

LET THE BIBLE SPEAK SERIES

Ronny F. Wade, Speaker

LET GOD BE TRUE

Romans 3:3-4

It simmers down to one proposition---who is telling the truth? That is what your disagreement with God means. Jesus said "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my word, hath one that judgeth him; the word that I speak shall judge him in the last day" Jno. 12:48. One day it will become unmistakably plain who is telling the truth. You or God. You must remember that centuries have yet to prove God's word false. Why would you give credibility to some man's hypothesis and treat God's Word with suspicion? Why do you shrug your shoulders and indicate that the Bible belongs in a museum, and not in your life? Why do you place great emphasis upon what some scientist may report, or what some literary critic may write and treat the sacred message with contempt and doubt? The word of God is not subject to revision. It isn't speculation. It's final.

I. Do You Realize With Whom You Are Dealing?

Amos 4:12 "Prepare to meet thy God, O Israel" This majestic message from the prophet of old is not in fact a judgment day passage. While such an application can be made, it is not the theme of the prophet at this time. The background of the passage was the rebellion of Israel against God. Amos narrates what God had done, in the way of punishment, to men and nations who had stood against him. Pointing to such citadels of wickedness as Nineveh, Tyre, Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah, as examples of those who dared to oppose God. Their destiny was destruction. Amos declares that Israel would meet the same fate, and come to the same doom. God would assess upon Israel the same penalty that he had imposed on others who opposed him. The challenge "prepare to meet thy God" is battle imagery. Israel had defied God and is here challenge to come out in the open field and meet God on the issues between them. The challenge is clear: before deciding to engage in battle, take a look at the opponent, estimate the opposition--his name is "the Lord, the God of hosts." i.e. God of battle. The appeal of the prophet is for Israel not to array themselves against God, to not get on the opposite side of the battle from him. That is good advice. Was then...is now.

II. Those Who Challenge God, Have A Terrible Track Record.

Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and told him "thus says the Lord God of Israel: Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness. And Pharaoh said "Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go" Ex.5:1-2. He was soon to be introduced. God sends a series of plagues upon the land of Egypt. These were designed to prove the power of God to the king. Plague #1 Moses strikes waters with rod and they become blood, the fish die giving off a terrible odor. No one can drink the water. Seven days pass.

The second plague is then visited upon the land. Frogs came out of the rivers and streams and ponds. At which point Pharaoh agreed to let the people go. But later rescinds his decision and hardened his heart. This plague was followed in order by the following: #3 Lice cover the land, #4 Swarms of flies on the earth, at this point the King agrees to let the people go, but then backs out. This is followed by plague #5 Livestock become diseased, then plague #6 Boils in the form of sores on man and beast, followed by plague #7 Hail upon the earth killing both man and beast. Next comes plague #8 Locusts cover face of the earth so that no one could see earth, a horrible situation. This was followed by plague #9 Darkness so thick that you could not see your hand in front of your face. Finally the last plague the Death of first born in each family both of man and beast. At this point the people left. However the army of Pharaoh followed, but were all drowned in the Red Sea. Pharaoh met God on the field of battle. He was not prepared. No one is.

III. Why Do Men Challenge God Today?

A. Why does man say God is mistaken about the devil--that He lies to you about the existence of Satan?

Great fun is "poked" at the idea that there could be a devil. Some theologians claim the devil is "only your mistakes" that no such being exists.

What Does God Say? "Put on the whole armor of God, That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Eph.6:11

Peter did not accuse the mores, or genes, or environment, or the government, but said "Be sober, be watchful; your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" 1Pet. 5:8. Somebody is promoting this awful business of war, divorce, hatred, greed, and smut. His intelligence and talent for organizing outsmart our most expensive agencies. Is God right about this, or the flattering decoy who tells you Satan is non existent? You have an adversary. That adversary is more than a lack of education or social standing. He is a cunning deceiver, twisting your own daily experience to lead you toward eternal bankruptcy. He steals the word of God from your heart, provokes one to wrath and anger, sifts you, preserving the bad and rejecting the good, and deceives with the pleasures of sin. Let God be true and every man a liar.

B. Why Does Man say God is mistaken about future judgment, and that there is no hell?

Its big business today to persuade people that all human conduct is meant to express itself without fear or recrimination.

That the only hell you will ever suffer is frustration, the failure of being unfulfilled, or the sorrows and troubles we have in this life. But what does God say? Acts 17:30-31 "The times of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world..." Nothing vague about this. 2 Cor. 5:10 "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad." There will be an audit. "Each one of us shall give account of himself to God" Rom. 14:12. Who is telling the truth about your future?

What does God say about hell? Mt.5:30 "It is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not thy whole body go into hell." Rev. 21:8 "But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death." Some promote the idea of redemptive incarceration. They claim there are remedial fires of purgatory that will cleanse. That enough candles and prayers on behalf of the lost will be accepted as payment. WHAT DOES GOD SAY? "Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire" Mt.25:41. This warning is posted: "And if any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire" Rev.20:15.

Man says: that under more favorable circumstances, everyone will get a second chance. What are more favorable circumstances? More opportunities? More sermons? More invitation songs? More bibles? What does God say? "He said therefore again unto them, I go away, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sin: whether I go ye cannot come" John 8:21. Sinners don't go where saints go. Someone is lying to you, trifling with your common sense. God is plain about this: "It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment" Heb. 9:27 Did not say. He did not say "after this another probation." Judgment is based on "things done in the body." So after the body is returned to the earth, it is all over. Who will you believe? Let God be true.

C. Why Does Man Say God Is Mistaken About The Way Of Salvation--That There Is More Than One Way To Be Saved?

It is popular to believe that if you live a moral, commendable life you will be saved. Doesn't matter who you are or what you believe, if you are sincere, you will go to heaven. They say "its insane to believe that someone will be lost just because they don't believe in Jesus Christ." But, what does God say? Jno.14:6 "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" That isn't open to equivocation. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). This is one item that God doesn't clothe in silence. "He that believeth on the son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:36) God is no less silent on what Gospel obedience involves. John 3:5 "Except a man be born of water and of Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

To be born of water is to be baptized into Christ: Acts 2:38; Mk. 16:16; 1Peter 3:21; Gal.3:26-27. Will you believe God or Man? 1Cor.13:13 "By one spirit we are baptized into one body." That one body is the church. Acts 2:47 "The Lord added to the church..." those who were being saved. Experts tell you that associations, accreditation, and reputation are all necessary for membership in the church. The Lord says it is obedience to the gospel that makes the difference. Who will you believe? Let God be True.

D. Why Does Man Say God Is Mistaken About The Best Time To Repent And Obey The Gospel?

Many wait for a more sober moment, or convenient season. God says: "Now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation" 2Cor.6:2. Influences say "this is a mistake, not now" God says: "If ye will hear his voice harden not your heart..." Heb. 3:7 "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" Prov. 27:1 "He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy" Prov. 29:1.

You have a choice, will you believe God or the critics? It's your destiny. You can't afford to be wrong. The bible has been around for a long time. It's a dangerous step to take when you say "God is a liar". I have it on good authority that it isn't so. You need to think carefully before rejecting what God has said.