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ROBERT K. SPRADLING

MARCH 4, 1990
MORNING

WELCOME TO ROMANS 101

ROMANS 1:1-17

WHEN DR. DONALD BARNHOUSE BECAME PASTOR OF THE TENTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA, MANY YEARS AGO, HE BEGAN HIS MINISTRY BY PREACHING FROM ROMANS THE VERY FIRST SUNDAY. FOR THE NEXT THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS HE NEVER TOOK A TEXT OUTSIDE THIS BOOK. IT CHANGED PEOPLE AND PREACHER AND PACKED THE CHURCH! ROMANS IS A LIFE-CHANGING EPISTLE. AUGUSTINE WAS CONVERTED TO CHRIST FROM READING A SINGLE PASSAGE IN CHAPTER 13. MARTIN LUTHER SHAPED THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION AND SHOOK THE RELIGIOUS WORLD AS A RESULT OF THE IMPACT OF THIS EPISTLE ON HIS LIFE. JOHN WESLEY'S CONVERSION WAS TRIGGERED BY READING ROMANS. I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT ROMANS IN COLLEGE BY ABLE BIBLE TEACHERS BUT IN SEMINARY IT BECAME A FAVORITE BOOK IN THE CLASSES OF DR. ALVA J. McCLAIN. HE TAUGHT THE BOOK WITHOUT A SINGLE NOTE BEFORE HIM! (DR. JAMES STIFLER, PROFESSOR OF NEW TESTAMENT EXEGESIS AT CROZER SEMINARY IN PENNSYLVANIA TAUGHT THIS BOOK FOR TWENTY YEARS TO THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS, THE LAST FOURTEEN DEALING WITH THE ORIGINAL TEXT ON A WORD-BY-WORD, VERSE-BY-VERSE, CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER APPROACH. HE HAD CONTINUED THE TRADITION OF HIS PROFESSOR, DR. HENRY WESTON WHO HAD MADE A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT A DAILY MINISTRY FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS. ROMANS WAS AT THE TOP OF HIS LIST. THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO WAYS TO STUDY ROMANS OR PERHAPS A COMBINATION OF BOTH:

Plane

(1) A BIRD'S EYE VIEW. THAT IS TO SAY, MUCH LIKE A BIRD FLYING OVER A FARM, LOOKING AT THE CONTOURS FROM THE AIR AND GETTING AN OVERALL PICTURE OF FIELDS, WOODS, BUILDINGS AND THE OVERALL LAYOUT.

(2) THE WORM'S EYE VIEW. A CONSIDERATION OF PLOWING, HARROWING, FERTILIZING, PLANTING AND HARVESTING FROM THE GROUND LEVEL.

OUTLINE:

1. CONDEMNATION - CHAPTERS 1-3
2. JUSTIFICATION - CHAPTERS 4-5
3. SANCTIFICATION - CHAPTERS 6-8
4. DISPENSATION - CHAPTERS 9-11
5. APPLICATION - CHAPTERS 12-16

(COMMENT ON FIVE CHAIRS.)

ANSWERS: MCCLAIN HAS SUGGESTED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR PRIMARY QUESTIONS THAT ROMANS ANSWERS:

- (1) WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WORLD - MAN IS A SINNER.
- (2) HAS GOD DONE ANYTHING ABOUT IT? - YES - IN JESUS CHRIST
- (3) WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE JEW? - THE JEW HAS HAD A SPECIAL PLACE IN HISTORY.
- (4) WHAT KIND OF LIFE SHOULD A MAN LIVE? - A CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE.

"Good Life"

THEME: THE THEME OF ROMANS INVOLVES THE GOSPEL AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.

(1:1, 17)

DR. WIERSBE ENTITLED HIS BOOK ON ROMANS BE RIGHT. THIS BOOK ANSWERS THE AGE-OLD QUESTION, HOW A PERSON MAY BE RIGHT WITH GOD. OR, AS ONE PERSON SAYS, ROMANS EXPLAINS HOW GOD PROVIDES THE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THE SINNER THAT HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRES HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REQUIRE. THAT IS, JESUS CHRIST IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ROMANS IS BASIC FOR BELIEVERS. IT IS THE CURE FOR CULTS AND A CATHEDRAL AMONG BOOKS IN AND OUT OF THE BIBLE. IT WAS WRITTEN TO A GENTILE CHURCH BY A JEWISH WRITER. IT WAS CARRIED TO ROME BY A WOMAN NAMED PHOEBE. IT WAS WRITTEN BY PAUL FROM CORINTH. ROME WAS THE GREATEST CITY IN THE GREATEST EMPIRE TO THAT DATE IN HUMAN HISTORY. IT WAS PAUL'S GREAT DREAM AND DESIRE TO PREACH THERE.

I. THE GREETING - VERSES 1-7

THE FIRST 7 VERSES FORM ONE SENTENCE OF 126 WORDS. LETTERS IN THOSE DAYS PLACED THE WRITER'S NAME AT THE BEGINNING NOT THE END OF THE LETTER. OUR CONSIDERATION TODAY WILL BE WITH THE HIGHLIGHTS AND NOT TOO MANY SPOTLIGHTS ON THE TEXT.

SERVANT - GREEK SCHOLARS SUGGEST THERE ARE AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENT WORDS TO DESCRIBE SERVANTHOOD. THIS IS THE WORD DOULOS OR BOND SLAVE. PAUL WAS NOT JESUS' FRIEND, ASSOCIATE OR EVEN DISCIPLE, BUT RATHER HIS POSSESSION AND PROPERTY! FROM THE DAY OF HIS CONVERSION IT WAS NO LONGER SAUL BUT JESUS WHO WAS IMPORTANT IN LIFE.

FROM THE DAY HE HEEDED THE CALL OF GOD, IT WAS CHRIST WHO CARED FOR HIS NEEDS.

*Let's
start
Night
- another
Pastor's
Sermon*

- God's property!

CALLED....AN APOSTLE - PAUL DID NOT APPLY FOR OR INTERVIEW FOR THE TASK OF GOSPEL PREACHER AND MISSIONARY STATESMAN - IT CAME TO HIM BY DIVINE SELECTION.

SEPARATED - "To ^{mark}~~make~~ (OUT) A BOUNDARY"
THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH PAUL WAS SEPARATED IN A THREE-FOLD MANNER:

FROM THE WOMB - GALATIANS 1:15

FROM THE WORLD - ACTS 9

FOR THE WORK - ACTS 13:1-2

SEPARATION, SAYS ONE COMMENTATOR, IS LIKE THE BOYS WHO WERE PLAYING MARBLES AND ENJOYING THE GAME VERY MUCH. HOWEVER, AN OLDER, BIGGER BOY CAME ALONG CARRYING A BASEBALL GLOVE AND SAID TO ONE OF THE BOYS PLAYING MARBLES, "HEY, KID, CAN YOU FIELD A BALL?" "SURE I CAN," CAME THE REPLY. "WE NEED A SHORTSTOP, GET OUT THERE AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO." WHEN THE GAME WAS OVER THEY WALKED BACK DOWN THE SAME STREET AND PASSED THE BOYS PLAYING MARBLES. THE FELLOW WHO HAD TAKEN UP BASEBALL HAD NO DESIRE TO PLAY MARBLES AGAIN. HE HAD GRADUATED. HE DIDN'T GIVE UP MARBLES - MARBLES GAVE HIM UP! IT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF A HIGHER, HOLIER CALLING THAT ENLISTS ONE'S AFFECTION. *(Energy)*

GOSPEL OF GOD - THE PHRASE OF GOD SUGGESTS THE SOURCE, OF CHRIST THE SUBJECT, OF GRACE THE SUBSTANCE, OF THE KINGDOM ITS SWAY.

CONCERNING - THE GREEK PREPOSITION PERI MEANS AROUND. IT IS THE PREFIX FOR THE ENGLISH PERIMETER AND PERIPHERY. THE GOSPEL IS AROUND AND ABOUT JESUS CHRIST. HE IS THE CENTER, THE THEME, IT IS ALL ABOUT HIM.

*didn't dare His
deity...*

MADE - THIS IS NOT THE USUAL WORD FOR BIRTH. IT IS USED TO DESCRIBE A CHANGE OF CONDITION. (GAL. 4:4) THIS IS GOD'S WAY OF DESCRIBING JESUS' DESCENT FROM DIETY TO HUMANITY. IT REFERS TO THE VIRGIN BIRTH.

DECLARED - "TO MARK OUT OR DEFINE" GOD DEFINED OR MARKED OUT OR DECLARED HIS SON ON AT LEAST TWO HISTORICAL OCCASIONS - HIS BAPTISM AND AT THE MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION.

II. THE GRATITUDE - VERSES 8-15

WHEN PAUL THOUGHT OF ALL THE GREAT THINGS IN THE ROMAN CHURCH HE DID NOT SPEAK OF ITS PREACHER, LEADERS, BUILDINGS, MONEY, INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE, SOCIAL BURDEN, EDUCATIONAL OR MUSIC MINISTRY. TWO WORDS SPEAK OF THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE ROMAN CHURCH - YOUR FAITH. AS IN THE THESSALONIAN CHURCH (1:8) THERE WAS SOMETHING THAT HAD PERMEATED THE ROMAN EMPIRE ABOUT THIS CHURCH, NAMELY, WHAT THEY BELIEVED AND PREACHED. THIS IS NOT WHAT THE WORLD DESIRES TO KNOW ABOUT CHURCHES. IT IS THE SCANDAL AND NOT THE SERMONS OF CHURCHES THAT CATCHES THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD.

PRAYERS - GRATITUDE IS OFTEN EXPRESSED BY PRAYERFUL HEARTS AS MUCH AS ANYTHING ELSE.

LONG TO SEE YOU.... - FOR TWENTY YEARS PAUL HAD THOUGHT ABOUT, PRAYED FOR AND WRITTEN TO THE ROMAN CHURCH. NOW THAT WHICH HE LONGED FOR AND LOVED HE WAS EAGER TO SEE.

III. THE GOSPEL - VERSES 15-17

PAUL LOOKED UPON HIMSELF AS A DEBTOR TO THE WORLD. THE WORLD OWED HIM NOTHING, HE OWED THEM SOMETHING. THE GOSPEL WAS TO EVERY LEVEL OF LIFE FROM SOPHISTICATE TO SIMPLETON. IT WAS TO THE UP AND OUT AND THE DOWN AND OUT. THE GREEKS WERE CONSIDERED THE INTELLECTUALS OF THE DAY. THE BARBARIANS THE IGNORAMUS OF THE DAY. AS A MATTER OF FACT, GREEKS CONSIDERED ANYONE WHO DID NOT SPEAK THE BEAUTIFUL AND FLEXIBLE GREEK LANGUAGE TO BE AN UNEDUCATED, DESPISED PERSON WHO SPOKE A KIND OF GIBBERISH AND NOT THE BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE OF THE CULTURED AND REFINED. ROME WAS A PROUD PLACE. A JEWISH TENTMAKER TALKING ABOUT A GALILEAN CARPENTER DID NOT IMPRESS THEM AT ALL. HOWEVER, THEN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL WAS TURNED LOOSE ON THE ROMAN EMPIRE IT CHANGED IT FOREVER. THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL WAS GOOD, NOT BAD NEWS FOR ROME. THE OFFENSE OF THE GOSPEL DID NOT MAKE A COWARD OUT OF PAUL. THE GREEK WORD FOR POWER, AS YOU KNOW, IS THE WORD DUNAMIS. WE GET AT LEAST TWO ENGLISH WORDS FROM THIS ORIGINAL - DYNAMITE AND DYNAMO. THE GOSPEL HAS A TWO-FOLD EFFECT UPON PEOPLE. IT IS GOD'S DYNAMITE THAT BLASTS SIN OUT OF THE LIFE AND IT IS GOD'S DYNAMO TO BUILD THEM UP IN THE THINGS OF CHRIST. QUESTION: IF THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION AND CHURCHES FAIL TO PREACH THAT GOSPEL, WHERE THEN IS THE POWER? THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL IS TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES. THE THEME OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING ROMANS. EVERY MAN-MADE RELIGION DEPENDS UPON MAN-MADE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR SALVATION.

① Blow-up the sinner
② Build-up the saint!

*Better that
not a key issue! -7-*

THE UNSAVED MAN THINKS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND MAN'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AS BEING THE SAME WITH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS A LITTLE BIT IN THE LEAD, BUT NOT MUCH. THE MORAL MAN IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A LOT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE CRIMINAL A LITTLE, WITH VARYING DEGREES DEPENDING UPON MORAL CHARACTER. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ALL MEN OUTSIDE OF CHRIST HAVE NO RIGHTEOUSNESS. (ISAIAH 64:6, PHILIPPIANS 3:9, TITUS 3:5) HOWEVER, GOD NEVER REQUIRES OF MAN WHAT HE DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR MAN. THINK OF IT, IF GOD DEMANDED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF INTELLIGENCE IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, IF HE DEMANDED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF WEALTH IN ORDER TO BE SAVED THEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT SMART AND THOSE WHO ARE NOT RICH WOULD HAVE NO HOPE. IF HE DEMANDED MORE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAN WE COULD MUSTER UP THEN WE WOULD ALL BE IN TROUBLE. THE PHRASE "FROM FAITH TO FAITH" SUGGESTS THAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMENCES AND CONTINUES IN FAITH. WE TOUCH FAITH AS WE ENTER THE CHRISTIAN LIFE AND IT ENLARGES AS WE GROW. THE PHRASE THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH IS THE THEME OF THE OLD TESTAMENT BOOK OF HABAKKUK. WHEN MARTIN LUTHER WAS A PROFESSOR AT THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED UNIVERSITY OF WITTENBERG, HE WENT TO ROME ON A PILGRIMAGE AND AS HE ASCENDED PILATE'S STAIRCASE ON HIS KNEES, THIS PHRASE STUCK IN HIS MIND. (RELATE MY OWN EXPERIENCES OF PEOPLE IN MEXICO CITY LEAVING BLOOD STAINS ALONG THE SIDEWALK.)

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE BASIS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD TODAY? YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS OR HIS? GETTING SAVED, SOMEONE SAYS, IS LIKE THE MAN ON A DESERT ISLAND WHO SUDDENLY DISCOVERED A BOAT HIDDEN ALONG THE SHORE OF A REMOTE PART OF THE ISLAND.

"None"
3:10

1968

FIRST OF ALL HE SAW THE BOAT, RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS SEAWORTHY AND CAPABLE OF TAKING HIM AWAY FROM THE ISLAND. HE SHOVED THE BOAT INTO THE WATER, CAREFULLY TESTING ITS SEAWORTHINESS AND THE FINAL STEP WAS GETTING INTO THE BOAT AND COMMITTING HIMSELF TO ITS CARE. SALVATION IS SIMILAR TO THIS EXPERIENCE. (EXPLAIN)

→ (Ron Romagnoli)
① ~~Romans~~ OR
His ② ~~Religion~~ take
way way Romans!
-way

THE RENEGADE SINNER

ROMANS 1:18-32

SINNERS, LIKE DINOSAURS, HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM OUR PLANET. SLOWLY MAN HAS CHANGED THE NAME TO DESCRIBE HIS MORAL MESS. HE MAY BE SICK, SEARCHING OR EVEN A FAILURE BUT HE IS NOT A SINNER. CHANGING THE TERMS TO DESCRIBE THE HUMAN CONDITION HAS NOT CHANGED THE CONDITION. GOD HASN'T CHANGED EITHER. MAN IS BY BIBLICAL DEFINITION A SINNER BOTH BY NATURE AND BY CHOICE. IN 1973, DR. KARL MENNINGER WROTE: "THE VERY WORD 'SIN' WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE DISAPPEARED... WAS ONCE A STRONG WORD, A SERIOUS WORD. BUT THE WORD WENT AWAY. IT HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED, WHY? DOESN'T ANYONE SIN ANYMORE?" (WHATEVER BECAME OF SIN?) TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION OF THE AGES, PAUL INVITES HIS READERS TO TAKE A SEAT AT A HEARING IN A COURTROOM WHERE GOD PRESENTS EVIDENCE FROM THE PEN OF PAUL IN WHICH ALL MEN ARE INDICTED AS SINNERS. ROMANS 1, 2 AND 3 PRESENT THREE CATEGORIES OF SINNERS. THE FIRST IN CHAPTER 1 IS THE RENEGADE SINNER.

I. THE RENEGADE SINNER IS AWARE THAT THERE IS A GOD - 1:18-21

THE RENEGADE SINNER IS SOMETIMES CALLED - THE HEATHen (THIS IS A REFERENCE NOT TO WHERE PEOPLE ABIDE BUT RATHER WHAT THEY ARE. IT IS A CONDITION NOT A CONTINENT WHERE PEOPLE LIVE) HE IS CRUDE, UNCULTURED AND SINS WITH IMPUNITY. SIN IS HIS "THING." HE LIKES IT AND LIVES FOR IT. HE IS OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS INNOCENT, IGNORANT AND EXCUSED FROM ACCOUNTABILITY TO GOD. HOWEVER, WHEN ONE LOOKS AT

THE TERMS IN THE TEXT SUCH AS: "KNOWN OF GOD, GOD HAS SHOWED IT UNTO THEM, CLEARLY SEEN, UNDERSTOOD, WHEN THEY KNEW GOD, ETC."

IN EACH OF THESE THREE CHAPTERS, A REVELATION OF GOD TO MAN IS MENTIONED. IN OTHER WORDS, GOD HAS GIVEN MAN THREE SOURCES OF LIGHT.

THE ONE MENTIONED IN THIS CHAPTER IS THE LIGHT OF NATURE. ACCORDING TO THESE VERSES THE

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IN CREATION IS ADEQUATE SO THAT MAN'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THAT LIGHT MAKES HIM GUILTY AND WITHOUT EXCUSE.

(FOR EXAMPLE, IN ACTS 10:31-32, CORNELIUS PRAYED FOR MORE LIGHT AND GOD GAVE IT TO HIM IN THE PERSON OF PETER!) CREATION TELLS

MAN THERE IS A GOD. IT ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THIS GOD IS POWERFUL AND ABLE TO DO THINGS.

IN OTHER WORDS, HIS INVISIBLE QUALITIES ARE VISIBLE TO MAN. IGNORANCE, THEREFORE, IS NO EXCUSE FOR THE HEATHEN BECAUSE HE IS NOT

IGNORANT ABOUT GOD! HE KNOWS FAR MORE ABOUT GOD THAN MEN WANT TO BELIEVE. GOD HAS GIVEN HIM LIGHT IN CREATION AND IN MANY CASES HE HAS CHOSEN NOT TO RESPOND TO THAT LIGHT. THE

PERSON WHO NEVER SEES A BIBLE OR HEARD ABOUT JESUS CHRIST CAN KNOW THERE IS A GOD TO WHOM HE IS RESPONSIBLE, (PSALM 19:1) SOME PEOPLE

GET UPSET REGARDING THE HEATHEN SAYING THAT GOD IS NOT FAIR, THAT THEY ARE THE VICTIMS OF CHANCE AND GEOGRAPHY AND THEREFORE CANNOT BECOME SAVED BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT REALLY LOST.

POINT: THE HEATHEN OR RENEGADE SINNER IS NOT LOST BECAUSE HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, HE IS LOST BECAUSE HE IS SINFUL.

ALL MEN, REGARDLESS OF CULTURE, CREED, CIVILIZATION OR COUNTRY ARE SINNERS BY BIRTH. (JEREMIAH 17:9, EPHESIANS 2:1-3) L. I. MARTIN

WAS CORRECT WHEN HE SAID THAT THE HEATHEN ARE NOT CONDEMNED FOR NOT BELIEVING IN CHRIST WHEN THEY HAVE NEVER HEARD OF HIM. THEY ARE CONDEMNED FOR THEIR SINS AND FOR DOING WHAT

not fair ... no fault
(G.O.) (Luther)

FROM THEIR LIMITED LIGHT THEY KNOW IS WRONG. IT IS NOT THE LACK OF REMEDY THAT KILLS BUT THE DISEASE! FOR EXAMPLE, GOD DOES NOT SUSPEND THE LAWS OF NATURE BECAUSE THE MAN WHO VIOLATES THOSE LAWS DOES SO IN INNOCENCE OR IGNORANCE. COMPARE TO DRINKING A DEADLY POISON. A MAN'S MORAL CONDITION DOES NOT CHANGE HIS PHYSICAL CONDITION. EXAMINE MANKIND IN A MEDICAL SETTING. FOR EXAMPLE, SUPPOSE AN ENTIRE NATION HAS BEEN INFLICTED OR INFECTED WITH A DEADLY DISEASE - SPECIFICALLY A POISON IN THE SYSTEM INGESTED BY ALL IN THAT COUNTRY. THERE IS A SINGLE ANTIDOTE. THE POINT IS, PEOPLE DO NOT DIE BECAUSE THEY CANNOT GET THE ANTIDOTE, THEY WILL DIE BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE POISON IN THEIR SYSTEM. SOME PEOPLE ARE OFFENDED BY THE BIBLICAL DOCTRINE OF THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN. THIS DOCTRINE RUNS AGAINST THE GRAIN OF HUMAN PHILOSOPHY AND EVEN HUMAN SENTIMENT. HOWEVER, THE SCRIPTURE IS VERY CLEAR THAT WITHOUT CHRIST THERE IS NO HOPE FOR MAN WHO IS AFFLICTED WITH A MORAL MALADY CALLED SIN. (ACTS 4:12) SOME BELIEVERS ARE INFECTED BY THE CREEPING ERROR OF UNIVERSALISM - THAT IS THEY BELIEVE THAT ULTIMATELY ALL MEN WILL BE SAVED NO MATTER WHAT THEY DO. THEY BELIEVE THAT JUDAS, PILATE, NERO AND HITLER WILL ULTIMATELY FELLOWSHIP IN HEAVEN WITH PAUL, AUGUSTINE, MOODY AND OTHERS. THIS, OF COURSE, MINIMIZES THE NATURE OF SIN, FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD, AND NEUTRALIZES THE DOCTRINE OF JUDGMENT WHICH IS VERY CLEAR IN SCRIPTURE. IF MEN ARE REALLY LOST AND THEY ARE, THE NEED OF THE HOUR IS NOT TO DENY THE CONDITION BUT TO SPEED UP THE OPERATION OF SENDING THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. (QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT INFANTS? WHAT ABOUT THE MENTALLY IMPAIRED? INFANTS WHO DIE BEFORE THE AGE OF MORAL ACCOUNTABILITY

DO NOT GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE THEY ARE INNOCENT OR SINLESS BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE MEMBERS OF A RACE FOR WHICH CHRIST DIED. UNABLE TO MAKE MORAL CHOICES, THE DEATH OF CHRIST GOES AS DEEP AS THE SIN OF ADAM. A. H. STRONG SAYS: "THERE IS AN APPLICATION TO INFANTS TO THE LIFE OF CHRIST, AS THERE WAS APPLICATION TO THEM OF THE DEATH OF ADAM." A STUDENT ONCE ASKED SPURGEON IF HE THOUGHT THE HEATHEN WHO HAD NEVER HEARD THE GOSPEL WOULD BE SAVED. HIS REPLY WAS "IT IS MORE A QUESTION WHETHER WE WHO HAVE THE GOSPEL AND FAIL TO GIVE IT TO THOSE WHO HAVE IT NOT CAN BE SAVED!"

II. THE RENEGADE SINNER HAS ABANDONED GOD AND BEEN ABANDONED BY HIM - 1:18, 21, 23

(A) THE RENEGADE'S ABANDONMENT OF GOD

(1) THE RENEGADE HAS SUPPRESSED TRUTH (VERSE 18)

THEY TURN THEIR BACKS ON TRUTH. THE UNGODLY MAN LIVES AS IF THERE WERE NO GOD AND AS IF HE HAD NO RESPONSIBILITY TO HIM. HE NOT ONLY DISREGARDS GOD'S TRUTHS BUT ACTIVELY HINDERS OR HOLDS IT DOWN. NO MATTER HOW MUCH TRUTH A PERSON KNOWS, IT WILL NOT BECOME ACTIVE IN HIS LIFE UNTIL HE ACCEPTS IT. (JOHN 8:32)

(2) THE RENEGADE KNOWS ABOUT GOD BUT IS UNRESPONSIVE (VERSE 21)

THEY KNOW GOD OR THAT HE EXISTS, BUT THEY REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND SIMPLY DESCEND DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THEIR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DARKNESS. ALL MEN GET THE GOOD NEWS OF DIVINE REVELATION BUT WHAT THEY DO WITH IT IS THE KEY.

*MAN STARTED with God
then suppressed that knowledge...
not progression but retrogression...*

(3) THE RENEGADE CHANGED FROM
MONOTHEISM TO IDOLATRY

MAN'S EVOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN FROM THE SLIME TO THE SUBLIME BUT RATHER FROM THE SUMMIT TO THE CESSPOOL! THE EVOLUTIONARY ORDER IS JUST THE REVERSE OF WHAT WE ARE TAUGHT. MAN DID NOT BEGIN WITH IDOLS BUT RATHER BEGAN WITH GOD. HE MADE HIS OWN GODS OUT OF STICKS AND STRINGS OF BEADS, BURNED INCENSE, BUILT SHRINES TO SATISFY HIS INWARD DESIRE TO WORSHIP. AS HE BECAME MORE SKILLFUL AND CULTURED, HE SATISFIED THESE LONGINGS WITH BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, ART, MUSIC, PAGENTRY AND PROGRAMS, THINGS HE COULD SEE, SMELL, TOUCH AND TASTE - BUT ALL THE WORKS OF HIS OWN HANDS. HIS CONDITION IS CLASSIFIED AS DARKENED - 1:21. (DR. BARNHOUSE TELLS THE STORY OF PREACHING DURING WORLD WAR II IN LONDON WHEN SUDDENLY A BLACKOUT CAME - THE AUDITORIUM WAS PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS BUT HE KEPT ON PREACHING. BEFORE THE SIRENS SOUNDED AGAIN, SOMEONE ACCIDENTALLY THREW THE LIGHT SWITCH AND EVERYONE WHO HAD BEEN SITTING IN THE DARKNESS SUDDENLY WERE STARTLED BY THE LIGHT - THAT IS ALL EXCEPT ONE MAN WHO WAS BLIND. TO HIM, THE LIGHT MADE NO DIFFERENCE. SO IT IS WITH THE RENEGADE SINNER - THE LIGHT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE.

(B) THE RENEGADE ABANDONED BY GOD

THREE TIMES IN THE TEXT THE PHRASE "GOD GAVE THEM UP" IS USED. IN SPITE OF ALL OF GOD'S EFFORTS, MAN DESCENDED DEEPER INTO THE DARKNESS TO A POINT WHERE GOD HANDED THEM OVER TO THEIR OWN SINS. HE TOOK AWAY THE RESTRAINTS AND LET MAN WANDER IN HIS OWN SIN.

(1) PHYSICAL CORRUPTION - VERSE 24

MAN WENT FROM GOD TO IDOLATRY TO SENSUALITY, TO ANIMALISTIC BEHAVIOR AND PASSIONS IN HIS UNCHAINED SENSUAL DESIRES. ONE SIN LED TO ANOTHER UNTIL MAN DESCENDED TO THE LEVEL OF THE BEAST.

(2) MORAL CORRUPTION - VERSE 26

(3) MENTAL CORRUPTION - VERSE 28

THE WORD REPROBATE MEANS CHECKED OUT AND FOUND TO BE NO GOOD. IT WAS USED OF METAL THAT COULD NOT BE USED AND WAS THROWN INTO A JUNK PILE. IN TRANSLATING THESE VERSES, THE PHILLIPS TRANSLATION USES THE WORD MINDS THREE TIMES: "MOREOVER SINCE THEY CONSIDER THEMSELVES TOO HIGH AND MIGHTY TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD, HE ALLOWS THEM TO BECOME THE SLAVES OF THEIR DEGENERATE MINDS, AND TO PERFORM UNMENTIONABLE DEEDS. THEY BECAME FILLED WITH WICKEDNESS, ROTTENNESS, GREED AND MALICE. THEIR MINDS BECAME STEEPED IN ENVY, MURDER, QUARRELSOMENESS, DECEITFULNESS AND SPITE. THEY BECAME WHISPERERS-BEHIND-DOORS, STABBERS-IN-THE-BACK, GOD-HATERS, THEY OVERFLOWED WITH INSOLENT PRIDE AND BOASTFULNESS, AND THEIR MINDS TEEMED WITH DIABOLICAL INVENTION." MAN PURSUING THE LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION OF HIS OWN SINFUL NATURE DEVELOPED WRONG THINKING ABOUT GOD AND MANY OTHER THINGS BECAUSE HE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO GOD. AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR PASSAGE, THE WRATH OF GOD SPEAKS TO THE FACT THAT IT INVOLVES AND INCLUDES ABANDONMENT OF MAN BY GOD BY REMOVING CERTAIN DIVINE RESTRAINTS AND LETTING MAN WANDER DEEPER AND DARKER INTO HIS OWN SINS.

III. THE RENEGADE SINNER APPLAUDS HIS OWN SINS AND OTHERS WHO JOIN HIM - 1:32

THIS CHAPTER PROVIDES ONE OF THE DARKEST AND MOST DETAILED LISTS OF SINS ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE. IT IS A HORRIBLE CATALOG OF THE BASEST SINS KNOWN TO MAN. NOT ONLY DOES THE RENEGADE SINNER PRACTICE ALL OF THESE SINS AND MORE BUT HE ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO JOIN HIM IN HIS PERVERSION. (IT IS LIKE THE CROWD STANDING ON THE STREET URGING A SUICIDE VICTIM TO JUMP AND WHEN HE JUMPS - APPLAUD HIS ACTION.) FROM THIS LONG LIST OF SINS, LET ME EXTRACT ONE AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF MEN APPLAUDING THEIR OWN SINS AND ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. IN VERSE 27, HOMOSEXUALITY IS LISTED AS A SIN. IT IS ONE OF THE BLIGHTS OF OUR SOCIETY JUST AS IS RAPE, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, PORNOGRAPHIC PEDDLING, AND ALL OTHER SINS OF A SIMILAR NATURE THAT ARE PART OF THE PERVERTED MORAL PICTURE OF OUR TIMES. IN SOCIETY, HOMOSEXUALITY IS SOMETIMES CALLED A SICKNESS BUT ALMOST NEVER A SIN. IT MAY BE CALLED A GENETIC JINX BUT SELDOM LEARNED BEHAVIOR. ONCE IT WAS A SIN OF SHAME, A CLOSET SECRET BUT NOT ANYMORE. IT IS HERALDED FROM THE HALLS OF CONGRESS TO THE HIDEOUTS OF OUR CITY AS BEING A SEXUAL PREFERENCE BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS. MORE AND MORE IT IS BECOMING ACCEPTABLE TO SOCIETY. THE CURRENT ISSUE - MARCH 12, 1990 - OF NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE FEATURES THE ARTICLE THE FUTURE OF GAY AMERICA. IN THAT ARTICLE IT POINTS OUT THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 25 MILLION GAYS AND LESBIANS IN OUR SOCIETY. THE AIDS EPIDEMIC HAS MADE THEM MORE CAREFUL - BUT NOT DIMINISHED THEIR RANKS. ACCORDING TO A GALLUP POLL, 47% OF ALL ADULTS BELIEVE THAT HOMOSEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CONSENTING ADULTS SHOULD BE LEGAL. LISTEN TO ONE SENTENCE

"penalties of perversion"
(- here & hereafter -)

IN THAT ARTICLE. "FOR NEARLY A DECADE AIDS HAS SUPPRESSED THE COLLECTIVE LIBIDO OF GAY MAN. NOW AN AVANT GARDE MOVEMENT, PARTLY POLITICAL, PARTLY JUST TRENDY, HAS SPRUNG UP IN NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO, ENCOURAGING GAYS TO PRACTICE SAFE SEX BUT ALSO TO CULTIVATE AND CELEBRATE THEIR SEXUALITY." IS THIS A SIN FOR WHICH THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OR CLEANSING? NO, IT IS LIKE ANY OTHER SIN - THERE IS HOPE FOR THE SINNER IN CHRIST. THE RENEGADE SINNER MOVES WITH INCREASING SPEED ON THE SLIDE TO DESTRUCTION. HE CANNOT STOP, HE IS OUT OF CONTROL AND KEEPS ON CHEERING OTHERS TO JOINING HIM IN HIS RAPID DESCENT TO HELL. HIS SALVATION IS LIKE THAT OF ANY OTHER PERSON. HE MUST FIRST SEE HIS CONDITION FROM A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE. THERE CAN BE NO RESCUE UNTIL HE HAS FACED REALITY. THE PRAYER THAT THE RENEGADE, THE RESPECTABLE AND THE RELIGIOUS SINNER MUST PRAY IS SIMPLY: "GOD BE MERCIFUL TO ME THE SINNER."
(LUKE 18:13, 1 TIM. 1:15)

"THE RESPECTABLE SINNER"

ROMANS 2:1-16

LAST LORD'S DAY THE RENEGADE SINNER WAS CALLED TO SIT IN THE CHAIR CALLED CONDEMNATION AND DECLARED BY GOD TO BE WITHOUT EXCUSE. TODAY, THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS CALLED TO SIT IN THE SAME SEAT AND RECEIVE THE SAME VERDICT FROM GOD-GUILTY AS CHARGED.

HOW CAN A PERSON BE DESCRIBED AS A RESPECTABLE SINNER? IS THERE SUCH A PERSON? HE IS RESPECTABLE IN HIS OWN EYES ONLY- NOT IN THE EYES OF GOD. THE POINT OF THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS IN ROMANS IS THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS IT IS THE DEGREE THAT IS DISCUSSED. A PERSON IN THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBED AS RESPECTABLE IS IN FACT SELF -RIGHTEOUS, THE SELF-APPOINTED JUDGE OF OTHERS, A HYPOCRITE. HE DEALS IN DOUBLE STANDARDS-A LOW STANDARD FOR HIMSELF, A HIGH STANDARD FOR OTHERS. HE IS A MORALIST OUTWARDLY BELIEVING THAT HE DESERVES A CITATION NOT CONDEMNATION FROM GOD. HE IS NOT A HOODLUM OR HARLOT HE IS A HYPOCRITE! NO MATTER HOW HE SEEKS TO JUSTIFY HIS BEHAVIOR, THERE IS INTUITIVELY SOMETHING DESPERATELY WRONG WITH HIS LIFE. HE LIKE THE RENEGADE SINNER HAS SINNED AGAINST LIGHT. HIS LIGHT IS NOT ONLY CREATION BUT ALSO HIS CONSCIENCE. HIS CONSCIENCE IS NOT HIS GUIDE BUT IT IS A GOAD TO TELL HIM HE OUGHT TO DO RIGHT. SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT MAN'S CONSCIENCE IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT THAT HE RECEIVED WHEN THE FIRST MODEL CAME FROM THE FACTORY! SIMPLY STATED THE RENEGADE SINNER IS FLAGRANTLY UNRIGHTEOUS, THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS FLAGRANTLY SELF-RIGHTEOUS. THE PERSON IN THIS CHAPTER CONSIDERS HIMSELF TO BE PRIVILEGED IN HIS STANDING BEFORE GOD. THAT IS, HE MAY REFER TO HIMSELF NOT AS PERFECT BUT REALLY NOT AS BAD AS A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE HE KNOWS. IN THIS CHAPTER GOD IS NOT SHOWING MEN HOW TO BE SAVED HE IS STATING THE REASON HE IS LOST!

The Resp. Sinner - For the good he is unthankful for the good he receives.

1

MARTIN LLOYD-JONES SUGGESTS THAT MAN THE SINNER AND ESPECIALLY THE MAN IN CHAPTER 2 IS LIKE A LITTLE CHILD AWAY FROM HOME, STAYING WITH RELATIVES. HE BECOMES HOMESICK AND THE FRIENDS PRODUCE TOYS, PLAY GAMES, OFFER CANDY AND A DOZEN OTHER THINGS TO GET THE CHILD'S MIND OFF OF MOTHER AND HOME. HOWEVER, NONE OF THESE THINGS SATISFY. "MAN IN HIS STATE OF SIN DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE REALLY NEEDS. BUT HE SHOWS VERY CLEARLY THAT THE VERY BEST AND HIGHEST OFFERS OF MEN CANNOT SATISFY HIM. DEEP WITHIN HIM THERE IS A PROFOUND DISSATISFACTION WHICH CAN BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS THAN GOD HIMSELF. FAILURE TO REALIZE THIS IS NOT ONLY INADEQUATE, IT IS INSULTING. MAN WAS MADE FOR GOD AND IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AND THOUGH HE HAS SINNED AND FALLEN WANDERED FAR AWAY THERE IS STILL WITHIN HIM THAT NOSTALGIA WHICH CAN NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL HE RETURNS HOME. THE RESPECTABLE SINNER'S CONSCIENCE REMINDS HIM OF THIS CONDITION. THE RESPECTABLE SINNERS CONDITION OF HYPOCRISY IS GRAPHICALLY DESCRIBED IN A STORY TOLD BY JOHN PHILIPPS REGARDING AN INDONESIAN FARMER WHO GRABBED A TIGER BY THE TAIL. IN THE PROCESS OF HOLDING ON AN INDONESIAN HOLY MAN STOPPED TO WATCH THE PROCEDURE. THE FARMER BEGGED THE HOLY MAN TO KILL THE TIGER WITH A SCYTHE THAT WAS NEAR BY. THE HOLY MAN SAID HE WAS FORBIDDEN BY HIS RELIGION TO KILL ANY LIVING THING. NO MATTER HOW THE FARMER PLEADED THE HOLY MAN STILL HE COULDN'T DO IT. THE FARMER COAXED THE HOLY MAN INTO HOLDING THE TIGER'S TAIL IN ITS PLACE SO HE COULD KILL HIM WHICH HE DID- THE EXCHANGE WAS MADE. THE FARMER PICKED UP HIS THINGS AND STARTED DOWN THE ROAD AND WHEN ASKED WHERE HE WAS GOING AND WITH SOME ALARM WHY HE WASN'T ENGAGED IN KILLING

2

THE TIGER. THE FARMER REPLIED THAT THE HOLY MAN HAD BEEN AN EXCELLENT TEACHER AND THAT IN THE PROCESS OF THEIR DIALOGUE THE HOLY MAN HAD CONVERTED TO HIS NOBLE RELIGION. THE FARMER CONFESSED THAT HE COULD NOW SEE THE ERROR OF HIS WAY AND THAT HE COULD NOT KILL THE TIGER AND VIOLATE THE RULES OF HIS NEW FOUND RELIGION. SUCH IS THE NATURE OF HYPOCRISY. IT SERVES NO GOOD BUT ONLY EVIL PURPOSES.

I. THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS QUICK TO PASS JUDGEMENT ON OTHERS VERSE 1

THE WORD JUDGEMENT APPEARS 16 TIMES IN 9 VERSES IN THIS CHAPTER. WHEN THE PERSON IN CHAPTER 2 CONSIDERS THE MANY COUNTS OF SIN RECORDED BY THE HEATHEN IN CHAPTER 1 HE NODS HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT, DRAWS HIS ROBES OF HIS RESPECTABILITY AROUND HIMSELF MEASURES HIMSELF BY HIMSELF AND CONCLUDES THAT HE IS A PRETTY GOOD GUY! HE IS INDIGNANT ABOUT THE RENEGADE BUT INDULGENT ABOUT HIS OWN SHORT COMINGS. * COMPARE DAVID II SAM. 12:5,6 DAVID WAS READY TO LOP OFF A MAN'S HEAD FOR STEALING A PET LAMB BUT WAS WILLING TO IGNORE HIS OWN MURDER AND ADULTRY! GOD STATES CLEARLY THAT ANY PERSON WHO HAS EVER CRITICIZED ANYBODY FOR ANYTHING HAS PRONOUNCED HIS OWN CONDEMNATION. EVEN THE BEST CRITIC HAS BEEN GUILTY IN SOME DEGREE OF THE THING HE IS JUDGING IN OTHER PEOPLE. THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS SWIFT TO SEE THE FAULTS OF OTHERS AND SLOW TO SEE HIS OWN. HE PUTS UP A FRONT AND PUTS ON A SHOW. HE HAS A BETTER EDUCATION, LIVES IN A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD, HAS A BETTER JOB, HAS A BRIGHTER, MORE ARTICULATE FRIENDS SO THEREFORE HE MUST BE BETTER THEN OTHERS! AS A MATTER OF FACT, HE MUST HAVE EVEN BETTER STATUS BEFORE GOD. (THE ELDER BROTHER) STAYED HOME FROM A FAR COUNTRY BUT HIS OWN SINS

OF RESENTMENT, PRIDE AND BITTERNESS WERE EVERY BIT AS BAD AS THE FLAGRANT SINS OF HIS BROTHER) GOD'S EVALUATION OF THE RESPECTABLE SINNERS ATTITUDE IS SUMMED UP IN ONE WORD - "INEXCUSABLE" HE MANIFESTS THE HIGHEST FORM OF HYPOCRISY. OUR JUDGEMENT IS SELDOM FACTUAL OR FAIR. IT IS PARTIAL AND PREJUDICE. A JUDGE WHO WOULD SENTENCE A PERSON TO PRISON WITH LITTLE OR NO EVIDENCE BASED ON SIMPLY HERESAY AND GOSSIP HAS NO RIGHT TO BE A JUDGE. (WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT IS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO PROSECUTE THE POOR FOR USING DRUGS, WHILE IN REALITY THEY WERE USING THE SAME DRUGS! THE SAME PERSON LOUDLY PREACHES HIS HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY WHILE PRACTICING A LOW STANDARD OF SIN. IT IS THE CURSE OF POLITICAL, AND RELIGIOUS LIFE TODAY! (MATTHEW 7:1) IN THIS PASSAGE JESUS REMINDS HIS READERS THAT WHEN ONE IS JUDGING OTHERS HE IS PASSING SILENT JUDGEMENT ON HIMSELF.) THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS LUKE 18:11. THIS MAN WAS RELIGIOUS IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. HIS RELIGION INVOLVED PRAYER, BIBLE KNOWLEDGE, TITHING AND A HOST OF OTHER "GOOD THINGS". THE PROBLEM WAS THAT HE HAD THE WRONG ATTITUDE TOWARD HIMSELF, OTHERS, AND GOD! SUCH PRAYING ONLY DEEPENED HIS OWN CONDEMNATION.

II. THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS IN TROUBLE WITH GOD -VERSES 2-16

JUST AS HIS CONDUCT IS SAID TO BE INEXCUSABLE-VERSE 1, HE HAS SOME OTHER PROBLEMS.

A. GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS INESCAPABLE -vs.3
THE RESPECTABLE SINNER HAS THE "OSTRICH SYNDROME", HE THINKS HE IS EXEMPT FROM JUDGEMENT. HE LIVES A CHARMED LIFE AND LIKE THE ORDINARY CITIZENS WHO NEVER

EXPECTS TO BE IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS LOOPHOLES THROUGH WHICH HE MAY ESCAPE! ONE COMMENTATOR POINTS OUT THAT MOST PEOPLE NEVER EXPECT LEGAL TROUBLE AND IF IT EVER HAPPENS THEY NEVER EXPECT TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR BROKEN LAW. (1) I'LL NEVER GET CAUGHT (2) BEYOND THE COURT'S JURISDICTION (3) GET OFF ON LEGAL TECHNICALITIES OR LOOPHOLES SUCH AS HUNG JURIES, MISTRIALS. (4) BUY OFF THE AUTHORITIES - COMMENT ON REYNOLDS STORY, CHECK BOOK) (5) GET SENT TO JAIL WILL ESCAPE AND NEVER BE RECAPTURED. IT IS STRANGE THAT THE RESPECTABLE SINNER WILL NOT BELIEVE THAT HE HAS A PRE-DETERMINED SET APPOINTMENT WITH GOD AND THERE IS NO POSTPONEMENT OR CANCELLATION (ACTS 17:30 - 31) IN EVERYDAY LANGUAGE PAUL WAS SAYING TO THE RESPECTABLE SINNER - "DO YOU THINK YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE JUDGEMENT? FORGET IT. YOU CAN NOT ESCAPE THE LONG ARM OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT AND PUNISHMENT!"

B. THE EVIDENCE OF THE RESPECTABLE SINNER IS IRREFUTABLE. (1) IT IS ACCORDING TO TRUTH - VERSE 2. THERE ARE NO GUESSES OR MISSES IN THIS COURTROOM. THERE ARE NO LIES OR EXAGGERATIONS AND NO SCRAP OF EVIDENCE WILL BE IGNORED. EVERY WITNESS AND EVERY WORD AND EVERY SHRED OF EVIDENCE WILL BE THERE FOR SCRUTINY. THERE WILL BE NO ~~FACTS~~, FRAUDS, FIXES, FAVORS, FORGETTING-
JUST FACTS. MOST PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT IN A HUMAN COURTROOM IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO PUT HIS HAND ON THE BIBLE, SWEAR TO STATE THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOT DO IT. IN THIS CONTEXT, JUSTICE IS NOT SERVED BUT WHEN MEN STAND BEFORE GOD JUSTICE WILL BE CARRIED OUT FULLY. (2) IT WILL BE ACCORDING TO DEEDS - VERSE 6 WHEN ONE READS VERSES 7 THROUGH 10 IT WOULD BE EASY TO MISUNDERSTAND AND DRAW A FALSE CONCLUSION. THE SUBJECT IS REWARDS

AND NOT SALVATION. PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT A PRINCIPLE OF JUDGEMENT, NAMELY ACCORDING TO WORKS, THAT PRINCIPLE IS TRUE FOR ALL MEN SAVED AND UNSAVED ALIKE. WHAT MEN DO REVEAL WHAT THEY ARE. PAUL STATES THAT GOD PUNISHES EVIL AND REWARDS GOOD - IT IS A PRINCIPLE OF JUDGEMENT THAT IS UNIVERSAL. (3) ~~IT WILL BE IMPARTIAL~~ VERSE 11. WITH GOD IN JUDGEMENT THERE IS NO FAVORITISM. GOD HAS NO "PETS" WHOSE SINS HE OVERLOOKS. HE IS NOT LIKE A DOTING DECEIVED PARENT WHO LETS HIS CHILDREN GET AWAY WITH WRONG DOING SIMPLY BECAUSE THE PARENT HAS NO HIGH STANDARD OF MORALITY. SOMEONE HAS POINTED OUT THAT IN THE CLASSIC SYMBOL OF JUSTICE NAMELY THE ~~ROMAN~~ WHO IS BLINDFOLDED HOLDING THE SCALES. THE POINT IS THAT JUSTICE IS NOT BLINDFOLDED SO THAT IT CAN NOT SEE BUT IS BLINDFOLDED SO THAT IT WILL BE FAIR. SOMEONE HAS COMMENTED THAT LIFE IS FILLED WITH INEQUALITIES BUT THERE IS EQUALITY IN DEATH AND JUDGEMENT. (4) ~~IT IS ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL~~ - VERSE 16. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE JUDGEMENT CAN NOT REACH. (JOHN 5:24 - ROMANS 8:1) C. ~~MAN'S NEED IS UNDENIABLE~~ - VERSE 4, 7 GOD'S GRACE, WHAT SOME MIGHT CALL COMMON GRACE, THAT IS HIS GOODNESS TO ALL MEN WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION SHOULD CAUSE MEN TO BE THANKFUL AND REPENTENT. FOR EXAMPLE, MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE ALIVE, AND IN GOOD HEALTH, HAVE FOOD, CLOTHING AND SHELTER, FAMILY, INHABITANTS OF A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL PLANET COMPARED TO OTHER PLANETS WITH SUNSHINE, WIND, RAIN, MOON, STARS - MAN HAS ~~EARNED NONE~~ OF THIS AND FROM A MERIT STAND POINT ~~DESERVES NONE~~ OF IT! GOD'S GRACE GIVES TO ALL AND MERIT IS NEVER THE BASIS. IN LARGE MEASURE MAN'S RESPONSE IS THAT HE IS BOTH UNAWARE AND UNGRATEFUL THAT ALL OF THIS COMES FROM THE BOUNTIFUL HAND OF GOD. PAUL SAYS THAT MAN SHOULD REPENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES,

INSTEAD OF REPENTING HE BECOMES REBELLIOUS!
THE WORD HARDENING IN VERSE 5 IS A MEDICAL
TERM ASSOCIATED WITH THE HARDENING OF
THE ARTERIES AND SPECIFICALLY AND SPIRITUALLY
THE HARDENING OF MAN'S HEARTS. HE SIMPLY
BECOMES MORE STUBBORN IN HIS POSTURE
TOWARD GOD. ACTS 17:30 GIVES A CLEAR
SIMPLY STATEMENT TO ALL MEN RENEGADE
AND RESPECTABLE SINNER ALIKE. THE RESPECTABLE
SINNER'S CONSCIENCE TELLS HIM HE OUGHT
TO DO THE RIGHT THING TOWARD GOD. THAT
RIGHT ACTION IS CALLED REPENTENCE. (EXPLAIN)
QUESTION: HAVE YOU REPENTED OF YOUR
SINS? *ALL everywhere - no Exceptions.*

Repentance : (1) Charge the mind
(2) A feeling of concern-
regret.

Acts 20:21 = out of darkness
2 Pet 3:9 into light

THE RELIGIOUS SINNER

ROMANS 2:17-3:8

THE THIRD CATEGORY UNDER CONDEMNATION, OR CHAIR No. 1, BEGINS AT 2:17. (ORIGINALLY THE TEXT OF SCRIPTURE WAS NOT DIVIDED INTO CHAPTERS AND VERSES. CHAPTER DIVISION CAME WITH STEPHEN LANGTON, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY IN THE 13TH CENTURY. VERSE DIVISIONS WERE LATER MADE BY ROBERT STEPHENS, A PARIS PRINTER IN THE 16TH CENTURY. THE FIRST ENTIRE BIBLE WITH BOTH CHAPTER AND VERSE DIVISIONS WAS THE LATIN VULGATE - 1555. THE FIRST ENGLISH BIBLE WAS THE GENEVA BIBLE - 1560. SOMETIMES THE CHAPTER DIVISIONS INTERFERE WITH THE SENSE OF THE PASSAGE. OTHER TRANSLATIONS SUCH AS THE A.S.V. AND N.A.S.V. ARE STRUCTURED IN PARAGRAPHS AND THEREFORE ARE HELPFUL FOR STUDY PURPOSES. UNDER THE DIVISION CALLED CONDEMNATION, CHAPTERS 1-3, THERE ARE 3 KINDS OF SINNERS AND THE THIRD WE CALL THE RELIGIOUS SINNER.

QUESTION: HOW COULD A PERSON BE BOTH RELIGIOUS AND SINNER AT THE SAME TIME? (ILLUSTRATION:

I TIMOTHY 1:15 CHIEFEST OF THE PHARISEES, CHIEFEST OF SINNERS!) THE BIBLE STUDENT IS AWARE THAT RELIGION AND RITUAL ARE NOT SYNOYMOUS WITH REDEMPTION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS. (FOR EXAMPLE, I WAS SURPRISED MANY YEARS AGO TO LEARN THAT ADOLPH EICHMAN WAS A VERY RELIGIOUS MAN BUT IT WAS A RELIGION OF HIS OWN MAKING.)

NOT ONE OF THE THREE SINNERS IN ROMANS IS ABLE TO STAND BEFORE GOD IN HIS OWN MERIT. THEY DIFFER IN THE DEGREE OF THEIR SINS BUT NOT IN THE DISEASE WITH WHICH ALL ARE INFECTED. (ROMANS 3:23)

"Chief of Police"
 "Indian Chief"
 "Kansas City Chiefs"

I. THE RELIGIOUS SINNERS' ADVANTAGE 3:1

THE EMPHASIS IN THIS PASSAGE IS ON THE JEWS RELIGION. GOD SELECTED THEM FOR A VERY SPECIAL MISSION AND THEY FAILED. A SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF THAT FAILURE WAS THE EMPHASIS PLACED ON OUTWARD RITUAL AND NOT ON INWARD ATTITUDE. PAUL MENTIONS 3 AREAS OF ADVANTAGE OR PRIVILEGE WHICH THE JEW HAD AND WHICH HE BELIEVED MADE HIM EXEMPT FROM GOD'S JUDGEMENT.

A. THE ADVANTAGE OF A SPECIAL BOOK-2:17

THE NAME JEW IS FROM THE HEBREW JUDAH WHICH MEANS "ONE WHO PRAISED". THEIR PRIVILEGED POSITION WAS DESIGNED TO CHANGE BEHAVIOR BUT INSTEAD OF BECOMING TEACHERS AND PRACTICES OF TRUTH THEY REFUSED TO APPLY TRUTH TO THEMSELVES. "THEY HAD THE LAW BUT THE LAW DID NOT HAVE THEM" THEY WERE CALLED BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND. (MATTHEW 15:14) JEWISH LEADERS BELIEVED THAT THE STUDY OF THE LAW SAVED THE SOUL. (JOHN 5:39) THEY PREACHED TO OTHERS BUT DID NOT PRACTICE WHAT THEY PREACHED! ~~(ROMANS 2:19-24)~~ THEY HAD ACCESS TO THE TRUTH BUT WERE NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO THE TRUTH. BY CONTRAST THE PROPHETS UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY REGARDING DIVINE TRUTH. IN THE FIRST 5 CHAPTERS OF ISAIAH THE GREAT PROPHET UTTERED THE PHRASE OR SUGGESTED THE WOE OF THE NATIONS. HOWEVER IN CHAPTER 6 HE TURNS THAT VERY TERM ON HIMSELF AND SAYS. "WOE IS ME" ~~SAY TIMES~~ IN THIS CHAPTER.

APPLICATION: IT IS EASY TO GET IN THE HABIT OF HEARING THE BIBLE AND NOT HEEDING WHAT WE HEAR. MY PASTOR USE TO REFER TO PITCHFORK PEOPLE.

B. THE ADVANTAGE OF A SPECIAL BADGE-2:25

THE TALMUD SAYS THAT ABRAHAM SITS AT THE DOOR OF HELL AND NO PERSON BEARING THE SIGN OR SYMBOL OF CIRCUMCISION WOULD BE PERMITTED TO PASS THROUGH THAT GATE. CIRCUMCISION WAS JUST THAT; A RELIGIOUS SIGN OR SYMBOL OR RITE. IT WAS PHYSICAL MARK ON THE BODY TO SHOW A SPIRITUAL AGREEMENT OR A SPIRITUAL COVENANT BETWEEN GOD AND ABRAHAM. ((FOR EXAMPLE, A

1. WEDDING RING IS A SYMBOL OF MARRIAGE. A
2. MEDAL SHIELD - A SYMBOL OF LEGAL AUTHORITY,
3. INSIGNIA ON A COLLAR OR CAP - A SYMBOL OF MILITARY RANK. HOWEVER, THE JEWS CONFUSED THE RITE OF CIRCUMCISION WITH THE REALITY IT REPRESENTED. (IT WOULD BE SIMILAR TO A PERSON CONFUSING THE MONEY SIGN FOR THE MONEY ITSELF!) APPLICATION: A PERSON WHO TRUSTS SOME RELIGIOUS RITUAL OR RITE SIMPLY INCREASES HIS GUILT BEFORE GOD. BAPTISM, CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNION, CHRISTENING, AND ANY OTHER ACT OF RELIGION SIMPLY POINTS TO AN INCREASED RELIGIOUS AWARENESS BUT WHERE THERE IS NO SPIRITUAL CHANGE, THIS JUST HEIGHTENS GUILT.

C. THE ADVANTAGE OF A SPECIAL BIRTH - 2:28-29

JEWS BELIEVED THAT ABRAHAM WAS BOTH THEIR PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL FATHER AND THAT HIS SEED COULD NOT PERISH! PARENTS BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN TO THE SYNAGOGUE EARLY IN LIFE WHERE THEY LEARNED THE LAW ABOUT THE SABBATH. THEY WERE SPECIAL IN THAT THE LIGHT OF THE DIVINE REVELATION PERMITTED THEM TO KNOW ABOUT THE ONE TRUE GOD WHEN OTHER MEN DID NOT. HOWEVER, THE EMPHASIS BECAME ON THE OUTWARD AND NOT THE INWARD CHANGE. (JOHN 8:32-33) THE EMPHASIS IN THE BIBLE IS ON SPIRITUAL BIRTH. THE PROBLEM IN JESUS DAY WITH HIS RELIGIOUS ANTAGONISTS WAS THEIR REFUSAL TO

(Jn 1:12-13)

ACCEPT SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS OF HIS KINGDOM.
(II COR. 5:17, GAL. 3:26 "FOR YE ARE ALL THE
CHILDREN OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

WE UNDERSTAND THE LOGIC OF THIS SPIRITUAL
REQUIREMENT IN OTHER CONTEXTS. FOR EXAMPLE
WE KNOW THAT PUTTING A MAN IN A DOG HOUSE DOES
NOT MAKE HIM A DOG. PUTTING A MAN IN A GARAGE
DOES NOT MAKE HIM A CAR. PUTTING A MAN INTO
AN AIRPLANE DOES NOT MAKE HIM A PILOT. AND
NEITHER DOES PUTTING A PERSON INTO A CHURCH
MAKE HIM A CHRISTIAN! THE JEWS HAD GREAT
ADVANTAGES BUT FAILED IN THEIR GOD GIVEN MIS-
SION. THINK OF THE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS
COUNTRY AND THE SPIRITUAL ADVANTAGE GIVEN TO
THEM. RAISED IN AMERICA, MANY IN CHRISTIAN
HOMES, MANY IN GOSPEL PREACHING CHURCHES, THE
GOSPEL MESSAGE IS AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION,
RADIO, LITERATURE AND ALL THIS SIMPLY ADDS TO
THE CONDEMNATION THAT COMES WITH GREATER LIGHT.

II. THE RELIGIOUS SINNERS ARGUMENTS 3:1-8

IN THESE VERSES PAUL ANTICIPATES AND ANSWERS
THE OBJECTIONS OF THE JEWS TO WHAT PAUL HAS
JUST SAID. THE RELIGIOUS JEW STRIPPED OF
HIS RELIGIOUS PROPS OR CRUTCHES DID WHAT SINNERS
DO EVERYWHERE AND TODAY. THEY BEGAN ARGUING.
McCLAIN SAYS THAT THE ODD VERSES GIVE THE
OBJECTIONS, THE EVEN THE ANSWER. IT WOULD
TAKE TOO MUCH TIME TO DEAL INDEPTH WITH THIS
ARRANGEMENT. LET US LOOK AT THE CONCLUSION.
THE FINAL ARGUMENT OF THE JEWS WAS THAT IF
SIN BRINGS GLORY TO GOD THE MORE ONE SINS, THE
MORE GOD WOULD BE GLORIFIED. THIS IS THE MIXED
UP, MESSED UP MIND OF A PERSON WHO SEEKS TO
JUSTIFY HIS SIN. HE IS WILLING TO CALL
WRONG RIGHT BUT THE PROBLEM IS CALLING WRONG
RIGHT DOESN'T MAKE IT RIGHT. THE RELIGIOUS
SINNER SAYS "I AM RELIGIOUS, SO I MUST BE
RIGHT". ARGUMENTS TODAY (1) HOW DO WE KNOW
THE BIBLE IS RELIABLE. WHAT ABOUT OTHER HOLY
BOOKS?

(2) CHRISTIANITY IS A CRUTCH FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL CRIPPLES, I DON'T NEED IT.

(3) I AM NO HYPROCRITE, CHURCH PEOPLE ARE.

(4) HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE REALLY IS A GOD?

(5) THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET TO HEAVEN, AS MANY AS THERE ARE RELIGIONS. SINCERITY IS THE SECRET.

(6) IF GOD EXISTS WHY DOES HE NOT DO SOMETHING ABOUT SUFFERING, WAR, NATURAL DISASTERS AND ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS THAT PLAGUE THIS PLANET?

THE LIST IS LONG AND IN MOST INSTANCES THE ARGUMENTS ARE SET FORTH TO AVOID THE ISSUE MAINLY, ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST. DO YOU HAVE AN ARGUMENT AGAINST CRHISTIANITY?

IF SO, IF SOMEONE WILL ANSWER YOUR QUESTION WILL YOU THEN RECEIVE CHRIST? (COMMENT REGARDING LARRY ROBERTSON WHO HAD A GENUINE INTELLECTUAL PROBLEM AND WHEN THAT WAS ANSWERED HE RESPONDED AFFIRMIDLY TO THE GOSPEL.)

I. THE RELIGIOUS SINNERS ASSUMPTIONS

3:1 - "WHAT" 3:3 - "WHAT IF"

3:5 - "BUT IF" 3:7 - "FOR IF"

THE JEW THOUGHT THAT BY BEING A JEW FOR THE REASONS GIVEN HE COULD AND WOULD ESCAPE THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE ELSE SAID. HE SEEMED TO TWIST THE SCRIPTURES TO SUIT HIS OWN PURPOSE - A TACTIC NOT UNFAMILIAR IN OUR TIME. THE SUMMATION OF HIS ASSUMPTION IS IN 3:8 WHERE HE STATES: "LET US DO EVIL, THAT GOOD MAY COME". TODAY THIS PHILOSOPHY

OR IDEA IS STATED IN DIFFERENT TERMS - "THE
 END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS". ONE MAY DO CERTAIN
 THINGS THAT ARE QUESTIONABLE IN ORDER TO
 ACCOMPLISH A GOOD GOAL. APPLICATION: JUST
 AS THE JEWS TRUSTED IN THE LAW, CIRCUMCISION,
 PHYSICAL BIRTH AND ANCESTRY, SO THERE ARE THOSE
 WHO ARE BORN INTO RELIGIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES WHO
 HAVE PARTAKEN OF ALL THE RITUALS THINK THEY WILL
 GET BY ON EARTH AND GET INTO HEAVEN EVENTUALLY,
 THIS ASSUMPTION IS BOTH INCORRECT AND FATAL,
 (COMMENT REGARDING BOOK ENTITLED "M.D." BY
DR. B. H. KEAN. HIS PRACTICE CENTERED AROUND
 SPECIALIZING IN DEALING WITH PARASITES. ⁽²⁾
 WHEN CALLED TO A CASE, IT WAS OFTEN MISDIAG- ⁽¹⁾
 NOSED AND MISTREATED BECAUSE IT WAS MYSTERIOUS
 IN NATURE. THE PATIENT DID NOT GET WELL UNTIL
 A CORRECT DIAGNOSIS AND PROPER TREATMENT BE-
 GAN. ACCORDING TO ROMANS 3:9-10 THERE IS A
 STARTLING STATEMENT FOR ALL SINNERS, RENAGADE,
 RESPECTABLE, AND RELIGIOUS. THE TERMS ARE
"ALL AND NONE".

What are the chances of
 a religious sinner making
 it into heaven apart from
 Christ & His righteousness?

"Tropical
 Medicine"
 ("4 wrong")
 OF THE Bible)
 Flying
 but
 Flying

THE SINNERAMA STORY

ROMANS 3:10ff

*Nothing To do
with Cinema
(Motion-Pictures)*

SINNERAMA IS NOT IN THE DICTIONARY. THE WORD WAS COINED BY DR. MCGEE TO DESCRIBE THE "PANORAMA" OF THE PRECEDING CHAPTERS, THAT IS A SWEEPING, OVERALL VIEW OF ALL KINDS OF SINNERS - A PANORAMA OF SINNERS CALLED A SINNERAMA! TIME WILL NOT PERMIT A DETAILED STUDY OF EVERY VERSE IN THIS SECTION SO WE WILL CONSIDER THREE PICTURES OR IMAGES PAUL USES TO SUM UP MAN'S CONDITION AS A SINNER.

I. THE SINNER IN GOD'S COURTROOM - 3:9-19

HERE THE DIVINE BALIFF STATES: "COURT IS NOW IN SESSION, THE ETERNAL HOLY RIGHTEOUS GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH PRESIDING." PAUL PRESENTS MAN AS ON TRIAL BEFORE THE COURT OF GOD. THE WORD "PROVED" IN VERSE 9 IS A LEGAL TERM THAT MEANS "TO CHARGE IN A COURT OF LAW." IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS PROVING THE CHARGES HE HAS MADE AGAINST THE SINNERS OF THE FIRST THREE CHAPTERS - NAMELY, "ALL UNDER SIN." WHATEVER SIN DOES TO PEOPLE - THEY ARE UNDER ITS CONDEMNATION. MEN DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THEY DIE TO DETERMINE AND SOMETIMES DISCOVER THEIR STATUS BEFORE GOD, THEY MAY KNOW IT NOW. (JOHN 3:18) THE GREAT WHITE THRONE - RATFIES WHAT IS ALREADY A REALITY.

(A) A FOURTEEN COUNT INDICTMENT - V. 10-18

IN BASKETBALL LANGUAGE ONE MIGHT SAY THAT THESE VERSES PRESENT A GAME IN WHICH THERE ARE NO SECONDS LEFT ON THE CLOCK AND MAN IS 14 POINTS BEHIND! THERE ARE TWO MAJOR AREAS OF INDICTMENT:

*engaged
first
Co -
never seen
never
before!*

- (1) SPEECH - TALK
(2) STEPS WALK

LET US CONSIDER THE INDICTMENT POINT BY POINT - QUICKLY.

(1) "NONE RIGHTEOUS" - VERSE 10

ONE CANNOT GET "SOME" OUT OF "NONE." ALL MEN ARE BY GOD'S STANDARD UNRIGHTEOUS AS BORN INTO THE WORLD. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOR HOW TO GET IT. INTUITIVELY MAN ATTEMPTS TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD BY VIRTUE OF HIS OWN EFFORTS AND THAT IS NOT THE WAY TO RECEIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(2) "NONE UNDERSTAND" - VERSE 11

NOBODY UNDERSTANDS HOW TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD APART FROM DIVINE REVELATION. MAN IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD - ALL OF HIS SPIRITUAL NERVE ENDS HAVE BEEN SEVERED AND THE ONLY WAY HE CAN BE CONNECTED BACK TO GOD IS THROUGH THE NEW BIRTH.

(3) "NONE SEEKING GOD" - VERSE 11

MEN DO NOT SET OUT TO FIND GOD, HE FINDS THEM. THEY ARE UNRESPONSIVE TO GOD UNTIL SOUGHT BY HIM.

(4) "GONE OUT OF THE WAY" - VERSE 12

THE IMAGERY IS THAT OF A DESERT CARAVAN GETTING OFF ITS DESIGNATED ROUTE. (ISAIAH 53:6)

(5) "UNPROFITABLE"

THE HEBREW WORD MEANS "MILK GONE SOUR." MAN HAS GONE SOUR, NOT SWEET TOWARD GOD.

(6) "NONE DO GOOD" - VERSE 12

THE COURSE OF MAN'S LIFE IS TOWARD EVIL AND NOT GOOD. ~~"THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS AND DESPERATELY WICKED; WHO CAN KNOW IT?" (JEREMIAH 17:9)~~ IN OTHER WORDS, THE HEART OF MAN IS HOPELESSLY DISEASED, INCAPABLE OF KNOWING ITS OWN CORRUPTION APART FROM DIVINE REVELATION AND GRACE.

(7) "THROAT" - VERSE 13

IN THE EAST, GRAVES SOMETIMES WERE LEFT OPEN. A PLACE INTO WHICH SOME MIGHT STUMBLE AND ENCOUNTER A TERRIBLE SMELL. THIS VERSE SPEAKS OF THE CORRUPTION OF HUMAN SPEECH, A VERBAL GRAVEYARD, SPEECH THAT SHOULD HONOR GOD INSTEAD OF BLASPHEMING HIM.

(8) "TONGUES" - VERSE 13

PEOPLE WHO FAIN FONDNESS FOR OTHERS BUT IN REALITY HAVE FOLDED FANGS THAT FASTEN UPON OTHERS AND INJECT VERBAL VENOM TO HURT AND DESTROY. (COMMENT ON PEGGY NOONAN'S BOOK REGARDING THE WHITE HOUSE - SWEET ON THE SURFACE - SELFISH AND GREEDY IN THE SOUL.)



(9) "LIPS" - VERSE 13 *Temples, eyes, Presi - "Turf Protection"*

A CONTINUED EMPHASIS ON WORDS THAT BITE, HURT AND HARM.

(10) "MOUTH" - VERSE 14

PROFANITY, ACCORDING TO BARNHOUSE IN ENGLISH IS AN INTERESTING WORD. THE WORD "FANE" IS AN OLD LATIN WORD FOR THE WORD CHURCH OR CATHEDRAL. WITH A PREFIX "PRO" IT MEANS BEFORE THE CHURCH OR OUT IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH. IN

OTHER WORDS, WORDS THAT MEN SPEAK OUTSIDE THE CHURCH, NOT WORDS OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE BUT WORDS THAT ARE EARTHY AND VULGAR. HOW DO PEOPLE SPEAK OUTSIDE THE CHURCH IN HOME AND IN THE WORKPLACE?

(11) "FEET" - VERSE 15

VIOLENCE AND MURDER EVERYWHERE. FROM CAIN TO BUNDY, THOSE WHO HAVE A SPIRIT TO KILL OTHERS EVEN MASS MURDERS.

(12) "DESTRUCTION AND MISERY" - VERSE 16

MAN IS A "MISERY MAKER" WHEREVER HE GOES. WATCH TALK SHOWS FOR MISERY ON THE MARCH!

(13) "PEACE UNKNOWN" - VERSE 17

OURS IS NOT A PEACEFUL PLANET.

(14) "NO FEAR OF GOD" - VERSE 18

ⓧ MEN RAPE, ROB, KILL WITHOUT FEAR OF GOD OR MAN. (COMMENT REGARDING CONVERSATION WITH CHURCH ATTENDER HERE WHOSE CAR WAS BROKEN INTO OVER \$1000 OF GOODS TAKEN. POLICE CALLED - THEY DIDN'T ANSWER CALLS WITH REFERENCE TO CAR BURGLARY TOO MANY!)

(B) THE FINAL VERDICT - 3:19

THE LAW WAS GIVEN TO REVEAL MAN'S SIN, NOT RESTORE HIM TO GOD. IT WAS TO CONDEMN AND NOT TO CURE. IT IS A MIRROR TO REVEAL NOT WATER TO CLEANSE. MAN IS NOT INNOCENT AS HE LOUDLY DECLARES BUT GUILTY AS GOD STATES. THE SILENCE OF SINNERSHIP SPEAKS OF NO DEFENSE - NOT A WORD - THE SINNER AWAITS SENTENCING BECAUSE THE VERDICT IS ALREADY IN!

PAUL BRINGS THE WHOLE WORLD INTO GOD'S COURTROOM AND EVERY MAN STANDS THERE SILENT AND SENTENCED WITH NOTHING TO SAY BECAUSE THE EVIDENCE IS OVERPOWERING. BARNHOUSE ASKS THE QUESTION: SUPPOSE GOD USHERED YOU INTO HIS PRESENCE AND ASKED THIS QUESTION: "WHY SHOULD I LET YOU INTO HEAVEN?"

(1) MY MANY GOOD WORKS - LOOK AT MY CHECKBOOK AND MY CALLOUSES.

(2) MY CHURCH - LOOK AT MY HYMNBOOK AND PRAYERBOOK.

(3) MY LODGE - I KNOW THE PASSWORDS AND HANDSHAKES.

(4) MY FAMILY - OUR FAMILY TREE IS A RELIGIOUS TREE.

NONE OF THESE ANSWERS FIT THE LOCK OF HEAVEN. IT IS THE RECORD THAT COUNTS. (1 JOHN 5:12) JESUS CHRIST IS OUR RECORD AND RIGHT TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER, BEFORE WE LEAVE THE COURTROOM, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE JUDGE IN THIS CASE IS ALSO THE OFFENDED PARTY. HE IS WILLING TO SETTLE BEFORE SENTENCING TAKES PLACE. THE SINNER IS DEAR TO GOD BUT HE MUST ALSO BE NEAR TO GOD. (EXPLAIN)

II. THE SINNER AT THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE AND MERCY (AT THE TEMPLE)

(SLAUGHTERHOUSE) 3:25

THE WORD PROPITIATION IS THE SAME WORD USED TO DESCRIBE THE MERCY SEAT IN THE TABERNACLE WHERE BLOOD WAS SPRINKLED ON THE DAY OF ATONEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE LAW, WHEN A PERSON BROKE THE LAW, HE BROUGHT AN APPROPRIATE SACRIFICE TO GOD AND THAT SACRIFICE,

EX. 12 = illustration
of the principle.

INDICATIVE OF THE OFFERER'S FAITH, SERVED TO AVERT PUNISHMENT FROM GOD. THE BLOOD ON THE MERCY SEAT WAS WHAT KEPT JUDGMENT AWAY. GOD'S WRATH AGAINST SIN WAS AVERTED THROUGH SACRIFICE. THE PERSON WHO MIGHT HAVE BEEN AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT WAS AT THE MERCY SEAT INSTEAD. (LUKE 18:13) CHRIST IS OUR MERCY SEAT. (POINT: PAUL STATES IN THESE VERSES THAT THE SINS OF OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS WERE NOT TAKEN AWAY UNTIL THE CROSS. GOD OVERLOOKED OR WINKED AT THOSE SINS. THEY WERE ATONED FOR OR COVERED BUT NOT FORGIVEN AND REMOVED. THIS TOOK PLACE AT CALVARY. SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT MOSES AND ELIJAH WENT TO HEAVEN, SO TO SPEAK, "ON CREDIT." IF CHRIST HAD NOT DIED, THEY COULD NOT HAVE STAYED THERE!

III. THE SINNER IN THE SLAVE MARKET - ROMANS 3:23-24

REDEMPTION MEANS TO SET FREE BY PAYING A PRICE. (COMMENT ON SCOFIELD FOOTNOTE.) THE WORD REDEEM IS TRANSLATED BY THREE DIFFERENT GREEK WORDS. THE BASIC COMMON WORD FOR ALL THREE IS THE IDEA OF A MARKETPLACE - THE AGORA. THIS WAS THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE BOUGHT AND SOLD GOODS, CROPS AND SLAVES. THE SLAVE MARKET OPERATED ON A REGULAR BASIS. HALF THE POPULATION IN THE GREEK AND ROMAN WORLDS WERE SLAVES. ROMANS UNDERSTOOD THIS TERM VERY WELL. CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD, INTO THE SLAVE MARKET WHERE SOULS WERE IN BONDAGE TO SIN AND REDEEMED THEM AT A TERRIBLE PRICE - HIS OWN BLOOD. (1 PETER 1:18-19) THERE IS AN OLD TESTAMENT BOOK THAT ILLUSTRATES THIS VERY WELL. GOD TOLD THE PROPHET HOSEA TO MARRY A HARLOT. HOSEA LOVED HIS WIFE BUT THE MORE HE LOVED HER, THE MORE DEEPLY SHE

(1 Pet. 3:18)

SANK INTO SIN. THERE CAME A DAY WHEN
GOMER, HOSEA'S WIFE, HAD RUN AWAY AND WAS
REDUCED TO LOWLY SLAVERY AND BROUGHT TO THE
MARKETPLACE TO BE SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.
NAKED, AND IN SHAME, SHE STOOD FOR ALL TO SEE.
HOSEA WENT TO THE MARKETPLACE, REDEEMED HER
BY PAYING THE BIDDEN PRICE. NOW HE WAS BOTH
HUSBAND AND REDEEMER. IN A SENSE, THAT IS
WHAT JESUS CHRIST ACCOMPLISHED FOR US. GOD,
LIKE HOSEA, DOES NOT TREAT US AS CRIMINALS
AND SLAVES BUT AS SONS WHO ARE DEAR TO HIMSELF.
(COMPARE STORY LITTLE BOAT TWICE OWNED - GOD'S
TWO-FOLD CLAIM ON ALL MEN.) WILLIAM JAY HAD
IT CORRECT WHEN HE SAID: "I AM A GREAT SINNER.
CHRIST IS A GREAT SAVIOUR."

Flash Card
Story.

WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST

ROMANS 3:24

YOU MAY BE LIVING ON "DEATH ROW" WITHOUT KNOWING IT! EVERYONE HAS A SPIRITUAL ADDRESS LOCATED ON "ROMANS ROAD". IF YOU ARE NOT SAVED, THE NUMBER OF YOUR RESIDENCE IS

323 - KEEP LIVING THERE AND YOU WILL ~~BE~~ ^{lost}.

THE BIBLE ENCOURAGES YOU TO CHANGE YOUR SPIRITUAL ADDRESS AND MOVE TO No. 324 AND LIVE! (I COR. 15:22) THE PHRASE "IN CHRIST" APPEARS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE BIBLE IN THIS TEXT. THIS EXPRESSION OR ONE SIMILAR TO IT APPEARS 164 TIMES IN PAUL'S WRITINGS. (II COR. 5:17, EPH. 1:6, I THESS. 4:16)

THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF MANY BENEFITS THE BELIEVER HAS "IN CHRIST."

I. IN CHRIST WE HAVE AN ALTAR ACCEPTABLE TO GOD - HEBREWS 13:10

IN THE CHURCH WHERE I WAS SAVED, THE ALTAR CALL WAS PART OF EVERY SERVICE. IT WAS AN APPEAL FOR SINNERS TO COME TO THE "MOURNERS BENCH" AND GET SAVED. IN THOSE EARLY YEARS, IT WAS ABOUT THE ONLY PLACE I SAW PEOPLE COME TO KNOW THE LORD. THE BIBLE DOES NOT EMPHASIZE A PLACE BUT RATHER THE PERSON WHO DOES THE SAVING. THE WRITER OF HEBREWS ~~MAY HAVE~~ HAD THE TABERNACLE IN MIND AND THE TWO ALTARS THERE. THE FIRST WAS THE BRAZEN ALTAR WHICH WAS THE LARGEST OF THE SEVEN PIECES OF FURNITURE IN THE TABERNACLE. IT WAS THE FIRST UPON ENTERING THE GATE, THE PLACE OF SACRIFICE AND REPRESENTED THE FIRST STEP IN MAN'S APPROACH TO GOD. BRASS IN THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF JUDGMENT AND REMINDS ALL MEN THAT THEIR APPROACH TO GOD BEGINS AT THE PLACE WHERE BLOOD WAS SHED. (COMPARE

I Cor. 15:22 "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

(2) CALVARY, CAIN AND ABEL) THE SECOND ALTAR WAS THE ALTAR OF INCENSE OR GOLDEN ALTAR. IT WAS BEFORE THE VEIL WHERE INCENSE WERE BURNED AS A SWEET SMELL BEFORE GOD REPRESENTING PRAYER. IN CHRIST, THE SINNER FINDS THE PROPER APPROACH TO GOD. CHRIST IS ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE SINNER'S NEED. (IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO VISIT ~~THE TWO PRIMARY~~ PLACES ON EARTH WHERE PYRAMIDS EXIST. THE FIRST AND PRIMARY ONE IS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF CAIRO, EGYPT AND THE PYRAMID OF GIZA. THE OTHER PYRAMIDS ARE LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES NORTHEAST OF MEXICO CITY AT A PLACE CALLED TA-O-TA-WA-CON. THE LARGEST OF THESE PYRAMIDS IS CALLED THE PYRAMID OF THE SUN. YEARS AGO, INDIANS BELIEVED THE SUN WAS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE AND THAT THIS GOD MUST BE FED HUMAN SACRIFICES. EVERY DAY THE SACRIFICE OF A HUMAN HEART WAS MADE FROM CAPTIVES TAKEN IN WAR. ON ONE RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, TWENTY THOUSAND WERE SACRIFICED. ^{20,000} EACH YEAR ON A CERTAIN RELIGIOUS DAY, A YOUNG BOY WOULD CLIMB THE 257 STEPS TO THE TOP OF THE PYRAMID OF THE SUN, LAY HIMSELF BACKWARD ACROSS A STONE ALTAR AND A PRIEST WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT WOULD OPEN HIS CHEST CAVITY WITH A KNIFE OR AN AX, REMOVE HIS BEATING HEART FROM HIS BODY AND OFFER IT AS A SACRIFICE TO THE GOD OF THE SUN. GOD NEITHER REQUIRES OR WANTS SUCH PAGAN IDEAS - HIS SON MADE ADEQUATE PROVISION FOR THE SINNER'S NEED.

II. IN CHRIST WE HAVE BEEN ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD - Eph. 1:5 *Accepted*

THE BELIEVER BECOMES A CHILD OF GOD BY THE NEW BIRTH. (LIFE) HE BECOMES A SON OF GOD BY ADOPTION. (LEGAL) THE WORD ADOPTION APPEARS 5 TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. IT IS A COMPOUND GREEK WORD MEANING "TO PLACE

adoption = Son playing not
son making!

AS A SON." IT IS A DECLARATIVE, LEGAL OR FORENSIC ACT OF GOD. THE BELIEVER DOES NOT FEEL IT BUT IT HAS TO DO WITH HOW SINNERS ARE MADE SONS. IT IS A FAMILY TERM. THE

① POPULAR IDEA OF ADOPTION SUGGESTS TAKING SOMEONE WHO IS NOT YOUR CHILD BY BIRTH AND MAKING HIM LEGALLY YOURS. SIMPLY STATED, WE NEVER ADOPT OUR OWN CHILDREN BUT GOD NEVER ADOPTS ANY OTHERS! UNDER ROMAN LAW, A FORMAL CEREMONY WAS CONDUCTED WHEN SONS WERE LEGALLY ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY. THE FATHER HAD ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OVER HIS SON TO THE POINT OF SELLING OR KILLING HIM. IN ADOPTION, GOD TREATS ALL OF HIS LEGAL SONS AS MATURE ADULTS - THERE IS NO WAITING PERIOD TO ACHIEVE FULL LEGAL STATUS IN THE FAMILY. DR. DAVID ALLEN SPEAKS OF ADOPTION AS "VOTING PRIVILEGES" FROM BIRTH. IN ADOPTION, GOD GIVES US A PREVIEW OF OUR FUTURE. HE IS GETTING US READY FOR GLORY. HE SEES IN THE BELIEVER WHAT THE WORLD DOES NOT RECOGNIZE. (ROMANS 8:18, 23, I JOHN 3:1-2)?

Adoption:
not rec.
into family
as a baby
but a
a full
grown
person!

III. IN CHRIST WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD - (τέκνα)
ROMANS 5:2 (προσάγωμεν)

Have -
R. gets

THE WORD ACCESS MEANS "RIGHT OF APPROACH." IT WAS USED OF A PERSON, AN OFFICER IN THE ORIENTAL COURT OF A KING WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO THE KING'S PRESENCE. ((COMMENT REGARDING ENTRANCE TO CHURCH PROPERTY FROM CORRIDOR G. THE 20-FOOT WIDE ROAD IS CALLED AN ACCESS ROAD GIVING US RIGHT OF APPROACH TO A NEW FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY.) (ALSO, RELATE STORY OF SOUTHERN SOLDIER FREED FROM PRISON CAMP WHO WAS TOO CRIPPLED TO RETURN TO THE BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR. HE SOUGHT AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT LINCOLN TO INTERCEDE FOR HIS BROTHER WHO WAS ALSO IN A PRISON CAMP AND VERY ILL. AS THE

STORY GOES, HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO GET PAST THE GUARDS. THE CRIPPLED SOLDIER WAS SITTING ON THE CURB, HEAD IN THE HANDS, WHEN A SMALL BOY WALKED BY AND INQUIRED CONCERNING HIS SADNESS. THE BOY EXPLAINED THAT HIS NAME WAS TAD LINCOLN, TOOK THE MAN BY THE HAND, PAST THE GUARDS, INTO THE PRESENCE OF HIS FATHER, THE PRESIDENT.) IN CHRIST, THE BELIEVER HAS ACCESS TO GOD AND ONLY THROUGH CHRIST.

IV. IN CHRIST WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE BEFORE GOD - I JOHN 2:1

THE WORD ADVOCATE IN THE TEXT IS TRANSLATED COMFORTER IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN AND IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE HOLY SPIRIT. IT IS ALSO A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE COUNSELLOR OR ATTORNEY OR ONE WHO PLEADS THE CAUSE OR CASE OF ANOTHER. IN A MILITARY CONTEXT, THE WORD SPOKE OF AN OFFICER WHO DEFENDED A SOLDIER IN A COURT MARTIAL - THE PRISONER'S FRIEND. FOR EVERY GOOD ATTORNEY, THERE IS SUCH CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH HIS CLIENT THAT THE CLIENT'S CASE IS HIS CASE, THE CLIENT'S CAUSE IS HIS CAUSE. GOD HAS MADE ADEQUATE PROVISION IN ADVANCE FOR THE BELIEVER'S SPIRITUAL NEED. ONE SUCH NEED HAS TO DO WITH SIN IN THE LIFE. (EXPLAIN TWO LINKS TO GOD.) IN THE TEXT, THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED TO "SIN NOT." GOD DOES NOT ADVOCATE SIN BUT HE HAS PROVIDED AN ADVOCATE WHEN WE DO SIN! SIN IS SO HEINOUS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD THAT THE THOUGHT OF TOLERATING SIN IS UNTHINKABLE. HOWEVER, GOD KNOWS THAT THE BELIEVER IS NOT SINLESS BUT HE SHOULD SIN LESS! (1) SOME PEOPLE RACE CARS FOR FUN. THEY ARE NOT DESIGNED TO CRASH. HOWEVER, EVEN IN THE BEST OF RACES, UNDER THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES, SOME CARS CRASH. FOR THAT

W. Va.

- (1) Pres. @
- Sen. Pres.
- Pres. (3)
- Pres. Sp.
- 3. Trans.
- 4. att.
- 5. State
- Senators

6. Asst. Treas.

2800s. in Jail!
(Pres. Gov

almost keep us w. the Washington!
Divorce)

Lost Count!

REASON, THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH SAFETY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS ROLL BARS, SAFETY HARNESS, FIREPROOF CLOTHING, FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, AND OTHER EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT. EVEN THOUGH THE CAR IS NOT DESIGNED TO CRASH, THE EMERGENCY SITUATION DOES ARISE. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR SHIPS AND AIRPLANES. SHIPS ARE DESIGNED, PLANES ARE DESIGNED TO FLY BUT EMERGENCY PROCEDURES ARE ALWAYS EXPLAINED BEFORE A JOURNEY IN ORDER THAT THE PASSENGERS MAY BE FULLY PROTECTED. JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT THE EMERGENCY SITUATION. (RELATE STORY OF GORDY BARNARD AND PARKING LOT SCUFFLE.)

V. IN CHRIST WE HAVE AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL - HEBREWS 6:19-20

ANCHORS KEEP SHIPS FROM DRIFTING. THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SAYS THAT WHAT AN ANCHOR IS TO A BOAT, HOPE IS TO THE CHRISTIAN. (COMPARE FOUNDRY EXPERIENCE IN INDIANA - EVEN SMALL BOATS NEED ANCHORS.) BY THE WAY, HOPE IN THE BIBLE IS A CERTAINTY AND NOT A GUESS. (IT WAS HOPE AS A KEY ON A CHAIN AROUND CHRISTIAN'S NECK WHICH UNLOCKED EVERY DOOR IN DOUBTING CASTLE.) DR. HARRY IRONSIDE EXPLAINS THAT THE TERM "FORERUNNER" WAS APPLIED TO A SMALL BOAT USED BY GREEK SHIPS WHEN PASSAGE INTO A HARBOR WAS RESTRICTED BY LOW TIDE. AT THAT TIME, IT WAS CUSTOMARY TO PLACE THE ANCHOR IN A BOAT CALLED THE FORERUNNER AND CAST THE ANCHOR INSIDE THE HARBOR SECURING THE SHIP UNTIL THE TIDE CHANGED. IN CHRIST, OUR DESTINATION IS SECURE.

- "THE HAVEN OF REST"

1. ALTAR
2. ADOPTED (ION)
3. ACCESS
4. ADVOCATE
- (5) Anchor

THE MAN WHO BELIEVED GOD

ROMANS 4:1-25

* (COMMENT REGARDING TERMITES - EXPLAIN.)

TODAY WE COME TO THE SECOND MAJOR DIVISION OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS - CHAIR No. 2 CALLED JUSTIFICATION. THIS CHAPTER GIVES INSIGHT AND ILLUSTRATION OF THE MEANING OF GENUINE FAITH. THERE IS AN ORIENTAL MYTH ABOUT MAGICIANS IN THE PAST WHO WERE ABLE TO MAKE AN UNCOILED ROPE STAND UP STRAIGHT TOWARD THE SKY SO THAT A PERSON WHO STARTED TO CLIMB WOULD SOON DISAPPEAR OUT OF SIGHT. SOME VIEW FAITH THAT WAY - A MAGICAL ROPE REACHING TO THE SKY WHICH MEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO CLIMB - NOT UNLIKE A JACK AND THE BEANSTALK CONCEPT OF FAITH. SUCH AN IDEA REGARDING FAITH AS AS FICTITIOUS AS THE FAIRY TALE CITED. THE BIG QUESTION IS: WHAT IS THE UPPER END OF THE ROPE TIED TO? WHERE DOES IT GO AFTER IT IS OUT OF SIGHT? THE EMPHASIS OF THE BIBLE IS THE OBJECT OF FAITH - NOT FAITH ITSELF. MANY PEOPLE TALK ABOUT FAITH IN A MYSTICAL WAY ENCOURAGING FAITH IN FAITH AND NOT FAITH IN GOD. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS ANCHORED IN GOD. (SONG: "MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE") THERE IS NOT A SINGLE PROMISE IN THE BIBLE FOR THE UNSAVED PERSON APART FROM A WILLINGNESS TO STOP TRYING AND START TRUSTING HIM. THIS SECTION OF SCRIPTURE SILENCES FOREVER THAT RELIGIOUS DOGMA AND PRACTICE WHICH SPEAKS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST AS INCLUDING WORKS. THIS CHAPTER STATES WITHOUT QUALIFICATION THAT SALVATION IS BY FAITH ALONE!

1. THE MAN WHO BELIEVED GOD FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS - 4:3,5,6,9,11, 13,22

THE NAME OF ABRAHAM WAS REVERED BY JEWS ALL OVER THE WORLD. WHAT ABRAHAM BELIEVED ABOUT GOD IS WHAT THEY SHOULD BELIEVE. THERE ARE THREE WORDS IN THIS CHAPTER THAT MEAN EXACTLY THE SAME THING - COUNT, RECKON, IMPUTE - LOGIZOMAI. THIS GREEK WORD APPEARS IN THIS CHAPTER MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE. (4:3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 22, 23, 24 - 11 TIMES TO SHOW HOW GOD JUSTIFIES MEN.) THE WORD IN THIS PASSAGE TO DESCRIBE WHAT GOD DOES TO THE BELIEVING SINNER LITERALLY MEANS "TO PUT TO ONE'S ACCOUNT." WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WOULD MEAN FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE BANK WHERE YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNT AND PUT THAT MONEY ON ACCOUNT FOR YOU WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED. HOWEVER, WHEN IT COMES TO BIBLE TRUTH, SUCH ACTIVITY BY GOD IN OUR BEHALF GOES BY US COMPLETELY. IN THE FIRST DOZEN VERSES OF THIS CHAPTER THERE ARE TWO SALIENT FACTS:

① WORKS DON'T WORK - SYMBOLS DON'T SAVE. ②

(A) WORKS DON'T WORK - MANY PEOPLE HAVE THE "MICHAEL JORDAN SYNDROME" - THAT IS, THEY BELIEVE IF THEY, LIKE THIS FAMOUS BASKETBALL PLAYER, CAN SCORE 69 POINTS IN A SINGLE GAME THEY WILL WORK THEIR WAY UP THE LADDER OF GOD'S FAVOR. PAUL MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT IF ABRAHAM'S GOOD WORKS COULD HAVE SAVED HIM THEN HE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT - NAMELY HE DID IT HIMSELF! (VERSE 2) IN VERSES 4-5 PAUL MAKES A SIMPLE, CONCISE STATEMENT THAT WORKS DON'T SAVE. QUESTION: IF GOOD WORKS COULD SAVE THE SOUL, HOW MANY GOOD WORKS WOULD BE ENOUGH? I HAVE NEVER HAD A SENSIBLE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION - IN OVER 40 YEARS. MAN SAYS: DO YOUR BEST AND

YOU WILL GET TO HEAVEN ON THE MERIT SYSTEM - BY ACHIEVING GOD'S FAVOR. THIS IS RIGHTEOUSNESS BY ACCOMPLISHMENT. GOD SAYS: RIGHTEOUSNESS IS GAINED NOT BY ACHIEVING BUT BY BELIEVING GOD. IT IS NOT A WORKS AND WAGES PROCESS BUT A GRACE AND GIFT PROMISE! (BY THE WAY, OUR NEW WAGES ARE MENTIONED IN ROMANS 6:23.) ABRAHAM AND DAVID PROVED THE POINT THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE SAVED THE SAME WAY - BY FAITH. (COMPARE HEBREWS 11, TITUS 3:5, EPHESIANS 2:8-9) MAN WANTS TO EARN HIS SALVATION NOT ACCEPT IT AS A GIFT.

(B) SYMBOLS DON'T SAVE - THE RELIGIOUS SYMBOL OR RITE IN THIS PASSAGE IS CIRCUMCISION. POINT: ABRAHAM WAS RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD 15 YEARS BEFORE THIS RITE WAS ADMINISTERED. ABRAHAM WAS 86 WHEN HE WAS JUSTIFIED, 99 WHEN THIS RITE WAS ADMINISTERED. CIRCUMCISION WAS SIMPLY A SIGN OR SEAL OF AN AGREEMENT ALREADY IN FORCE BETWEEN GOD AND ABRAHAM. IN OTHER WORDS, CIRCUMCISION WAS A SIGN NOT A SAVIOUR! RITES CANNOT PROVIDE RIGHTEOUSNESS. THE SINNERS PROBLEM IS HIS SPIRITUAL DEFICIT IN HEAVEN. IN GOD'S "ACCOUNT BOOKS" THERE ARE JUST TWO CATEGORIES - 1 UNRIGHTEOUS AND RIGHTEOUS 2 - NOTHING ELSE. JUST AS PEOPLE ARE EITHER TALL OR SHORT, SLIM OR STOUT, BLACK, WHITE OR SOME OTHER COLOR, SO THEY ARE EITHER SAVED OR LOST WHICH IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING UNRIGHTEOUS OR RIGHTEOUS. CHURCH RITUALS CANNOT SAVE. BAPTISM, COMMUNION, MEMBERSHIP, CHRISTENING - NONE OF THESE RITES CAN SAVE. THEREFORE, RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT BY FAITH AND WORKS BUT BY FAITH THAT WORKS!

II. THE MAN WHO BELIEVED GOD FOR AN HEIR - 4:13,17-21

Gen. 15:6
ISRAEL HAS BEEN CALLED GOD'S EARTHLY PEOPLE, THAT IS HAVING A SPECIAL PLACE AND PURPOSE ON EARTH. SO AN HEIR WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ORDER TO PASS ON THE PROMISES OF GOD FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER TO CARRY OUT GOD'S PURPOSE. (COMPARE TO FAMILY BUSINESS) SARAH WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS THAT SHE DETERMINED TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM HERSELF THROUGH A SURROGATE. IN SO DOING SHE COMPLICATED HER LIFE AND THAT OF HER FAMILY AND ITS FUTURE FOR ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY. GOD PROMISED TO GIVE ABRAHAM A SON. HOWEVER, CIRCUMSTANCES MADE IT APPEAR AS IF GOD HAD EITHER FORGOTTEN OR NEGLECTED TO DO WHAT HE HAD PROMISED. THE NATURAL LAWS OF CHILD BEARING DICTATED THAT GOD WAS NOT ABLE TO DO WHAT HE HAD PROMISED BECAUSE TIME HAD RUN OUT FOR THIS ELDERLY COUPLE - IT WAS NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO HAVE CHILDREN ANY MORE. HERE IS WHERE ABRAHAM WAS UNLIKE EVERYBODY ELSE INCLUDING HIS WIFE. ABRAHAM DID NOT LOOK AT THE OBSTACLES BUT AT THE OBJECTIVE AND SAID IT WILL HAPPEN. HIS FAITH WAS FIXED IN GOD. ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS NOT SOME "SECRET SUBSTANCE OR DIVINE DRUG" BUT FIRM BELIEF IN THE FACT THAT WHAT GOD SAID HE WOULD DO, NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES APPEARED TO BE. MEN LOOK AT A 100 YEAR OLD MAN AND A 90 YEAR OLD WOMAN AND SAY NO WAY THEY CAN HAVE CHILDREN BUT GOD'S WAY OFTEN CIRCUMVENTS IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES. ON ANOTHER OCCASION, WHEN ABRAHAM WAS CALLED UPON TO SACRIFICE ISAAC HE WAS WILLING TO DO SO BELIEVING THAT WHAT GOD ASKED HIM TO DO, IN TURN GOD WOULD RAISE UP HIS SON FROM THE DEAD! ABRAHAM'S FAITH WAS "STAGGER PROOF". (VERSE 20) THERE WERE NO "DEFINITE

MAYBES" IN ABRAHAM. GOD TOOK THE IMPOSSIBLE AND MADE IT POSSIBLE. FAITH ENABLED ABRAHAM TO TREAT THINGS HE COULD NOT SEE AND UNDERSTAND AS CERTAIN.

III. THE MAN WHO BELIEVED GOD AS AN EXAMPLE FOR US - 4:23-25

WHAT DID ABRAHAM ACHIEVE BEFORE GOD BY GOOD WORKS? DID HE RECEIVE RIGHTEOUSNESS - NO; A SON - NO. ALL OF THIS HAD TO BE A SHOCK TO JEWISH READERS. EVERYTHING ABRAHAM RECEIVED FROM GOD WAS BY FAITH. THE WORDS "US ALSO" INVITES THE READER INTO THE ARENA OF FAITH. DIVINE PRINCIPLE: GOD CREDITS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE ACCOUNT OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE HIM. ((SUPPOSE YOU PAID A BILL AT A LOCAL UTILITY COMPANY AND THEY STAMPED THE WORD PAID ON THE BILL AND YOU KEPT THE STUB WITH YOU. LET US SUPPOSE THROUGH SOME COMPUTER MISTAKE YOU WERE BILLED FOR THAT SAME BILL AGAIN. ~~THEY CAN'T COLLECT ON A BILL THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID~~ - NO MATTER WHAT THE COMPUTER MIGHT SAY, GOD SAYS HERE ARE THE FACTS, NOW WHERE IS YOUR FAITH? WHEN OUR FAITH RESTS IN GOD IT IS NOT MISPLACED BUT WELL-PLACED FAITH. WHEN WE READ IN THE BIBLE ABOUT ABRAHAM AND DAVID AND OTHERS, IT IS NOW OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO JOIN THEM IN BELIEVING GOD. THERE IS A FAMOUS AND FAVORITE GOSPEL SONG WE LOVE TO SING. HOWEVER, SOME PEOPLE SING IT AS FOLLOWS: JESUS PAID APART, JESUS PAID A LOT, JESUS PAID FOR SOME, JESUS PAID MOST. BUT THE SONG SAYS JESUS PAID IT ALL AND 4:25 IS GOD'S RECEIPT THAT HE PAID IT IN FULL. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST WAS THE FULL PROOF THAT CHRIST'S WORK ON THE CROSS WAS SUFFICIENT. QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE GOD? IF SO, PROVE IT BY ACTING ON HIS PROMISE. (JOHN 1:12)

"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS"

ROMANS 5:1-11

THE CHORUS OF THE SONG "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS" SAYS: "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, NAME THEM ONE BY ONE; COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, SEE WHAT GOD HATH DONE; COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS, NAME THEM ONE BY ONE; COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS, SEE WHAT GOD HATH DONE." IN COLLEGE CHAPEL WE SUBSTITUTED THE WORD TON FOR ONE. THE VERSES IN THIS PASSAGE ATTEST TO THE BENEFITS OF JUSTIFICATION. THE LATTER PORTION OF THE CHAPTER SPEAKS TO THE BASIS OF JUSTIFICATION. SOMEONE HAS SAID WHEN THE WORD "THEREFORE" APPEARS IN THE BIBLE, THE BIBLE STUDENT SHOULD PAUSE AND SEE "WHAT IT IS THERE FOR." THE "THEREFORS" OF ROMANS PRESENT A CHAIN OF DIVINE TRUTH. (ROMANS 3:21, 5:1, 8:1, 12:1) JUSTIFICATION IS THE JUDICIAL ACT OF GOD WHEREBY HE DECLARES THE BELIEVING SINNER JUSTIFIED ON THE BASIS OF THAT SATISFACTION RENDERED FULLY TO THE DIVINE MORAL LAW BY GOD'S OWN SON WHEN HE DIED FOR OUR SINS ON THE CROSS. IT IS A TERM THAT PICTURES GOD AS A JUDGE. AS JUDGE, GOD DECLARES THE BELIEVING SINNER NOT NOW, NOT EVER LIABLE FOR THE PENALTY OF HIS SINS. JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH SATISFIED THE DEMANDS OF GOD'S LAW THROUGH HIS SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH ON THE CROSS. SIMPLY STATED, JUSTIFICATION IS SOMETHING WE GET AND DO NOT GROW INTO. IT COMES IN A DECLARATION BY GOD NOT IN DOSES.

I. WHAT WE WERE: A LOOK AT OUR SPIRITUAL HISTORY - VERSE 6

PAUL NEVER FORGOT HIS LIFE - B.C. (BEFORE CHRIST) (EPH. 2:1-3, 12) (I TIM. 1:13-15)

A. "POWERLESS"

THIS TERM REFERS TO SOMEONE WHO IS POWERLESS TO HELP HIMSELF. IT IS THE PICTURE OF A PERSON SO SICK HE CANNOT RAISE HIS HEAD, LIFT HIS HAND, SIT UP OR STAND UP - HE IS BEDRIDDEN. THIS VERY TERM IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE LAME MAN AT THE TEMPLE RECORDED IN ACTS 3 AND REFERRED TO IN ACTS 4:9 AS IMPOTENT.

B. "UNGODLY"

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FRATERNITY IS "THE SOCIETY OF THE UNGODLY." IT IS ALSO ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM LABELING MANIACS LIKE CHARLES MANSON AS UNGODLY. WE THROW INTO THAT MASS GROUP MURDERERS, THIEVES, LIARS, WIFE BEATERS AND CHILD ABUSERS - THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THIS GROUP. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE TERM IS MUCH MORE RESTRICTIVE. THOSE WHO ARE NOT "PRO-GODLY" ARE TECHNICALLY "UNGODLY."

THE UNGODLY ARE ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE "WRONG ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD." IN OTHER WORDS, IF A PERSON IS NOT GODLY, HE IS UNGODLY! JUST AS A KNOT IS EITHER TIED OR UNTIED, JUST AS A PERSON IS EITHER LIVING OR DEAD, SO ALL MANKIND IS DIVIDED BY THIS TERM. (COMPARE MATTHEW 7:13-14 - ALL PEOPLE ARE EITHER ON THE BROAD OR NARROW WAY - THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND.) QUESTION: WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS NARROW TO THIS POINT? IF NOT, IT IS THE BROAD WAY!

C. SINNERS

THIS IS ANOTHER TERM PEOPLE RESENT. "I AM NOT A SINNER" THEY LOUDLY DECLARE. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE STATES IN ROMANS 3:23 THAT EVERY MAN BY PHYSICAL BIRTH FALL INTO THIS MORAL CATEGORY. PAUL CLASSIFIED HIMSELF IN THIS REGARD BEFORE HIS CONVERSION - 1. TIM. 1:15.

QUESTION: HAVE YOU EVER SINNED? DO YOU SIN REGULARLY? IF YOU ARE NOT A SAINT, THE OTHER CATEGORY IN THE BIBLE IS SINNER. TAKE YOUR PICK. MEN HASTEN TO SAY, "I AM NOT A SAINT," BUT THEY ARE RETICENT TO SAY "I AM A SINNER." *(Somewhere in the middle!)*

D. ENEMIES - VERSE 10

THIS TERM IS VERY STRONG BUT IT UNDERSCORES THE FACT THAT SIN PUTS MAN IN TROUBLE WITH GOD. APART FROM THE NEW BIRTH, ALL MEN ARE IN THE OPPOSITE CAMP, TRAVELING A DIFFERENT ROAD THAN GOD ORIGINALLY DESIGNED MAN TO TRAVEL. FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE THESE TERMS, THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS - CHANGE. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT SAUL OF TARSUS WAS CHRIST'S ENEMY. HOWEVER, MOST PEOPLE DON'T CONSIDER THEMSELVES AS THE FOE OF GOD. HOWEVER, THIS TERM IS USED TO DESCRIBE BOTH THE DEVIL AND DEATH IN THE BIBLE. (MATTHEW 13:39, 1 COR. 15:26) WE ARE EITHER PRO OR FOE WHEN IT COMES TO GOD. (COMPARE MATTHEW 12:30 - WHEN IT COMES TO CHRIST, THERE IS NO NEUTRAL GROUND. MANY DO NOT WISH TO DECIDE OR ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS REGARD, PREFERRED THE MIDDLE GROUND. HOWEVER, WE ARE EITHER GATHERERS OR SCATTERERS WHEN IT COMES TO CHRIST. BY THE WAY, THIS PASSAGE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT CHRIST DIED FOR SINNERS. THOSE PEOPLE WHO DESIRE TO BE SAVED MUST IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS SPIRITUALLY BANKRUPT SINNERS

IN ORDER TO BE SAVED. QUESTION: IF GOD CAME TO "AUDIT" YOUR BOOKS TODAY, HOW WOULD YOU STAND IN HIS PRESENCE? WHAT ARE YOUR ASSETS? FOR MANY IT IS CHARITY, CASH, CHURCH, CAREER - ALL THESE ARE WRONG. IT IS CHRIST AND HIM ALONE, NOTHING ELSE COUNTS!

II. WHAT WE HAVE: A LOOK AT OUR SPIRITUAL HERITAGE - VERSES 1-5

A. PEACE WITH GOD

PEACE IN THIS CONTEXT IS MORE THAN A FEELING. A PERSON MAY FEEL THAT EVERYTHING IS OK BETWEEN HIM AND GOD AND STILL NOT POSSESS PEACE. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF FEELING ALONE BUT FAITH ALONE. (JOHN 16:33)

B. ACCESS BY FAITH

THE TERM ACCESS SUGGESTS MANY IDEAS, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS "FREE ADMISSION." IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TEMPLE THERE WERE BARRIERS TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY BUT CHRIST IS OUR ADMISSION TICKET INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD. THE WORD ACCESS COMES FROM A COMPOUND GREEK WORD THAT MEANS TO GO BEFORE. IT CARRIES THE IDEA OF INTRODUCTION. IN ANCIENT TIMES THERE WAS A COURT OFFICER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE WHO CAME INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE ROYALTY. WE MIGHT CALL SUCH A PERSON A CHIEF OF STAFF. ONE DID NOT COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF A KING UNLESS HE WAS EITHER SUMMONSED OR SANCTIONED BY THAT OFFICER. THERE ARE SOME PLACES YOU AND I HAVE NO REASON OR RIGHT TO BE. HOWEVER, FOR THE BELIEVER HE HAS EVERY RIGHT TO COME INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD BY VIRTUE OF SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

C. HOPE

HOPE IN THE BIBLE IS SOMEWHAT LIKE A GREAT DOCTOR WHO EVEN IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY AND DISEASE EXTENDS HOPE BY ENCOURAGING HIS PATIENTS THAT HE WILL GET BETTER. (COMMENT REGARDING JUDITH TIDBALL THIS WEEK - EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH - HOPE!) WE HOPE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF HARDSHIP. (TITUS 2:13)

(1) REJOICE IN TRIBULATION - THE WORD REJOICE COMES FROM THE WORD GLORY. IT MEANS TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO ONE'S FEELING. THE LITTLE PREPOSITION IN DOES NOT MEAN "IN SPITE OF" BUT IT MEANS "IN THE MIDST OF." THERE IS A VAST DIFFERENCE. (ROMANS 8:28, GENESIS 50:20, PROVERBS 16:33, JAMES 1:2.) THE WORD TRIBULATION CARRIES THE IDEA OF PRESSURE. WHEN THE PRESSURE OF PROBLEMS, PERSECUTION, PEOPLE ARISE IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE, HE SHOULD VIEW IT ALL AS A PROCESS OF MATURITY. WHEN TROUBLE KNOCKS AT OUR DOOR, WE DO NOT RUN, WE REJOICE! TRYING TIMES COME TO TOUGHEN AND TRIUMPH IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.

(2) PATIENCE - ONE OF THE GREAT SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS PATIENCE. IT LITERALLY MEANS "TO REMAIN UNDER." PATIENCE CARRIES THE LOAD WHEN OTHERS QUIT. PATIENCE STICKS BY THE STUFF WHEN OTHERS RESIGN AND RUN AWAY. IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT FACES INTO THE WIND, DEALS WITH ADVERSITY WITHOUT PANIC AND PREVAILS. WHEN OTHERS STUMBLE, SHAKE AND STOP - PATIENCE REMAINS STEADY!

(3) EXPERIENCE - THIS WORD COULD BE TRANSLATED "PROOF." IT IS USED VARIOUSLY TO DESCRIBE METAL THAT IS PASSED THROUGH THE FIRE UNTIL THE IMPURITIES HAVE MELTED AWAY. THE WORD "STERLING" IS USED TO DESCRIBE SILVER WHERE SUCH IMPURITIES HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. IN OTHER WORDS, GENUINE FAITH PASSES THE "STRESS TEST."

III. WHAT WE SHALL HAVE: A LOOK AT OUR SPIRITUAL HOPE - VERSE 2, VERSE 9

THE WORD "SHAME" AS IT RELATES TO HOPE MEANS THAT HOPE NEVER DISAPPOINTS US. HOPE IN THE HEART ALONG WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AS OUR HELPER IN THE HEART, CHANGES HOPELESSNESS IN LIFE TO HOPEFULNESS. HOPE IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IS THAT HAPPY CERTAINTY OF THE GLORIOUS THINGS HE HAS IN THE FUTURE. (THIS PAST WEEK I READ THE BIOGRAPHIES OF THREE WELL-KNOWN ENTERTAINERS. ONE, WHOSE SALARY IS APPROXIMATELY 20 MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR, WHO IS IN HIS FOURTH MARRIAGE, THE BIOGRAPHY SAYS AWAKENS EACH MORNING IN A GROUCHY, "DON'T TOUCH ME" MOOD AND TAKES MUCH OF THE MORNING TO ADJUST TO LIFE AGAIN. HOWEVER, WHEN HE APPEARS ON TELEVISION IT IS WITH A LIGHT-HEARTED COMEDY ROUTINE OF A MANY WHO SEEMS TO HAVE EVERYTHING IN ORDER. HOWEVER, A CAREFUL STUDY OF HIS LIFE REVEALS THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE OTHER IS A WELL-KNOWN TELEVISION LADY PERSONALITY WHO ALSO MAKES MANY MILLIONS EACH YEAR, IS IN HER THIRD MARRIAGE BUT WHO AT THE TOP OF HER CAREER, HAS DIFFICULTY BEING HAPPY OR HAVING HOPE. THEIR HOPES, LIKE THOSE OF MOST PEOPLE, ARE BASED ON HAVING SOMEONE OR SOMETHING. THEY, LIKE MULTIPLIED MILLIONS OF OTHERS, HAVE HAD THEIR HOPES DASHED TO THE GROUND BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN ANCHORED IN THE WRONG PLACE. A FATHER SAYS TO HIS SON:

(X)

KMAAT

(1) "I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD CARRY ON WITH THE BUSINESS." (2) A MOTHER SAYS TO HER DAUGHTER: "I HAD HOPED THAT YOU WOULD MARRY BETTER." (3) A DOCTOR SAYS TO HIS PATIENT: "I HAD HOPED MEDICINE AND THE TREATMENT WOULD ARREST THE DISEASE."
I PETER 1:3 - A LIVING HOPE IN A LIVING PERSON GIVES LIVING HOPE IN THE HEART. COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS....

THE STORY OF TWO ADAMSROMANS 5:12-21*the other
a prisoner.*

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FIRST CENTURY, TWO MEN LIVED IN THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD - ROME. ONE WAS THE EMPEROR. FOR THE FIRST FIVE YEARS HIS REIGN WAS ONE OF SUNSHINE AND GOOD WILL. THEN HE CHANGED. POPULARITY AND POWER CHANGED TO PERVERSION, PERSECUTION, AND PYROMANIA! HE SET ROME ON FIRE, BLAMED THE CHRISTIANS, THEN PUNISHED THEM FOR HIS WRONGDOING. HE PUBLICALLY MARRIED HIS MALE LOVER AND ENJOYED HIS FAVORITE PASTIME OF COVERING CHRISTIANS WITH THE SKINS OF WILD ANIMALS, THEN TURNING WILD DOGS LOOSE TO MAME AND MANGLE THEM. HIS GARDENS WERE LIT AT NIGHT WITH HUMAN TORCHES! HE DIED AT AGE 32 CRYING AND SNIVELING IN HORROR AND FEAR OF DEATH. BY CONTRAST, HIS FAMOUS PRISONER DIED IN TRIUMPH ASSURED OF HIS ETERNAL DESTINY. TWO MEN WHO LEFT TWO DIFFERENT MARKS ON THE WORLD. ONE A MAD MAN, THE OTHER A MISSIONARY. VANCE HAYNER REMINDS HIS READERS OF THE IMPACT OF THESE TWO PEOPLE STATING THAT WE NAME OUR LITTLE BOYS PAUL AND OUR DOGS NERO! THE PASSAGE BEFORE US DEAL WITH TWO ADAMS. "THE FIRST MAN ADAM WAS MADE A LIVING SOUL; THE LAST ADAM WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT." ("A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT" - I COR. 15:45) ✓ THE FIRST ADAM LED MANKIND TO CONDEMNATION AND RUIN. ✓ THE LAST ADAM LED MAN TO JUSTIFICATION AND RESCUE. (COMMENT REGARDING CHAIR OUTLINE.) IN THE BIBLE, EVERY PERSON HAS A SPIRITUAL ADDRESS - EITHER "IN ADAM" OR "IN CHRIST." THERE IS NO OTHER CATEGORY OR CLASSIFICATION. WE CANNOT HELP BEING IN ADAM. WE CAN HELP STAYING THERE. BOTH OF THESE RELATIONSHIPS ARE ACCOMPLISHED BY BIRTH!

THE FIRST PART OF THIS CHAPTER DEALS WITH THE BENEFITS OF JUSTIFICATION. THE LATTER PART THE BASIS OF JUSTIFICATION. DR. A. J. McCLAIN SAYS THAT THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE MAY HAVE BEEN WHAT PETER HAD IN MIND WHEN HE SAID:

"AND ACCOUNT THAT THE LONG-SUFFERING OF OUR LORD IS SALVATION; EVEN AS OUR BELOVED BROTHER PAUL ALSO ACCORDING TO THE WISDOM GIVEN UNTO HIM HATH WRITTEN UNTO YOU; AS ALSO IN ALL OF HIS EPISTLES, SPEAKING IN THEM OF THOSE THINGS; IN WHICH SOME THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD, WHICH THEY THAT ARE UNLEARNED AND UNSTABLE WREST, AS THEY DO ALSO THE OTHER SCRIPTURES, UNTO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION." (II PETER 3:15-16) THE PASSAGE CONTAINS SEVERAL INTERESTING FEATURES SUCH AS THREE OR MORE "MUCH MORES". THERE ARE FOUR OR FIVE "KINGS" - REIGN. THERE ARE ELEVEN ONES.

I. A SPIRITUAL CALAMITY - VERSES 12-14

THE WORD SOLIDARITY IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE UNITY OF LABOR MOVEMENTS. THERE IS A SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL SOLIDARITY OR UNITY OF THE RACE IN ADAM. THE WORD ENTERED IS A PICTURE WORD RELATING TO A HOUSE WHERE AN UNWANTED, UNWELCOMED INTRUDER OPENS THE DOOR, WALKS IN AND TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN THE HOUSE. WHEN ADAM DECIDED IN EDEN TO GO HIS OWN WAY IN DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD, A "DEADLY DUO" PUSHED THEIR WAY INTO THE HOUSE OF HUMANITY AND THEY ARE STILL THERE REEKING HAVOC ON THE HUMAN RACE. THIS WILL CONTINUE TO PREVAIL UNTIL THE DIVINE LANDLORD PUTS THEM BOTH OUT!

(A) THE INTRUDER CALLED SIN - SIN HAD EXISTED IN THE UNIVERSE BEFORE THIS TIME BUT NOW IS EXPERIENCED BY MAN. ACCORDING TO GENESIS 2:17, MAN WAS WARNED BY GOD THAT DISOBEDIENCE WOULD RESULT IN DEATH. A COUNTER-VOICE QUESTIONED AND DENIED THIS STATEMENT. ADAM WALKED THROUGH THE WRONG DOOR BY LISTENING TO THE VOICE OF SATAN. SINCE THAT DAY EVERY PERSON WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CHRIST HAS BEEN BORN WITH A SPIRITUAL MALADY CALLED SIN. EVERY PERSON HAS BOTH THE TENDENCY AND THE CAPACITY TO SIN. FOR EXAMPLE, BABIES OR CHILDREN MUST BE TAUGHT TO DO RIGHT AND NOT TO DO WRONG. (ROMANS 3:23, ISAIAH 53:6, PSALM 58:3) EVERY MAN SINCE ADAM HAS SOUGHT TO MOVE IN HIS "OWN ORBIT" INDEPENDENT OF GOD. RECENTLY SOMEONE ASKED FOR A DEFINITION OF SIN. THE ONE IN I.S.B.E. IS HELPFUL: "SIN IS ANY ATTITUDE OF INDIFFERENCE, UNBELIEF OR DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF GOD REVEALED IN CONSCIENCE, LAW OR GOSPEL - WHETHER THIS ATTITUDE EXPRESSES ITSELF IN THOUGHT, WORD, DEED OR SUBTLED DISPOSITION AND CONDUCT." SIN MANIFESTS ITSELF IN LIFE AS AN ATTITUDE OF INDIFFERENCE TO GOD. IT IS CHARACTERIZED BY BOTH ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RESISTANCE TO THE WILL OF GOD IN LIFE. IT IS SIMPLY TRYING TO PLEASE OURSELVES AND IGNORE GOD.

(B) THE INTRUDER CALLED DEATH - ADAM HAD NEVER BEEN TO A FUNERAL UNTIL HIS FIRST SON ABEL WAS MURDERED BY HIS BROTHER CAIN. CEMETERIES ARE A SILENT SENTINEL TO THE LONG-RANGING AND DEVASTATING IMPACT OF ADAM'S SIN. I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT ADAM AND EVE SAID TO EACH OTHER AND FELT AT THAT FIRST FUNERAL. UNDOUBTEDLY TEARS OF SORROW THAT DEATH AND DISEASE BRING INTO EVERY FAMILY WAS EXPERIENCED BY THEM ALSO. THAT SAME FEELING HAS PASSED ON TO EVERY FAMILY THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THE RECURRING PHRASE "AND HE DIED"

IN GENESIS 5 IS A SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONY TO THE DEVASTATION OF ADAM'S SIN. NO PERSON ESCAPES THE DOUBLE BOND THAT BINDS THEM CALLED SIN AND DEATH. THE THEOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS PASSAGE POINT TO THE THEOLOGICAL BASIS FROM WHICH CONSERVATIVE THEOLOGIANS HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BABIES AND CERTAIN MENTALLY HANDICAPPED PEOPLE WHO DIE BECAUSE OF SIN AND THEIR LINK TO ADAM ARE SAVED. ~~NO MAN~~ WILL GO TO HELL BECAUSE OF ADAM'S TRANSGRESSION BUT RATHER BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PERSONAL SINS. THIS IS THE EMPHASIS EVEN IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS. IT IS NOT UNTIL WE GET TO CHAPTER 5 THAT PAUL MENTIONS ADAM'S TRANSGRESSION. MEN ARE CONDEMNED FOR THEIR OWN SINS AS MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS FOUR CHAPTERS. ~~THESE TWO INTRUDERS~~ KEEP PREACHERS, DOCTORS AND FUNERAL DIRECTORS BUSY FOR A LIFETIME - EXPLAIN.

I. Calamity

II. A SPIRITUAL CONTRAST - VERSES 15-17

THE BELIEVER HAS GAINED "MUCH MORE" IN CHRIST THAN HE EVER LOST IN ADAM. ADAM BROUGHT TO THE HUMAN RACE DISOBEDIENCE, GUILT, SIN AND DEATH. ADAM'S SIN MADE DEATH THE COMMON LOT OF ALL MEN. CHRIST BROUGHT TO MEN GRACE, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ETERNAL LIFE. IN CONTRAST, THE FIRST ADAM RELEASED INTO THE STREAM OF HUMAN HISTORY A FOUNTAIN OF CORRUPTION THAT HAS TOUCHED EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED. CHRIST BROUGHT TO THAT STREAM A FOUNTAIN OF CLEANSING FOR ALL OF ADAM'S RACE.

(ZECHARIAH 13:1) "IN THAT DAY THERE SHALL BE A FOUNTAIN OPENED TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID AND TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM FOR SIN AND FOR UNCLEANNESS."

III. A SPIRITUAL COMPARISON - VERSES 18-20

BOTH ADAM AND CHRIST BY ONE ACT CHANGED SOMETHING FOREVER. THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST GOES AS DEEP AS ADAM'S TRANSGRESSION. HIS GRACE WAS GREATER THAN ADAM'S GUILT. WE MIGHT CALL IT "SUPER GRACE." ONE OF OUR FAVORITE SONGS "GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN." THE PHRASE "GRACE DID MUCH MORE AROUND" SUGGESTS THAT GRACE IS ON THE THRONE TODAY. IT IS GRACE ALONE THAT BRINGS RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIFE TO A WORLD THAT IS LOST IN SIN AND DEATH. DR. BARNHOUSE PROVIDES A FITTING CONCLUSION TO THIS SECTION. HE TELLS THE STORY OF A PASTOR FRIEND WHO WAS HOLDING MEETINGS IN A CERTAIN CITY WHERE HE VISITED A RESTAURANT IN THE HOTEL WHERE HE WAS STAYING. DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK, HE WITNESSED TO THE WAITRESS WHO REPEATEDLY SPOKE OF HER OWN HIGH CHARACTER AND GOOD WORKS AS A BASIS WHEREBY SHE EXPECTED TO GET TO HEAVEN. ONE MORNING WHEN THE WAITRESS ASKED WHAT HE WOULD LIKE FOR BREAKFAST, THE MAN SAID: "I WANT ONE PANCAKE COOKED ONLY ON ONE SIDE." THE WAITRESS THOUGHT HE WAS TEASING AND WOULD NOT BRING SUCH A RIDICULOUS ORDER. HOWEVER, UPON HIS INSISTENCE SHE FINALLY TURNED THE ORDER INTO THE KITCHEN AND HEARD THE COOK SPEAK IN LOUD TONES AS THE WAITRESS REPEATED THE ORDER SEVERAL TIMES. FINALLY, SHE BROUGHT THE PANCAKE COOKED ON ONE SIDE AND SET IT BEFORE THE CUSTOMER FOLLOWED BY A FUMING, INQUISITIVE COOK. THE PASTOR SAID TO THE WAITRESS THAT FOR SEVERAL DAYS SHE HAD BEEN TELLING HIM HOW GOOD SHE WAS AND EXPECTED HER FINE CHARACTER AND HIGH MORAL STANDARDS TO GET HER INTO HEAVEN. HE POINTED OUT THAT HUMANLY SPEAKING SHE WAS WELL DONE ON ONE SIDE BUT IN GOD'S SIGHT - SHE WAS UNCOOKED! A RUNNY MESS

OF DOUGH AND NAUSEAOUS MATERIAL, NOT FIT FOR CONSUMPTION. ADAM BROUGHT A MESS CALLED SIN AND DEATH INTO THE WORLD AND JESUS CHRIST ALONE IS THE REMEDY FOR THAT MORAL MESS.

IV. A SPIRITUAL CLAIM - VERSE 21

YEARS AGO, SOMEONE GAVE ME A BOOK ENTITLED TWO MEN, TWO ACTS AND TWO RESULTS. THIS VERSE SPEAKS TO THAT IDEA. THERE ARE JUST TWO SPIRITUAL HEADS IN THE WORLD, THERE ARE TWO KINGDOMS, TWO WAYS. (COMPARE MATTHEW 7:13, 15, 21, 24. - THERE ARE TWO WAYS, TWO TEACHERS, TWO PROFESSIONS, TWO FOUNDATIONS.) ADAM TAKES AND MAKES MEN SPIRITUAL HOSTAGES. SIN AND DEATH ARE THEIR MASTERS. CHRIST SETS THEM FREE BY GIVING THROUGH GRACE ETERNAL LIFE. THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THIS PASSAGE IS IN VERSE 17 AND THE WORD RECEIVE. (JOHN 1:12) BY ACCEPTING GOD'S SUFFICIENT GIFT THROUGH GRACE IN CHRIST, WE SHOULD AS THE PHILLIPS TRANSLATION SAYS: "LIVE LIKE KINGS." IN OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH ADAM MAN IS RUINED BY SIN. IN HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH JESUS CHRIST HE IS RESCUED BY THE SAVIOUR. (COLOSSIANS 1:13: "WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS AND TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON.")

"THE RIGHT WAY TO BE SANCTIFIED"

ROMANS 6:1-23

THIS CHAPTER INTRODUCES US TO THE THIRD MAJOR DIVISION OF ROMANS - CHAIR NUMBER 3 CALLED SANCTIFICATION. ((A CHILD GETS ALL DRESSED UP IN HIS BEST CLOTHING, DISOBEYS HIS PARENTS BY GOING OUTSIDE AND FALLING INTO THE DIRT. THE CHILD HAS A TWO-FOLD PROBLEM - DISOBEDIENCE AND DIRT. THE FIRST CHAPTERS OF ROMANS HAS DEALT WITH MAN'S DISOBEDIENCE, THIS SECTION DEALS WITH THE DIRT THAT CLINGS TO HIS LIFE.))

SANCTIFICATION IS A BIBLE WORD AND IN OUR CHAPTER IS TRANSLATED HOLINESS IN VERSE 22. (19) THIS IS IT'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS. NOTICE THAT THE WORD PRAY AND ALTAR ARE ABSENT IN THE CONTEXT OF SANCTIFICATION.

① JUSTIFICATION IS THE TRACK, SANCTIFICATION IS THE TRAIN. ② JUSTIFICATION MAKES US SAFE. SANCTIFICATION MAKES US SOUND (EXPLAIN SHIP COMING THROUGH STORM TIED UP AT DOCK AFTER SEVERE JOURNEY, IT MAY BE SAFE AND YET NOT SOUND.) ③ JUSTIFICATION IS AN ACT THAT DECLARES THE BELIEVER RIGHT WITH GOD. SANCTIFICATION IS A WORK THAT MAKES HIM HOLY. ④ JUSTIFICATION DEALS WITH OUR GUILT. SANCTIFICATION DEALS WITH OUR GROWTH. ⑤ JUSTIFICATION IS THE GATE. SANCTIFICATION IS THE ROAD. JUSTIFICATION ⑥ GIVES US IMMUNITY FROM PERSECUTION AND PUNISHMENT. SANCTIFICATION GIVES US OPPORTUNITY TO BE HOLY AND LOVE GOD. WHATEVER YOUR RELIGIOUS PERSUASION, FOR MOST BELIEVERS, THERE IS THE AWARENESS THAT THERE IS A DEEPER LIFE, A CLOSER WALK WITH THE LORD THAT IS AVAILABLE TO ALL BELIEVERS THAT TAKE THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE SERIOUSLY. ROMANS 6 LOOKS AT SANCTIFICATION FROM 2 SIDES: POSITIONAL - VERSE 1-13 AND PRACTICAL - 14-23. SANCTIFICATION LIKE SALVATION IS **3 FOLD** IN NATURE. THE BELIEVER ⑦ HAS PASSED SANCTIFICATION - THROUGH THE BLOOD

OF CHRIST THAT DEALS WITH THE PENALTY OF HIS SINS. THERE IS PRESENT SANCTIFICATION THROUGH THE BOOK OF GOD THAT DEALS WITH THE POLUTION OF SIN. THERE IS PROSPECTIVE SANCTIFICATION WHICH DEALS WITH THE PRESENCE OF SIN. (ONE OF THE FIRST LESSONS THAT A NEW BELIEVER NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT THERE ARE TWO LINKS THAT BIND THE BELIEVER TO GOD. ONE IS ETERNAL LIFE. THAT IS JUSTIFICATION. THE OTHER IS FELLOWSHIP AND THAT DEALS WITH SANCTIFICATION. EXPLAIN). IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS WE SEE GOD TAKING SINNERS AND TURN THEM INTO SAINTS. (COMMENT REGARDING DRUNKS TO DEACONS). THE FIRST TWO VERSES IN THIS PASSAGE ADDRESS A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IN CHURCHES PAST AND PRESENT. THAT IS A LOOSE OR CASUAL VIEW OF SIN. TOO MANY PEOPLE EMPHASIZE THEIR SECURITY IN CHRIST AND NOT THE PURITY THAT SUCH A PROFESSION REQUIRES. CALVINISTS ARE CRITICIZED BY ARMENIANS FOR BELIEVING IN SECURITY BECAUSE THEY HAVE A LOOSE VIEW OF SIN- SOME OF THE CRITICISM IS JUSTIFIED. NOW THAT WE ARE SAVED, WE ARE SAFE BUT IT SURE DOES MATTER HOW WE DEAL WITH SIN. NOWHERE IN THE BIBLE ARE WE ENCOURAGED TO KEEP ON SINNING NOW THAT WE ARE SAVED! CHRIST DIED TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS AND NOT IN OUR SINS. WE PROVE OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SIN BY OUR ACTS. OUR LIFE-STYLE AND NOT OUR TALK-STYLE REVEAL OUR TRUE ATTITUDE. NOW THAT WE ARE SAVED LET US RISE TO A NEW PLANE OF LIVING. TO DO OTHERWISE IS " A GHASTLY THOUGHT - AWAY WITH THE IDEA! (PHILIPS TRANSLATION) THIS CHAPTER HAS 4 KEY WORDS IN THE AREA OF SANCTIFICATION:

I. KNOW - VERSE 3,6,9

THE WORD KNOW APPEARS 3 TIMES SO WE MAY SURMISE THAT GOD WANTS US TO KNOW SOMETHING. IT IS A TERM THAT MEANS TO PUT INTO THE MIND SO WE ARE NOT IGNORANT. BIBLE LEARNING AND BIBLE LIVING GO TOGETHER. SANCTIFICATION DEALS WITH THE BELIEVER'S HEAD AS WELL AS HIS HEART.

THERE MUST BE FACTS IN THE HEAD BEFORE WE CAN MAKE PROPER TRACKS WITH OUR FEET! THESE VERSES REVEAL SOMETHING ABOUT CHRIST'S DEATH IS IMPORTANT TO MY LIFE. BAPTISM SYMBOLIZES SOMETHING OTHER THAN A CEREMONY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON HAS HIS PICTURE TAKEN AT THE WHITE HOUSE WITH THE PRESIDENT, IT SPEAKS OF IDENTIFICATION POLITICALLY. TO USE ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION, IF A PERSON WALKS TOO NEAR A SKUNK, THE AROMA OF THE SKUNK WILL LINGER AS A MEANS OF IDENTIFYING ONE'S BEHAVIOR - PLEASE NOTE NO PUN INTENDED IN THE SAME CONTEXT WITH POLITICS). BAPTISM IS A MARK OF NEW IDENTITY. THE BELIEVER IS IDENTIFIED WITH CHRIST FOR BAPTISM IS A PICTURE OF DEATH TO THE OLD LIFE AND RESURRECTION TO A NEW KIND OF LIFE OR A NEW IDENTITY IN CHRIST. IT HAS TO DO WITH POSITIONAL TRUTH. WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO CHRIST IN PICTURE HAPPENED TO THE BELIEVER ALSO. HE AND ME TOGETHER. (EPHESIANS 1:6) IN VERSE 6-OUR OLD MAN HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST. IT IS SOMETHING THAT HE ACCOMPLISHED AND NOTHING I CAN DO. THIS PHRASE REFERS TO WHAT WE WERE AS UNREGENERATE SONS OF ADAM - OUR OLD SELF. THE PHRASE BODY OF SIN REFERS TO THE BODY WE HAVE THROUGH WHICH SIN FINDS ITS EXPRESSION. IN THIS PHRASE, PAULS USES THE IDEA OF A CORPSE, THAT IS, YOU CAN NOT APPEAL TO A CORPSE WITH SIN. AT CALVARY, GOD DEALT WITH THE QUESTION OF SIN BY PUTTING US TO DEATH WITH CHRIST. HE ALSO DEALT WITH A QUESTION OF SELF. SIN'S STRANGLEHOLD ON OUR LIFE HAS BEEN BROKEN BY OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST ON THE CROSS. JOHN PHILIPS ELUDES TO THE STORY OF 2 IRISHMEN WHO FOUND AN UNUSUAL TURTLE. THE ANIMAL'S HEAD HAD BEEN SEVERED FROM HIS BODY BUT THE TURTLE CONTINUED TO MOVE. ONE MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS DEAD BUT ONE SAID IT WAS NOT. FINALLY A FRIEND WHO WAS ASKED TO ARBITRATE THE MATTER REMARKED "IT'S DEAD BUT

V.C

V.9
IT DOESN'T KNOW IT YET!" THIS IS EXACTLY OUR PROBLEM AS BELIEVERS. WE ARE DEAD BUT WE SIMPLY DO NOT BELIEVE IT! SIN'S TYRANNY HAS BEEN BROKEN JUST AS A DEAD MAN IS NO LONGER UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A DEVASTATING SIN. FOR EXAMPLE IF A DRUNKARD DIES, ALCOHOL IS NO LONGER A PROBLEM BECAUSE HIS BODY SIMPLY DOES NOT RESPOND TO THE SIGHT, SMELL OR SAVOR OF ALCOHOL. DEATH SEVERS THE DESIRE. IN VERSE 9, THE BELIEVER IS TO KNOW THAT DEATH DOES NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER HIM. THE BELIEVER IS DEAD TO THE APPEAL OF SIN AND ALIVE TO THE APPEAL OF HOLINESS. IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN UNLESS ONE IS GENUINELY BORN AGAIN. 3 TIMES GOD HAS USED THE WORD KNOW TO AWAKEN THE BELIEVER. IT'S TIME TO KNOW THESE FACTS AND IF WE DON'T KNOW THEM WE SHOULD.

II. RECKON -VERSE 11

THE WORD RECKON DOESN'T REGISTER WITH MOST BECAUSE IT IS NOT A COMMON TERM. THE PHRASE "DEAD RECKONING" IS A NAUTICAL TERM USED TO CALCULATE THE POSITION OF A SHIP AT SEA. THAT IS REALLY WHAT THE WORD MEANS, TO CALCULATE, TO COMPUTE. THE BELIEVER IS ENCOURAGED TO ADD UP THE FACTS AND THEN ACT UPON THESE RELIABLE TRUTHS. WHEN SIN ARISES IN OUR LIFE, WE ARE NOT TO PLAY WITH IT BUT TO MAKE SOME CALCULATIONS. MCCLAIN HAS WELL SAID "SIN IS NOT DEAD IN US, BUT WE ARE DEAD TO SIN". THE MOMENT THE BELIEVER FAILS TO RESPOND TO SIN, HE RENDERS IT POWERLESS IN HIS LIFE. THE MOMENT HE FAILS TO RECKON THIS, THE MOMENT HE WILL SURELY FALL. WE ARE TO ACCOUNT AS BEING TRUE THAT WE ARE DEAD TO SIN. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH FEELINGS. THE POWER OF SIN IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE CAN BE RENDERED INOPERATIVE ONLY BY IDENTIFICATION. OSWALD SANDERS HAS SAID "THE EMANCIPATED BELIEVER IS NOW ALIVE TO GOD AND ALL THAT IS HOLY HE IS

DEAD TO THE DANCE BUT ALIVE TO THE PRAYER MEETING". THE TERM RECKON IS A LOGICAL AND MATHEMATICAL TERM. WE ARE TO ACCOUNT OR CALCULATE WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST IS TRUE. FOR EXAMPLE, ON SOME OCCASIONS WHEN A JEW IS CONVERTED TO CHRIST, AND THE NEWS IS RECEIVED IN HIS HOME IN SOME INSTANCES THEY HAVE HELD A FUNERAL FOR HIM. THE FATHER ANNOUNCES THAT HIS SON IS DEAD. HE IS TURNED OUT OF THE HOUSE AND THE FATHER VOWS NEVER TO SPEAK TO HIM AGAIN. WHEN FRIENDS COME INTO THE HOUSE, HIS FATHER REFERS TO HIM AS BEING DEAD EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT ACTUALLY DEAD. THE FATHER SIMPLY RECKONS HIM DEAD! THE SAME SENSE, EVEN THOUGH THE OLD SELF IN THE BELIEVER IS STILL ALIVE, GOD SAYS WE ARE TO CALCULATE OR RECKON IT AS DEAD AND DEAL WITH IT ACCORDINGLY. SIMPLY STATED, ACCOUNT AND ACT ACCORDINGLY! PLEASE NOTICE, THAT THE WORD FEEL IS NOT MENTIONED. ONE COMMENTATOR SUGGESTS IT IS SOMEWHAT LIKE ENDORSING A CHECK. IF THERE IS MONEY IN THE BANK AND YOU PUT YOUR NAME ON THE CHECK IT IS DONE SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU HAVE MADE A FINANCIAL CALCULATION.

III. YIELD - VERSE 13

THE WORD YIELD MEANS TO "PLACE AT ANOTHER'S DISPOSAL. (COMMENT REGARDING CASTERLINE CAR - 1967) THE WORD YIELD APPEARS TWICE IN THE TEXT, IN 2 DIFFERENT TENSES AND CONVEYING 2 TRUTHS. THE WORD YIELD IS SOMETIMES TRANSLATED IN SCRIPTURE TO HAND OVER. THE WORD INSTRUMENTS IS A MILITARY WORD DESCRIBING WEAPONS. DO NOT CONSTANTLY ALLOW SIN TO RULE THE LIFE. UNCE FOR ALL COMMIT, SURRENDER OR YIELD OUR BODIES TO HIM. THE TENSES INDICATE FIRST CONTINUOUS ACTION AND THEN CRISIS. IT IS THE PICTURE OF A SOLDIER WHO KEEPS ON HANDING HIS WEAPON TO HIS ENEMY WITH THE RESULTS OF DEFEAT AFTER DEFEAT. OUR HEAD, HANDS, FEET ARE THE WEAPONS

IN OUR FIGHT OF FAITH. HOW FOOLISH TO KEEP GIVING OUR WEAPONS TO OUR ENEMY INSTEAD OF OUR COMMANDER.

IV. OBEY - VERSE 16

THE WORD OBEY MEANS TO HEAR. THE OBEDIENT PERSON IS ONE WHO HEARS AND HEEDS - THEY GO TOGETHER. THE WORD SERVANT IS THE KEY TO THIS PASSAGE - APPEARING SOME EIGHT TIMES. SANCTIFICATION AND SERVICE GO TOGETHER. SANCTIFICATION HAS TO DO WITH WHO WILL BE THE MASTER IN THE BELIEVER'S LIFE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE STATUS OF ANCIENT SLAVES. WE TEND TO THINK OF SLAVES IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT, THAT IS, A CERTAIN PART OF LIFE GIVEN TO A MASTER THEN A CERTAIN PORTION OF FREE TIME TO DO AS ONE PLEASURES. THIS IS NOT THE CASE. THE SLAVE HAD NO TIME, NO RIGHTS OF HIS OWN - NONE. EVERY MOMENT BELONGED TO HIS MASTER. THEREFORE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SERVE 2 MASTERS. ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT IDEAS TO GRASP IN SCRIPTURE IS THAT WITH GOD IT IS EITHER ALL OR NOTHING. HE IS EITHER LORD OF ALL OR NOT LORD AT ALL! (FOR EXAMPLE WHEN IT COMES TO FIDELITY FAITHFULNESS IN THE MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PARTIAL FAITHFULNESS - WE ARE EITHER FAITHFUL OR NOT FAITHFUL! ONE COMMENTATOR POINTS TO AN ANCIENT ORDER OF MONKS IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE WAS ACCEPTED ON PROBATION FOR A YEAR. DURING THAT TIME HIS CLOTHES THAT HE WORE IN THE WORLD HANG IN HIS QUARTERS. AT ANYTIME IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR HE MAY PUT OFF HIS MONKS HABIT AND PUT ON THE CLOTHES HE WORE INTO THE MONASTERY, WALK OUT AND NO ONE WOULD THINK THE WORST OF HIM. HOWEVER AT THE END OF THE YEAR, HIS WORLDLY CLOTHES WERE TAKEN AWAY. NOW HE WAS COMMITTED. SO IT IS WITH CHRIST. JESUS CHRIST WANTS PEOPLE TO COUNT THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

BUT HAVING DONE SO THEN TO MANIFEST THEIR
LOYALTY BY CONTINUED DEDICATION. HALF-
HEARTED CHRISTIANITY IS INEFFECTIVE CHRISTIANITY
THE CONCLUSION TO THIS CHAPTER WAS WRITTEN
AS A WARNING TO BELIEVERS! TO THE PERSON WHO
PROFESSES TO BE A CHRISTIAN AND CONTINUES TO
LIVE A LIFESTYLE OF SIN, LET HIM REMEMBER THAT
GOD HAS NO SUCH ATTITUDES TOWARDS SIN - THE
WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH AND THERE IS NO REDUCTION
IN THOSE WAGES! IT PAYS TO SIN - SIN ALWAYS
PAYS OFF AND THE PAY DAY IS ALWAYS DEATH.
THIS PRINCIPLE MAY BE APPLIED TO ALL MEN.

THE WRONG WAY TO BE SANCTIFIED

ROMANS 7

MANY BELIEVERS DESIRE TO BE HOLY BUT LACK THE DYNAMIC. HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, ~~AND~~ THE BELIEVER IS SANCTIFIED BY FAITH TOO. THIS CHAPTER STATES CLEARLY THAT HOLINESS DOES NOT COME BY THE LAW JUST AS RIGHTEOUSNESS DOES NOT COME BY THE LAW. (ONE OF THE REAL DANGERS TO A NEW BELIEVER IS HAVING BEEN SAVED BY GRACE HE ATTEMPTS TO BE SANCTIFIED BY LAW - THIS SIMPLY CANNOT BE DONE!) THERE ARE TWO EXTREMES TO AVOID CONCERNING THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION:

(1) LICENSE

(2) LEGALISM

IT IS INTERESTING AND SAD TO SEE WHAT LEGALISM DOES TO BELIEVERS. THEY SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR THE FLESH ONLY TO FAIL AGAIN AND AGAIN. I HAVE WATCHED BELIEVERS SUFFER SPIRITUAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE TRYING TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. THE RESULTS OF LEGALISM ARE EITHER TO FAIL OR FAKE SPIRITUALITY. THIS CHAPTER PRESENTS ONE UNALTERABLE PRINCIPLE: THE LAW CANNOT SAVE AND IT CANNOT SANCTIFY. QUESTION: WHAT IS LEGALISM? "IT IS THE BELIEF THAT I CAN BECOME HOLY AND PLEASE GOD BY OBEYING LAWS. IT IS MEASURING SPIRITUALITY BY A LIST OF DO'S AND DON'TS....IT JUDGES THE OUTWARD AND NOT THE INWARD...." (WWW) THIS CHAPTER IS COMPLEX AND COMPLICATED UNLESS ONE UNDERSTANDS THAT IT IS THE WRONG WAY TO BE SANCTIFIED. THE COMMENTATORS ARE DIVIDED OVER WHETHER

PAUL WAS UNCOVERED OR CONVERTED IN THE ROMAN 7 EXPERIENCE. IN MY OPINION, HE WAS A CONVERTED MAN. ALSO, THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY THE NORMAL EXPERIENCE OF EVERY BELIEVER. ONE NEED NOT TRAVEL THE ROUTE OF ROMANS 7, HE MAY TAKE ROMANS 6 INSTEAD! THIS IS THE GREAT "EGO" CHAPTER OF THE BIBLE. THE WORD I OCCURS 30 TIMES, ME 12 TIMES, MY 4 TIMES AND THERE ARE 47 PERSONAL REFERENCES. BY CONTRAST THE WORD "I" APPEARS 1 TIME IN CHAPTER 6. LET US CONSIDER THIS COMPLEX CHAPTER BY CENTERING OUR THOUGHTS AROUND THREE ANALOGIES:

I. THE ANALOGY OF MARRIAGE - VERSES 1-6

IN THIS PASSAGE, PAUL IS NOT MAJORING ON THE THEME OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE. HE IS USING THAT INSTITUTION OF GOD TO ILLUSTRATE THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE BELIEVER TO THE LAW. IN THE ILLUSTRATION THERE ARE TWO HUSBANDS - THE LAW AND CHRIST. THE PRINCIPLE IS IF A HUSBAND DIES, THE WOMAN IS FREE TO MARRY AGAIN. THE POINT IS THAT BEFORE THE BELIEVER MET CHRIST, HE WAS BOUND TO AND CONDEMNED BY THE LAW. HOWEVER, WHEN THAT PERSON CAME TO KNOW CHRIST HE IS NO LONGER BOUND TO THE LAW BUT CHRIST. DEATH DISSOLVES THE LEGAL CLAIM FOR DEATH CANCELS ALL CONTRACTS. BY HIS RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST AND HIS DEATH, THE BELIEVER ENTERS INTO A NEW MARRIAGE RELATIONSHIP, NAMELY WITH CHRIST. AS FAR AS THE LAW IS CONCERNED, THE BELIEVER IS DEAD TO THE LAW - VERSE 4 - AND DELIVERED FROM IT - VERSE 6. THIS ILLUSTRATION SHOWS THAT THE BELIEVER SHOULD STOP TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF RIGHTEOUS AND START TRUSTING CHRIST TO MAKE HIM HOLY. THE HARDER ONE TRIES THE HEAVIER THE LOAD GETS UNTIL FINALLY HE IS A HEAP OF SPIRITUAL FAILURE.

II. THE ANALOGY OF A BATTLEFIELD - VERSE 14

THIS VERSE SUMMARIZES PAUL'S CONCERN OVER HIS BEHAVIOR THAT UTTERLY BAFFLES HIM. HE FOUND HIMSELF NOT DOING WHAT HE REALLY WANTED TO DO AND DOING WHAT HE REALLY LOATHED. HE DISCOVERED THAT SIN HAD SUCH A DEEP HOLD IN HIS NATURE IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT EVEN WHEN HE KNEW WHAT TO DO. IT IS THE PICTURE OF THE CARNAL MAN AND HIS STRUGGLE TO KEEP THE LAW. IT WON'T AND CAN'T WORK. THIS IS A VERY MOVING, STIRRING PASSAGE AND PROBABLY REFLECTS PAUL'S OWN SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE AND HIS CONFLICT TO LEAD A HOLY LIFE. THE BELIEVER IS CAUGHT UP IN A KIND OF INTERNAL CIVIL WAR. ON THE ONE HAND HE DESIRES TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT BUT INSTEAD DOES WHAT IS WRONG. HE IS PULLED IN TWO DIRECTIONS, ONE CALLED FLESH, THE OTHER CALLED SPIRIT. HE IS FRUSTRATED BY HIS REPEATED FAILURE. HE BOTH HATES AND HANGS ONTO HIS SINS - AT THE SAME TIME. HE BELIEVES THAT IF HE KNOWS WHAT IS RIGHT HE WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHT BUT DISCOVERS THAT KNOWING WHAT IS RIGHT AND DOING WHAT IS RIGHT ARE TWO ENTIRELY DIFFERENT THINGS. HE BELIEVES THAT IF HE CAN CORRECTLY DIAGNOSE THE DISEASE HE CAN EFFECT A CURE - BUT NO SO. HE DOESN'T DO THE GOOD HE KNOWS HE SHOULD DO BUT INSTEAD DOES THE BAD HE KNOWS HE SHOULDN'T DO. IN HIS MIND THE DESIRE IS THERE BUT IN HIS BODY THE DYNAMIC IS MISSING. (X) IT IS THE WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL PERSONIFIED IN PAUL'S HEART. THEY CAME OUT OF EGYPTIAN BONDAGE REDEEMED BY BLOOD BUT WANDERED IN THE WILDERNESS OF SPIRITUAL FRUSTRATION BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO BELIEVE GOD. CANAAN WAS A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY BUT IT TOOK A LIFETIME AND A NEW GENERATION TO REACH THE PROMISED LAND. PAUL KNEW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

(17) - 26

THE CONFLICT OF GALATIANS 5:16-19ff. THE BELIEVER HAS AN ENEMY WITHIN THE GATES OF HIS OWN SOUL CALLED FLESH.

III. THE ANALOGY OF A CORPSE - VERSE 24

PAUL SEES HIMSELF AS A PRISONER OF THE FLESH AND THE PHRASE "BODY OF DEATH" MAY REFER TO A ROMAN TORTURE PRACTICE. IF A PERSON WAS ACCUSED OF MURDER THE MURDERED PERSON WAS STRAPPED TO THE BODY OF THE MURDERER. PART OF HIS PENALTY WAS TO CARRY AROUND A DEAD CORPSE! A FRIGHTFUL PICTURE. ROMANS 7 IS THE ATTEMPT OF THE BELIEVER TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE APART FROM THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. HOLINESS IS NOT SOMETHING ONE ACHIEVES INDEPENDENT OF CHRIST BUT RATHER SOMETHING RECEIVED IN DEPENDENCE ON HIM. (RELATE STORY OF THE BELIEVER WHO SET OUT TO FIND HOLINESS. HE LOOKED AND DID EVERYTHING HE KNEW TO DO. HE ASCENDED THE HILL TO THE CELESTIAL CITY AND BEHOLD HOLINESS WAS SITTING AT THE FEET OF CHRIST. WHEN HE DEVOTED HIS ATTENTION TO CHRIST HE FOUND HOLINESS TOO.) THERE ARE TWO VERSES THAT WILL HELP UNDERSTAND THIS CHAPTER:

(1) GALATIANS 2:20 - THE BELIEVER MAY CHOOSE TO LIVE ONE OF TWO KINDS OF LIFE, THE SELF-LIFE OR THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE. OR ONE MIGHT SAY THE SELF-LIFE OR THE CHRIST-LIFE. THE SELF-LIFE IS A WAY OF REFERRING TO THE FLESH, THE OLD MAN, THE CARNAL MAN OR WHAT WE ARE BY BIRTH. THERE IS SOMETHING DECEPTIVE ABOUT THAT PART OF US. IT IS CHAMELEON-LIKE. THAT IS, IT TAKES ON A RELIGIOUS COLOR IN CHURCH LIFE. IT KNOWS HOW TO PREACH OR PRAY AND EVEN BE GENEROUS YET IT POISONS AND KILLS EVERYTHING IT TOUCHES! IT PARADES SPIRITUALITY AND IS PROUD OF ITS SPIRITUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. SELF-LIFE LIKES SELF-ASSERTION,

SELF-INDULGENCE, SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS, SELF-PITY, SELF-LOVE, SELF-JUSTIFICATION. IT IS THAT PART OF US THAT CRIES OUT AND SITS SUPREME ON THE THRONE OF ONE'S HEART. IT CANNOT BE CHANGED OR DETHRONED UNTIL TURNED OVER TO CHRIST IN FULL SURRENDER. PAUL SAYS THAT THE SELF-LIFE MAY BE LEFT AT THE CROSS AND CHRIST'S LIFE SUBSTITUTED FOR IT. ONE OF THE SHOCKING FACTS OF SCRIPTURE IS THAT THIS IS THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL LIVING. LIKE IT OR NOT, ACCEPT IT OR NOT, SELF IS THE CAUSE OF OUR UNHAPPINESS IN LIFE. GOD HATES THE SELF-LIFE WHEN IT IS CLOTHED IN THE SANCTIFIED ROBES OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AS MUCH AS HE DOES IN THE SOILED RAGS OF SELF-IMPORTANCE. SELFISHNESS IS THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FAILURE AND DESPAIR.

(2) JOHN 12:24-25 - THE PERSON WHO SEEKS TO GATHER AROUND HIMSELF THOSE THINGS THAT ARE PERISHABLE IN CONTENT WILL PERISH WITH THEM. WHEN HE DIVESTS HIMSELF OF THOSE THINGS AND PREPARES FOR A HIGHER LIFE AND A HIGHER WORLD, HE FINDS WHAT ALL MEN ARE LOOKING FOR. THE SELF-LIFE WORKS TO ITS OWN DESTRUCTION - ALWAYS. THESE VERSES SPEAK OF A SIMPLE PRINCIPLE IN SCRIPTURE THAT IS NOT VERY SIMPLE: LIFE COMES FROM DEATH. BY ILLUSTRATION WHEN A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS INTO THE GROUND BY ITS DISSOLUTION IT SPRINGS FORTH INTO A RICH AND ABUNDANT HARVEST. FRUIT COMES BY DYING AS WELL AS DOING. THE BELIEVER IS IN THE FLESH BUT NOT OF THE FLESH. THAT IS, HE IS NOT CONTROLLED BY SELFISH PRINCIPLES WHEN HE IS CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

"ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT"

ROMANS 8:1-14

(5 chains)

THIS CHAPTER IS IN THE SANCTIFICATION DIVISION. IT BEGINS WITH NO CONDEMNATION AND ENDS WITH NO SEPARATION. IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT CHAPTER IN THE BIBLE. UP TO THIS POINT IN ROMANS, THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS BEEN MENTIONED ONCE - 5:5. IN THIS CHAPTER ALONE HE IS MENTIONED 19 TIMES. IF ROMANS WERE A COSTLY RING, CHAPTER 8 WOULD BE THE CENTER JEWEL. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE BELIEVER IS VERY REAL. WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOR, THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN HIS BODY. "WHAT? KNOW YE NOT THAT YOUR BODY IS THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST WHICH IS IN YOU..." I COR. 6:19. EVEN THOUGH THE SPIRIT RESIDES IN THE BELIEVER, HE IS NOT ALWAYS RECOGNIZED. THE UNSAVED PERSON IS SPIRITUALLY DEAD. THE SAVED PERSON IS SPIRITUALLY ALIVE. THE HOLY SPIRIT, SO TO SPEAK, IS THE BELIEVERS ENERGY SOURCE. IN THIS CHAPTER WE WILL EXAMINE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO THE BELIEVER.

I. THE BELIEVER HAS SPIRITUAL LIFE - 8:2

EVERY PERSON ON THIS PLANET GETS HERE BY PHYSICAL BIRTH, THAT IS, HE IS PHYSICALLY ALIVE BUT SPIRITUALLY DEAD. THIS IS BASIC BIBLE DOCTRINE-101. ALL PEOPLE ARE EITHER IN ADAM OR IN CHRIST AS THE TEXT SUGGESTS. HOWEVER, THIS BASIC TRUTH IS WIDELY MISUNDERSTOOD AND REJECTED BY MANY RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

A. THE ABOVE BIRTH.- JOHN 3:3

NICODEMUS CAME TO JESUS BY NIGHT BUT HE WAS IN THE "DARK" ABOUT MAN'S NUMBER 1 SPIRITUAL NEED. ((ILLUSTRATE 2 PLAINS WITH 2 SONG BOOKS))

THE WORD "AGAIN" IN THE TEXT IS THE GREEK WORD "ANOTHEN" AND IT MAY MEAN A SECOND TIME. HOWEVER IT ALSO MEANS "FROM ABOVE" OR FROM GOD. (COMPARE JOHN 3:31) JUST AS EARTHLY PARENTS GIVE PHYSICAL LIFE SO GOD GIVES SPIRITUAL LIFE THE

SAME WAY - BY BIRTH BUT IN CONTRAST IT IS FROM ABOVE AND NOT FROM BELOW. THIS BIRTH SUGGESTS A RADICAL CHANGE BEYOND HUMAN AID, ABILITY OR ACHIEVEMENT - IT IS FROM GOD. NICODEMUS WAS A RELIGIOUS SCHOLAR BUT ALSO A RELIGIOUS SINNER. HE WAS A SCHOLAR BUT NOT SATISFIED. THERE WAS SOMETHING LACKING IN HIS RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE. (COMPARE I PETER 1:23, JAMES 1:18, TITUS 3:5)

B. THE ABUNDANT LIFE - JOHN 10:10

A ROMAN SOLDIER CAME TO JULIUS CAESAR ASKING FOR PERMISSION TO KILL HIMSELF BUT NOT WANTING TO DISGRACE HIS ROMAN UNIFORM. HE COMPLAINED TO THE EMPEROR THAT LIFE SIMPLY WAS NOT WORTH LIVING. "WERE YOU EVER ALIVE?" WAS CAESAR'S REACTION. WE KNOW ABOUT A KIND OF LIFE THAT CENTERS ON A LOW LEVEL OF EXISTENCE. BUT THERE IS A HIGHER LIFE WHICH THE TEXT CALLS ABUNDANT. THIS WORD MEANS SURPLUS, MORE THAN ENOUGH, RUNNING OVER A LIFE THAT IS ABOVE AVERAGE OR ORDINARY. IT IS A KIND OF LIFE THAT RISES ABOVE THE APPETITES OF THE FLESH TO SATISFACTION TO THE SOUL AND SPIRIT. IT IS A LIFE BOTH OF FREEDOM AND FULLNESS. IT IS A LIFE THAT IS DETERMINED BY ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE SHEPHERD. QUESTION: HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW WHO ARE LIVING SUCH A LIFE? THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THIS ABUNDANT LIFE IS BY FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, IT BRINGS FORGIVENESS OF SINS, IT PROVIDES FULLNESS AND ALSO PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE. SIMPLY STATED, THE ABUNDANT LIFE GIVES HELP FOR TODAY, HOPE FOR TOMORROW AND HABITATION FOR ETERNITY.

II. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL MIND 8: 6,27

NOTE: VERSES 5-13 PRESENT THE CONTRAST BETWEEN SAVED AND UNSAVED AND NOT 2 KINDS OF CHRISTIANS AS THE WORD CARNAL SOMETIMES DESCRIBES. THE CARNAL MIND MINDS ONLY

NATURAL THINGS. (vs. 5) THE SPIRITUAL MIND MINDS THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT. (1 COR. 2:14) SPIRITUAL VARIETIES ARE NOT ASSESSED BY SENSE PERCEPTION BUT BY SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION. FOR EXAMPLE ACCORDING TO HEBREWS 11 ABRAHAM, NOAH, MOSES WERE ALL MOVED, MADE DECISIONS ACCORDING TO DIVINE REVELATION AND NOT HUMAN CONCEPTION. THE WORD MIND IN THE TEXT IS ONE OF 8 OR 9 DIFFERENT GREEK WORDS SO TRANSLATED. THIS PARTICULAR ONE MEANS TO THINK, HAVE INSIGHT OR WISDOM ABOUT SOMETHING. IT IS USED TO DESCRIBE THOSE WHO ACT WISELY. (MATTHEW 25:2-9 WITH WISE VIRGINS AND ALSO WISE STEWARD.) FOR EXAMPLE 2 MEN GO HUNTING WITH 2 DOGS. WHILE THE MEN ARE TALKING ABOUT THE HUNTING PROCESS A RABBIT JUMPS FROM THE BUSHES AND THE DOGS SET OUT IN BARKING PURSUIT. WHEN THE CHASE IS OVER AND THE DOGS RETURN, THEY SNIFF THE SHOES OF THE HUNTERS AND PERHAPS EACH OTHER. THEY ARE PETTED BY THE DOG OWNERS AND MAY HEAR WORDS SUCH AS "GOOD DOG" AND OTHER TERMS OF APPROVAL. AS THE 2 MEN CONTINUE TO TALK ABOUT HUNTING SUCH AS THE GAUGE OF THEIR GUNS, THE TYPES OF SHELLS, 4 WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES - THE DOGS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE SAYING OR WHAT THEY MEAN. THE "SPIRIT OF THE DOG" AND THE "SPIRIT OF THE MEN" ARE NOT THE SAME. THEY MAKE OCCUPY THE SAME FIELD OF HUNTING BUT NOT THE SAME FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE! THE NATURAL MAN IS DESCRIBED AS BEING SPIRITUALLY DEAD AND SPIRITUALLY IN THE DARK. 11 COR. 11:3 SATAN ACCACKS THE MINDS OF MEN. MESS UP THE MIND, MESS UP THE MEN. SATAN KNOWS IF ONE MESSES UP THE MIND IT IS THE BATTLEFIELD OF BELIEFS. CULTS KNOW THIS SO MIND CONTROL OR TURNING PEOPLE INTO RELIGIOUS ROBOTS IS THE GOAL OF MANY CULTS. A SPIRIT MIND IS A CLEARED, CATALOGED, CONTROLLED AND CHALLENGED MIND. FOR EXAMPLE, IN COMMERCIAL TERMS A COMPANY MAN-WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE? IN SOCIAL TERMS, A FAMILY MAN-WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE? IN SPORTS TERMS - A TEAM PLAYER - WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE?

IN BIBLE TERMS, GOD'S MAN - WHAT KIND OF MAN IS HE? FIRST AND FOREMOST HE IS SPIRITUALLY MINDED.

III. THE BELIEVER HAS SPIRITUAL POWER 8:11

POWER IS A WORD USED OFTEN IN DAILY SPEECH. HORSEPOWER, MANPOWER, SOLAR POWER, WILLPOWER, POLITICAL POWER - ALL WORDS TO DESCRIBE A CERTAIN KIND OF POWER. WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL POWER MANY PEOPLE ASSOCIATE THAT TERM WITH CULTS, ASTROLOGY OR PSYCHIC PHENOMENON THAT READS MINDS AND PREDICTS THE FUTURE. THIS IS NOT WHAT PAUL HAD IN MIND. THE WORD "QUICKEN" MEANS TO GIVE LIFE. (JOHN 5:21, 6:63.) THE HOLY SPIRIT BY HIS POWER RAISED JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD. THAT SAME SPIRIT REGENERATES AND RESURRECTS THE DEAD! (EXPLAIN) THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS IN AND FOR THE BELIEVER. HE IS THE SOURCE OF THE BELIEVER'S POWER. (ACTS 1:8) THIS IDEA IS INTERESTING WHEN VIEWED FROM AN INSURANCE PROSPECTIVE. FAMILIES NEED INSURANCE OF SEVERAL KINDS INCLUDING LIFE INSURANCE. HOWEVER, LIFE INSURANCE WON'T HELP THE DEAD PERSON ONE BIT! HIS WIDOW, FAMILY, BUSINESS - BUT NOT HIM! THIS VERSE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT THE CEMETARY IS NOT THE BELIEVERS FINAL RESTING PLACE. ALSO, ALL OTHER "POWER" IN THE WORLD WON'T MATTER ONE BIT 5 MINUTES AFTER A PERSON IS DEAD. THEN THIS POWER WILL BE MORE REAL THAN EVER BEFORE. (ROMANS 1:16)

IV. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL GUIDE 8:14

A GUIDE IS SOMEONE WHO OFTEN LEADS US INTO UNKNOWN AND UNEXPLORED AREAS. FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TO ISRAEL KNOW HOW GREAT THE GUIDES ARE! MOST OF US AT ONE TIME HAVE WAITED AT A ROAD CONSTRUCTION AREA AND HAD A TRUCK WITH THE SIGN "FOLLOW ME" ON THE BACK TO GUIDE US THROUGH THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION.

*around the wall ("Sheep")
pointing out — at me.*

VARIOUS AREAS OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION HAVE CERTAIN INSTRUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT STUDY DISCIPLINE. FOR EXAMPLE IN BOTANY THERE IS THE MICROSCOPE, IN ASTRONOMY, THE TELESCOPE, IN MEDICINE THE STETHOSCOPE AND IN THEOLOGY THERE ARE 2 VERY VITAL INSTRUMENTS - THE BIBLE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE LORD'S PEOPLE ARE NOT MULES TO BE DRIVEN BUT SHEEP TO BE LED. JESUS IS A SHEPHERD AND NOT A MULE SKINNER OR A GOAT DRIVER! (JOHN 10:27) THE SPIRIT FILLED BELIEVER IS SPIRITUALLY FOCUSED AND SPIRITUALLY FED. HE IS SPIRITUALLY LOCATED AND SPIRITUALLY LED. THE WORD LED IN THE TEXT IS THE GREEK AGO. IT WAS USED IN A WIDE VARIETY OF MEANINGS FROM DRIVE TO ACCOMPANY, TO STEER AND ALL KINDS OF SHADES OF MEANINGS. FOR EXAMPLE LUKE 4:1, 9, 29, 40. IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT "SONSHIP" AND "SPIRITSHIP" GO TOGETHER. WE ARE SONS OF GOD BY VIRTUE OF SPIRITUAL BIRTH. IT IS THE SONS OF GOD WHO ARE ASSURED THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS IS AN AREA OF GREAT CONFUSION. FOR EXAMPLE THE STORY IS TOLD OF A PREACHER WHO IS CHALLENGED AT THE END OF A MESSAGE CONCERNING THE MATTER OF MANS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD. THE PASTOR HAD SUGGESTED THAT NOT ALL MEN ARE GOD'S SONS IN A SPIRITUAL WAY EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE ALL CREATURES OF THEIR CREATOR. THE CHALLENGER ASKED "YOU ADMIT THAT ADAM WAS CREATED BY GOD?" "YES", "WELL, DOES THAT NOT PROVED THAT ALL MEN ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD?" THE PASTOR THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT, POINTED TO A BENCH IN THE CHURCH AND SAID "WHO MADE THAT BENCH?" THE ANSWER CAME BACK, "A CARPENTER." "DO YOU CALL THAT BENCH OR A CHILD OF A CARPENTER?" THE ANSWER WAS NO. "WHY NOT?" THE ANSWER WAS SIMPLE, IT DOES NOT HAVE THE LIFE OF THE CARPENTER IN IT. SUDDENLY THE LIGHT BEGAN TO DAWN. WE BECOME GOD'S SONS WHEN WE NOT ONLY HAVE PHYSICAL LIFE FROM GOD, BUT SPIRITUAL LIFE FROM GOD.

THERE IS A SENSE IN WHICH ALL MEN ARE THE OFF-
SPRING OF GOD BECAUSE LIKE BIRDS AND ANIMALS
GOD IS THE GIVER OF ALL LIFE. BUT SONSHIP IS
BASED UPON A SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP TO GOD
THROUGH CHRIST. WHEN MEN STAND BEFORE HIM THE
BIBLICAL BASIS FOR BELIEF AND ACCEPTANCE INTO
HEAVEN WILL BE A VITAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP
TO GOD THROUGH CHRIST. WITHOUT IT - NO AD-
MITTANCE - IT IS THE TICKET THAT GETS ONE IN THE
DOOR.

ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT (PART II)ROMANS 8:14-28

THIS WEEK IN THE NEWS THE TALK HAS BEEN - SUMMIT. TODAY WE ARE AT "THE SUMMIT" OF SPIRITUAL BENEFITS IN ROMANS. (REVIEW) TODAY WE CONTINUE THOSE SPIRITUAL BENEFITS:

I. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL
INHERITANCE - ROMANS 8:16-17

THE WORDS HEIR AND INHERITANCE ARE NOT ASSOCIATED WITH THE POOR. INHERITANCE IS NOT THEIR CONCERN, INCOME IS THEIR CONCERN. MAKING IT THROUGH ANOTHER WEEK IS THEIR PRIMARY CONCERN, MAKING IT TO AN INHERITANCE IS NOT. INHERITANCE IS A WORD FOR THE GETTYS, ROCKEFELLERS, CARNEGIES AND VANDERBILTS. IT IS THE WORD ~~THAT~~ WEALTH PASSES ON TO CHILDREN. WHEN THE BELIEVING SINNER IS BROUGHT INTO GOD'S FAMILY, HE SHARES GOD'S FORTUNE. ADOPTION INTO THE FAMILY OF GOD GIVES THE BELIEVER LEGAL RIGHT TO BELONG TO GOD'S FAMILY WITH FULL STATUS AS A SON, INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF AN HEIR. THE WORD HEIR INVOLVES BIRTHRIGHT. TRUST AND TREASURE GO TOGETHER. WE SHARE HIS LIFE AND WE SHARE HIS LEGACY. GOD CANCELS OUR SPIRITUAL DEBTS AND THEREIN SHARES THE VAST RESERVES OF HIS RICHES WITH BELIEVING SINNERS! WITH PLACE COMES PRIVILEGE. THE WORD "JOINT-HEIR" MEANS CO-HEIR. IT SUGGESTS EQUALITY IN SHARING. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A MAN DIES AND LEAVES HIS ESTATE TO HIS FOUR SONS WHO ARE HIS HEIRS, IT WOULD BE DIVIDED WITH EACH RECEIVING 25% OF THE ESTATE. IF FOR SOME REASON HE LEAVES THAT SAME ESTATE TO ~~FOUR~~ SONS DESIGNATED AS

JOINT HEIRS, EACH SON OWNS THE WHOLE ESTATE! HUMANLY SPEAKING, THIS WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEAL WITH. EVERYTHING GOD HAS GIVEN TO CHRIST IS OURS - EQUALLY. I CANNOT PHATHOM SUCH FORTUNE - WHAT IS HIS IS ALSO MINE. TO BE SURE, GOD'S MEASURING ROD OF WEALTH IS NOT THE SAME AS MEN. FOR EXAMPLE, WITH MEN MONEY IS PARAMOUNT AS A MEASURING STICK FOR WEALTH BUT WITH GOD IT IS NOT THE SAME - LOOK WHAT HE DOES WITH GOLD - PAVES STREETS! (REV. 21:21) ONE OTHER FACTOR, THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST CAN NEVER BE DISINHERITED!

II. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL HOPE - 8:18, 20-23

HOPE LOOKS AT THE CURSE OF CREATION WHICH IS DESCRIBED IN THIS CHAPTER UNDER THE SYMBOL OF A WOMAN TRAVAILING IN LABOR IN CHILDBIRTH. THE PAIN AND SORROW OF LIFE, THE MINOR KEY, IS EVERYWHERE. PAUL SEES CREATION RESCUED FROM RUIN THROUGH REDEMPTION. TRAVAIL WILL TURN INTO TRIUMPH. GLOOM WILL GIVE WAY TO GLORY. HOPE IS THE ABILITY TO BE PATIENT AND WAIT FOR THAT DAY WHEN MAN'S REDEEMED SOUL AND HIS UNREDEEMED BODY WILL BE BOTH REDEEMED SOULS AND REDEEMED BODIES. (VERSE 23) WHEN A PERSON GETS SAVED, HIS EXPECTATIONS MOVE FROM ~~ENTER~~ A COPE OR DOPE MENTALITY TO A HOPE MENTALITY. ROBERT BROWNING WAS CORRECT WHEN HE SAID: "GROW OLD ALONG WITH ME, THE BEST IS YET TO BE - THE LAST OF LIFE FOR WHICH THE FIRST WAS MADE. OUR TIMES ARE IN HIS HAND WHO SAITH, "A WHOLE I PLANNED; YOUTH SHOWS BUT HALF; TRUST GOD; SEE ALL NOR BE AFRAID." AS PEOPLE GROW OLDER, THE TENDENCY IS TO BELIEVE THAT THE BEST IS PAST.

FOR THE BELIEVER THE BEST IS YET AHEAD. ONE DAY MAN'S DYING BODY WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH THE RESURRECTION. IN THAT DAY, GROANING WILL GIVE PLACE TO GLORY. (WHAT A MESSAGE FOR THE HANDICAPPED!) IN MY LIFETIME I HAVE SEEN THE NEW DEAL, FAIR DEAL, NEW FRONTIER, GREAT SOCIETY TO MENTION BUT A FEW POLITICAL PROGRAMS WHICH PROMISED BIGGER AND BETTER THINGS. ALL WERE BIGGER - SOME WERE BETTER - BUT NOT ALL. FOR EXAMPLE, MEDICINE FOUND A CURE FOR POLIO AND THEN AIDS AROSE. SOMETIMES MAN BEGINS LIFE WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS WHICH MOVES TO LOW EXPECTATIONS AND SOMETIMES TO NO EXPECTATIONS. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF DIVINE EXPECTATIONS AND THOSE EXPECTATIONS CENTER IN THE LITTLE FOUR-LETTER WORD HOPE. HOPE FOR NOW AND HOPE FOR THE HEREAFTER.

III. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL INTERCESSOR - 8:26

IN HIS BIOGRAPHY, THE LATE GENERAL CHARLES GORDON TELLS OF HIS CONVERSION TO CHRIST AND HIS NEW INTEREST IN BIBLE STUDY. ONE OF THE FIRST STARTLING FACTS HE DISCOVERED IN THE BIBLE HAD TO DO WITH A UNIQUE FEATURE OF CHRISTIANITY. GOD DWELLS IN HIS CHILDREN! THIS IS TRUE OF NO OTHER RELIGION! THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE BELIEVER'S INDWELLER AND INTERCESSOR - THAT IS AN "INDWELLING INTERCESSOR." THE GOD IN US, PRAYING TO THE GOD ABOVE US CONCERNING THE WILL OF GOD FOR US. PRAYER IS AN AREA WHERE MOST BELIEVERS DO NOT FEEL EXPERT. IT IS CERTAINLY TRUE OF UNBELIEVERS. THIS IS AN AREA WHERE KNOW-IT-ALLS BECOME KNOW-NOTHINGS QUICKLY. THERE IS A HELPLESSNESS AND NEEDINESS IN THIS AREA THAT IS THE NORM AND NOT THE NOVEL. IT IS POSSIBLE TO SAY

WORDS IN PRAYER BUT MOST PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT EFFECTIVENESS IN PRAYER DOES NOT COME BY JUST SAYING WORDS. IF THAT WERE SO PRAYER BEADS AND PRAYER BOOKS WORK - BUT THEY DON'T! THIS PASSAGE SPEAKS OF THE GROANING OF CREATION, THE CHRISTIAN AND THE COMFORTER IN THE BELIEVER. WE HAVE A "SPIRITUAL INTERPRETER" OR SOMEONE WHO TRANSLATES AND EDITS THE BELIEVER'S PRAYERS FROM INARTICULATE MOANING TO ACCEPTABLE SPEECH BEFORE GOD. THE WORD "HELPETH" IS USED IN LUKE 10:4 TO DESCRIBE MARTHA'S PLEA FOR HELP FOR A TOUGH TASK. A DOCTOR, POLICEMAN, FIREMAN, LAWYER ARE ALL "HELPERS" IN TIME OF NEED. ALVA MCCLAIN ILLUSTRATES THE TRUTH OF THIS VERSE BY CITING AUGUSTINE'S MOTHER - MONICA. AUGUSTINE WAS GREATLY LOVED BY HIS MOTHER WHO WAS A CHRISTIAN BUT HAD A HEAVY BURDEN FOR HER WAYWARD SON. SHE LEARNED THAT HE WAS LEAVING HOME GOING TO ITALY SO SHE PRAYED THAT GOD WOULD NOT LET HIM GO BECAUSE SHE FEARED THE SIN INTO WHICH HE WOULD FALL. THIS WAS HER FERVENT REQUEST. GOD DID NOT ANSWER THAT SPECIFIC REQUEST IN THE WAY SHE PRAYED. AUGUSTINE WENT TO ITALY AND WAS THERE CONVERTED. HIS MOTHER DID NOT PRAY OR DID NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY AS SHE SHOULD SO GOD DID NOT ANSWER THAT SPECIFIC REQUEST IN ORDER THAT HE MIGHT ANSWER HER LIFE-LONG REQUEST OF SEEING HER SON BORN AGAIN.

IV. THE BELIEVER HAS A SPIRITUAL PURPOSE - 8:28

PURPOSE IN LIFE IS AN AREA OF GREAT CONCERN FOR MANY. IS LIFE MEANINGFUL, GOING SOMEWHERE, BEING INVESTED WISELY? IS LIFE LIKE A TRAIN ON A TRACK HEADING FOR A DESTINATION

OR IS IT A DEAD-END ALLEY? TWO WORDS REQUIRE ATTENTION - "HIS PURPOSE." GOD PUTS PURPOSE INTO LIFE AND THAT PURPOSE IS BOUND UP IN JESUS CHRIST. THIS VERSE WAS NOT WRITTEN FOR EVERYBODY BECAUSE IT IS NOT TRUE THAT EVERYTHING TURNS OUT FOR THE BEST FOR EVERYBODY! "WE KNOW" - WE ARE NOT GUESSING FOR WHAT GOD SAYS IS SO IS SO. "ALL THINGS" - NOT SOME, MOST OR A HIGH PERCENTAGE. THE TEXT SAYS ALL AND IT MEANS ALL. GOOD AND BAD, BITTER AND SWEET, SUNSHINE AND DARKNESS, HEALTH AND HAVOC, DISEASE AND DEATH. "WORK TOGETHER" - THEY ARE WORKING AND NOT STOPPED. ALL THINGS ARE WORKING IN A SINGLE DESIGN PERHAPS AS SEVERAL COGS BUT TURNING IN THE SAME DIRECTION, BOTH THE MACHINERY ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN. LIKE A GREAT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ALL PLAYING THE SAME SCORE. "FOR GOOD" ASK JOB, JOSEPH, JOHN THE BAPTIST, OR DANIEL - IT WAS ALL FOR GOOD. SOMEWAY, SOMEHOW, SOMEDAY EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS TO THE BELIEVER IS FOR HIS GOOD AND GOD'S GLORY. (RELATE STORY OF BIBLE BOOK MARKER - CHILD PLAYING ON THE FLOOR NOTICED FROM THE BOTTOM VIEW THAT IT WAS DISTORTED. HOWEVER, FROM THE TOP VIEW THERE WAS DESIGN - "GOD IS LOVE" IT ALL DEPENDS ON ONE'S VIEWPOINT. COMMENT REGARDING SHIPWRECKED PERSON ON AN ISLAND FOR SEVERAL YEARS. RETURN FROM HUNTING TO DISCOVER HIS HUT ON FIRE. TRAGEDY, HOWEVER SHIPBOARDING PARTY SOON LANDED - "WE SAW YOUR SMOKE." WE MAY NOT EXPLAIN ALL THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO US BUT UNDERSTAND THEM OR NOT, THIS VERSE IS TRUE. SO THE NEXT TIME WE ARE TEMPTED TO HAVE A GRIPE OR WHINE SEMINAR OR LOOK ON THE DARK SIDE, REMEMBER THIS VERSE. ALSO, STOP QUOTING THIS VERSE FOR OTHERS AND START QUOTING IT FOR OURSELVES. FEW STORIES ILLUSTRATE THIS VERSE BETTER THAN THE ONE

gathering

THAT HAPPENED AT A FIRE AT SERAMPORE, INDIA MARCH 12, 1812. IN A FEW MOMENTS THE SACRIFICIAL WORK OF YEARS BY WILLIAM CAREY AND HIS COLLEAGUES WENT UP IN SMOKE. PORTIONS OF MANUSCRIPTS, GRAMMARS, DICTIONARIES LABORIOUSLY COMPILED OVER MANY YEARS PERISHED. CAREY WROTE: "NOTHING WAS SAVED BUT THE PRESSES. THIS IS A HEAVY BLOW, AS IT WILL STOP OUR PRINTING THE SCRIPTURES FOR A LONG TIME. TWELVE MONTHS OF HARD LABOR WILL NOT REINSTATE US, NOT TO MENTION THE LOSS OF PROPERTY." IN THE MIDST OF THESE DISTRESSING CIRCUMSTANCES, GOD'S SERVANTS STILL BELIEVED THE TRUTH OF ROMANS 8:28 AND LOOKED UPON THIS TRAGEDY AS THE WELCOMED WILL OF GOD. HISTORIANS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT WHAT SEEMED TO BE A TRAGEDY WAS REALLY THE EVENT THAT UNSTOPPED THE EARS OF THE CHURCHES OF GREAT BRITAIN. IN THE BLAZE OF THAT FIRE THEY SAW THE GREATNESS OF WHAT CAREY WAS DOING. HIS MEAGER EFFORTS WERE MULTIPLIED BY THOSE WHO RALLIED TO HIS SUPPORT IN TIME OF DISTRESS.

GOD FOR US

ROMANS 8:31-35

ONE OF MY COLLEGE PROFESSORS WHO WAS RAISED IN CHINA BY MISSIONARY PARENTS USED TO SAY TO HIS STUDENTS: "I'M FOR YOU." HE SAID IT AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGEMENT BUT AFTER EXAMS I WASN'T TOO SURE! (DR. FOUCAR) GOD IS FOR US. HE SAID SO. EVERYBODY DOESN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE THIS. FOR EXAMPLE, GENESIS 42:36 RECORDS A TIME OF DARK DIFFICULTY IN JACOB'S LIFE. IT WAS AN ALL-TIME LOW POINT FOR TROUBLE HAD COME IN TRIPLICATE. JOSEPH WAS BELIEVED TO BE DEAD BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN HIS BLOOD-SOAKED COAT. SIMEON AND BENJAMIN WERE IN DANGER TOO, ESPECIALLY ~~BENJAMIN~~, WHO FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES WAS BEING HELD HOSTAGE IN EGYPT. WHAT SEEMED TO BE WAS NOT TO BE FOR THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AND NOT OFTEN WHAT THEY SEEM! Simeon ~~BENJAMIN~~ COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN SAFER HANDS, THOSE OF HIS BROTHER JOSEPH. THINGS HAD NEVER BEEN BLACKER IN JACOB'S LIFE BUT IN REALITY THEY WERE NEVER BRIGHTER. THE BEST YEARS OF HIS LIFE AND THAT OF HIS SONS WAS JUST AHEAD. HE JUMPED TO CONCLUSIONS BECAUSE OF HIS CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN DOING SO HE CAME TO THE WRONG CONCLUSION. WE, LIKE JACOB, OFTEN WRONGLY ASSESS OUR SITUATION. WE SEE ONLY THE DARKNESS AND NOT THE DAWN. NOTHING IS EVER AGAINST THE BELIEVER THAT MAKES HIM BETTER OR DRAWS HIM NEARER TO GOD. THESE VERSES CONCLUDE THE EIGHTH CHAPTER OF ROMANS AND ALSO THIS ENTIRE SECTION OF THE BOOK. GOD IS NOT AGAINST US, HE IS FOR US AND THE TEXT MENTIONS SEVERAL MANIFESTATIONS OF HIS FAVOR.

I. GOD SHOWED THAT HE WAS FOR US BY GIVING HIS SON TO DIE FOR US - VERSE 32

I HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS AND TWO GRANDDAUGHTERS AND I WOULDN'T WANT THEM TO DIE FOR ANYONE FOR ANY REASON ESPECIALLY FOR LOW-LIFE PEOPLE CALLED "SINNERS." MOST PARENTS FEEL EXACTLY THE SAME WAY. HOWEVER, GOD IS NOT LIKE YOU AND ME OR MOST PARENTS. ROMANS 5:8 OFFERS "PROOF POSITIVE" OF GOD'S LOVE. THESE VERSES CONJURE UP "MEMORIES OF MORIAH" OR THAT CHAPTER IN ABRAHAM'S LIFE RECORDED IN GENESIS 22. THE TERM "SPARED NOT" IN OUR TEXT IS TRANSLATED IN THE LXX AS "WITHHELD." THAT IS, TO SAVE A WORLD OF SINNERS, GOD WITHHELD OR SPARED NOTHING, NOT EVEN HIS SON! IN ABRAHAM'S CASE THERE WAS ANOTHER SACRIFICE, IN GOD'S CASE THERE WAS NONE OTHER. THE FULL FORCE OF DIVINE JUDGMENT FELL UPON JESUS CHRIST. OCCASIONALLY, YOU AND I HAVE HEARD SOMEONE SAY: "NOBODY EVER GAVE ME ANYTHING." THAT PERSON WAS WRONG. GOD NOT ONLY GAVE THE SUPREME GIFT OF HIS SON FOR ALL SINNERS BUT CONTINUES TO GIVE LIFE AND BREATH AND ALL OF THE FREE THINGS WE ENJOY IN LIFE THROUGH HIS MERCY AND GRACE. POINT: IF GOD GAVE HIS BEST TO SAVE THOSE WHO DID NOT DESERVE IT, WHAT ELSE COULD THOSE WHO DO DESERVE HIS GRACE EVER NEED THAT HE WILL NOT PROVIDE. ANSWER: NOTHING.

II. GOD SHOWED THAT HE WAS FOR US BY JUSTIFYING US - VERSE 33

THE PHRASE "LAY...TO CHARGE" ARE LEGAL TERMS WHICH MEAN "TO BRING A CHARGE AGAINST SOMEONE." AS THE PHILLIPS TRANSLATION SUGGESTS, THE BELIEVER CAN NOT BE IMPEACHED FOR HIS GOD WHO ACQUITS US. THE WORD JUSTIFY HAS A COURTROOM

IN VIEW, ~~(*)~~ (COMMENT REGARDING HAMLIN) CHRIST IS THE JUDGE. WE WHO WERE ONCE SINNERS ARE NOW SONS AND WHERE ONCE WE WERE TREATED AS FOREIGNERS NOW ARE FAMILY. OUR LEGAL AND JUDICIAL STANDING BEFORE GOD IS RIGHT, THAT IS IT IS A CORRECT LEGAL RELATIONSHIP. THERE ARE NO LOOSE ENDS OR SURPRISES. HIS JUDICIAL DECLARATION WILL NEVER CHANGE. IT CANNOT BE REPEATED OR REPEALED. THE FULL PENALTY OF OUR SINS HAS BEEN PAID AND OUR "CASE IS CLOSED." THE JUDGE HIMSELF PAID THE DEBT. GOD DOES NOT TREAT SIN LIGHTLY. THE PENALTY MUST BE PAID. (RELATE STORY OF BOY WHO THREW ROCK THROUGH WINDOW. HE WAS EXTREMELY DISTRAUGHT AND WAS FORGIVEN OF HIS WRONGDOING BUT FORGIVENESS DID NOT FIX THE WINDOW.) WHEN ONE READS REV. 20:11, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORT OF JUSTIFICATION. OUR CASE HAS BEEN SETTLED OUT OF GOD'S COURT ONCE FOR ALL FOREVER. IT WILL NEVER APPEAR ON THE DIVINE DOCKET. ((YEARS AGO I WAS ASKED TO APPEAR AS A WITNESS IN A COURT CASE IN ANOTHER CITY. I MADE MY WAY TO THE COURTHOUSE SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE MONTHS TO DISCOVER EACH TIME THAT THE CASE HAD BEEN POSTPONED. IT WAS FINALLY SETTLED ON ANOTHER DAY OUT OF COURT AND NEITHER PARTY HAD TO WORRY OR THINK ABOUT THE CASE ANYMORE. IT WAS FINALLY SETTLED WITHOUT ~~THE~~ TRAIL.)

III. GOD SHOWS THAT HE IS FOR US BECAUSE CHRIST PRAYS FOR US - VERSE 34

Gordon
EVEN WE SELDOM PRAY FOR PEOPLE IN WHOM WE HAVE LITTLE OR NO INTEREST. THE PEOPLE DEAREST AND NEAREST OUR HEARTS WE PRAY FOR OFTEN. JESUS CHRIST IS NOT A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY IN OPPOSITION TO US BUT RATHER OUR ADVOCATE WHO PLEADES OUR CASE. HE DIED FOR US THEN, HE PRAYS FOR US NOW. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THIS CHURCH HAS A PASTOR AND NOT A PRIEST?

THE ONLY PRIEST WE NEED IS IN HEAVEN AND REPRESENTS US BEFORE GOD, WE DO NOT REPRESENT OURSELVES. (1 JOHN 2:2) WE ARE SAVED BY HIS DEATH AND ALSO BY HIS LIFE. (ROM. 5:4-10) (HEB. 7:25, HEB. 4:14-16) THE PHILLIPS TRANSLATION SAYS OF OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST...HE HIMSELF HAS FULLY SHARED IN ALL OUR EXPERIENCES OF TEMPTATION EXCEPT THAT HE NEVER SINNED. LET US THEREFORE APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH FULLEST CONFIDENCE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY FOR OUR FAILURES AND GRACE TO HELP IN THE HOUR OF NEED."

IV. GOD SHOWS THAT HE IS FOR US BY KEEPING US SAFE IN CHRIST - VERSES 35-39

"We Can't Be Conquered"
Col. 3:3
THE PHILLIPS TRANSLATION CAPTION OVER THIS PASSAGE IS: "WE HOLD IN CHRIST AN IMPREGNABLE POSITION." PAUL SEARCHED THE UNIVERSE OF TIME AND SPACE TO SEE IF THERE WAS ANYONE OR ANYTHING THAT COULD ENDANGER THE BELIEVER'S SECURITY IN CHRIST. HIS CONCLUSION WAS THERE IS NOTHING - INCLUDING THE BELIEVER HIMSELF!"
QUESTION:

(A) WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?

(1) TRIBULATION - THIS WORD REFERS TO AFFLICTION AND BASICALLY MEANS TO BE "UNDER PRESSURE." IT IS THE WORD USED TO DESCRIBE THE SEVENTIETH WEEK OF DANIEL.

(2) DISTRESS - THE WORD IS ANGUISH AND REFERS TO PEOPLE WHO ARE IN TIGHT OR CRAMPED PLACES. IT MEANS TO BE "HEMMED IN" ON ALL SIDES.