

SERMONS

by Paul L. Freeman

A collection of sermons by Paul L. Freeman addressing various biblical texts and topics of Christian faith and practice.

6 Chapters

Table of Contents

1. Bible Doctrines Affected by Modern Versions
2. Cremation Is Not for Christians
3. The Bible Teaching Concerning Separation
4. What Are You Doing Dad?
5. What's Wrong With Five-Point Calvinism?
6. Why I Enrolled My Last Child in Christian School

Bible Doctrines Affected by Modern Versions

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Introduction The battle for the Word of God is going on today as it always has. The work of the Evil One himself has ever been to cause men to doubt the Word (Genesis 3:1), to corrupt the Word (2 Corinthians 2:17), and to misquote the Word (Luke 4:10-11). There are many Modern Versions on the scene today all claiming to be more accurate or more readable renderings of the Word of God. Most of these versions follow the MINORITY Greek Text even though that text exhibits a corruption throughout. The King James Version was translated from the MAJORITY Greek Text which agrees with about 95% of all available manuscripts. The MAJORITY Greek Text can be traced back to the Peshitta (Syriac Version) about 150 A.D.

Many Christian Colleges and Universities have switched over to the MINORITY Greek Text (known as Westcott and Hort or Nestle and Aland) for the classroom while still using the King James Version in public preaching. Since there are over 5,000 differences between the MAJORITY and MINORITY texts a problem immediately faces the student. The King James Version he brings to the classroom is subjected to constant editing by the teacher who is using a Greek Text different from the one the King James Version was translated from. The student is well aware that God did not inspire two different Bibles. He must make a choice and for the sake of harmony or teacher satisfaction he will usually accept his King James Version minus the MINORITY Text corrections as the Word of God. Should there be an area where agreement cannot be reached he is told to decide on the proper rendering by exercising his spiritual discernment. The schools that are following this double standard will admit that when the King James Version is no longer needed for Public Relations they will make the complete change to the New American Standard or the New International Version. These two are seen to follow the MINORITY Greek Text.

Those who want to replace our King James Version with new Modern Versions are constantly stating that no Bible Doctrines are affected by the changes. One school recently published an article by one of its' teachers in which he said that, "BOTH TEXTS ARE THE WORD OF GOD." It is difficult to understand how two texts differing in over 5,000 places can both be the Word of God. It only serves to show the absolute desperation on the part of the MINORITY Text champions to defend their indefensible position. The purpose of this volume is to show the changes made by the MINORITY text and how they affect the Bible Doctrines which Christians have always believed. Though I do not consider any change in the Word of God to be unimportant, I have singled out the most glaring examples. A careful reading will show that the Fundamental Doctrines of the Christian faith have been affected many times. Are we to believe the scholars when they tell us that no important doctrines are affected by the new Modern Versions? It is obvious that they are not correct. What they really mean to say is that when all the changes have been made the Bible Doctrines are still there somewhere else in the Bible. If there are ten verses showing the Virgin Birth of Christ, and they have removed two, there are still eight remaining to prove the doctrine.

That may satisfy them, but the Fundamental believer sees that as a piece by piece destruction of the Word of God.

We would accuse them of taking away from the Word of God. They would accuse us of using a Bible which has many additions inserted by overzealous Christian copyists. The issue now becomes quite clear. We must either believe that overzealous heretics have corrupted the original Word of God or believe that overzealous believers have added to the original Word of God. I can understand why heretics would want to corrupt the original Word of God, but I cannot believe that Christians would add one word to the Word of God which they have been entrusted to copy and pass along. The Spirit of God within Christians would put a holy awe and reverence around the sacred word and guided by that same Spirit they would copy what God had given them. My conclusion is that the new Modern Versions are based on Greek manuscripts that have been corrupted by heretics who changed the Word of God to agree with their rejection of the Deity of Christ and their Humanism regarding salvation. The Greek Text underlying the King James Version is not filled with additions made by overzealous Christians. It is the Word of God preserved by the Spirit of God and it exalts the Lord Jesus Christ, giving him his proper place and the glory due unto his name.

CHANGES IN THEIR PROPER NEW TESTAMENT ORDER ARE NOW LISTED:

Matthew

Matthew 1:25 "her firstborn" is omitted. That Jesus was her firstborn indicates that Mary and Joseph had sexual relations after the birth of Jesus and that others were born of her. The omission here seeks to add credence to the false doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church concerning the perpetual virginity of Mary. The Bible is clear that Jesus had brothers and sisters.

Matthew 5:22 "without a cause" is removed. In the Sermon on the Mount the Lord warned of judgment for those who were angry with a brother without a cause. Should this change be accepted everyone who is angry with his brother may be judged. The effect is to bring Jesus into judgment for failing to observe his own words (see Mark 3:5). Such is contrary to the doctrine of the sinlessness of Christ.

Matthew 6:4, Matthew 6:6, Matthew 6:18 "openly" is out. It is a Bible Doctrine that Christian work done unnoticed for the glory of the Lord will one day be rewarded openly (Colossians 3:4).

Matthew 6:13 "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, Amen" is deleted. This ascription of praise to "Our Father" is found in 491 out of 500 existing manuscripts. This statement was made a century ago by Dean John Burgon.

Matthew 8:29 "Jesus" is left out. The demons bore witness to the fact that Jesus was the Son of God. It was an identification of Jesus (in humanity) as the Son of God (in Deity). It affects the doctrine of the Person of Christ.

Matthew 9:8 "marvelled" is changed to "were afraid." There is no reason to believe that the people were afraid because Jesus healed the sick of the palsy. There is every reason for them to marvel at the miracle.

Matthew 9:13 "to repentance" is left out. The Bible doctrine of repentance is one that men would like to do away with. God requires that in order to be saved one must truly repent (Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9). The word means "a change of mind" and there must be that concerning God, sin and salvation. Men think that sin does not really separate them from God--they must change their mind about that. Men think that salvation is by works--they must change their mind about that. There is nothing more evident today than the absence of repentance among those who are professing to be converted.

Matthew 15:8 "draweth nigh unto me with their mouth" is left out. According to Isaiah 29:13 it belongs in because Isaiah prophesied of these hypocrites exactly that way.

Matthew 16:2-3 "When it is evening ... the signs of the times" is all omitted. The Pharisees and Sadducees came looking for a sign and the signs were all around them. Jesus called them hypocrites because they could not tell the signs of the times.

Matthew 17:21 Whole verse is left out. Power with God is to be had by prayer and fasting. That is a fundamental truth of the Word of God.

Matthew 18:2 "Jesus" is left out. This is done many times by the corrupt Greek Text of Westcott and Hort. I have not chosen to remark about each instance because it would add many pages to this work. The MAJORITY Text continuously places the word "Jesus" in the narrative with the definite article preceding it. Thus it places him in the center of things and in command. It is doctrinally unsound for such prominence to be discarded for the word "he."

Matthew 18:11 The whole verse is omitted. This verse tells us that man is lost, that he needs to be saved, and that the Son of man is the one who can do that. The doctrine of salvation through Jesus Christ is affected by this change.

Matthew 18:15 "against thee" is omitted. This omission sets us up as watchdogs over others and if one sins we are to go and tell him. Such is not the teaching of Scripture. Were we to declare every sin we would be constantly busy (bodies) judging the actions and motives of everyone. This change is a very bad error.

Matthew 18:35 "their trespasses" is omitted. Same thought as mentioned in Matthew 18:15.

Matthew 19:9 "and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" is removed. This is a very important doctrinal change which concerns divorce and remarriage. A man who divorces his wife and remarries commits adultery, and also the man who marries the divorced wife commits adultery.

Matthew 19:16-17 "Good" before Master is omitted. In addition to that, the phrase "Why callest thou me good?" is changed to "Why askest thou me concerning the good?" Good Master is correct and Jesus responded to show the young man that only one was good and that one was God. The conclusion should have been obvious. Since Jesus was good he was necessarily God. The omission and change destroys the intended testimony to the Deity of Christ.

Matthew 20:16 "for many be called, but few chosen" is left out. The Lord would have us know that many are called to inherit eternal life, but few are chosen by virtue of believing in Christ. It is a Bible doctrine that God wants all men to be saved but few will come to Christ for salvation.

Matthew 21:12 "of God" is out. Jesus, who was God in the flesh, came to his own temple and said, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." It was the temple of God and the God of the temple was there.

Matthew 22:30 "of God" is removed. There are good angels and fallen angels. The believers, in the resurrection, will be like the good angels "of God" who alone are in heaven.

Matthew 23:8 "Master" is changed to "teacher." There are many teachers but only one master. The change here takes away the pre- eminence that God intends for his Son.

Matthew 25:13 "wherein the Son of man cometh" is omitted. The warning to watch is tied to the imminent return of the Lord. The omission here does away with the doctrine of the Lord's second advent.

Matthew 26:28 "new" is dropped before testament. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus said, "this cup is the NEW testament in my blood." The change here is intended to corrupt the Word of God and to confuse Christians.

Matthew 27:35 "that it might be fulfilled ... did they cast lots" is all omitted. It is very important in Matthew's gospel, where Jesus is portrayed as the King of Israel, to show that he is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. Here the parting of his garments and casting lots is the fulfillment of Psalms 22:18 which portrays the crucifixion of Christ. To omit this is to show the intended corruption of the Word of God by the textual critics.

Matthew 28:6 "the Lord" is omitted. The very reverent angels said, "see the place where the Lord lay." They would not say, "see the place where he lay." The constant attempt to humanize Jesus and take away from his Deity does not endear the Westcott and Hort Greek Text to believers.

Mark

Mark 1:1 "the Son of God" is left out. These words present Jesus Christ as Deity. Such an omission is a direct attack on the person of Christ and is without doubt a doctrinal error.

Mark 1:31 "immediately" is dropped. The descriptive word tells us when the fever left her and therefore provides us with a miracle. The word left out denies the miracle and thus the one who performed it.

Mark 2:17 "to repentance" is left out. See comments on Matthew 9:13.

Mark 3:15 "to heal sicknesses" is omitted. Jesus gave them authority to heal diseases as well as to cast out demons. Sickness is the result of sin (Adam's) and the only one who has authority to eliminate it is the one who would die for sin. On the basis of his approaching death for sin on Calvary he could say, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee" and "Rise up and walk."

Mark 4:24 "and unto you that hear shall more be given" is left out. It is a Bible teaching that those who seek truth from the Lord shall be given more truth (see John 7:17).

Mark 5:36 "as soon" is dropped. The word in the Greek is "immediately." The word immediately is constantly dropped by the Revisers of 1881. It is a key word in Mark which is the Gospel of the Servant of the Lord who came "not to be ministered unto, but to minister." When Jairus was told

that his daughter was dead and that he should not trouble Jesus further, the Lord "immediately" encouraged him to believe.

Mark 6:11 "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city" is removed from the text. This passage emphasizes the great degree of responsibility that was upon those cities who heard the Lord's apostles as they preached repentance and worked miracles before them. Sodom and Gomorrah did not have such light, yet they are still suffering the eternal wrath of God (see Jude 1:7 where "suffering" is in the present tense). How much more the judgment of America today where people sit in an abundance of complete revelation from God and choose to remain in darkness.

Mark 7:8 "as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do" is omitted. The Lord not only condemns the Pharisees for traditions of men, but he names them. There are traditions of men today which are sending people to Hell and preachers need to name them. It is doctrinally unsound to let men go on in traditions and not expose them.

Mark 9:23 "if thou canst believe" is dropped. The father had said to Jesus, "if thou canst do anything." To this lack of faith Jesus answered, "if thou canst believe." It was at once a rebuke and an encouragement to have faith in him. The father's answer in the next verse is beautiful but the Revisers ruined that also. They omitted "with tears, Lord" from the most precious answer as recorded by the Spirit of God.

Mark 9:45 "into the fire that never shall be quenched" is dropped. The character and duration of Hell is described here and the doctrine of eternal retribution is affected by this change.

Mark 9:47 "fire" is omitted. The words are inspired and in complete agreement with Revelation 20:15. The consignment of the lost to the lake of fire is a Bible doctrine.

Mark 10:21 "take up the cross" is left out. The word to the young man was to divest himself of the riches in which he trusted, consider himself dead to the world, and follow Christ into eternal life. There are many who will let go of riches and seek to emulate some of Christ's teachings, but the way of the cross they refuse. The cross for Christ and for believers is Fundamental in Christian doctrine.

Mark 10:24 "for them that trust in riches" is left out. This is a very glaring doctrinal error. It is not hard to enter into the kingdom of God (salvation is a free gift through faith in Jesus Christ) but it is hard for those who trust in riches to trust Christ alone for salvation. Their God is their wealth and it is no more compatible with Christ than Dagon was with the Ark of God (see 1 Samuel 5:1 - 1 Samuel 5:5).

Mark 11:26 The whole verse is removed. It is a Bible doctrine that if we regard iniquity in our heart the Lord will not hear us. Answered prayer and clean vessels go together. When I confess my sins and ask God for favor he requires that my confession of sin include forgiveness of those who have sinned against me. If I refuse to forgive others it becomes sin to me (see Ephesians 4:32).

Mark 13:14 "spoken of by Daniel the prophet" is dropped. Without the reference to Daniel the appeal to understand is without force. Though some might connect it in their thoughts because they are familiar with Scripture, it does not follow that he is referring to Daniel. The reference to Daniel by the Lord also authenticates his writing as inspired Scriptures.

Mark 14:22 "eat" is dropped. Our Lord did not give them a relic from the Last Supper to take home and cherish. He gave them broken bread to eat which (when observed) would always remind them of his body which was broken for them.

Mark 15:28 The whole verse is left out. Jesus was crucified between two thieves in fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12. It is doctrinal error to eliminate clear statements concerning the fulfilling of prophecy (see Luke 24:27).

Mark 16:9-20 Twelve verses are omitted. These verses are found in every known manuscript but two (the oldest of those two leaves a blank space where it belongs). They are found in all the Versions, quoted by the church fathers, and seen in the lectionaries of the church. There are many doctrines affected by the omission of these twelve verses. The resurrection of Christ is deleted. The great commission, baptism, eternal damnation and His ascension into Heaven are all taken out of the Word of God. Certainly the gospel does not end with "they were afraid." Some say the ending has been lost (see Dr. Ryrie's Study Bible) but that destroys the Bible Doctrine that God preserves His Word (see 1 Peter 1:23 - 1 Peter 1:25). The evidence is clear that these verses are original and to cut them out is to affect many doctrines of the Christian faith.

Luke

Luke 1:28 "blessed art thou among women" is omitted. There were many virgins in Israel at the time, but God chose Mary. The Son that she bore would be her Saviour from sin. The Roman Catholic doctrine of the immaculate conception of Mary (concerning her birth) is nothing but pagan fiction. Mary was blessed AMONG women, but not ABOVE women. The worship of Mary is contrary to Scripture. This omission is designed to lift her above others and eventually deify her.

Luke 2:14 "peace, good will toward men" is changed to "peace among men of good will." The first talks of the birth of Christ as bringing God's peace and good will (reconciliation) to men. Faith in the death of Christ for our sins brings justification and peace with God. The change offers God's peace to men who are good. That is doctrinally unsound since there is none good.

Luke 2:33 "Joseph and his mother" is changed to "his father and mother." The Spirit of God is very careful to show that our Lord Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and that he did not have a human father who begat him. The change casts doubt upon the doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ as the "seed of the woman." Later, when Mary refers to Joseph as "thy father," Jesus answers with, "wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business," meaning that God was his father (see 2:48,49).

Luke 2:40 "in spirit" is left out. That the child grew and waxed strong in spirit (meaning that he was spiritually strong) is evident from Luke 2:47. It is unlikely that the Spirit of God wanted us to see how strong Jesus was with reference to his physique.

Luke 2:43 "and Joseph and his mother knew not of it" is changed to "and his parents were unaware of it." The first retains the teachings of the virgin birth, the second discards it. The virgin birth is a Fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith and the MAJORITY Text upholds it. Let us not hear of supposed overzealous copyists but rather let us beware of overzealous heretics who would deny the fundamentals of the faith.

Luke 4:4 "but by every Word of God" is dropped. Many are willing to agree that bread alone cannot satisfy man, but few are willing to live by every word of God. This quotation is from Deuteronomy

8:3 where the omitted words are found. The same one who said, "Yea, hath God said?" is the author of this omission. The Revisers could not leave this passage in because they have changed "every word of God" in over 5,000 places in the New Testament. Satan does not mind if we read the Bible as long as we have a Swiss cheese Bible (full of holes). Holes in the Word cause doubts in the Word, doubts cause faith to be lost, and without faith it is impossible to please him.

Luke 4:8 "Get thee behind me, Satan" is omitted. The devil had tempted Jesus to bypass the cross and receive the kingdom over the world. Jesus, whose face was set as a flint to go to the cross, refused to worship him.

Luke 6:10 "whole as the other" is left out. These words tell us that not only was his hand restored to use but it was whole as the other. The completeness of the miracle is attested to by these words.

Luke 9:54 "even as Elias did" is omitted. Apart from this word they had no precedent for doing such a thing.

Luke 9:55-56 "and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them" is omitted. In reply to the disciples who thought that they could call down fire from heaven, Jesus told them that he came to save men. This passage is consistent with John 3:17, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Luke 11:2-4 "Our ... which art in heaven" is deleted along with "Thy will be done as in heaven, so in earth" and "but deliver us from evil." Only corrupt manuscripts can produce so many departures from the disciples prayer which is found without deletions in Matthew 6:9 - Matthew 6:13.

Luke 14:5 The word "ass" is changed to "son." The use of "son" is too much for the comparison the Lord is making. Only a slavish loyalty to a corrupt Greek text can produce such a foolish change.

Luke 22:31 "And the Lord said" is dropped. The Lord Jesus was God and as such he was omnipresent and omniscient. He was present when Satan came before God and asked permission to try Peter's faith. He had prayed to the Father, as Peter's intercessor, that his faith would not fail. It was the Lord who knew all of this and warned Peter specifically.

Luke 22:64 "they struck him on the face" is dropped. It is error to minimize the sufferings of Christ. His facial appearance was marred more than any man (see Isaiah 52:14 and Isaiah 53:5).

Luke 23:23 "and of the chief priests" is omitted. The Lord was careful to let us know that the religious priests were involved in the rejection of Christ. Those who call themselves priests today do likewise.

Luke 23:42 "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" is changed to "Then he said, Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom." The confession that Jesus is Lord is doctrinally correct because it is required for salvation (see Romans 10:9-10).

Luke 23:45 "the sun was darkened" is changed to "the sun was eclipsed." The Greek word in the corrupt Greek Text is EKLIPONTOS from which we derive the word ECLIPSE. An eclipse is caused by the natural occurrence of the moon passing between the sun and the earth and usually lasts for about 3-5 minutes. The sun being darkened for three hours was a miracle of God and will be repeated again prior to the Lord's return to earth (see Matthew 24:29) Many modern versions try to hide the Greek word they are using to translate from the corrupt Greek text by using words like: obscured (NASV), faded (AMPLIFIED), stopped shining (NIV), failed (NEW WORLD), but some honestly translate the word "eclipse" (20th CENTURY, MOFFAT, NEB, PHILLIPS). Humanism would try to find some way to explain away the miracles of God's Word lest they be forced to accept it as the revelation from God concerning salvation.

Luke 24:36 "and saith unto them. Peace be unto you" is omitted. Jesus had said to them, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you" (John 14:27). He was now risen from the dead and in their midst to guarantee that peace to them. One of the greatest benefits of our salvation is to have peace with God (Romans 5:1) and the peace of God ruling in our hearts (Php 4:7).

Luke 24:40 The whole verse is omitted. The bodily resurrection of Christ is proven here as he showed them his hands and his feet. The omission affects Bible doctrine very much.

Luke 24:51 "and carried up into heaven" is left out. The bodily ascension of Christ into heaven is a Bible doctrine that is denied here. It leaves the Lord parted from them but does not tell us where he went. The Revisers removed the doctrine and left the Word in a poor state of disarray. Acts 1:1, Acts 1:2 tells us that the "former treatise" (Luke) ended with Jesus being "taken up." That ought to be sufficient to show the Revisers are wrong.

Luke 24:52 "And ... worshipped him" is omitted by the NASV. The MAJORITY Text says, "And they having worshipped him returned to Jerusalem with great joy." The picture we have is of our Lord receiving their worship because he is God (see 4:8 where worship is to be to God only) and then before their very eyes ascending into heaven. It is a Bible doctrine that we are to worship Jesus and the omission by the NASV is a clear denial of that doctrine.

John

John 1:18 "the only begotten Son" is changed to "The only begotten God." Such a phrase is foreign to Scripture. It accommodates the Arian teaching that Christ was a lesser deity created by God. It agrees with the teaching of Origen that Christ was not equal with God in essence and nature. Sound Fundamental doctrine concerning Christ is that he is one person of the Triune God and that he proceeds from the Father by an eternal generation and reveals God to men as the Son of God.

John 1:27 "He it is ... who is preferred before me" is removed. This change removes the pre-eminence and pre-existence of Christ. John wanted us to see that though Christ came after him, he in reality preceded and ranked above him.

John 3:13 "which is in heaven" is omitted. This change affects the doctrine of the omnipresence of Christ. As man he was here on earth, as God he was able to be everywhere present. The omission is a corruption introduced by those who do not believe in the perfect and absolute Deity of Christ.

John 3:15 "should not perish" is removed. This deletion removes the opposite of everlasting life, which is to perish. The doctrine of eternal damnation is weakened by the change.

John 3:16 "his only begotten Son" is changed to "the only begotten Son." The word HIS marks Jesus Christ out as God's own peculiar son in a relationship that no one else has. It marks him as of the same essence and nature. The Deity of Christ is involved and is thereby weakened (3:17 also changed).

John 4:42 "the Christ" is left out. The purpose of John's gospel as given in 20:31 was to lead people to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God. That belief was to bring life to them. To omit it here is to deny the purpose of the inspired writer.

John 5:3-4 The statement regarding the moving of the water by an angel and subsequent miraculous healing is removed. Should this deletion be permitted there would be no sense to verse 7 since that verse presupposes John 5:3-4. This is an effort to remove the miraculous from the Bible and thus accommodate humanism.

John 5:16 "and sought to slay him" is omitted. The Scripture teaches us that on many occasions they tried to kill Jesus but by supernatural power were kept from doing so (see John 18:6). He was omnipotent and there was no way they could take him until his hour was come.

John 6:47 "on me" is left out. The object of faith has been removed here. Everlasting life does not come to those who believe, but to those who believe on Christ. This is doctrinal error of the gravest sort and has been carried over into the NASV and NIV.

John 7:8 The little word "yet" is dropped and the result is that the Lord appears to lie to his brothers, since he did go up to the feast. There is a world of difference between "I go not up YET" and "I go not up." The sinlessness of Christ is an indispensable doctrine of the Christian faith and lying is sin.

7:53-8:11 The whole story of the woman taken in adultery is omitted. This is one of the most blessed portions of the Word of God. It is intended by God through the inspired writer to amplify what came before in 3:17. The law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (1:17).

John 8:38 The words "my Father" and "your father" are intended to show the difference between his father and their father, who was Satan. By removing the word "my" and "your" there is a deliberate attempt to remove the offence and cater to the false dream of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

John 8:39 "If ye were Abraham's children" is changed to "if ye are Abraham's children." The Lord intended them to see that they were not Abraham's children at all. The change gives us to see that they were Abraham's children and therefore they ought to act like it. This is pure humanism and contrary to sound doctrine.

John 9:4 "I must work the works of him that sent me" is changed to "We must work the works of him that sent us." The uniqueness of Christ as the Sent One of the Father is destroyed and he is placed equally with the disciples as sent from God to do the work of God. This is an attack on the Person and Work of Christ and it exalts humanism. Jesus was sent by the Father and the disciples

were sent by Jesus, "as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

John 9:35 "the Son of God" is changed to "the Son of man." The thing to be believed in John's gospel is that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31). The change by the minority texts is not warranted.

John 10:38 "that ye may know, and believe" is changed to "that ye may know, and understand." The union of Christ and the Father within the Godhead is that which we are to believe and rely upon for the certainty of our salvation. To understand the union is beyond human comprehension and if it could be understood, that would still not be the equivalent of salvation.

John 11:41 "where the dead was laid" is removed. God intends that we should know that this was the very same place where Lazarus was laid. This is an attempt to cloud the evident miracle which followed. (see also 12:2 where "which had been dead" is also removed).

Acts

Title "of the Holy Apostles" is deleted. To leave us with "ACTS" means nothing. That the Apostles were sanctified (holy) by the Lord Jesus and sent forth as his sent ones is evident from John 17:17-19. The title in the MAJORITY Text is doctrinally correct.

Acts 2:30 "according to the flesh he would raise up Christ" is omitted. It was not just that one of David's descendants would sit upon the throne, but that his greater Son would be raised from the dead in a body of flesh.

Acts 2:31 "his soul" is omitted. The body of Christ was in the tomb but his soul went down into Hades (Hell), the place of departed spirits. The teaching of the Bible is that our Lord had a body, soul and spirit.

Acts 2:47 "to the church" is left out. Believers are added to the Church which is Christ's body. The Church is an organism, and when persecutors touched the Church they touched Christ (see Acts 9:5).

Acts 3:21 "all" is dropped in front of "his holy prophets." God has spoken of the Kingdom age by the mouth of ALL his prophets since the world began. In harmony with this Jesus spoke to the two on the road to Emmaus about himself from "all the prophets" (see Luke 24:27). There are others in the world who claim to be prophets but they do not speak of Jesus and his kingdom, therefore they are not of God.

Acts 3:26 "Jesus" is dropped. The specific name leaves no doubt as to whom God raised up from the dead to offer again the kingdom to Israel.

Acts 4:24 "thou art God" is changed to "thou art he who." There is no reason to accept MINORITY manuscripts when they want to change "God" to "he who" (see 1 Timothy 3:16).

Acts 6:3 The word "Holy" is dropped. When God led the Church to choose deacons he made it clear that they should be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Many churches since have appointed men who had a lot of spirit and were full of enthusiasm, but that is not the same as being full of the "Holy Ghost." Godly living is required of deacons and it is contrary to sound doctrine to leave out "Holy." The Greek word for spirit can refer to man's spirit or God's spirit and lest we should err

here God inserted the word "Holy" before spirit.

Acts 6:8 "faith" is changed to "grace." The Bible does not teach that Christians are full of grace but rather that they receive grace. The only one who was "full of grace" was our Lord Jesus Christ (see John 1:14). The measure of faith is given to every believer to profit thereby.

Acts 7:30 "of the Lord" is omitted. It was not just an angel that appeared to Moses at the burning bush, it was an angel of Jehovah (the Lord). This was an Old Testament appearance of the eternal Son of God in angelic form. In plain words it was the Lord who appeared to Moses (see Exodus 3:1-5).

Acts 7:37 "The Lord your" and "him shall ye hear" are omitted. This is contrary to the original quotation as found in Deuteronomy 18:15. In Stephen's sermon the "him shall ye hear" is most important since those who refuse Christ's words will be judged by God.

Acts 8:18 "Holy" is dropped. Four times here in four verses the Holy Ghost is mentioned. To drop the word Holy in one out of the four times is to create confusion and doubt concerning the Word of God.

Acts 8:37 The whole verse is omitted. This leaves the question of the Ethiopian eunuch unanswered. Philip's answer is correct in that belief must be from the heart prior to baptism. The eunuch's confession of faith is in exact agreement with what is required for salvation as given in John 20:31. Souls have been led to Christ with this verse of Scripture and it is doctrinally unsound to remove it.

Acts 9:5-6 "it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him" is all omitted. This passage gives us a picture of Saul resisting the Spirit of God as he was under conviction. Saul's response is to submit to the Lord's direction, having been humbled before the Lord. Without Saul's "what wilt thou have me to do?" there could be no "arise and go."

Acts 9:29 "Jesus" is left out. The reason the Jews went about to slay Saul was not because he spake boldly in the name of the Lord, but because he spoke of the Lord Jesus. As we well know in this day of Modernism there is a great difference.

Acts 10:6 "he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do" is left out. The would- be correctors of the MAJORITY Text would have us believe that Cornelius was already saved and that it would be good for him to have fellowship with Peter. The truth is that Cornelius was not saved (see 11:14) and that there was something which he had to do. He must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ or he would be lost and go to Hell.

Acts 10:30 "fasting" is left out. Fasting, to find the will of God, is a Biblical doctrine. Though it is little used today, especially since we have the completed Word of God, it was evident in the New Testament apostolic times.

Acts 10:32 "who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee" is omitted. See above comments under Acts 10:6.

Acts 15:24 "Ye must be circumcised and keep the law" is left out. This is exactly the reason why the Jerusalem council was called or convened. There is no doubt that the reply to the Gentile converts made mention of the all important question.

Acts 16:31 "Christ" is omitted. The word speaks of the Deity of Christ. It pointed the Philippian jailer to the God he must believe in for salvation.

Acts 18:5 "was pressed in the Spirit" is changed to "was engrossed with the word." When Paul was teaching he was always engrossed with the Word. In Corinth Paul had been laying the groundwork at the synagogue concerning what the Scriptures had to say about their Messiah (Christ). When Silas and Timothy came, Paul was under compulsion to show that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 19:10 "Jesus" is left out. For the heathen to hear about the Lord is not enough. They must hear that Jesus is that Lord.

Acts 20:28 "of God" is changed to "of the Lord." The word lord is sometimes used of men and sometimes of God. Therefore, the change does not affirm the Deity of Christ. Our Authorized King James Version shows that God purchased the church with his own blood. This establishes the Deity of Christ irrefutably.

Acts 21:25 "they observe no such thing, save only that" is omitted. The Gentiles had been told that they did not have to observe the law of Moses nor circumcise their children (see Acts 15:23 - Acts 15:29). James was in error when he sought to keep the Jews obedient to the Law after he had written to the Gentiles that they were not under it. The omission here leaves one with the impression that the Law was optional for the Gentiles and possibly preferable. Tampering with God's Word always leaves the door open for doctrinal error.

Acts 26:28 "almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian" is changed to "do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" King Agrippa was "almost persuaded" and he was in possession of the truth concerning salvation. The change would have us believe that he needed more information and perhaps Paul was too quick to expect a decision.

Romans

Romans 1:16 "of Christ" is omitted. The gospel message is of Christ and centers around his Person and Work. This is an inexcusable attempt to leave Christ out of the good news of salvation.

Romans 3:22 "and upon all" is dropped. The doctrine of imputed righteousness is most blessed to the believer. We are clothed in his righteousness and God sees us in Him, therefore it is "upon us."

Romans 8:1 "Who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" is dropped. To the truth that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ, the Word adds the truth that they are characterized by a walk in the Spirit. It is a Bible doctrine that those who are saved are characterized by a changed life.

Romans 11:6 "But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work" is dropped. The first part of the verse shows that grace rules out works. The second part of the verse shows that works rules out grace. It is intended for those who want to intrude works into the established state of grace for good measure (or safekeeping in salvation). This is a very important

doctrinal passage in its' entirety.

Romans 13:9 "thou shalt not bear false witness" is dropped. Those who wrote the corrupt manuscripts had no trouble with the other commandments shown here. It is obvious that a smiting conscience would not permit them to include this commandment since it directly involved what they were engaged in, bearing false witness about God's Word.

Romans 14:9 "and rose" is left out. Many heretics are willing to say that he died and that he lives again, but that he rose (bodily out from among the dead) they reject outright. The bodily resurrection of Christ is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith.

1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 2:4 "man's wisdom" is changed to "wisdom." Paul did not reject wisdom in his teaching, he rejected MAN'S wisdom.

1 Corinthians 3:4 "are ye not carnal?" is changed to "are ye not men?" It should be obvious that they were men, but the Bible truth to be taught was that in their divisions they were being controlled by fleshly (carnal) desires and not spiritual desires.

1 Corinthians 5:7 "for us" is omitted. This affects the vital doctrine of the substitutionary atonement of Christ. If Christ did not die for our sins then we are still under the wrath of God and without hope.

1 Corinthians 5:12 The little word "also" is dropped. That word indicated that Paul did judge those who were within the church. Those who were outside the church were for God to judge. The responsibility for believers to carry out discipline within the church is a Bible doctrine.

1 Corinthians 6:4 "set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church" is changed to "do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church?" The Word of God teaches that it is better to suffer wrong than to go to court against another Christian before a lost world. It is better to leave the judgment of the matter to the least Christian than to the greatest worldly judge. The change here completely turns around the way of God and seems to rebuke the church for leaving the matter in the hands of the least Christians.

1 Corinthians 6:20 "and in your spirit which are God's" is omitted. The body gives us world consciousness and the spirit gives us God consciousness. We are to glorify God in our body by holy living and in our spirit by walking in fellowship with God. Verses 16 and 17 talk about both.

1 Corinthians 10:9 "Christ" is changed to "Lord." In the Old Testament they tempted Christ and that rock that followed them was Christ (see 1 Corinthians 10:4). The word Lord can be used of the Father and the Son. Changing to that word here eliminates the pre-existence of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:24 "take eat" is omitted along with "is broken." The symbolic bread was broken and given to the disciples with instruction to eat it. It typified his flesh which "is being broken for you" (literal Greek). Though not a bone of him was broken it is true that his flesh was broken in many places before he died on our behalf.

1 Corinthians 11:29 "unworthily" is dropped. The word gives the picture of a believer treating the Lord's Supper as a common meal, not reverencing the symbolic meaning and spiritual impact it is

intended to make upon his soul and spirit. To remove this word is a very great doctrinal error. When you consider that sickness and death was the result of such unworthy participation, it is no light matter.

1 Corinthians 11:29 "not discerning the Lord's body" is changed to "if he does not judge the body rightly" (NASV). When we partake of the Lord's Supper we are to see through the elements to the Lord's body. As you think of the cost of your redemption there ought to be more holy living. The change brings absolute confusion concerning what body is meant, the Lord's or the believers. It is hallowed ground and the corrupters of God's Word have dared to tread upon it.

1 Corinthians 15:47 "the Lord" is left out. God is contrasting Adam and Christ. To say that the second man is from heaven is not enough. There have been men from heaven who were angels. Here the man from heaven is the Lord. This is an attempt to do away with the Deity of Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:49 "we shall also bear the image of the heavenly" is changed to "we should bear the image of the heavenly." The first is a fact based upon the certainty of our eternal salvation in Christ. The second is an exhortation based upon the uncertainty of a salvation by works. The first is sound doctrine, the second is unsound doctrine.

1 Corinthians 16:22 "Jesus Christ" is omitted. In a phrase with such import as to be accursed it is unthinkable that the test should center around the general term "Lord." The curse of God is upon those who do not love the Lord Jesus Christ. When his person and work is refused there is nothing to look for but wrath.

2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians 4:4 "unto them" is omitted. The devil does not have power to keep the light of the gospel of Christ from shining, but he does have power to blind men lest it shine "unto them."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "all things" is left out. The believer is brought into vital union with Christ so that it is declared that he is in Christ. In the sight of God "old things" of the sinful nature are passed away. It only remains for those old things to be unwound, like Lazarus' graveclothes, in his daily life. In the sight of God "all things" are become new though they make their appearance in the life of the believer as he grows in grace and knowledge. To deny that "all things" are become new is to deny the finished work of Christ whereby we are made accepted in the beloved.

2 Corinthians 12:11 "in glorying" is dropped. The Corinthians had compelled Paul to talk about his experiences with the Lord. He did not want to brag about his spirituality. He felt that he had become foolish in boasting or glorying. The change would have Paul saying, "I have made a fool of myself." That is not what we are to understand.

Galatians

Galatians 3:1 "that ye should not obey the truth" is omitted. The Galatians had been bewitched by the Jewish legalizers who had put them under the Law to keep saved. Paul tells them that in so doing they were not obeying the truth. The truth was that they were saved by grace and that all spiritual blessings were theirs in Christ. To turn from that is to be in error.

Galatians 3:17 "in Christ" is dropped. Paul is talking about the covenant with Abraham through his seed which was Christ. The law was added later and did not affect the covenant of promise to those who would be saved by believing as Abraham did. God promised Abraham that through his seed (singular) all the families of the earth would be blessed. That was a covenant confirmed before of God "in Christ."

Galatians 4:7 "an heir of God through Christ" is changed to "an heir through God." The inheritance is to the children of God through the mediatorship of Christ. We are not heirs of God through God, but through Christ. The change here is intended to destroy the reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Ephesians

Ephesians 1:1 "at Ephesus" is left out. It is hard to conceive that the Spirit of God addressed an epistle and then lost the address.

Ephesians 3:9 "by Jesus Christ" is removed. It is a Bible doctrine that all things were created by Jesus Christ and without him was not anything made that was made. This change detracts from the Deity of Christ which is made evident by the fact that ALL THINGS were created by Him.

Ephesians 5:30 "of his flesh, and of his bones" is left out. The Bible teaching is that the believer is vitally conjoined to Christ for a new life and walk in the Spirit. We are "quickened together with Christ," "raised up together," and "seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." God likens this to the marriage relationship where two people become one flesh.

Ephesians 6:10 "my brethren" is dropped. These words make it very clear that Paul's instructions concerning Christian living are for Christians who by the new birth have become Paul's "brethren." There is a great danger that unsaved people might get the impression that by imitating the things that Christians do they can become Christians.

Philippians

Php 4:13 "Christ" is changed to "him." It is precious to the believer to know that Christ will give him strength for spiritual living. Christ himself said, "without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5). The word "him" is quite indefinite and can be misconstrued by Modernists to include the "him" of any religious group believing in a Supreme Being.

Colossians

Colossians 1:2 "and the Lord Jesus Christ" is omitted. Along with the Father he is the source of grace and peace.

Colossians 1:14 "through his blood" is left out. Redemption and forgiveness of sins is through the direct agency of his shed blood. Many Modernists today can work around the words "redemption" and "forgiveness of sins," but they cannot work around the shed blood. Therefore they must deny it and be in direct opposition to it.

Colossians 2:11 "of the sins" is removed. What is left to work with brings the NIV to translate "In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of your sinful nature." It is an established Bible doctrine that by the circumcision of our heart which the Lord made, we are able to overcome the

sins of our flesh. But the putting off of our sinful nature will not take place until we are changed in the Rapture. Errors like this can only occur as the group of translators persist in following the MINORITY Text.

Colossians 2:18 "those things which he has not seen" is made to read "those things which he has seen." Men were vainly attempting to worship angels as emanations from God in a step-ladder effort to reach God. Paul exhorted them to hold fast to the Head (our God-man Christ Jesus) who proceeded forth and came from God (himself being of the Trinity) that he might bring us to God. Paul says they DID NOT see them, heretics say THEY HAVE.

1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 1:1 "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" is dropped. Are we to think that grace and peace is bestowed by Paul? No, that is not within his power. They have their source in the Father and the Son.

1 Thessalonians 5:27 "holy" is dropped from before "brethren." Paul had other brethren according to the flesh who were not saved (Romans 9:1-3; Romans 10:1). These were sanctified and preserved brethren and they were "holy" because they were accepted in the beloved.

1 Timothy

1 Timothy 3:3 "not greedy of filthy lucre" is omitted. The phrase has to do with obtaining earthly gain through disgraceful means. This happens everyday within professing Christendom. It is inspired of God and belongs in the text.

1 Timothy 3:16 "God was manifest" is changed to "He was manifest." The reference is to Christ manifest in the flesh, etc. The MAJORITY Text tells us that this Christ was God. There are 252 copies of Paul's Epistles which have "God" and only 2 copies which have "he." The MINORITY Text leaves us in doubt as to who "he" is. The doctrine of the Deity of Christ is greatly harmed here by the corrupt text.

1 Timothy 4:12 "in spirit" is left out. To be an example of the believer it is necessary to have a spiritual man guided by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

1 Timothy 4:16 "if any man" is omitted. It is unthinkable that the head of the house should be removed here from the responsibility to provide for widows.

1 Timothy 6:5 "from such withdraw thyself" is dropped. The Bible doctrine of separation is affected by this corruption. We are to withdraw from teachers who are destitute of the truth.

1 Timothy 6:19 "eternal life" is changed to "that which is truly life." The first talks about the length of life, the second talks about the quality of life. You cannot have the first without being saved. You can have the second but still be lost, depending on what you think is "truly life."

2 Timothy

2 Timothy 1:11 "of the Gentiles" is omitted. That Paul was appointed to teach the gospel to the Gentiles is indisputable (see Galatians 2:7-9).

Hebrews

Hebrews 1:3 "When he had by himself purged our sins" is changed to "when he had made purification of sins." The omission of the word "our" leaves us to wonder whose sins were purged, his own or others. It is not plain and therefore the substitutionary atonement of Christ is affected by the change. With the words "by himself" the Holy Spirit wanted us to see that the atonement for our sins was accomplished by Christ alone. The damage to this verse is awesome in its consequences.

Hebrews 3:1 "Christ" is omitted. Our High Priest must be anointed of God to that office and the word Christ means the Messiah or Anointed one of God.

Hebrews 10:34 "in heaven" is left out. Those who had lost all their earthly goods certainly had no enduring substance here, but in heaven was their treasure and reward.

James

James 2:20 "faith without works is dead" has been changed to "faith without works is useless." There is a great difference between dead faith and useless (or idle) faith. The first indicates that no faith exists and the person is lost. The second implies that faith exists but it is not being used. Again we see humanism and the false idea of a little divinity in each one which only needs to be fanned into a flame. The change promotes false doctrine.

James 4:4 "ye adulterers" is dropped from the text. No reason to excuse the men from the scathing denunciation of God's Word.

James 4:14 "It is even a vapour" is changed to "Ye are just a vapour." In describing the length of our life, God tells us it will pass quickly like a vapour. The change would have US OURSELVES to exist as a little steam. There is a leaning here toward annihilationism.

James 5:16 "Confess your faults" becomes "confess your sins." In a context where God talks about sin in relationship to sickness, he moves on to talk about faults (a side-slip or deviation). The change "faults" to "sins" leads to the priesthood and the confession box which is contrary to all of Scripture.

1 Peter

1 Peter 1:22 "through the Spirit" is removed. The Bible teaches that it is through the agency of the Holy Spirit that men are brought to believe in Christ. In John 16:8, John 16:9 he convicts the world (all men) and draws them to faith in Christ.

1 Peter 1:23 "for ever" is dropped and thereby the preservation of the Word of God is called into question. The agency here of the new birth is the Word of God, which is eternal. Our new birth therefore is as eternal as the Word which originated it.

1 Peter 2:2 The phrase "unto salvation" is added by Westcott and Hort to "that ye may grow thereby." This puts a question mark over the certainty of our present salvation. It makes salvation a process rather than an accomplished fact. The doctrine of eternal security is denied by the new exhortation to grow UNTO SALVATION.

1 Peter 3:18 "suffered for sins" is changed to "died for sins." The context has Christians suffering for well doing and they are exhorted to keep on because Christ also has suffered for us. It is a

Bible teaching that Christ not only died for our sins, but that he suffered for our sins (see Isaiah 53:5-7).

1 Peter 3:18 "quickened by the Spirit" is changed to "quickened in the spirit." The correct rendering attributes the resurrection of Christ to the Holy Spirit. This completes the truth that all three persons of the Trinity were involved in the resurrection of Christ (see John 2:19; Romans 8:11).

1 Peter 4:1 "for us" is left out. Christ suffered for us, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God.

1 Peter 5:2 "taking the oversight thereof" is omitted. To watch over the flock of God with authority is a clear teaching of the Word.

1 Peter 5:12 "wherein ye stand" is changed to "wherein stand." By the removal of the word "ye" there is a change from our standing in grace to an exhortation to stay there standing. The blessing of a perfected standing in grace is thereby removed.

2 Peter

2 Peter 2:17 The words "for ever" are dropped. Peter, in the word concerning false teachers, states that their darkness is to last forever. The change leaves us with no definite word as to their end.

2 Peter 2:18 "those that were clean escaped" is changed to "those that are scarcely escaping." The change from past tense to present tense moves us from a completed salvation to a hope-so salvation. Those who are saved are in possession of eternal life (see John 5:24).

2 Peter 2:20 "the Lord and Saviour" becomes "our Lord and Saviour." The false teachers had escaped some of the world's worst sins by following the teachings of "the Lord" but they had never come to know him as "our Lord" is known to real Christians. They were not saved and then lost, but never saved at all.

2 Peter 3:2 "us the apostles" is changed to "your apostles." The Church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets (Ephesians 2:20) and there are no apostles and prophets today nor is there any such thing as an apostolic succession. The phrase "your apostles" indicates that the people he was writing to had special apostles designated for them and lends support to the continuance of a so-called "Apostolic Succession."

1 John

1 John 1:7 "Christ" is dropped. This word brings the cleansing blood into relationship with our great anointed High Priest who ever liveth to make intercession for us. Many cults believe that Jesus (as man) died for the original sin of Adam and that Christ (as a spirit) rose without the body. John would have us know that the one who died and the one who arose are the same.

1 John 3:5 "our" is removed from before "sins." Once again the question of whose sins were taken away is raised. There have been sins committed by angels and men. The "our sins" refers the atonement to those of men. (see my comments under Hebrews 1:1-14; Hebrews 3:1-19).

1 John 3:14 "his brother" is removed. The teaching of the Word is that a true Christian will love his brother in Christ. If a man does not love a true Christian, then it is evident that he is still lost and abides in death. The test of spiritual life is not that we love, but that we love the brethren (see John 13:34, John 13:35).

1 John 4:19 "We love him" is changed to "We love." The object of God's love is us, and the object of our love is him. Christians are not just people who love, but people who love God because of his grace. The very next verse deals with the professor who says he loves God but is a liar. Lost people may love, but saved people love God.

1 John 5:7 The whole verse bearing testimony to the Triune God is discarded. There are at least 20 Greek manuscripts which have this verse in. It is also seen in the writings of the church fathers and lectionaries. It directly affects the Bible doctrine of the Trinity.

Revelation

Revelation 5:10 "kings and priests" is changed to "a kingdom of priests." The 24 elders are representative of all the redeemed who in Christ are constituted kings and priests. A kingdom of priests smells of Nicolaitanism (the rule of the clergy over the laity) and the priesthood for a select few as in the Roman Catholic Church. (The same change is seen in Revelation 1:6)

Revelation 8:13 "an angel" is changed to "an eagle." This is most amusing and shows how captive the Revisers are to their corrupt text. In a setting replete with angels we are told about a talking eagle who pronounces three more "Woes" to the inhabitants of the earth.

Revelation 14:5 "before the throne of God" is dropped. This phrase speaks of the perfect standing that the saved have in Christ. They are without fault before God because they are, like the church, "accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6).

Revelation 20:9 "from God" is dropped. At the end of the Kingdom Age the enemies of God are destroyed by fire "from God out of heaven." God is the one who will destroy all enemies and create a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 20:12 "before God" is changed to "before the throne." The dead will be raised, not to stand before an impersonal throne, but to stand before "the God" [literal]. Many would like to change the personal God into some kind of Divine Mind or Supreme Being.

Conclusion

All that has gone before makes it very clear that Christian Doctrine is greatly affected by the changes. The MINORITY Text is the source of these changes and the New Modern Versions usually follow that Text. It is unthinkable that men of God would continue to advocate the use of these versions when they are in complete possession of all the facts. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to guide us into "all truth." May he be allowed to have his way in our hearts. If you have read this book and are of the same persuasion as the author, I would exhort you to give copies to your Christian friends. It is very important that they understand the issue confronting the Church today. As great numbers of Christian people let their voices be heard for the retention of God's Word, as given to us in the Traditional Text, there will be a restoration of the same in the pulpits and in the Christian schools of our land.

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Cremation Is Not for Christians

Cremation Is Not for Christians by Paul L. Freeman

Many people today are choosing cremation because they have been led to believe it is less expensive. Burial expenses are deemed to be not worth it, an unnecessary expense. Some Christians may have been influenced along these lines without stopping to consider what God has to say in the matter.

Christians are Bible believers and the Bible is their sole authority for faith (what they believe) and practice (what they do). When we turn to the Bible we find that the Christian's body, soul, and spirit have been purchased by the blood of Christ. The Bible says, "...and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Thessalonians 5:23) and that we are "... waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." "We are sealed by the Holy Spirit...until the redemption of the purchased possession..." (Ephesians 1:14). Our body belongs to the Lord and is His to do with as He pleases.

Everywhere we read in the Bible we find the saints of God burying their dead to await the coming day of resurrection. None of the people of God cremated their dead. Cremation was then and still is a pagan practice. God spoke to Abram and said, "And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age" (Genesis 15:15). God's direction to Abram was that his body should be buried. We conclude that God ordained burial for the body. Abram understood God and buried his dead wife (Genesis 23:19). Later Isaac and Ishmael buried their father Abraham (Abram) alongside his wife Sarah (Genesis 25:9-10). The Bible records the burial of Rachel, Leah, Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, Miriam, Aaron, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elisha, and many others whose names are too many to mention. It is also written of Joseph, "So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old: and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt." (Genesis 50:26). God Himself buried Moses on the top of Mt. Nebo after his death (Deuteronomy 34:5-6). In the New Testament is recorded the burial of John the Baptist, Ananias, Sapphira, and Stephen. However the greatest example for burial of the body is our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:58-60). It would have been cheaper to cremate His body, but Joseph of Arimathea spent a lot of money to prepare it and then placed it in his own new tomb (John 19:38-41). God has only one word about cremation in the whole Bible, and it is a strong word of disapproval. "Thus saith the Lord; for three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof: because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime." (Amos 2:1). God has told us that an untimely birth is better than that a man have no burial (Ecclesiastes 6:3). The Bible is very clear that the resurrection begins with the body that was laid in the grave. When the women came to the tomb on the first day of the week, the angel said, "He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6) After His resurrection many bodies of the saints "came out of the graves" (Matthew 27:53). The risen Jesus said, "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see..." (Luke 24:39). When the Lord returns, it is written that "the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

Christian, follow the Lord's example and bury your dead in honor and respect, rejoicing in hope of the coming resurrection day.

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The Bible Teaching Concerning Separation

The Bible Teaching Concerning Separation by Paul L. Freeman

One of the most neglected Bible teachings today is the Doctrine of Separation. It is found in the Bible and it ought to be taught to Christians. Those who are saved should believe and practice Biblical Separation. Since the Bible is our only authority for faith and practice we have endeavored to set forth its teachings as follows:

I. We are to be separated unto the Lord. The Bible tells us that Christ died for us that He might "purify unto Himself a peculiar people" (Titus 2:14). This peculiar people are to show forth the praises of Him "who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). These called out ones are to be separated "unto the gospel of God" (Romans 1:1). The ultimate end of our separation is that we may have "fellowship ... with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3).

II. We are to separate from sin. The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ was born into this world that he might "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). In agreement with this, Paul wrote to Timothy, "the Lord knoweth them that are his, And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity" (2 Timothy 2:19). Paul wrote, "Shall we continue in sin ... God forbid. How shall we ... live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2). It is very clear that the saved are to be turning away from sin and growing into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) III. We are to be separate from the world system. When our Lord prayed for us (see John 17:1-26) He said that we had been given to Him "out of the world" (vs. 6). Then He said that He was going to leave us "in the world" (vs. 11) and that we were not "of the world" (vs. 14). This clearly tells us that our citizenship is in heaven (Php 3:20) and that we are pilgrims and strangers here (1 Peter 2:11). In accordance with this the Apostle John said that we were not to "love...the world, neither the things that are in the world" (1 John 2:15-17). The Apostle Paul said, "set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth" (Colossians 3:2). Since we are going to depart in the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) and the world left behind will enter into the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21), we ought to be ready to leave this world. It is energized by Satan under the temporary permissive will of God and we ought to consciously separate ourselves from it. Our attitude toward it is best described by Paul when he said, "be not conformed to this world" (Romans 12:2). Remember that Lot thought he had gotten the best of the world, but in the end the world got the best of him.

IV. We are to be separate from unbelievers. The Word of God tells us, "be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" and "come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6:14-17). This passage is very plain and yet is perhaps the most disobeyed commandment of the Lord to Christians. We can find at least four areas where Christians are forbidden to join up with the lost person:

1. In seeking to further the Gospel testimony. The New Evangelicals with their celebrated and honored by the world evangelist, Billy Graham, have wrought great havoc in the Church through their cooperative evangelism. Seeking to hold evangelistic crusades by coordinating the efforts of Modernists, Catholics, Cultists, and Evangelicals has worked unbelievable confusion to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Religious unbelievers are still unbelievers and we are forbidden to join hands with them to do the work of the Lord. The debate concerning this has raged for twenty years but all the while the Word of God has not changed. This passage is so clear that the debate should have been shut off before it was started. However, the New Evangelicals have persisted in their ever enlarging disobedience, and we are now seeing the fruit of their compromise. The devil's business has been to fill the church with tares that look like wheat and he has had marvelous success. (see Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 13:36-43) We are to do God's work in God's way in order to get God's results. It is never right to do evil that good may come.

2. In the lifelong covenant of marriage.

Marriage in the Bible is still until death parts. When we commit ourselves to marriage we enter into a covenant and two people become one. Despite what we are hearing from the Women's Libbers, a marriage does not consist of two people cohabiting while pursuing their own careers and selfish interests, but there is one goal and one purpose, and for a Christian that ought to be to serve the Lord. An unequal yoke in marriage where a saved person marries a lost person is forbidden by this passage. It is plain and there are no "BUTS" or "IFS". Those whose have refused to obey God have lived to see that He was right all along. The pathway of blessing is still the pathway of obedience.

3. In the pursuit of an education.

Christians should not be voluntarily submitting themselves at the feet of lost teachers where the best that can be gained is a worldly education. The educational process cannot be carried on without the morals (or immorality) of the teacher being imparted to the students. This is an area that has been surrendered by Christians [but because of] the Christian School movement ... more Christians are now sitting at the feet of believers to be educated. Those Christians who have attended the public school P.T.A. meetings have found it to be uncomfortable because it is an unequal yoke. The teaching of evolution in science class, the premarital sex teaching in Sex Education classes, the vulgarity in the required reading of English class, and the dating of the lost in high school should scare the life out of a Christian parent. The passage above is enough for me, What about you?

4. In compromising business arrangements. The passage above teaches us that we ought not to embark on a private business venture with an unsaved partner. When a saved man has chosen to yoke up with a lost man in business he places himself in a position where God is offended. When the Israelites took the Moabites into their camp, God would not bless them. If a business venture needs a partner, we ought to seek out a saved partner, and together in Christ ask for God's blessing upon the business. The following note from the Scofield Bible is helpful: "The underlying principle is that in a moral universe it is impossible for God to fully bless and use his children who are in a compromise or complicity with evil." (p. 1234).

V. Sometimes we must separate from believers. The Bible tells us that there are times when we must separate ourselves from other Christians. In the compromising age we are in it has become increasingly difficult to know who to have fellowship with and who to avoid. Therefore we ought to earnestly search the Scriptures for wisdom. There are four specific passage from the Bible that I would call to your attention.

1. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-14

Those who walked "disorderly" were to be shunned in order that they might be ashamed of their conduct. The word "disorderly" means to "set irregularly". These that Paul mentioned were refusing to work and support themselves. In addition to that they were "busybodies" or meddling. These people caused trouble in the church because they were not busy supporting themselves. Their business was to disrupt the body of Christ.

2. 1 Timothy 6:5

Here Paul tells us to withdraw from one who thinks that earthly gain is the proof of godliness. The man who is covetous and seeks to be rich is not fit companion to the Christian who has been exhorted to "set his affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:20) 3. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13 In this passage the believer is told not to be a companion to one who is a brother (i.e. a child of God) and yet continues in the sins mentioned. That person is to be put out of the church fellowship. The sins which should move us to separation are given to us here. A fornicator is a person who commits unlawful sexual immorality, a whoremonger. To be covetous is to be so eager for earthly gain that he is not above defrauding others to get what he wants. To these Jesus said "ye cannot serve God and Mammon" (deified wealth) (Matthew 6:24). An idolater was one who worshipped images. The Lord had said in Exodus 20:4-5 "thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image... Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them". In professing Christendom today the Roman Catholic Church is the chief perpetrator of image worship. The Christian should have no fellowship with such. A railer is one who is uncontrollable in his use of abusive language. A drunkard is one who is intoxicated from strong drink. An extortioner is one who seizes or takes by force. The meaning is that he preys on others to obtain that which is not rightfully his. The Word of God tells us that we should not even share a meal with such a person. The testimony of the salvation which Christ has given us is greatly hindered by professing Christians with such evil works. We ought to avoid them so that our witnessing for Christ to the lost can be effective.

4. Romans 16:17

Paul tells us here that we are to avoid those who cause divisions and scandal in the church. Those who pervert the doctrines of God and His Word cause divisions among believers and place a stumbling block in the way of sinners coming to Christ for salvation. Errors in doctrine cause errors in living the Christian life. Errors in doctrine produce errors in preaching and the lost man soon has a distorted view of the Gospel. To be happy and blessed it is necessary that we follow the teaching of the Word of God pertaining to Separation. Many today are drawing near to the Lord with their lips but their heart is far from Him. Many profess to be born-again but they do not separate from sin. The world is pouring many believers into its mold. Believers have mistakenly thought that they can change the lost by joining them, and few believers want to withdraw themselves from those

who are "out of joint" in the body of Christ. The Word of God has not changed and we ought to obey God rather than men.

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What Are You Doing Dad?

What Are You Doing Dad? by Paul L. Freeman

Four times in the Gospel of John we read that Judas was Simon's son (John 6:71; John 12:4; John 13:2, John 13:26). It must have been bitter indeed for Simon to hear himself so often referred to as the father of Judas. Somewhere in the raising of his son, something was wrong. Many a Christian father today is heading down the same road with his children. The Word of God is crying out to them so as to say, "Dad! What are you doing?"

Dad! Are You the Head of Your Home? The Bible declares that just as "Christ is the head of the Church" the husband is "the head of the wife" (Ephesians 5:23). The man is to be in charge of his home and his wife is to follow his leading. If she is ordering him around from day to day, he needs to stop and ask himself, "Am I the head of this home?" Little spiritual good for his children will come about in a home where God's order is reversed and the father is a WIMP. A wife ought to be scared to death to fly in the face of God's Word when it plainly says, "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man ... " (1 Timothy 2:12).

Dad! Are You Faithful to Your Wife and Children?

Just as the Lord Jesus is faithful in providing for the needs of the Church, the father is to provide for the needs of his family. God has assigned him the task of being the "breadwinner" for his wife and children (Genesis 3:16-19; 1 Timothy 5:8). His "helpmeet" is the weaker vessel (1 Peter 3:7) and is commanded by God to be a "keeper (or stayer) at home" (Titus 2:5). The Lord Jesus is also faithful to his Church and will have no relationship with the Harlot Church (Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:2). So also, Dad is to be faithful to his wife. He will not flirt with women at work or waitresses in a restaurant. Any man who is doing such things needs to stop and read Proverbs 5:15-23 where God says, "And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger." An unfaithful father will produce unfaithful children.

Dad! Do You Have a Family Altar? A Christian father ought to gather his children together for Bible reading and prayer each day. In the old days this was referred to as the "Family Altar." It is still true that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." If we are going to have Christian children we are going to have to show them our total love for the Word of God and our absolute belief in prayer. Oftentimes fathers who will not discard their TV to the rubbish pile will refuse to establish time for the family altar. Dad! Have you read Psalms 101:1-3?

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes? I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."

Dad! Do You Spank Your Children? A man who does not spank his children when they are being disobedient hates them. A father who loves his children will spank them and keep them from going

to hell.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." Proverbs 13:24 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying." Proverbs 19:18

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Proverbs 22:15

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." Proverbs 23:13-14 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." Proverbs 29:15

Children need to learn that unacceptable conduct brings punishment. It is basic to their understanding of Salvation. A child left to go on in sin without restraint will have little appreciation for One Who came to die for his sins. A child raised without fear of punishment will have little fear of a God who punishes sinners (Romans 3:18).

Dad! Are You Steady at Church? A father who does not attend all the regular meetings of the church shows his family that Church is not important. It is a fundamental principle that like produces like. When you sow potatoes, you do not reap tomatoes. When you show unfaithfulness to the Lord as He gathers the believers together, you will reap children who are unfaithful to the Lord. At the other extreme there are fathers who let their children sit home while they attend church. Your children should always be with you at church, and they should all sit with you.

Dad! Are Your Children in the Heathen Schoolhouse?

If so, they will learn the "way of the heathen" which God says they are not to do (Jeremiah 10:2). Enroll them in a Christian school or teach them at home. You have been ordered to "train up a child in the way he should go" so that when he is old "he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). The words "TRAIN UP" mean "to narrow" and come from a root meaning "to be narrow." The heathen school has taken more children from Christian Homes to Hell than we can imagine. Dad! It does not cost to send your children to Christian school--IT PAYS. It pays eternal dividends. Cash in your IRA, sell the house, drive an old car, skip the pool in the backyard, work two jobs--but take your children to heaven with you.

Dad! Are Your Children Dating the Lost?

Marrying the lost children of the Devil (John 8:44) sets up an unequal yoke which God has forbidden (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). I do not know anyone who got married without first dating. One inevitably leads to the other. Your children should be allowed to date only saved young people, and when I say SAVED, I mean really SAVED. Anyone who gets "saved" so as to date your daughter should be made to wait six months. If they are still around after that time you might let them date (assuming your daughter is at a proper age to date) but only with a chaperone along to ensure everyone keeps their hands to themselves. The stories of misery coming from "unequal yoke" marriages are too numerous to count. Dad! They are your children and God has made you responsible as the Head of the Home.

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What's Wrong With Five-Point Calvinism?

What's Wrong With Five-Point Calvinism?

He loves me — loves me not by Paul L. Freeman

There is a system of teaching abroad today which is infecting our fundamental churches, Bible institutes, Christian colleges, and seminaries. It is known as Five-Point Calvinism and originated with John Calvin's interpretation of the Word of God. The fearsome thing about it is its spread into fundamental churches and schools with little opposition. It appears that the proponents of Neo-evangelicalism, with their criticism of Fundamentalists for their supposed "lack of scholarship toward the Word of God," have had a great influence. As this system of false doctrines spreads into the last strongholds of Biblical Christianity there is a silence when there should be a resounding reply from the Word of God by Pastors and Teachers. The intellectualism of this system of teaching seems to have cast a spell over our leaders and the will to resist is stifled for fear of saying something non-intellectual. In that which follows I urge you to compare the Five-Points of Calvinism with the Word of God and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

Concerning the Five-Points of Calvinism, Loraine Boettner has stated on p. 59 of his book, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, "prove any one of them true and all of the others will follow as logical and necessary parts of the system. Prove any one of them false and the whole system must be abandoned." Since Mr. Boettner is considered an authority on the subject, I would encourage you to follow his advice and abandon the system when you find one of the Five-Points to be wrong. The Five-Points of Calvinism are as follows:

1. Total inability
2. Unconditional election
3. Limited atonement
4. Irresistible grace
5. Perseverance of the saints

It is not the purpose of this paper to present an exhaustive study of these points and to examine the Scriptures used by Calvinists to prove their system of teaching. Rather, this study is set forth for the Christian believer who wants to know, very simply stated, what these Five Points are and whether they are in agreement with all the Scriptures.

Total Inability The teaching of Five-Point Calvinism is that man is totally unable to do anything to obtain salvation. They state very emphatically that he cannot repent or believe the Gospel. Their teaching is that man cannot believe until he is born again. This new birth is brought about by God who chooses certain individuals and regenerates them. Those whom He regenerates are then capable of believing by virtue of their new birth. Man does not have a free will by which he is able to come to Christ for salvation.

Concerning the statement that man cannot repent we find the Word of God stating the exact opposite. In Acts 17:30 we find that God commands all men everywhere to repent, and that having so commanded, He expects they can and will. In 2 Peter 3:9 we find that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. If they should come, then they can come.

God does not mock men by asking them to do what they cannot do. In Acts 11:18 we are told that God hath granted to the Gentiles repentance unto life. Notice that the repentance comes first and it results in life.

Concerning the statement that man cannot believe the Gospel, and that man cannot believe until his is born again, let the following Scripture be studied- John 1:12, John 1:3: John 1:15-16, John 1:36, John 1:5-7, John 1:12, and John 20:31. These Scriptures all show that spiritual life follows upon the sinner's believing in Jesus Christ. The Apostle John gave as his reason for writing his gospel, "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God: and that believing ye might have life through His name." It is very clear that believing comes first and new birth follows. The verses I have cited from the Gospel of John by no means exhausts the Scripture which prove life through believing. If you will take Strong's Concordance and study the words "believe, believed, and believeth" you will find much more. A notable example is Acts 16:31 where Paul said, "believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." The Calvinist would twist it to read, "when thou art saved by the Lord Jesus Christ thou shalt believe." What utter disregard for the plain teaching of the Word of God.

Concerning the statement that man does not have a free will by which he is able to come to Christ, please note what Jesus said in John 7:17 : "if any man will do His will he shall know of the doctrine." Here He said that a man may will to do God's will. Again in John 5:40 Jesus rebuked the Jews when He said "ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." It was not that they could not come, but that they would not come. In Revelation 22:17 the Word of God declares "whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Here God makes a real offer of the water of life to "WHOSOEVER WILL."

Beloved, God has been pleased by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (1 Corinthians 1:21). Salvation is by believing, and if we tell the lost man that he cannot believe, we shut the gates of Heaven against him and find ourselves in the hideous company of him who "hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ Who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:4) Unconditional Election The teaching of Five-Point Calvinism is that God has determined and decreed that some are to be saved without any conditions to be met on their part. This is called Unconditional election and is the choosing of some to salvation in Christ, while at the same time leaving the rest in their lost condition by not choosing them. This election is not based on God's foreknowing that certain would believe, but is based on His sovereign will to elect certain ones. Those who are not chosen to be part of the Elect of God can in no way enter into that company. In line with this teaching the statement is made that God does not love all men, but only those whom he has chosen to be saved. The Scriptures are very plain that God has His Elect ones who by faith in Jesus Christ are predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son (Romans 8:29). They are adopted by God and Chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4-5). This election is plainly declared to be based on the foreknowledge of God (1 Peter 1:2 and Romans 8:29). Since God knows the end from the beginning He foreknows those who will believe in Christ. He has purposed that they will be to the praise of His glory throughout the ages and through them He will show the exceeding riches of His grace (Ephesians 2:7) The Scriptures are also very plain in stating that "whosoever will" may come to Christ. Please read the following Scriptures- John 3:15-26, John 3:4, John 3:12, Acts 2:21, Acts 10:43, Romans 10:13, Revelation 22:17. The word "whosoever"

means all, any, every, the whole. Since we believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Word of God we are forced to believe that when God moves the Scripture writers to say "whosoever," then that is exactly what He means. That there is a condition to be met in order for one to be saved is proved by our Lord's words in John 8:24 "for if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins." Other Scriptures have already been quoted under Total Inability to bear out the conditional requirement of believing in order to have salvation. That God loves all men in this world and sent His Son to die for them is abundantly clear from John 3:16. The Five-Point Calvinist changes the meaning of the word "world" here and adds to the Word of God by placing immediately behind it two words, "the elect." The verse then appears this way, "For God so loved the world (the elect) that He gave His only begotten Son, etc." I have seen this verse written in this way in gospel tracts. The word "world" is used 77 times in the Gospel of John. I would encourage you to take Strong's Concordance and look up each occurrence, then insert the words "the elect" behind each usage of it. You do not have to go far before you see how ridiculous it is.

You see, beloved, if God does not love all men then we should not love them either. Since our Christian character comes from the indwelling of our Lord, we cannot show forth an attribute that is superior to His. Yet strangely enough, the Word of God says we are to love our enemies, our wives, our husbands, our children. If we must love lost sinners, and our Lord is holier than we are, we must believe that He loves them too. I'll believe John 3:16 as it stands unaltered by the followers of John Calvin.

Limited Atonement The Five-Point Calvinist states that Christ died on the Cross for the sins of the Elect. To say that He died for the sins of the non-elect is not reasonable. Since, according to their system, God has chosen some to be saved and chosen the rest to be lost, He cannot require the death of Christ for those He does not plan to save anyhow. Therefore the Atonement of Christ is limited to the Elect only.

If you have accepted Total Inability and Unconditional Election it is necessary to limit the scope of Christ's death on Calvary. The only problem is that the Scriptures directly state that the death of Christ was for every man and is effective for the sinner the moment he believes. In 1 John 2:2 it is said that His death was a propitiation (satisfaction) not only for our sins but for the sins of "the whole world." In Hebrews 2:9 it says that Christ tasted death for "every man." 1 Timothy 2:6 says that He gave Himself a ransom for "all." John the Baptist declared in John 1:29 that Jesus was the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the "world." In Isaiah 53:6 the Word of God states that "all" have gone astray (I would assume that refers to all men in the world) and that the Lord laid on Jesus the iniquity of us "all." Since the Gospel is for "whosoever will" and it consists of the good news that Christ died for sinners, I must believe that the Atonement of Christ is not limited. Not only is the Atonement of Christ unlimited and offered to all men, but the Holy Spirit is presently working to convict the world (all men) of one sin. That sin is that Christ paid the penalty for their sins, but they do not believe on Him (John 16:8-9). God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9) and it is said that He will have all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). In Scripture we find the Father giving the Son to the world, the Son tasting death for every man, and the Holy Spirit convicting the world. Since God's work must be our work, we should part company with Five-Point Calvinism right here. The Bible knows nothing of a limited Atonement: that comes from the vain intellectual reasoning of men.

Irresistible Grace

Calvinists teach that all those whom God has chosen to be saved will be unable to resist the call of God. Since He has predetermined them to be saved, He effectually calls and regenerates them without any condition to be met on their part. The Word of God teaches that the Grace of God that bringeth salvation has appeared to all men (Titus 2:11). Since God has provided salvation for all men, and yet all do not come; that is proof enough that men do resist the Grace of God. The Bible gives clear instances of men resisting the Grace of God. Jesus stood over Jerusalem and said that He wanted to gather them unto Himself, but they would not (Matthew 23:37). When Stephen preached to the Jews he said that regarding their attitude toward God's Word they were stiff-necked and that they were resisting the Holy Spirit Who was calling them (Acts 7:51). The writer of Hebrews, when describing those who draw back unto perdition (Hebrews 10:39), said that though they were sanctified by the blood of Christ, yet they had done despite unto the Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:28-29). Here it is plain that the blood of Christ was available to them for salvation, but was refused. That the Spirit of God strives with sinners to bring them to repentance and faith is stated in Genesis 6:3. This verse also states that God will one day give man up when His grace is continually resisted.

Perseverance of the Saints The last point in the Calvinist system of teaching is that those whom God has chosen to be saved will persevere to the end and will not finally and fully depart from the faith. The one who is truly born again is eternally secure in Christ and is never in danger of losing his salvation.

Most Fundamentalists would find little to disagree with in this statement, except to qualify the way God chooses men to be saved by stating that His Election is according to His foreknowledge. The eternal security of the believer is a fundamental doctrine of Scripture. However, the false teaching set forth under the first four points of Calvinism bear their inevitable fruit here. There is a subtle exclusion here which is not seen in the stated position, but which eventually shows up in practice. In churches where these doctrines are taught there are the following effects on those who come into the assembly:-

1. The man who is under the conviction of the Spirit and on the threshold of believing in Christ is soon hearing that he cannot of himself believe and unless God has chosen him to salvation there is nothing he can do.
2. The one who has been born again, but is still a babe in Christ, is often expected to exhibit a spiritual life more advanced than his growth to date. Because the fruit is slow in coming he begins to doubt whether he is truly born again. Thus, one who is a child of God begins to doubt that he is a true believer and sits at home in absolute frustration, convinced that God has not chosen him.
3. Those who are saved and living a spiritual life begin to develop an intellectual superiority over those who cannot see the glorious truths revealed by John Calvin. Since they are the Elect of God and the unsaved are the Non-Elect whom God does not love, they begin to display a self-righteous attitude toward those lost in sin. The attitude of the Jews toward the Gentiles, whom they referred to as "dogs," begins to come into the life of the Calvinist. It is the attitude displayed by John Calvin when he desired the death penalty to be pronounced upon Servetus. John Calvin handled the theological part of the trial of Servetus, who was subsequently burned at the stake for blasphemy.

The usage of the phrase "perseverance of the saints" gives the impression that the saints are doing something to keep themselves secure in their salvation. A more Scriptural phrase would seem to be the "preservation of the Saints" (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Jude 1:1). Beloved, inquire of your Bible teacher regarding Calvinism. Do not be satisfied with a "purposely evasive" answer. The man who holds these teachings usually will not be a soul-winner or be mission minded. If your church has no outreach for the lost it may well be that Five-Point Calvinism has already done it's deadly work.

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Why I Enrolled My Last Child in Christian School

Why I Enrolled My Last Child in Christian School by Paul L. Freeman My oldest child was 5 1/2 years olds when I came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour in Feb. 1956. There were no Christian schools in my community, nor had I ever heard of such a thing. My first three children graduated from the public school. Along about the fourth grade, I removed my last child from public school and enrolled her in a Christian school. There was much sacrifice but also a great peace. Let me list the many reasons why I chose Christian education when it was made available. May I encourage you to choose Christian education for the same reasons.

1. My daughter would now be taught by a Christian teacher. The public school teachers who graduated from State colleges with a major in "Unbelief" and a minor in "Political Science" would no longer have access to my child's mind.
2. The Bible would be one of her textbooks. Creation and factual science would be taught rather than the anti-God myth of evolution. She would be assured that she came from the creative act of God rather than the "primordial ooze." She would learn that she is responsible to her Creator.
3. I would no longer have to return her assigned reading books to the English teacher with a request for another book which did not contain filthy language, anti-Christian philosophy, and God's name taken in vain. I would no longer have to stay up later reading her assigned books to see if they were fit for her to read.
4. I would not have to write letters to the school to have my daughter excused from Rock concerts and Sex Education classes. She will not be expected to attend Dancing classes or coed physical education. There will be no free condoms given to my daughter. Premarital sexual relations will be called fornication or adultery and Biblically explained to be sin. Homosexuality and Lesbianism will not be presented as an alternative lifestyle. Her role models will be more excellent examples.
5. She will no longer be subject to peer pressure concerning Rock music, dress standards, and social functions. The school bus education with all the gutter language will end. Her vocation guidance counselor will no longer have the opportunity to encourage her to attend secular colleges instead of Christian colleges.
6. My daughter will be taught the same things in school that she is taught at home and at church. Her fellowship will be with those of like precious faith. She will be trained up in the way she should go (Proverbs 22:6). She will be sheltered as a precious plant for God and kept separate from the lost.
7. The education in the Christian school is superior to that in the public school. The public school is turning out "functional illiterates," while the Christian school graduates students who not only know how to make a living, but also know how to live. Careers in Christian service will be encouraged rather than frowned upon.

8. The choosing of a mate is often done in high school or in college. It is imperative therefore that my child be placed in a pool of Christian young people, so that she may marry a Christian and avoid the unequal yoke which has brought grief and sorrow to many. The public school is not the place to find a companion for life. We need to control the social life of our children and choose the people they are going to mingle with.

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