



A Look at Acts 2:39

I thought it might be well for me to comment on a verse-**Acts 2:39**. Though we often refer to **verse 38**

of Peter's sermon on Pentecost, we would do well to read the context. **Verse 39** is abused by many. Let's look at **verses 37-41**.

"37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, *and* said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls."

The **39th verse** is an abused text by four major religious factions to prove their particular heresy.

THE PENTECOSTALS use the verse to prove that the Holy Spirit's miraculous power is available to all men today. They consider "the Promise" to refer back to **verses 16-21**.

These verses are a quote of a prophecy of Joel, which states that wonders will be done in the last days by those of "all ages", old and young, "all genders", sons and daughters, "all social status", my servants and handmaidens, and "all nations", all flesh.

They ignore a sermon had been completed and Christ was shown to be both Lord and Christ and they had killed Him. The listeners asked the question, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter's answer in **verse 38** shows the question was not what shall we do to get these miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit. Rather, what do we do

to be forgiven for our killing our Messiah? It was a specific question about salvation and not about speaking in tongues or the wonders and signs of Joel's prophecy. The question preceded the offer of salvation and the gift of the Spirit. **Acts 2:39**

THE ROMANISTS who favor infant baptism make their emphasis on the inclusion of children receiving the promise offered by Peter. On the contrary, it is a promise to the descendants of the listeners who could enjoy the promise of salvation and the Holy Spirit if they too repent and are baptized.

It is ludicrous to get out of this text that there is grace bestowed in baptizing unbelieving babies who need no repentance. There is no water regeneration taught in **verses 38 – 39**. There is no merit or dispensing of grace by baptizing infants who can neither believe nor in need of repentance.

Even Albert Barnes, who advocated infant baptism, rebukes those who try to use this verse to advocate infant baptism. "*It does not refer to children as children, and should not be adduced to establish the propriety of infant baptism, or as applicable particularly to infants. It is a promise, indeed, to parents, that the blessings of salvation shall not be confined to parents, but shall be extended also to their posterity. Under this promise parents may be encouraged to train up their children for God; to devote them to his service; believing that it is the gracious purpose of God to perpetuate the blessings of salvation from age to age.*"

THE CALVINISTS are the third group that abuses this text. They take their clue from the expression, "even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The word, "call", is the trigger word for a Calvinist. Their doctrine is that God calls specific persons to salvation to the exclusion of others.

When they hear the word "call", it conjures up in their mind the whole theory of election, predestination, and eternal security. They like to point out the last phase of **verse 39** is in the middle voice and this means God is doing the calling.

In Robertson Word Study (he is a Calvinist) writes, "*It is a first aorist middle subjunction with 'an' in an indefinite relative clause, a perfectly regular construction. The Lord*

calls men of every nation, anywhere, whether Jew or Gentile.” We have never read the verse any other way than the Lord is calling men to Himself.

THE BEREAN BIBLE SOCIETY is the fourth group that abuses the text and are the successors of E. W. Bullinger, Cornelius Stam, and J. C. Ohair. They teach that the Gospel invitation offered here by Peter was for Jews only.

They are hyper or ultra-dispensationalists in that they believe this offer by Peter was for a Jewish millennial kingdom.

They believe baptism is a Jewish ordinance and has been phased out for today and not a requirement for this dispensation.

They ignore that those who are “afar off”, in **verse 39**, are the Gentiles as **Ephesians 2:12-16** plainly affirms.

They pretend that the gospel of Peter and Paul differ and that Paul, as the apostle to the Gentiles, revealed a different Gospel than Peter.

Such alleged scholars wrest this Scripture as they do all the Scriptures.

II Peter 3:15-16: “15 And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; 16 As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are 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.**”

The listeners and their children and those who were “afar off” (Gentiles) are all made the promise of the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit when they repent and are immersed. This agrees perfectly with other Bible passages.

1. **The Gospel call is for the Jew first, also to the Greek.**
Romans 1:16: “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
2. **Those who are “afar off” are the Gentiles.**
Ephesians 2:12-13: “12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: 13 But now in Christ Jesus **ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**”
3. **The Lord calls men to Himself by the Gospel. Listen how it is done.**

II Thessalonians 2:13-14: “13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

4. **Why does God send out this call? He wants all men to come to repentance and not perish.**
II Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”
5. **The call to the Father is offered to “whosoever will”.**
John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth** in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
Revelation 22:17: “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. **And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**”

So our Pentecostal, Romanist, Calvinist, and Berean friends have twisted or perverted this text. It is very simple to understand the meaning.

In **verse 37** a question is asked, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Since we killed the Christ.)

In **verse 38** an answer is given. There are two commands, “Repent and be baptized” and two results promised “the remission of sins and the Gift of the Holy Spirit.”

In **verse 39** we are told who can repent and be baptized and enjoy the promise of salvation. “For the promise is unto **you**, and to **your children**, and to **all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**”

In **verse 40** an offer was made, “Save yourselves (it is passive) from this untoward (perverted) generation.”

In **verse 41** we are told the response to the offer that Peter made in his sermon, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added ...about three thousand souls.”

Do not be misled by the theologies of men. A text out of context becomes a pretext.

Those who responded had heard the call of God and they came to Him and obeyed the offer.

God does the saving if we do not refuse His call.

Joel had said, "And it shall come to pass, that **whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:....**" Joel 2:32a

Paul was told, "And now why tarriest thou? **arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**" Acts 22:16

God has called you by the Good News of the Gospel and now you need to call upon Him. God has always planned that Abraham's seed, which is Christ, be a blessing to all nations, not just the Jews. The promise to all was made in Peter's sermon on Pentecost in **verse 39**.

What says the Scripture? **Galatians 3:8:** "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.**"

Galatians 3:27-29: "27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**"

Won't you, like the 3,000 on Pentecost, gladly receive the Word and be baptized and let the Lord add you to His Church?

He will keep His promise. That has been His desire for all men from the foundation of the world.

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READ THE FINE PRINT!



How would you like to have maintained, at the cost of \$20,000.00, a piece a property for a parking lot, only to have a man call you and tell you it is not yours?

I received such a call this last week and I said I would need proof of that in writing. He told me to look at my deed. So I did. The new owner of the property North of mine was right and I was wrong.

How could this be? I was honest, sincere, positive, and I had invested both money and time only to find Summit did not own the property. I was wrong and the deed proved it. I immediately, that very day, removed my property from his property.

This was not the fault of the First Church of Christ who was nice enough to give me the property in 1993 for the school. The deed plainly shows that the two acres they gave me was next to a 50-foot right away.

I was told I needed to leave a 50-foot right away to get back to the additional acreage North of the school. My assumption all these years was that the right away belonged to the school.

This was my entirely my fault, not the church, nor the new owner. It was mine because I did not examine the deed carefully. I should have read the deed before I laid the sidewalks so close to that 50-foot line. I cannot even pull out of my garage without backing onto the new owner's property.

Let this be a lesson to all. Sincerity, honesty, conviction, nor even need or positive thinking can make something true. Many think that they have a home in Heaven but they better check to make their calling and election sure.

We are told to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Check the written Word to make sure you're building on the right foundation. Make sure that your reservation is sure.

Your sincerity will not guarantee that you're going to live in one of the mansions. Many will say in that day, Lord, Lord but He will deny that He knows us; even though we did many wonderful works in His Name.

Search the Scriptures to see if what you have been told is true. We will be judged by what Jesus said, not by what someone told us. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man cometh to the Father except through Him. So, read the fine print.



Sometimes We Miss the Point

A preacher took a fishing worm and placed it into a jar of alcohol as he began his sermon. While he preached, the worm in the alcohol struggled and died. "What does this teach you?" he asked. "If you drink you won't have worms", said one of the teenagers.

Sometimes, we miss the point!

Illustrations are windows to shed light on the subject that the preacher is trying to get across. Some preachers build their sermons around the illustrations instead of using the illustration to explain the point of his message. When Jesus gave parables, it was to teach a specific lesson. There is a danger of taking parables and trying to make everything mentioned to have some significance.

For example, I heard a man teach on **Matthew 24:27-28**: "27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together." He said that his Lord was telling us that when He comes, it will be during the time Christians are gathered around the Lord's Table eating the Lord's Supper. He didn't inform us which continent determined His coming during communion. This would matter in light of the fact that the timeframe might cover two days across the world. Such an abuse of Scripture brings embarrassment to us for it makes Christians a bunch of vultures feasting on the Body of Christ.

On the other hand, I am very frustrated with the New International Version Bible's (NIV) translation of **Matthew 13:33b**: "...the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." This is a great error and not a translation of some of the words of the text thereby leaving out some key information.

The King James Version (KJV) states, "...The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened." Notice that the NIV left out these facts:

1. The woman HID the yeast.
2. The amount of the meal – 3 measures.

The parable is not saying that the Kingdom is like leaven but rather it is like leaven a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened. Now there is a vast difference between mixing yeast into a large measure and hiding the leaven in 3 measures of meal!!! The words left out are the point of the parable!

Question.....Does a woman normally "hide" yeast in dough?

The word "hid" means "to hide in," "to conceal," "keep secret," or "to cover". (#1470 from #2928) Why didn't they translate the word "hid?" The text says that she took (*lambano*) and hid (*ekgrupto*) the leaven. The Greek word mixed is "*sugkerannumiont ekgrupto*".

What is the significance of the three measures? This is what Abraham offered to the Lord when he appeared to Abraham. **Genesis 18:6** Likewise, Gideon offered it when the angel appeared to him. (**Judges 6:19**) Hannah offered such as a meal offering (**I Samuel 1:24**). There was also Samson's father who offered a meal offering to the Lord. **Judges 13:16-19** So the significance of the parable is that the woman "hid" leaven, which always represents evil in every other passage in both the Old and New Testaments, in three measures of meal.

A meal offering, which is supposed to be Holy and offered to God, must not contain leaven. Leaven is to be removed **I Corinthians 5:6-11**: "6 Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? 7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, **not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.** 9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: 10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. 11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat."

This parable is teaching the same lesson of the preceding parable of the Mustard seed. The Mustard seed shows the Kingdom of Heaven will become an abnormal, monstrous, mustard tree where birds, which represent evil, lurks. The Jewish mind, would think of Nebuchadnezzar's tree as in **Daniel 4:10-12**: "10 Thus *were* the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and **behold a tree in the midst** of the earth, and the height thereof *was* great. 11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: 12 The leaves thereof *were* fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it *was* meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the **fowls of the heaven** dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it." The parable is teaching that the Kingdom will become a great political identity instead of what he desired it to be.

Likewise, the leaven that was hid in a meal offering demonstrates the Kingdom of God will be filled with deceitfully hidden evil and will affect the whole Kingdom.

Let this article alert you to read more than one translation so you do not miss the point of His story. For an interesting sermon on the eight parables in **Matthew 13**, go to www.summit1.edu and click on the sermon links and listen to "THE OCTAVE PARABLES" sermon.



A Fool of Fools

The environmentalists are all worried about an alleged global warming and what they call "A man's carbon footprint." Me thinks they

should be concerned about the global warming that Peter spoke about and the moral footprints he addresses.

II Peter 3:10-12: "10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and **the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** 11 **Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?"

Now there is no doubt that God has placed man on the earth to care for it. **Psalms 8:4-8:** "4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 **You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,** 7 **All sheep and oxen-Even the beasts of the field,** 8 **The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea That pass through the paths of the seas."**

The worry we should share is not global warming caused by man but rather the problems the global warming fanatics produce for man while trying to manipulate us to their stupid, manmade contortions to allegedly protect the earth from mankind.

Think for yourself. Which is more important to God? Man or the world that God made for man? Which does God love?

The treaties and bans and ideas proposed at Copenhagen last year are alarming!!! Think!!!

They want to tell you:

- How many children you should have.
- At what temperature your house should be.
- What kind of car you should own (Little death traps)
- How many animals or pets you can own.
- What you can and cannot eat.
- What fuel can be used, how much, and how often.

Personal liberty, free enterprise, choice of life and health will become dictated by the government. Of course, that is the real goal of these totalitarians.

Can you imagine:

- The price tag on such an agenda?
- The control they would have?
- The loss of profits to enterprises and small businesses?
- The loss of jobs of both skilled and unskilled labor?

How will the poor pay for this increase in fuel, food, healthcare, or transportation in an anxiety ridden environmental whack-o world with all of the prohibitions and foolish legislation? And who will make the profit on this agenda?

Big government will have to pay. This means a totalitarian government with high taxes. This means that the number of poor people will increase and need provision by big government.

The government of a few elitists will become the lord of God's creation instead of all mankind. **Psalms 8** speaks to all men, not an elite bunch of lords over His world.

What utter arrogance it is to think that mankind living a moral normal life is going to affect the quality of God's world. The truth is, God is much more likely to chasten mankind for man's immoral lifestyle than man can affect it by living normal Godly lives.

It sure was hot around Sodom and Gomorrah for its immoral footprint and their abuse of each other than their abuse of the environment. The Bible says that Sodom was like the Garden of Eden before He destroyed it. **Genesis 13:10:** "And Lot lifted his eyes and saw all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered everywhere (before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah) like the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt as you go toward Zoar."

God has shown that He casts out His tenets for immorality and abuse of people but never for his abuse of the environment.

What an insult to the wisdom, providence, and sovereignty of God to think His whole creation could be brought to worthlessness by the caretaker He placed over His world. Is God going to allow His tenant to annihilate that which He owns? To think so is just plain "gory".

A fool says in his heart, "there is no God". It is a bigger fool who says that there is a God but He could not design His world to accommodate the billions of people whom He chose to place on His earth.

Color such men "unbelievers" for as Scriptures says in **Isaiah 45:18:** "For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, **Who formed it to be inhabited:** "I am the LORD, and there is no other.



Do the Poor Have a “RIGHT” to Free Health Care?

--By Kendall Faulk

Proverbs 31:4-5 says: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel— not for kings to drink wine, not for rulers to crave beer, lest they drink and forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights."

We have rights. And this passage clearly teaches that it's the government job to protect those rights. King Lemuel was taught not to drink because he may forget the Law and thus the people would be oppressed and deprived of their rights. God, not governments, gives rights. Rights are what individuals, groups, and government CANNOT do to you. Rights are not what individuals, groups, or governments do FOR you. Government is instituted to protect your rights: to keep individuals, groups, and government itself from taking your rights away.

EXAMPLE: You have the right to life. Government doesn't give life, God does. But governments are to use laws to keep others from taking your life and punish them if they do. You have the right to worship God. The government doesn't give that, God does. But the government is to protect individuals, groups, and itself from hindering that right. Likewise, you have a right to own your property. Government shouldn't give property. God does that. Government should use law to keep individuals, groups, and itself from taking your property because you have the right to keep it and use it as you see fit.

A right is not something government gives you but something God-given that government's are to protect so that others will not violate those rights. Thus to have a right and freely exercise that right will never violate the rights of others. A right is "what others can't do to you." NOT "what others must do FOR you."

If by doing something we violate another person's rights, we have no right to do it. A right never inhibits another man's rights but protects every man's rights. If I take money from one man to give to another, I have violated the first man's rights. The second man has no right to take from another for it violates the first man's rights to keep what he owns.

When I exercise my right to life it takes no other man's life. When I exercise my right to speech it takes no other man's speech away. When I exercise my right to keep and carry a firearm for protection it does not take away another mans right to keep and carry a firearm for his protection. When I exercise my right to be free it does not

make another man a slave. When I exercise my right to worship, it does not take away another mans right to worship as he sees fit.

But when I exercise the supposed "right" to receive free healthcare, I take away another's right to keep his property. I forced him to pay for my healthcare and disallowed him to keep the kind of healthcare he wants it forces me into government controlled plans that favors him and not me. Therefore, government healthcare is NOT a right but rather a violation of others rights.

Rights are what others cannot take from us not what they give to us. And I encourage you when you vote next time, vote for leaders who will not, "forget what the law decrees, and deprive all the oppressed of their rights."



CONCERNING HEAVEN AND HELL

I speak as one who believes that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and the Saviour of the world as seen in the inspired Word of God, the Bible. What I believe is not important. What the Lord and His apostles have said is the only objective truth that I believe is true.

Emotions, rationale and subjective thinking or teachings of men carry no weight with a Christian who holds the above truths. If one doubts that Jesus is the Christ, and the only Saviour, or that the Bible is not an all- sufficient rule of what one believes or practices the following thoughts will carry no weight. Their subjective feelings or emotions or past teachings will trump the following things I am saying.

This is a true saying and worthy of all acceptance that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. His death on the cross is what paid the price for our sins. If there is another way to be saved then his death was a worthless and unnecessary death. He either paid the price or he did not.

The world religions worship men who sought truth, sought the way and sought life. They are dead and buried and therefore offer no hope to their worshippers of a glorious resurrection to life, as Jesus who arose from the dead does. Jesus on the other hand said "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that no man could come to the Father but by Me." **John 14:26** I do not believe that Jesus is a liar. Do you?

Jesus said "Except a man be born again he can not enter into the kingdom," and again, "Except a man be born of the water and the Spirit he can not enter into the Kingdom of God!" Do you believe that He lied or was mistaken? Is there another way?

The Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that world THROUGH HIM MIGHT BE SAVED."

Was His Son's death not needed? We are then told: "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is CONDEMNED ALREADY BECAUSE HE HATH NOT BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF GOD."

Men then are lost without Christ. God, as Sovereign Lord, has every right to make this decision, and faith accepts this fact. God is Holy and the penalty of sin must be paid. The penalty is death. Jesus paid it for us and if we will not accept His payment as our payment, then we must die and be separated from God for all eternity. This is my understanding of God's Word.

As for Hell, Jesus is the One who spoke about it. In fact, all that we know about Hell is what Jesus told us. He spoke more about Hell than He did about Heaven. **Matthew 5:29, 10:28, 23:33** are His words and I cannot believe in Him and not believe in the place that He has revealed to us. He left it to His apostles and prophets to reveal who else is going there.

John, the one men call, "the Apostle of Love," says that no murderer has eternal life. John also reveals who is going to be in Hell. **Revelation 21:8**: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." **Revelation 22:14-15**: "14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

Paul gives a list of people not going to enter Heaven. **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**: "9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

He also lists a whole catalog of lost people in **Romans 1:29-32**: "29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, 30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural

affection, implacable, unmerciful: 32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

Peter likewise warns of the wicked men's plight. **2 Peter 3:7**: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

Jesus also spoke of hypocrites who were going there. **Matthew 24:51**

So if believers are hypocrites they will be exposed when God judges the hearts of men, as only He can do.

Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. How foolish God would be to populate Heaven with unconverted and unsanctified people. He charged His angels with folly and cast them out of Heaven. He invites those who will be born again to enter.

Even murderers, fornicators, adulterers, homosexuals or any other kind of sinner can repent and be born again and be saved. His grace forgives those who accept Him. " To as many who receive Him, He gives the power or authority to become the sons of God." **John 1:12**

Heaven will be a family reunion and the children of the devil will not be invited in. Nothing unclean or maketh a lie shall enter there. **Revelation 21:8, 22:11-12**

God is not a fool Who would allow universal salvation and contaminate His home. It is the home of the redeemed and those who do not believe on His Son are already condemned.

As a preacher of the Good News, I want to invite everyone to the marriage banquet. The offer is to all, no matter what anyone is or has done. To go to Hell, a man has to step on the death of God's Son on the cross. Unbelief is all that is necessary to go to Hell.

The Bible promises that if anyone seeks, he shall find, and if he knocks, he opens and if he asks he receives. Even the utmost heathen who has never even heard of Jesus can forsake his idols and ask the creator, God, for help and God will see to it that a person who knows the truth will be sent to Him.

The Bible is full of those who were seeking God and they found Him because God sent a truth-bearer to reveal His Will for their Life. The Eunuch, Lydia, Saul, Cornelius are examples of this truth. Seekers find, so there is not an excuse that they never heard. As a herald for the King, I can only promise Salvation to whom my King promised it.

He said, "He that believeth and is immersed (*baptizo*) shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned." **Mark 16:16**

If I promise or infer that others are saved I am not a faithful herald. I would be a usurper of my King's authority. He did not promise it to those who were sprinkled (*rantizo*) or *echeo* (poured) but to those who were *baptizo* (immersed). I refuse to usurp His authority and play God. I cannot make the decision whom He should save and whom should be lost. Because I love God and love my fellow man I will herald just exactly what He has said. I am a herald, not a judge.

If Hitler and Stalin made deathbed confessions of their sins and begged God to forgive them, and did not obey the Gospel, then I am not going to assume a mere " I am sorry " is of any merit. They procrastinated too long and did not accept the offer God made of forgiveness. They did not obey the Gospel and I believe I am correct in my belief they will suffer the vengeance of eternal fire.

2 Thessalonians 1:5-10: "5 *Which is* a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: 6 Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; 7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, 8 **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:** 9 **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;** 10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."

Believing the words of Jesus and His spokesmen in the Word, I do not assume that anyone is saved without being born again of the water and the Spirit. If one is not buried with Christ in baptism, they cannot be raised to newness of life. **Romans 6:1-8:** "1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? 3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4 **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death:**

that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

If this seems too narrow for you, I remind you that Jesus said there would be few who find the narrow road and the narrow gate to eternal life. The road to destruction, by the mouth of our Lord, is broad. That is because so many travel it.

I trust that this helps you realize why I do not believe Heaven is universal. It is against the wisdom of God, the Holiness of God, and the Word of Christ Himself. I cannot face the judge of all if I preached what people wanted to hear. Paul said "For do I now persuade men or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." **Galatians 1:10**

Hopefully you will see where I am coming from in this matter. My opinion is worthless. Let God be true and every man a liar. It is my conviction that I love my fellow man and believers more if I tell them what the Lord has taught than the man who makes everyone feel safe when they are not.

A doctor that knows the cure for a deadly disease and will not tell it but only gives a placebo is an evil man. A preacher, who knows what the Lord says and does not preach the message that can save, is an evil man. The best thing you can do for your children is to teach them to love truth and obey it and accept God's Wisdom as King of the universe.

I have not told you my ideas. I have spoken what God has said and Jesus tells us that His words will judge us in the last days. You can always count on me to tell you what Jesus and the apostles have said, rather than my subjective thinking.



In Eden, Eve Turned from God

She Heard a lie....

She Believed a Lie....

She Acted on the Lie...

She Disobeyed a positive command, "Ye shall not eat of it..."

She Shared the lie with others



To Return to God We Must....

Hear the Truth...

Believe the Truth...

Act on the Truth...

Obey a positive command to

Repent and be Baptized....

We must Share the truth with others

How can one act of obedience unite man to God?

The same way one act of rebellion separated man from God.