



Hunger For Truth

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12

“Let us Hunger For Truth”

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

It is our 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 us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

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The Book of Revelation (Chapter 9) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 9** of a study on the book of Revelation by Dr. Thomas Strouse who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Theological Seminary in Cromwell, CT (www.bbc-cromwell.org). It is a syllabus written by Dr. Strouse. It is the HFT editors desire that this study helps you grasp the deep truths within this incredible book! Please look for a chapter from this syllabus posted in upcoming issues of Hunger For Truth. We trust this will be edifying and convicting as well as a blessing and encouragement to readers. Thank you for reading. We praise God for the privilege of being able to share this study with you. May God richly bless!

CHAPTER 9

Background

The fifth angel announced the first woe (8:13) which was a personage, apparently named Abaddon and Apollyon, fall to the earth at the midpoint of the Tribulation. His presence will unleash demons from the abyss to torment men. The next woe (the Sixth Trumpet Judgment) will unloose four angels and activate a 200,000,000 army which will kill one third of mankind, but also will harden the remainder in their unrepentant state.

Exposition

Rev. 9:1-21

The Fifth Trumpet (Rev. 9:1-12)

This woe will involve Satan's fall from heaven (cf. Rev. 12:7-12) and the unleashing of his demon army from the *abyss* (cf. also Lk. 8:31; Rom. 10:7). Their sting will inflict pain for five months, presumably beginning the Great Tribulation. Satan is the angel-king named Abaddon and Apollyon, Hebrew and Greek titles for destruction. This woe is the beginning of the intense pain and destruction of the last three and half years of the seven year Tribulation.

The Sixth Trumpet (Rev. 9:13-21)

The second woe will unloose four bound angels (demons) in the Euphrates. Following them will be a 200,000,000 army of fierce horses out of whose mouths will issue destruction, killing one third of mankind. The remaining two thirds will not repent of their murders, drugs (*pharmakeion*), fornication or thievery.

Theological Concerns

The Tribulation is Daniel's seventieth week (cf. Dan. 9:24-27), or *heptad* of seven years, divided into two units of three and half years (1260 days or 42 months).

Textual Issues

Rev. 9:13—the CT omits “*four*” (found in the TR) with reference to the horns of the altar.

Summary of Chapter Nine

This frightening chapter depicted two of the last three woe judgments, including the fall of Satan to the earth, the unloosing of his demonic army, and the unloosing for four more angels with their army which will destroy one third of mankind.

Repentance and Easy Believism (Part 1) (By: Bro. Tim Dunkin)

By: Bro. Tim Dunkin

“Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel .” (Mark 1:14-15)

Recently, I put these verses up on Facebook as my “daily Facebook verse,” accompanied by some general comments about biblical repentance and how it is part and parcel with genuine faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. On one of the forums that I copied the post to, I got some negative feedback from some folks who didn’t like the fact that I was teaching biblical repentance. It bothered some that I would say that repentance involves someone making the decision to turn away from sin and to the Lord, though they never bothered to try to present any sort of biblical argument against this or in favour of their own viewpoint – during the course of our discussion, I cited several portions of scripture to make my case, while they never referred to a single one.

Indeed, their argument was built pretty much entirely on misunderstanding of the scriptural arguments. They tried to take biblical repentance, in which a lost sinner turns from a love for their sin and turns to the Saviour against Whom their sin offends, and recast it as saying that repentance means “never sinning again,” i.e. “sinless perfectionism” (even though I hadn’t said anything that any mature Christian who knows the scriptures would have thought was teaching that doctrine). But most grievous was their open presentation of a false, unbiblical concept of “repentance.” Their definition of repentance was something along the lines of “realising that you need Jesus in your life.” That’s it. Nothing about sin. Nothing about turning from sin to the Saviour. Just “realising that you need Jesus in your life,” as if Jesus were some kind of self-help guru whose latest book would help you get back on your feet again.

At least they didn’t break out the old “Lordship salvation” canard that folks of this persuasion often use (and define incorrectly). Speaking of which, Pastor Kent Brandenburg has an excellent series of blog posts on that very subject, and why the “free grace” crowd misrepresent it as they deny repentance.¹

Unfortunately, these folks are not alone in their unbiblical definition of repentance. There are many, many people in so-called Christianity today, both in America and across the world, whose idea of what repentance is seeks to eliminate the concern for sin or any positive decision to turn FROM sin and TO the Saviour. Many of these false teachers go so far as to call biblical repentance “works-based salvation,” failing to understand the intimate connexion that Scripture makes between faith and repentance – to lack the one is to lack the other. For lack of a better term, but to use one that most readers would be familiar with, this general position can be referred to as “easy believism.” It often bears out in the form of “1-2-3, pray-after-me” evangelism. Its tenets are, “Don’t talk to people about sin, just get them to admit they need Jesus and then get them to pray to be allowed to go to heaven.” I admit that this *seems* like an over-simplification or a caricature, but this really is pretty much what the evangelism of many in this camp amounts to. It often takes the following template. Imagine, if you will, a fresh faced young student attending Hyles-Anderson College, notebook with numerous tally marks in hand, knocking on a door,

HA Student: *Knock Knock*

Door opens, grizzled man with ten earrings, a beer in hand, blaring rock music and filthy TV programs on in the background, appears in the door frame.

Guy: Yeah?

¹ - See <http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com/2014/04/the-historic-baptist-doctrine-of.html> ; <http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com/2014/03/free-grace-and-lordship-salvation-rival.html> ; <http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com/2014/03/lordship-salvation-for-dummies.html>; and <http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com/2014/03/lordship-salvation-for-dummies.html>

HA Student: Excuse me, sir, but would you like to go to heaven?

Guy: Uh, sure.

HA Student: Great! Do you agree that you need Jesus in your life?

Guy: Uh, I guess.

HA Student: Would you like to accept Him into your life and go to heaven right now?

Guy: Uh, sure, why not?

HA Student: Okay, pray after me... *recites a model prayer*

Guy: *recites model prayer*

HA Student: Congratulations, sir! You're saved and on your way to heaven! Have a good day.

Guy: Wonderful. *closes door, goes back to beer and movie*

HA student: *Walks down driveway, checking another tally mark on his notebook.*

Again, it seems like I'm caricaturing what goes on, but I'm not. There really are folks out there for whom this is their method of "evangelism," and I hate to say it, but that's often what's going on when you see these people stand up in these churches and get a medal because they saw 600 people get saved in one week of soul-winning.

Lacking from all of this above was any mention of sin, any mention of repentance (which is often taught to ONLY apply to the saved person per I John 1:9, but not be necessary for the lost person).

This, friends, is a DANGEROUS FALSE GOSPEL. It gives to people who have never repented and never truly been born again a false assurance that they are saved because they "prayed a prayer." If you've done soul-winning door-to-door or other forms of public evangelism for any length of time, you've probably run into the fruits of these endeavours – the guy who opens the door, a beer in one hand and his live-in girlfriend in the other, X-rated movie on in the background, who will tell you that he's going to heaven because he prayed a prayer with some guy one time. Such folks will rarely listen to an actual presentation of the Gospel because they "already did that," and when you start talking about actual biblical salvation it confuses them and they close up. America is full of people (especially in northwestern Indiana, if you know what I mean and I think you do) who have "already done that" and who have been made two-fold the children of hell because of the false assurance they've been given.

As an aside, am I the only one that finds it ironic that many of the same folks who jump all over biblical repentance as "works-based salvation" are the ones who teach salvation by praying a prayer (i.e. a work)?

So why do so many professing Christians resist the biblical doctrine of repentance from sin? I think that first and foremost, we must understand that it is a matter of the will, not of the intellect. The doctrine of biblical repentance is not spiritual rocket science. Indeed, the Scripture says,

"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." (Hebrews 6:1)

The Bible here tells us that repentance from dead works and faith toward God (the construction in Greek is connective, indicating the two go together as a unit) are a "foundation," they're basic to a proper understanding of Christ and the salvation available through Him. They're not something you need to have more degrees than a

thermometer to grasp. You don't need to be some Harvard theologian with a 64 million word vocabulary to understand. God here calls repentance and faith "simple." They're things that even new and immature believers ought to know.

No, people reject biblical repentance because they consciously CHOOSE to. It's a matter of the will. They know that it talks about sin, it often makes them feel uncomfortable about their own lives, and so they don't WANT to accept it as true. Many others who may be otherwise well-meaning and zealous will downplay talk of repentance when evangelising (even if not to the extent in the template above) because they're worried that if you start talking about sin and repentance, people will turn away, people won't listen and won't get saved. But here's the problem – they won't get saved if you don't instruct them on the need for genuine repentance and turning away from sin, either. Someone doesn't get saved by merely admitting that "they need Jesus in their life" and praying a prayer. Urging genuine repentance and turning away from sin may not win as many so-called "converts" in today's hedonistic, self-centered America, but the people who do genuinely believe and get saved will be the ones who will go on for the Lord.

So what IS biblical repentance unto salvation? It is nothing less than a lost sinner realising that they are a sinner, realising that their sin separates them from God, and choosing to turn away from and hate their sin and turn to and call upon God the Father in faith through the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as with the rejection of biblical repentance, so also is the ACCEPTANCE of biblical repentance an act of the will. When someone repents and believes, they make a choice to turn from sin and to turn to the Saviour. This doesn't just happen by accident. Nobody "falls into" salvation. It is a deliberate choice on the part of a sinner to agree with and obey God about what He says they need to do to be saved. Repentance can be summed up,

"For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." (I Thessalonians 1:9)

The Thessalonians were saved because they placed faith in Jesus Christ, and part and parcel with this was their choice to turn to God from idols. They were rejecting their entire religious culture that they had existed in hitherto. They chose to make a clean break from those wicked things that separated them from God, and to turn to the living and true God. They were NOT saved because they "realised that they needed Jesus in their lives." Even today, Hindus in India will say that, and are perfectly happy to add Jesus onto their 30 million strong pantheon of false gods. No. Repentance is turning FROM idols and TO the living God. This is true, whether your idol is an elephant-headed statue of Ganesha or is your twenty-four pack of beer every evening. If it is sin, then it separates you from God, it is an idol, and you have to turn from it to be genuinely exercising faith in Jesus Christ unto salvation.

The Bible makes it very clear that repentance is necessary for salvation,

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." (Acts 3:19)

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (II Corinthians 7:10)

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3,5)

Repentance is necessary for conversion and the blotting out of sin – the whole tenor of the passage is speaking of the Lord's return and the time of "restitution of all things," so that we know this passage is about salvation, not merely "the Christian getting right with God." Repentance is to salvation and is accompanied by "godly sorrow," a genuine brokenness about sin that leads the sinner to desire to turn from it and to God. Jesus said that if you don't repent, you will perish. You can't get more plain than that – without repentance, you will die and go to hell. Of course, in the verses at the top that started this whole thing, Jesus connected repentance with entry into the kingdom of God – don't repent, and you won't enter in.

As such, any argument put forward that tries to set “repentance against grace” or “repentance against faith” is, on its face, an unscriptural argument that ought to be rejected by faithful Christians. Repentance IS faith. Faith, for it to be genuine, MUST include the element of turning FROM the sin that separates the sinner from God and which is WHAT CAUSES THEM TO BE LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE. If someone doesn’t want to give up their sin, then that person isn’t really willing to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as the Bible says you must. They’re trying to go some other way. They’re trying to climb over the wall into the sheepfold instead of coming through the gate.

We need to understand two salient points when discussing repentance:

1) God is holy. God is sinless. But not only is He sinless, He also cannot countenance sin in His presence. Sin is an offence to Him. He hates sin. He cannot abide sin. Sin cannot enter into His presence.

2) Following from this, then, is the fact that it is our sin that separates us from God and brings us under His condemnation. If someone is still in his or her sins, he or she cannot enter heaven, cannot come into God’s presence. On this earth, such a person cannot have fellowship with God. Everything they do is sin, even “...the plowing of the wicked, *is sin*” (Proverbs 21:4). Those who are not saved are called “children of disobedience... children of wrath” (Eph. 2:2-3). These things are what characterise their lives and walks.

From this, we must understand that to say that someone can be saved by merely “realising that they need Jesus in their lives” and without biblical repentance is to deny the very holiness of God. It’s to bring God down to the level of Dr. Phil. It is an insult to the Holy Creator of heaven and earth. It is a wicked, wicked perversion of the true Gospel.

Now, some will try to rebut this stand for biblical truth by asking whether Christians can sin, in an effort to insinuate that I was saying that repentance means that someone will never sin again after they have repented. Of course, I was not teaching that, and nothing I had said suggested it, but the question was still asked. “Can Christians commit adultery?”

Obviously, the answer is that they *can* do so. But equally obvious is that they *shouldn’t*. Really, this line of questioning is a red herring that shows that they don’t really understand what the Bible says about sin and repentance. Like I said above, repentance is an act of the will – it is making a choice that you want to leave your sin and instead live for the Saviour. None of this means that repentance erases the sin nature that we still have within us, and which battles with the new nature we receive when we trust on Christ. Even Paul struggled with this,

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.” (Romans 7:18-20)

But this struggle makes my very point, which is that repentance involves the choice to turn away from sin – Paul, though he struggled with the sin nature in his flesh, nevertheless WANTED and SOUGHT THE LORD FOR the end of the power of sin in his life.

And that’s the crux of the issue right there – because repentance involves the lost sinner desiring and choosing to turn from sin, even though this person will not subsequently be sinless in their life as a Christian, there should nevertheless be fruits meet for repentance that come forth in their life,

“But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.” (Acts 26:20)

This is not saying that repentance is a “work” or that works are necessary for salvation. Rather, it is saying that AS A RESULT of genuine repentance and salvation, there will subsequently be fruits in a person’s life that indicate that their repentance and faith were genuine – they will seek to put away sin, they will desire to do the things that are in line with God’s Word, they will love the Word of God and the people of God, they will hate their

former sins and seek to put them as far from them as possible, and so forth. There WILL be changes in the life of a person who has genuinely repented unto salvation,

“For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.” (Colossians 1:5-6)

What this says is that the genuine Gospel WILL bring forth genuine fruit. That is the nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is to change the lost sinner and make him or her a new creature (II Cor. 5:17), and to remake this person into the image of Jesus Christ progressively as they live for Him throughout their lives (i.e. sanctification). Lack of sanctification is tied in with the initial lack of repentance, and therefore lack of true saving faith.

This is why there are so many of the people I talked about above, who have prayed a prayer, but whose lives bear no evidence of any change. Years after the fact, they’re still living in the same sins, with no conscience about them and no desire to turn from them, as they were before the fresh faced young Hyles-Anderson student came to their door. There’s precious little fruit from this method of evangelism – because there’s precious little that is scriptural about that evangelism to begin with.

So yes, I will say again unequivocally and unapologetically that this “easy believism,” this “gospel” that downplays or denies repentance as necessary to salvation, is a damnable heresy and false gospel that God condemns and says is accursed (Gal. 1:8-9). Every faithful Christian who is genuinely concerned about souls, instead of numbers and tallies on a notebook, must speak to the lost about their sin and seek to call them to turn FROM it and TO the living God.

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Touched With Our Infirmities

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. – Heb. 4:15-16

Have you ever experienced the loneliness of suffering? Your distress seemed to isolate you from your fellows. You may even have been surrounded by relatives and friends who were kind and thoughtful. But still their presence did not penetrate the aching void of your solitude in suffering. You longed for someone who could really understand and sympathetically bear with you.

If you are looking for such sympathy then don't search among the children of men. Heed the voice of the Son of Man who urgently calls all to come to Him with their burdens. He not only knows your burdens as the Son of God who knows all things. Jesus also knows your trials as One who has walked that same weary way, for He was “tempted in all things like as we are.”

Don't think that there is no one that can penetrate the solitude of your suffering. Jesus was more deeply immersed in suffering than you could ever be. He breaks through the solitude of your distress with the blessed assurance, “Be comforted, My child. I know how you feel. I too, have suffered. And be further assured, that I have also overcome for you.”

--By: T.C. Van Kooten

:) Children For Christ :)

Commit Thy Way Unto the Lord

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:5 – “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.

Please take a blank sheet of paper and answer the following questions:

1. How do you and I commit our way unto the Lord?
2. Do you fully trust in Jesus as your Saviour?
3. Do you fully trust in Jesus to help you live for Him and obey your elders?
4. If so He will bring it to pass. ___ True ___ False
5. Write down five examples of how you can commit your way unto the Lord? (example: daily Bible reading)
6. Pray to God with your parents and ask God to help you commit your way unto the Lord.

<p style="text-align: center;">Commit Thy Way to Jehovah <i>Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. – Psalm 37:5</i></p> <p>In this passage we are asked to roll the whole course of our life upon Jehovah. Our needs, our problems, our plans, our conduct, our past, our present, and our future--all are to be rolled upon Jehovah and committed to Him to make provision for them.</p> <p>To do this, we must truly live in fellowship with Jehovah, in a life of constant prayer and faith. There must be a concentration of our affections on Christ, a surrender of our whole life to Him, a continual looking up for grace in time of need. We must, moment by moment, lay our life before God, seeking His counsel in every step, consulting Him in everything, trusting in Him for all things, seeking always to do His will. Seasons of prayer will be important, but the whole day long we will be taking refuge with Christ as well. Then we will feel deeply: <i>I need thee every hour; Teach me thy will; and thy rich promises in me fulfill.</i> (Phil. 4:6-7)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">– B.H. Spalink</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Lamb of God</u> “Behold the Lamb of God” John 1:29</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A SACRED LAMB --- John 1:35 2. A SINLESS LAMB --- 1 Pet. 1:18-19 3. A SUFFERING LAMB --- Isa. 53:5-6 4. A SLAUGHTERED LAMB --- Isa. 53:7 5. A SMITTEN LAMB --- Rev. 13:8 6. A SUBSTITUTIONARY LAMB --- 1 Pet. 2:24 7. A SAVING LAMB --- John 1:29, 35 <p style="text-align: right;">---By: Dr. Don Jasmin</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Christ's All-Sufficiency for the Believer</u></p> <p>“The one true goal or resting place where doubt and weariness, the stings of a pricking conscience, and the longings of an unsatisfied soul would all be quieted in Christ Himself! Not the church, but Christ, not doctrine, but Christ. Not forms, but Christ; Christ the God-man, giving His life for ours; sealing the everlasting covenant, and making peace for us through the blood of His cross;</p> <p>Christ the divine storehouse of all light and truth, 'in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...' This alone is the vexed soul's refuge, its rock to build on, its home to abide in till the great tempter be bound and every conflict ended in victory.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">– Horatius Bonar, <i>Words to Winners of Souls</i>, p. 11</p>	<p>Praises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for a successful move as Bro. Craig is now serving at First Bible Baptist Church in Plainville, CT. Special thanks to all those who prayed for and helped Bro. Craig out! God is so good! <p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living situations for Bro. Craig and Bro. Andrew • Missionary David Cloud (Pancreatitis) (Health) • Bro. Craig for relocation to CT to go according to His will. (Moved to CT 8/25-26) • Sarra Family (Missionaries to Zambia Africa) (John – Health needs – back, liver) • Wisdom regarding the new location for Heritage Baptist Church • Sherrie (Sister of Bro. Craig's Fiancee Tash) (Lymph Nodes) (Heart issues) • Wedding for Bro. Craig and Sister Tash on May 2, 2015 • Abby Lafreniere (ALS) (Wife of Pastor John Lafreniere, church planter to Fairfield, CT) • Dr. Michael Thompson (Member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA) (Brain cancer) • Pastor Gary Freeman (Race Street Baptist)

<p>PRAYER REQUESTS CONTINUED:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church in Catasauqua, PA) who is battling colon cancer. • Needs of the body at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT • Needs of the body at New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA • Needs of the body at Chester Baptist Church of Chester, MA • Missionary Tim Hawes (To Papua New Guinea) (Church Planting, Bible Translation, Agricultural Development) • Brother Bill Moore of Heritage Baptist Church (Health needs) • Those affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines • The condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision. • Needs of the body at Heritage Baptist Church • Salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th 2013 • Salvation of Brother Andrew Lacroix's family • Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)
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Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Bro. Craig Glickman who is now serving at First Bible Baptist Church of Plainville, CT where the Pastor is Thomas Benson and Bro. Andrew Lacroix 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. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we 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 Servants,
Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix
Prov. 3:5-6 1 Thes. 5:18

