

# A Summary of the Christian Worldview

[Brian Schwertley](#)

## Creation

The Bible teaches that God created the universe in six days (Gen. 1).<sup>1</sup> God created the universe out of nothing. He did not use any pre-existing material or energy. God did not create the universe because He was lonely or because He had to. He did it as a free act of His will for His own good pleasure and glory (Rev. 4:11). Time, space, matter, energy, spiritual beings (e.g., angels) and earthly creatures (e.g., mankind) all were created by God and owe their existence to Him. All created reality is totally and utterly dependent upon God at every moment. After God created the universe He declared it to be very good (Gen. 1:3). Therefore death, calamity, sin and evil were not original to God's created order.

God's creation of the universe teaches us that there are two completely different and separate forms of being: uncreated Being and created being. There is a Creator-creature distinction. There is an inseparable gulf between created and uncreated reality. God is uncreated, independent and self-sufficient. He is in need of nothing outside of Himself. Man was created. He is a creature. Man is totally, continually and always dependent upon God for his existence. God is infinite, eternal, all-powerful, all-knowing and immutable (i.e., God, being perfect, cannot

---

<sup>1</sup> The fossil record disproves evolution and totally supports a supernatural creation. The "pre-Cambrian" section of the earth's crust has no life forms in it at all—none. Then, apparently out of nowhere in the "Cambrian" sedimentary deposits, there are billions of very complex, advanced, fully developed life forms. They just appear in the fossil record with absolutely no evolutionary ancestors. These creatures are so complex "that evolutionists estimate that they would require at least 1.5 billion years to evolve" (Scott M. Ruse, *The Collapse of Evolution*, [Grand Rapids, Baker, 1983], p.38). One and a half billion years of evolutionary history without leaving any fossils at all is enough in itself to disprove evolution. The huge gaps in the fossil record are impossible to explain according to the evolutionary worldview. According to evolutionary theory, there should be millions of transitional forms in the fossil record. Yet there are absolutely no transitional forms in the fossil record at all. There are none. There is a huge gap between one-celled organisms and complex invertebrates. There is the "100 million year gap" between invertebrates and vertebrates. There is absolutely nothing between fish and amphibians, a "30 million year gap." There is nothing between reptiles and mammals. But what about the caveman, doesn't the fossil record prove that man descended from apes? Take a look at some of the "scientific proofs" for man's evolution. There is the Nebraska man, discovered in 1922 and who supposedly lived a million years ago. A tooth later proved to be from an extinct pig! There is the Java man, discovered in 1891 and supposed to have lived 750,000 years ago. He was constructed from a piece of skull, a piece of thighbone and three molar teeth found over a 70 foot area during a year's search. Several scientists believe Java man to be nothing more than an ape. Others believe that the bones don't even belong together. There is the Piltdown man, discovered in 1912. He is supposed to be 500,000 years old. Statues and pictures of the Piltdown man appeared in museums and textbooks for fifty years. Over 500 doctoral dissertations were written regarding this amazing evidence for man's evolution. But in 1956 the Piltdown man was exposed as a total fraud. A Jesuit writer, Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., had filed down some apes' teeth and bones and discolored them with potash. The scientific community was completely fooled for over fifty years. The Neanderthal man, on the other hand, was a fully erect human being who used tools, created art, buried their dead and probably engaged in religious ceremonies (*ibid.*, see pp. 43-45 and pp. 96-103).

change). Man is finite, temporal (i.e., a creature in time), limited in power, limited in knowledge and mutable (i.e., man grows and develops; man learns; and man can sin and do evil). Because God is perfect, unchanging, infinite and all-knowing, He cannot make mistakes. God is infallible. Therefore, God must be man's source for all truth, knowledge and ethics. "In Your light we see light" (Ps. 36:9). What is true, what is good and what is right is what God says is true, good and right.

God's creation of the universe teaches us that God is the sovereign Lord of everything that exists. God created the universe from nothing; therefore, God owns and has absolute authority over all reality. God owns you. God has absolute authority and total jurisdiction over all mankind. Therefore, obedience and service to God are not voluntary, trivial or unimportant. God commands you to study, believe and obey His divine revelation, the Bible. The God who created you and sustains you this very moment will someday be your judge (Rev. 20:11-15).

God's creation of the universe shows His kindness and goodness. God created the earth and proclaimed it to be very good (Gen. 1:3). What a beautiful and exciting world God made for us to enjoy! When you look at a glorious sunset, feel the breeze on your face on a beautiful spring day, watch the sun reflect off the orange, yellow, red and brown leaves of fall or take a morning walk on the beach with the ocean mist on your face and the fresh ocean scent in your nose, remember that God made all of this for you. He waters your crops and forests. He provides food for you in abundance. Do you thank God every day for His fantastic and wondrous creation? Or do you attribute the bird's song, the seasons and all the wonders of creation to nothing more than atoms floating randomly in the void? Perhaps you reject God's creation of the world in six days because you don't believe in miracles. Yet did you ever stop to consider how inconsistent and absurd modern evolutionary science is? According to modern science, inanimate, unthinking particles somehow formed galaxies, stars, planets, fish, birds, animals and people. How? Well, by chance. You believe that? You see, science believes in much more incredible, fantastic miracles than any Bible-believing Christian does. It's just that the scientists' miracles occur very slowly (over billions of years). Evolution is a religious faith without empirical evidence. It is a philosophical absurdity. Why is it so popular today? Because people love their sin and do not want to make peace and submit to the Creator.

## The Fall

Have you ever wondered why there is so much evil and suffering in the world? Are wickedness and evil just natural aspects of a chaotic, chance universe? Are murder, theft and warfare just an ordinary part of man's behavior? Is there even such a thing as evil? Modern materialistic thinkers believe morality is relative. If that is true, then evil is only what man at a certain moment in time says it is. The Bible dispels all such foolish thinking. God's word tells us very specifically why evil and suffering exist in the world.

God created Adam and Eve and placed them in paradise, the Garden of Eden. They were created good (Gen. 3:31). They were created in God's image. They were rational, moral beings

who could communicate, love and be creative. Adam and Eve were to populate the earth, to develop it and conserve it for future generations. God created Adam and Eve with a free will. Although Adam and Eve were created good, they did have the ability to sin, to disobey God. God told Adam: “of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:17). If Adam obeyed this command, then he would live forever in paradise. But Adam and Eve were not obedient to God. The Bible specifically tells us that sin, ethical rebellion against God, had a starting point in history. In history, in time and on earth, a literal Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit and sinned against God.

Many try to allegorize man’s fall into sin. Some refer to Adam’s fall as ancient myth or legend. And some say it is a lovely, poetic metaphor for a deeper spiritual reality. But don’t be deceived by such talk. Adam and Eve’s fall into sin literally happened in history. How do I know that the fall of Adam is to be taken as a straightforward, historical account? Because throughout the whole Bible it is clearly represented as a literal, historical event. The biblical authors under divine inspiration spoke of Adam’s creation and fall as plain historical events (see Job 31:33; Eccl. 7:24; Isa. 43:27; Hos. 6:7; Rom. 5:12, 14, 18, 19; 1 Cor. 5:21; 2 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:14).

The fall of Adam into sin brought sin, guilt and death to the whole human race because Adam, as the first man, was mankind’s representative before God. Everyone who is born is born with a sinful nature. Everyone who ever lived (except Jesus Christ) was born corrupt. Why are there wars, murders, thefts and so forth in the world? Because people are born in sin and therefore everyone commits sin. “Therefore, just as sin has entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom. 5:12). Sin is universal to the human race. “They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Ps. 14:3). The greatest tragedy of the fall and man’s consequent sin is spiritual death and loss of fellowship with God, our creator. Through sin we have declared our rebellion, our opposition and our hatred of God and His law. You may think you love God, but if you don’t believe in Jesus Christ and submit to His authority in every area of your life, then you are lost. You are still in darkness. The loss of fellowship with God and spiritual death leads to physical death (Rom. 6:23) and the pain of hell (Mt. 8:12). It could be no other way. You must see reality as it is. God is God. He is perfectly righteous and holy. God explicitly warned Adam of all the consequences of sin because God cannot dwell and have fellowship with sinners. “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity” (Hab. 1:13). The fall has rendered man unable to do spiritual good. Man is totally lost and helpless. That is why our only hope is that God Himself would have mercy on us and provide a redeemer to suffer and die in our place.

## Sin

Before one seeks a physician, he must first believe that he has a disease. You have something far worse than a mere physical disease. You are spiritually dead, and if you die in

your present, unsaved state, you will be cast into outer darkness (Mt. 8:12; 22:13; 25:30), into the pit of hell (Ps. 9:17; Mt. 10:28; Lk. 12:5; Jas. 3:6), where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Mt. 8:12; 13:42; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30). Why? Because there is enmity between you and God (Rom. 8:7).

Why? Because you are a sinner! You have disobeyed God's law, and "sin is the transgression of the law" (1 Jn. 3:46).<sup>2</sup> There is no neutrality (Mt. 12:30). You are either living your life as a servant of Jesus Christ or you are serving your own selfish pleasures. Your heart is corrupt and wicked. "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). You are a slave to sin. "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin" (Jn. 8:34). Sin extends to every aspect of your being. It has corrupted your will, your intellect and your emotions, even your body. Sin has rendered you spiritually blind. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor. 2:14). Because you serve sin instead of Jesus Christ, you belong to Satan. "He that committeth sin is of the devil" (1 Jn. 3:8). Sin has control over your life. You not only sin with outward acts (e.g., theft, lying, adultery,

---

<sup>2</sup> God's moral law is perfect, unchanging and totally righteous because it reflects God's perfect, unchanging, absolutely righteous character. The moral law is summarized in the Ten Commandments: "And God spoke all these words, saying: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 1.) You shall have no other gods before Me. 2.) You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 3.) You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. 4.) Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it. 5.) Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. 6.) You shall not murder. 7.) You shall not commit adultery. 8.) You shall not steal. 9.) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 10.) You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's" (Ex. 20:1-17). Keep in mind that this is only a summary. The sixth commandment, "You shall not murder," also forbids hatred (1 Jn. 3:15), brawling (1 Tim. 3:3), hitting someone when not in self-defense, name-calling (Mt. 5:22), making fun of people (1 Tim. 3:11), racism, etc. The seventh commandment, "You shall not commit adultery," also forbids premarital sex (Col. 3:5), homosexuality (Rom. 1:26-27), lust (Mt. 5:27-29), bestiality (Lev. 20:15), incest (Lev. 20:17), unlawful divorce (Mt. 5:32) and so on. God's law was not given to save man. It was given as a guide for personal life (Lev. 19:18), for family life (Dt. 6:6-9) and as a standard for nations (Dt. 4:6-8). The law is God's primary tool for a Christian's sanctification and growth in holiness (Ps. 119:1-6). And the law was given by God to convict the world of sin and to lead people to Jesus Christ. "Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:19-20). "What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin unless the law had said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire. For apart from the law sin was dead...sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good" (Rom. 7:7, 8, 11, 12; also read Gal. 3:10-25).

murder, idolatry, sexual immorality) but also in your mind (e.g., covetousness, greed, lust, hatred, envy).

If you think you're going to heaven because you're a good person, then think again. If you were to sin only once in your whole life (in reality, we all sin thousands and thousands of times), you would still go to hell. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all" (Jas. 2:10). The law is interconnected. When you steal, you must lie. And to disobey God involves self-worship, which is idolatry. And before you stole, you coveted what was not yours.

"Well, okay, I'm a sinner, but I'll do good works, give to the poor to counteract and make up for my bad deeds." Unfortunately for you, it doesn't work that way. Jesus said that even when we are obedient, our good works merit or profit us nothing before God. "So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do'" (Lk. 17:10). And for the person who does not believe and trust in Jesus Christ for his salvation, even his best works are tainted with sin. Because they are not done out of love and faith to God but for self, therefore even "the plowing of the wicked is sin" (Pr. 21:4). Perhaps you're thinking: "I'm not a sinner. I've never stolen anything. I'm not a rapist, murderer or adulterer. I'm a good, honest family man (or woman). I'm a good person and I know it." Well, are you really as good as you think? Remember, all of God's law applies not only to your outward acts but even to your very thoughts. Jesus taught that even unjust anger, malicious name-calling and lust merit hell. "You have heard it said of old, 'You shall not murder,' and whosoever murders will be in danger of the judgment. But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, '*Raca*' [i.e., 'blockhead'] shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire....You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Mt. 5:21-22; 27-28). God demands absolute moral perfection in thought, word and deed. "You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect" (Mt. 5:48).

It's time to stop making excuses for your sinful behavior before God. God will accept no excuses for your sin. Don't listen to the false prophets who promise you peace when only true repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ will bring true peace. We are bombarded daily with the lies of those who tell us we are good and then they proceed to make excuse after excuse for our wicked behavior.

New Age mystics, most politicians, most of the secular media and talk show hosts, psychiatrists and pop psychologists are wicked false prophets because they either define sin away or they engage in blame-shifting. They either explicitly or implicitly say that your wicked behavior (e.g., drug abuse, drunkenness, sexual immorality, homosexuality, gluttony, envy and hatred) is not really your fault. Some like to blame parents, grandparents or relatives for damaging the child within. Many say that the problem is a lack of self-esteem or the lack of opportunity. Some blame genetic disposition: "Uncle Harry gets drunk and beats his wife

because his genes made him do it.” These false prophets never deal with the true ethical guilt that accompanies sin. They avoid man’s central problem: sin and separation from God. Our moral guilt before God and our slavery to sin can only be dealt with through Jesus Christ. Ignoring our guilt and slavery to sin by blame-shifting and excuse-making will lead to eternal death. “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death” (Pr. 14:12). Only the biblical message of salvation through the atoning death and perfect life of Jesus Christ offers man hope because sin,<sup>3</sup> ethical guilt and our slavery to wicked behavior is dealt with head on. Jesus Christ was totally victorious over Satan, sin, the world and death. It’s time to stop making excuses. You know you are guilty. You must confess your sin and guilt to God. “He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy” (Pr. 28:13).

## Redemption

After Adam and Eve sinned, God proclaimed judgment upon them for their ethical rebellion, and then, when God proclaimed judgment against Satan, He said: “He [Jesus] shall bruise your head, and you [Satan] shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3: 15). God promised that a redeemer would come who would defeat Satan in history. If Adam and Eve had rendered perfect obedience to God in the garden, a redeemer would have been unnecessary. Adam and Eve could have earned eternal life. But sin entered in, and mankind was spiritually dead. Man was blind and deaf spiritually. Man was now unable to do any spiritual good. Man was now in bondage to sin and to Satan. Man was destined to die physically and be cast into hell and then the lake of fire. God justly could have let the entire human race suffer in their spiritual bondage and then go to hell. But God, being kind, merciful and gracious, made a covenant of grace with man. God would provide a second Adam who would never fail, who would never commit even a single sin. God would provide a Substitute who would die for sinners, who would appease God’s just wrath against sin and who would provide a substitutionary atonement for His people (the elect). This promise of a coming Redeemer runs like a scarlet thread throughout the whole Old Testament. This promise is central to the Scriptures. This promise was fulfilled in one man—the God-man Jesus Christ. “And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:14-16).

The most important, significant and loving act in human history is the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the promised Messiah. The foundation of salvation is the sinless life and atoning death of Jesus Christ. “There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be

---

<sup>3</sup> Sin is the “evil course which man has deliberately chosen to follow and which carries untold misery with it. Fundamentally, it is not something passive, such as a weakness, a fault or an imperfection, for which we cannot be held responsible, but an active opposition to God, and a positive transgression of His law, which constitutes guilt. Sin is the result of a free but evil choice of man. This is the plain teaching of the Word of God, Gen. 3:1-6; Isa. 48:8; Rom. 1:18-32; I John. 3:4” (L. Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* [Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1939], p.231).

saved” (Ac. 4:12). There is only one possible way for you to be saved—through the merits of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary. He was born without original sin. Jesus Christ never ever sinned. Therefore He fulfilled the law in exhaustive detail. Where Adam failed, and where we all miserably fail, Jesus Christ was victorious. If you believe in Jesus Christ and place your trust in Him alone for your salvation, then the righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed judicially by God the Father to you. This means that, on the day of judgment, you will be clothed with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. In the throne room of heaven God will declare you just as ethical, righteous and perfect as Jesus Christ—not because of anything you have done but because of what Jesus Christ has done. Remember, faith does not save you. Faith is the instrument by which you lay hold of the benefits of Jesus Christ. (Faith is not an irrational leap in the dark. We believe in Jesus Christ because it is not only rational but because the Christian worldview is the only rational, true, consistent worldview that exists).

We are not only saved by the sinless, perfect life that Christ lived as the second Adam but we are also saved by His sacrificial death on the cross. Jesus Christ provides a substitutionary atonement for His people (the elect). Jesus Christ, as a high priest, offered Himself on the cross as a blood sacrifice for sin. Remember, God’s holy, righteous nature demands that sins against Him be punished. Because of God’s ethical perfection, no one with a sinful record can stand in His presence. Every sin carries with it the eternal death penalty. That is why God couldn’t just overlook peoples’ sins and let them go to heaven. A sacrificial death is required in order to cleanse and cover sins. Jesus Christ was the only one in existence who could provide the perfect sacrifice for sin. Why? Because God would only accept a sinless human sacrifice for sin. Jesus Christ is fully human, yet the only human without sin. Jesus Christ is a lamb without spot, without blemish. Jesus Christ is also fully God; therefore, His death is of infinite value to the Father. That is how the death of the One, Jesus Christ, could save the many, the elect. So, if you believe in Jesus Christ, your sins (past, present and future) are “laid upon” or imputed to Jesus Christ. The punishment that you justly deserved was transferred to Christ. “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’)” (Gal. 3:13). “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21).

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed to by the Law and the prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ, whom God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.... Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” (Rom. 3:21-26, 28). God’s love and justice come together in perfect harmony in the work of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps you’re thinking: “That’s wonderful, I’m justified in Christ. My guilt and sins are forgiven and removed by Christ. Now I can sin all I want and still go to heaven.” If you’re

thinking such thoughts, then you do not understand the gospel. The apostle Paul says that being united to Christ means that we are no longer slaves to sin. “Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.... Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who died has been freed from sin.... Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Rom. 6:1-4, 6-7, 11-14).

You must understand that when a person is regenerated (i.e., born again; see Jn. 3:3)<sup>4</sup> and has true saving faith in Jesus Christ, he or she will repent of their past sinful lifestyle. True repentance involves a change of mind that results in a change of life. You see that your past life without Christ was lived in selfish vanity. You see that you were serving your sinful lusts rather than Jesus Christ. You see your sins as God sees them: evil, wicked, debauched, vain and hurtful to man and God. You are thoroughly convicted in heart and soul to put off these wicked activities (e.g., drunkenness, drug abuse, premarital sex, lying, theft, fraud, adultery, hatred, envy) and to replace them with activities that glorify and please God (e.g., Christian marriage, restitution, prayer, honest business practices, love, peace, kindness, etc.). God wants you to produce good fruit for His kingdom. True repentance will even involve laying aside evil, God-hating friends and replacing them with godly, Christian friends. True repentance cares more about what God says (in His word) and thinks than what your so-called friends think. “I say to you, whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God. But he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God” (Lk. 12:8-9). “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 Jn. 2:15-17).

Repentance involves a whole new perspective on life where keeping up with the Joneses, having fancy cars, getting rich, being famous, climbing the corporate ladder, and so on, are

---

<sup>4</sup> Being born again, or regenerated, is an act of God upon man that effects a subconscious (i.e., the person is unaware of the change), instantaneous change of man’s nature. The man who was spiritually dead and therefore blind to spiritual truths can now see the truth. This is because God implants in man the principle of the new life, and the governing disposition of the soul is made holy (*ibid.*, p. 469). Regeneration precedes or coincides with the preaching of the gospel. Being born again or regenerated is not, as many fundamentalists assert, something that we do. It is a work of God the Holy Spirit upon the heart of man. “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father” (Jn. 6:65). “Do not marvel that I have said to you, ‘You must be born again’. The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, so is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (Jn. 3:7-8).

secondary to obeying God's law, being active in the local, Bible-believing church and building up your family in Christ. There is nothing wrong with being successful and having nice things. It is just that, when your life becomes a rat race just in order to have material things at the expense of spiritual study, godly fellowship, family devotions and church attendance, then material things have become an idol, a stumbling block. Someday you'll be dead. What is more important to you: leaving behind a big house or leaving behind godly, Christian heirs who will glorify God for generations? "Therefore do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Mt. 6:31-33). True, saving faith is an obedient, living faith, not a dead faith (Jas. 2:14-26). If you really believe in Jesus Christ, then you will be obedient to His word.<sup>5</sup> If your life is characterized by sin, then you do not have true faith in Christ. You are living in deception. Someone who claims to be a Christian yet continually lies, steals, fornicates, commits fraud, etc. is a hypocrite. Christians are saved unto good works (Eph. 2:10). Good works do not contribute in any way to your salvation. Yet all true Christians do good works because they love Jesus Christ and are thankful for the gift of salvation that Christ has given them. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (Jas. 2:26).

## The Day of the Lord

On the final day of human history Jesus Christ will return from heaven to earth as the glorious, triumphant, all-powerful, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16). His return to earth will be personal (Ac. 1:11), physical (Heb. 9:28), visible (Mt. 24:30), sudden (Mk. 14:32-37) and unexpected (Mt. 24:44). Jesus Christ will come accompanied by the good angels and His saints (1 Th. 3:13). He will speak, and all those who are dead shall be raised from their graves

---

<sup>5</sup> "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth" (1 Jn. 1:6). "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, 'I know Him,' and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk just as He walked" (1 Jn. 2:3-6). "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him" (1 Jn. 2:29). "Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself just as He is pure" (1 Jn. 3:3). "Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil.... In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God" (1 Jn. 3:6-8, 10). "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world" (1 Jn. 5:3-4). The apostle John makes it perfectly clear that those who claim to be Christians yet have not repented and submitted their lives to God are not Christians at all. Do you claim to be a Christian and yet continue in your sinful ways? Then you have absolutely no reason to believe that you are a child of God. John is not saying that Christians are perfect or sinless. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us" (1 Jn. 1:8-10). Christians sin. There is no doubt about it. However, it is not their lifestyle. It does not characterize their life and, when Christians do sin, they are sorry to God and confess their sins to God (not a human priest).

(Jn. 5:28-29). Then Jesus will sit as judge of every person who ever lived. “We shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: ‘As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.’ So then each of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:10-12). As you go through your day to day activities, keep in mind that Jesus Christ will personally sit as your judge. If you have not believed in Christ and repented of your sins, then every sin and every evil act in thought, word or deed will be exposed before Christ.

Look into the future. Someday you are going to die. Once you die, your condition is fixed forever (Lk. 16:19-31; Jn. 1:7, 13; 2 Pet. 2:4, 9). After you die there are no second chances. If you die without Christ you will be lost forever. When you die without Christ you are cast into hell.<sup>6</sup> After the resurrection, you will be judged by Christ and then cast into the lake of fire. “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it... And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead which were in it, and Death and Hades delivered the dead which were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Rev. 20:11-15). Jesus Christ said that if you do not have genuine faith in Him, you will be cast into outer darkness. “There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Mt. 8:12).

In order to have a proper understanding of the present, you must have a proper understanding of the future. After you’re dead and you stand before the judgment seat of Christ, being rich, powerful, famous, a legendary athlete, a rock star, a movie star, a world leader, a scientific genius or a Don Juan, etc. will pale before one simple question: Are you a Christian? Did you place your trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ? Did you live to serve Christ or to serve your own selfish ambitions? If you are not a genuine, Bible-believing, born-again Christian, then your life is vanity. You’ve wasted your life in the service of self and Satan rather than Jesus Christ. But if you’re reading this little book, there is hope for you. You are still alive and you can turn to Jesus Christ. You can still submit to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but

---

<sup>6</sup> “...when the Lord Jesus Christ shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know, God and to those who do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction away from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power, when He comes to be glorified In His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed...” (2 Th. 1:7-10). “For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, ‘Peace and safety!’ then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Th. 5:2-3). “Then I shall declare to them, ‘I never knew you, Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Mt. 7:23). “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. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 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? Nevertheless we [i.e., Christians], according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Pet. 3:10-13).

the wrath of God abides on him” (Jn. 3:36). “If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed’” (Rom. 10:9-11). “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts” (Heb. 4:7).

## Your Obligation

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation, then you should be baptized and become a member of Christ’s body, His church. It is absolutely vital to your spiritual growth that you use the means of grace—prayer, the word and the sacraments—in the public worship of God. You should only attend a church that obeys the Bible as God’s inspired and infallible word. You should attend a church that adheres not only to the early historical creeds of the church (such as the Apostles Creed) but also to the Reformed confessions that arose out of the Protestant Reformation, such as the Belgic Confession or the Westminster Confession of Faith. Why? Because the Reformation, especially the Scottish Reformation, produced the most biblical churches on earth since the apostles. Remember, God says that becoming a regular part of His church is mandatory for the believer: “Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24-25).

Copyright © Brian Schwertley, Lansing MI, 1999

[HOME PAGE](#)