



Hunger For Truth

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Greetings

Hello dear reader and welcome to yet another issue of Hunger For Truth. The Lord continues to bless. Praise God!

This issue includes the latest article by Brother Andrew Lacroix entitled 'Biblical Exceptions'. I trust it will be a blessing and help to you.

On a MA update, We just had two days of snow and sleet. Around 5 inches of the white stuff fell. Guess winter is still here. I am most excited about the blood of Christ which washes white as snow! Amen! I have had several witnessing opportunities. It is exciting to serve Him! Also, I am preparing for my upcoming move in early May.

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at www.studytoanswer.net.

It is my desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord.

Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for me. I greatly appreciate your comments and I praise God for each and every one of you.

Proverbs 7:2

Matt. 5:6

John 8:32

II Timothy 3:16-17

Heb. 4:2

"Let us Hunger For Truth"



Biblical Exceptions

By: Andrew Lacroix

How many verses come to your mind if I asked you to name verses that contain the word "except"? I'm sure the fair number of us can name half a dozen or more just off the top of our heads (I did seven). In the TR, the word translated "except" appears 74 times, 27 in the OT and 47 in the NT. Two verses contain the word twice (Ps. 127:1; John 15:4), so this makes for a total of 70 verses!

What I'd like us to discover today is the sheer variety of ways the word is used throughout Scripture. Before I continue, these points are all tied in together and are not meant to be taken separately. Furthermore, some points may only have one or two verses while others may have a lot more.

With this in mind, I'd like to start off with SALVATION. There are many verses that use the word "except" when dealing with one's spiritual condition. Two come right off the top of my head: Luke 13:3 and 5. Repentance, biblically, is to change the mind about sin to the point where you see it as vile and offensive before a thrice-holy God. That, in turn, produces a right, regretful sorrow for their unworthiness and recognition of their need for a Saviour, knowing they can't save themselves. Upon that, they should turn to Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation. Jesus made the statement twice to prove that no matter how one died, without biblical repentance they would suffer spiritual death likewise. The conversation between ex-Pharisee Nicodemus and the Lord Himself contains three uses of the word 'except' (John 3:2-3,5)...

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...Nicodemus admits what Christ did could not have come from anyone except but by His Father, yet Christ knows the need of Nicodemus' spiritual condition. Note verse five. Falsely, many probably utilize this verse to teach baptism saves ("...except a man be born of water and of the Spirit..."). This is not teaching of baptism; the water is referring to the natural birth, because if you were never born, you never needed to be saved! Another wonderful agent of salvation is the precious blood of Christ. In John 6:53, Christ uses "except" to point out to the Jews of their need to be washed in His eternal blood. Now He was also pointing this was spiritual washing, not physical, as drinking blood was forbidden in Jewish law (Lev. 7:26-27; cf. 17:11). The animal sacrifices covered their sins in the past; and Christ would very shortly be the Ultimate Sacrifice for all the sins of all mankind. Isaiah 1:9 uses except. It is quoted by Paul in Romans 9:29, reminding us that without believers in the world, we have very little hope of being saved. Their is a witness of creation and conscience for all man to be without excuse (cf. Rom. 1:20), but there is very little hope without believers. Salt (believers, cf. Matt. 5:13-16) preserves the meat (think world), and right now this preservation is the only thing stopping the wrath God will one day unleash on a world which serves its god (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4).

Another usage of the word "except" can be found in Acts 8:31 (for context, read 8:28-35). Here the Ethiopian eunuch is reading a familiar portion of Scripture (cf. Isa. 53:7-8), and he is yet without understanding. So Philip the evangelist (not the apostle) is Spirit-led to this eunuch, shows him the meaning, preaches Jesus unto the eunuch, and he gets saved and baptized. All in one day! The last usage I'd like to cover in this point is Acts 15:1. This is a false salvation method taught by a Judean man, who says, "Except ye be...

Biblical Exceptions (Cont.)

...circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved." This is faith plus works, and anything involving works is nothing! If you are trusting in Jesus 99 percent and anything else even a smidgen, you have not trusted Christ for salvation and I urge you to be saved! Do it now! Works are just that, works! (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9)

Let's move on to point two, SANCTIFICATION (do remember these are not really meant to be separate). John 15:4 utilizes "except" twice (the only NT verse to do so). This is the passage where Christ makes one of His "I am" statements in John. Here He is the True Vine (cf. 15:1). A branch, left to itself, cannot produce fruit on its own. So if you break a branch off an apple tree, you probably plan on having an apple with peanut butter. Maybe the branch dipped in peanut butter will taste good, but I'd rather have the apple. In order for a branch to bear fruit, it must be firmly attached to the tree, just like a vine rooted in the ground. The Christian life is exactly the same. We must needs be permanently adjacent to the True Vine in order to bear fruit. The longer we are grafted into the Vine, the more fruit we will bear. (*I will have more on this passage in a future study*)

Let's go to John 20. In verses 24 and 25, many of the disciples have seen Christ since His crucifixion and ascension from paradise. Enter the doubter, Thomas. Thomas wanted proof that it was Him. We would see that Thomas would see and believe. As Christians today, we have not seen Christ face to face, yet we have believed. Praise the Lord! Don't doubt! I'd like to cover one more usage of 'except': 2 Corinthians 12:13. Here Corinth is at fault one last time: the fact that Paul had to give them preferential treatment. No other local NT church had more struggles, errors, false doctrine, or problems than Corinth (at its time). Now many had benefited greatly from Paul's time, but more were still carnal, unwilling to grow, and most of all, ungrateful. God forbid any local NT church be like Corinth (*see my study "21st Century Wilderness" in 1/1/12 issue of H.F.T. for more on Corinth*).

Let's move on. Next I'd like to talk about Christian SERVICE and the usage of 'except'. In Romans 10:14-15, Paul proves to Roman believers why preachers are necessary and why the local church MUST send them. It ties into the salvation point by the usage of verse 17. A preacher gets commissioned by his local church to...

...plant a church in a needy area (or be an evangelist), local folk hear the preacher preach God's Word, and the Gospel is presented, and said folk get saved. The cycle has gone on since the days of Christ and the cycle has not ceased. It is our reasonable service (cf. 12:1-2) to give all to Him and so why not become a preacher? Ladies, why not yield yourself to be a preacher's wife or exhort other ladies! It's your reasonable service to the One who set you free! One last service example can be found in 2 Timothy 2:5. Paul utilizes an athletic competition to prove his point. Athletes who compete unfairly shouldn't be crowned or rewarded. Athletes who do by the rules ("strive lawfully") and win are fairly entitled to be crowned. Consider such athletes who have utilized performance enhancing drugs or have cheated as not striving lawfully in their respective field. Such examples include Mark McGwire (who retired years ago but because of his links to steroids may never enter the Baseball Hall of Fame), Sammy Sosa (was suspended ten games once for using a corked bat), George Brett (was infamously ejected from a game for using too much pine tar), and cyclists Floyd Landis (stripped of 2006 Tour de France title for positive tests) and Alberto Contador (stripped of 2010 title for the same reason as Landis). Such cheating in college gets programs reduced scholarships and forfeiting bowl games, such as the University of Southern California. If we fail to strive lawfully in the Christian lifestyle, do we deserve a crown or do we fail at living such a life and then worthy of being called a hypocrite? This is not the only example of striving lawfully Paul used. He spoke of preaching to others and not doing his preaching himself as being a castaway to the church at Corinth (cf. 1 Cor. 9:24-27). If you want your service to count, Christian, do it well, wholeheartedly, and live like you should by the Book. Finally, we should be SPIRIT-LED. This category is divided up into two aspects with verses containing 'except'. Aspect number one is the ASSEMBLY. ... This is the local church. Those in a local church ministry should be Spirit-led. They should have the first love for Christ. Ephesus failed in this regard (cf. Rev. 2:5). If they didn't repent, and do the first works with the first love, Christ would remove their candlestick...

...Churches that have had candlesticks removed are dead, Lightless (cf. John 8:12), and probably are not where they need to be Scripturally. Thyatira had problems as well. They at one time allowed a woman to teach as well as allowing her to eat meat sacrificed unto idols (contrary to the prophet Daniel, cf. 1:8). Christ gave her time to repent, but she did not, and was judged with sickness and her followers would be judged, "except they repent of their deeds" (Rev. 2:22). Believers can be easily deceived by false teaching. We must always compare what our God-appointed pastor is teaching with Scripture, and make sure it lines up! Those at Berea did this, and were blessed (cf. Acts 17:11).

The last aspect of being Spirit-led is showcased by AUTHORITY in the home. Scripturally, authority in the home belongs to the father, just like authority in the church belongs to the pastor who is under Christ. He is commanded to love his wife and children, lead by example, provide for their needs over his, and discipline. The wife is to be submissive and agree with her husband to create unity and dispose of contradiction and compromise. Consider the prophet Amos' remark, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3) If the mother and father are not agreeing, this issue should be discussed privately and with the Lord. This not being done causes friction in the home, which can be easily sniffed out... by the children. Such discordant leadership, sadly, is followed often by unquenched rebellion and yet another child who follows and worships the god of this world over the God whom they should be worshipping. Parents need to be in agreement and not show hypocrisy in front of the children. Matters need to be settled in private and before the Lord, if necessary (which it ought be!). The last verse I want to look at today is Ps. 127:1. This verse contains two uses of the word 'except'. A house cannot be built on shaky ground. It needs a firm foundation, and only God can provide that (cf. Matt. 7:24-27). Same goes true for a city. Except the Lord keep it, the watchman's work is but in vain. A house should be built on the Rock, and have reinforcing walls of Scripture.

'Except' truly is one of the words throughout the Bible that, if used properly, can enforce and enhance the Christian life. Now, no more exceptions, let's apply these to our lives and may God get the glory.

By: Andrew D. Lacroix



Quotes

“In giving, there is no substitute for a willing heart. You can give out of habit, out of peer pressure, for any other reason. But it needs to be that which you want to do. You don’t receive any real benefit if you think ‘well I got to give. Look at the need that’s out there. They need help. I’ve got to give’. We don’t give to a need, we should willingly give to the Lord.”

“Sunday morning Christianity is the greatest hindrance to real revival. The blessings of heaven cannot fall on hearts that find no time to commune with God.”

“A transformed mind can make the difference between worldliness and godliness. We must have constant and consistent meditation on the Word to practice godly living.”

“The desire of appearing to be wise often prevents our becoming so.”

“Make sure you determine to maintain a regular habit of reading and studying the Bible. One of the devil’s chief aims is to stop people from digging into the Word of God.”

“One reason that sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream-puff instead of a rattlesnake.” -Billy Sunday



☺☺ Children For Christ ☺☺

‘Judging’ The Event

Memory Verse: Judges 17:6 (Please look up & read)

Match the event, etc. in the book of Judges:

- A. Othniel___ 1. Killed the Philistines in the house
- B. Ehud ___ 2. Defeated the Midianites with 300 men
- C. Shamgar ___ 3. Sang praises to God with Barak
- D. Barak ___ 4. Slew 600 Philistines with an ox goad
- E. Deborah ___ 5. Slew all the host of Sisera by the sword
- F. Gideon ___ 6. Raised by The Lord to deliver Israel
- G. Abimilech ___ 7. Stabbed Eglon with the dagger
- H. Tola ___ 8. Slew seventy of his brothers
- I. Jair ___ 9. Judged Israel 23 years after Abimilech
- J. Jephthah ___ 10. 42,000 Ephraimites were slain
- K. Samson ___ 11. The minor judges
- L. Micah ___ 12. Had 30 sons riding 30 colts; they had 30 cities
- M. Ibzan, Elon & Abdon___ 13. Stole 1,100 shekels of silver from his mother

Song of the Month

READY

This great hymn was recently sung in my church and the words jumped out at me like never before. Believer, I encourage you to examine your hearts as I did and make sure you are ready?

Ready to suffer grief or pain, Ready to stand the test, Ready to stay at home and send Others if He sees best. (Refrain)

Refrain

Ready to go, ready to stay, Ready my place to fill, Ready for service, lowly or great, Ready to do His will.

Ready to go, ready to bear, Ready to watch and pray, Ready to stand aside and give, Till He shall clear the way. (Refrain)

Ready to speak, ready to think, Ready with heart and brain, Ready to stand where He sees fit, Ready to bear the strain. (Refrain)

Ready to speak, ready to warn, Ready o’er souls to yearn, Ready in life, ready in death, Ready for His return. (Refrain)

Stop and Think

“The Resurrection story ends not with a funeral but with a festival, and the best news the world ever heard came from a graveyard!”

-Anonymous

Prayer Requests

- Salvation of my sister Wendy, nephew Jacob and Aunt’s Sybil and Bernice
- Outreach and needs of the Heritage Baptist Church body
- Unspoken request for the HFT editor
- Salvation of Tom, Nick & Jose

Praises

- I praise God for His **AMAZING GRACE** that is **GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN!**

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman who is a member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. I praise God for all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ and I greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*His Servant,
Craig Glickman
Prov. 3:5-6*