He boldly tells some churches, "Do what you see me do; I am your example, as Christ is my example." (1 Co. 11:1, 2 Thess. 3:9)

- Am I saying that if anyone sins, he is damned for all eternity? No, I am not saying that. I am saying that if one sins, he has separated himself at that moment from God, and the way back is through repentance and faith in Christ. But this is not to be a never-ending religious charade, for "*Whoever is born of God does not commit sin.*" I am not saying that God is looking for an excuse to kick us off the bus. He wouldn't have to look far. And I remind you of my testimony, how God was patient and long-suffering beyond all reason. I suspect that all who read this can also identify with God's patience to you. I believe these false doctrinal statements can seduce us to presume on God's mercy, which is extremely dangerous.
- It would be easy to conclude from all of this that the Christian life consists of resisting sin and living a moral life. Not so! The Christian life is above all a personal relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. It is a life of love, freedom, creativity, joy, and peace. It is the fantastic adventure of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth in the unique way God designed each of us to participate in this cosmic plan. It is the life that God designed us to have from the beginning. But sin is what messes up that beautiful plan and can even lead us down a path to destruction. Repentance and faith in Christ is what allows us to enter into God's beautiful plan.
- The ultimate point: (from Wayne) "Nothing here is to be construed to mean that we initiate or cause our own salvation. Repentance is our required response to God's offer of salvation. Repentance is our "I do" to God's offer of a covenant relationship. The right or privilege to repent is a gift to those who realize how desperately they need to be freed from sin so they can live in right relationship with God."

MINISTERING TO CHILDREN WITH FEARS, PANIC, COLIC, SCREAMING FITS, ASTHMA, OR ALLERGIES

I am getting some great insights from Art Mathias, from Anchorage, Alaska, who has an inner healing ministry, books, training centers, etc. He has found that kids with problems of fears, panic, etc., listed above, always have spirits of fear, rejection, abandonment, and trauma. He has had tremendous success in seeing the Lord heal these children, instantly, on many occasions, by first, ministering to the parents, and then having the parents minister to the kids, as follows:

1. Have parents repent to the child for their sins - (you can adapt this for children from 2 years old to 42)

- For not wanting them when they were conceived or born
- If the child was born or conceived out of wedlock
- If parents strongly wanted a boy but got a girl, or vice versa.
- If mom or parents attempted/thought about an abortion
 - a) Suggested presentation to a young child: "Sally, mom/dad wants to talk to you. I love you so much. You are so precious to me. You have been sick with asthma, and I think maybe I am responsible. When you were born, mom and dad did something wrong. We were not married when you were conceived/or we wanted a boy. You don't understand, but that was not right. Please forgive mommy/daddy for that, will you. We are so sorry we hurt your feelings, and we would not trade you for anybody now!" Etc.

2. Give a father's/mother's blessing

- Ask permission to speak to them as a father/mother (Do this for your own children, but also if they are adopted)
- Repent to them for things done and not done by you or their blood father and mother
- Touch them in an affectionate way
- Say, "As a father/mother, I bless you! I give you life! I am proud of you! (Art has found that saying "I am proud of you" is more meaningful most times than saying, "I love you.")
- In the name of Jesus, I command all spirits of fear, rejection, abandonment, and trauma to leave you now and not return! (Done firmly.)
- (Listen to the Lord for personal words from Him, and report something like this:) The Lord Jesus is telling me He is proud of you, that He loves you, that He wants a close relationship with you. He knows you have had a lot of pain in your life, but this was not His doing. He says, "Well done, my son!"

3. In the name of Jesus Christ, I command fears, colic, allergies, asthma, rebellion, allergies to go! (Done firmly.) Then hug your child and comfort him.

If you are interested in ordering some of Art's material, website is: www.akwellspring.com and e-mail at akwellspring@aol.com The father's blessing is patterned after what is done in the Jewish community at Yom Kippur, and is very powerful.

QUOTES AND REFLECTIONS

- "Humans universally struggle with four things: (1) Loneliness, (2) Meaning in life, (3) Eternity. I am going to die. Is this all there is? (4) My need for forgiveness for the sins I have committed. Christ answers all four." - Billy Graham.
- "The physical body inevitably reflects what's going on. I once ministered to a woman with Crohn's disease; her colon had been dissolving for seven years. I asked her if she struggled with shame. She said she did, and I said, 'Your body is sending you a message. Your colon is eating itself. The harshness you have toward yourself is making you sick, and your body is manifesting what you are doing to yourself emotionally.' She repented for that sin and was instantly healed." - Bill Johnson
- "Don't worry about the devil all the time. Step out in obedience to Christ, and make the devil worry about you." - John Arnott
- "A survey of thousands of women by Dove soap revealed: Only 2% of women thought they were pretty. 50% thought they were average, sort of. About 50% thought they were ugly, or not pretty, and that they needed a make-over. This self-loathing is the root of the huge industry of cosmetics, cosmetic surgery, botox, etc. Women, and men, don't need a face lift, they need a faith lift." - Larry Randolph
- "When God called you, He factored in the possibility of your being dumb and making a lot of mistakes. Think of the life of Simon Peter. God is not intimidated by human failure. At the judgment, according to the parable of the talents, God will say to us: 'I wish you had made more mistakes. At least you would have been trying.' " - Larry Randolph
- "I don't remember the last crisis or problem where I asked 'Why?' I don't need to know why, only what to do next." - Bill Johnson
- "JOY is big to God! Jesus went to the cross for the joy that was set before Him. What we desire to hear as we stand before the Lord on that day is, Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy prepared for you." - Bill Johnson
- "Revival is just a time of entering into radical obedience to God." - Charles Finney.

MINISTRY

I keep remembering an experience that happened in prison a couple of months ago, so I will share it with you. I counseled a strong looking young man, who told me he was raised on a farm, with hardly any education, and his poor use of English confirmed that was true. There had been much brutality in his family, along with involvement in Satanism or witchcraft. With much fear, he told me of a recent experience that had happened in his cell at night. He woke from sleep with a feeling of dread. He was lying on his back, and out of his stomach arose a form. He said it was a human-sized being, covered with green discs, and it was the most beautiful being he had ever seen. But as the being continued to rise, from the waist down it was a huge maggot. The young man shuddered as he recounted this experience to me. He said, "What does that mean, and why did it happen to me?" I told him that was a demon that was tormenting him because of open doors in his family, and the devil's purpose in this vision was simply to torment

and terrorize him. I told him that as Christians we don't need to be afraid of the enemy, we have authority over him. We closed the doors, cast away the spirits, and the young man breathed a big sigh of relief.

Note: some of the same church people who absolutely refuse to believe in a literal devil, or in demons, don't really believe in a literal God, at least not in the God of the Bible. They believe in a comfortable God they have invented in their minds.

Continue to pray for Fred and Annette Feller's son, Hansi, who is still in the hospital recovering from a head injury/auto wreck over 2 months ago. He is getting physical therapy and speech therapy each day.