



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

“Damnable Heresies”

Chuck Northrop

The New Testament is replete with warnings about false teachers. One such warning is found in 2 Peter 2:1 which says, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” There are several lessons to be gleaned from this passage, consider these three:

First, there will be false teachers among us. This should come as no surprise. There were false prophets which led Israel astray. In fact, there have always been those who are more interested in propagating their views than advancing God’s word. These, Peter wrote, bring in their heresies. This they do “privily” (that is, secretly or covertly). Until their ideas are established, they work covertly behind the scene spreading their venom.

Second, false teachers bring “damnable heresies.” “Damnable” means destructive and has to do with perdition. Unlike the sound doctrine “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21), these false teachers promote doctrines leading to destruction. The word “heresies” literally means choice and came to mean opinion, particularly a self-willed or erroneous opinion. These are opinions marked by destruction. This implies there are different kinds of false opinions. There is a grave difference between a false teacher and teacher who has a “slip of the tongue” or a mistaken conclusion from study. The false teacher teaches “damnable heresies.” He makes “shipwreck” of the faith of some

(1 Timothy 1:19). “Their word will eat as doth a canker” (2 Timothy 2:17). They “subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake” (Titus 1:11). Furthermore, some may hold opinions which may be false but does not lead to perdition. Whether you believe the eunuch of Acts 8 was an Ethiopian or a transplanted Jew living in Ethiopia makes little difference. A person’s salvation does not depend upon such things unless a person rebelliously denies God’s holy word. However, such matters as “denying the Lord,” “grace only,” and/or “faith only” salvation will lead others to destruction and, thus, is damnable heresy.

Third, false teachers “bring upon themselves swift destruction.” Notice the text says it is brought upon themselves. God is the judge, but the judgment will be “according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). “Swift” in this passage does not mean their destruction will be soon, but when it comes, it will come upon them swiftly without any hesitation or restraint. Sadly, even in view of such destruction, “many shall follow their pernicious [lascivious - CN] ways” (2 Peter 2:2). Because false teachers are leading many precious souls down the “primrose path” towards destruction, their “mouths must be stopped” (Titus 1:11).

Brethren, let us be keenly aware of the destructiveness of false teachers. Rather than passively allowing them to work, let us stand diametrically opposed to them. Rather than having fellowship with them by our support, let us not be partakers of their evil deeds. Let us be as our Lord, pointing out their evil deeds in order that others may not fall prey unto their diabolical traps.

An Equal Opportunity God

Jim O’Connor

In the year 1802, Richard McNemar was taken before a tribunal of the Washington Presbytery, found guilty as charged, and excluded from fellowship in that body. One of the crimes which he was charged with was: “He has expressly declared, at several times, that Christ has purchased salvation for all the human race, without distinction.” Mr. McNemar was not preaching universal salvation, nor was he charged with that. He was preaching **Universal Opportunity!** This contradicted the pet belief of that denomination that the destiny of all men has been fixed; some being predestined to be saved, others being predestined to be lost, with no alterations possible.

This hideous doctrine of predestination is still being preached today. People are still being taught that there is a class of people for whom the death of Jesus can have no benefit. What an insult to the God of Heaven! What a slap at the gracious Son of God. The doctrine

is both noxious and obnoxious! How thankful we are that this message of hopelessness does not have the endorsement of heaven behind it! It leaves mothers in the dark as to the destiny of their dead babies, it cheapens the purpose for the cross, it weakens the power of the gospel, and puts question marks on a multitude of passages in the New Testament. When will men learn not to put a question mark where God has put a period?

There are a number of reasons for rejecting the doctrine of predestination as described above. Permit me to list a few of them.

① **The Great Commission.** The gospel was designed for, and to be preached to, “every creature” (Mark 16:15), in “all nations” (Matthew 28:19). When Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:16), He meant everyone.

② **God Is No Respector of Persons.** Peter declared in Acts 10:34-35, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” In Romans 2:11 (in a context of discussion concerning blessings and punishment depending upon obedience or rebellion, not on race or any other form of selection) Paul wrote clearly, “For there is no respect of persons with God.” Respect of persons is something Christians are warned against (James 2:1,9). Why? Because it is ungodly! God does not practice such! He is an equal opportunity God!

③ **Jesus Died for All Men.** He “tasted death for every man” (Hebrews 2:9). God loved so much that He gave His only begotten Son that WHOSOEVER believes might have opportunity for salvation. How can one, anyone, look at John 3:16 and see the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination? None are so blind as they who refuse to see. Jesus “died for all” (2 Corinthians 5:15).

④ **God Desires the Salvation of All Men.** Paul clearly wrote that God wishes for “all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). The fact that God desires the salvation of all men does not imply universal salvation; It does imply universal opportunity.

Certainly it is true some will be lost. It is even true most will be lost. However, the responsibility for such cannot be placed upon God. Men and women are lost because of personal choice to persist in sin. It does not have to happen. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). If you are willing to be taught, you can be saved. Your destiny is not fixed. You have a say in the matter. Jesus died that you might have life. He went to the cross so that you could go to heaven. Do not let His death be in vain for you. Our God is an equal opportunity God. Seize the opportunity!

Observations and Concerns

January 31, 2024

Welcome Visitors! We are so thankful you decided to visit with us today.

Praise in Psalm: “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation” (Psalm 95:1).

Declaration of Appreciation: We are thankful to God for the institution of marriage (Hebrews 13:4). Our fifth Wednesday evening **singing** is this evening.

This Friday (February 2nd) is our monthly **youth devo** at 6:00 pm. It will be at the church building. Please bring a sweet or side to go with chili.

The **Men’s Business Meeting** is Sunday, February 4th after the evening service.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** had a CT scan that revealed two spots on her lungs. The doctors plan to rescan in 3 months.
- ▶ **Spencer Mashburn** and **Caroline Swearingen** have both recently had their tonsils and adenoids removed.
- ▶ **Margie Casebolt**, mother of Jody Northrop, fell and is struggling to recover from her injuries.
- ▶ We are thankful that **Ed Dindy** has completed his cancer treatments.
- ▶ **Pat Gray**, sister-in-law of Nelda and Sammy, is recovering from a heart attack.
- ▶ **Betty Jackson**, daughter-in-law of Walter, is struggling to recover from injuries due to a fall.
- ▶ **Bill Roach**, and elder at the Owasso congregation, has cancer.

Extended Prayer List: **Joyce Cash** – health difficulties; **Dan & Marcella Dennis** – health issues; **Bill Dilks** – cancer; **Sammy Gray** – health concerns; **Andy & Nelda Hudson** – health struggles; **Chuck Northrop** – blood disorder; **Darla Smith** – declining health; **Pat Taylor** – health issues; **Ed & Sherry Carmona** – health issues; **Ed Dindy** – cancer; **Sam Orr** – health concerns.

Schedule of Services	Assignments		
	Wednesday, Jan. 31	Sunday, Feb. 4 AM	Sunday, Feb. 4 PM
Sundays			
Announcements	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
Prayer	Bill Dilks	Bill Dilks	Doyle Jackson
Bible Classes 9:30 AM			
Worship 10:30 AM			
Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Bill Dilks
Worship 5:00 PM			
Lord’s Supper (speaker)		Doyle Jackson	Chris Nelson
Lord’s Supper		Chris Nelson	
Wednesdays			
Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop
Bible Classes 7:00 PM			
Prayer	Ross Swearingen	Chris Nelson	Ross Swearingen
Website: oologahcofc.org			
Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen