



# Light from the Word

## Doctrinal Principles

Theme verse: *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*<sup>1</sup>

There exists no other religion, doctrine or system of beliefs such as contained in the Christian Bible, God's Holy Word. God's Word is true, eternal and perfect.<sup>2</sup> It provides us with all the information we need to find our salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.<sup>3</sup> Even though His Word is so complete and comprehensive, a relatively few fundamental truths or doctrinal principles make up its basis. An understanding of these doctrinal principles provides the believer with *a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*<sup>4</sup>

The first principle is our belief in the existence of one eternal God, the Creator of all things. *Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.*<sup>5</sup> God exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>6</sup> His perfection and Holiness are complete. *Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*<sup>7</sup> God's crowning achievement was to create man in His own image for the express purpose of bringing Him pleasure through the fulfillment of His will. God fully intended that mankind would *be holy as He is Holy.*<sup>8</sup>

Sadly, the next doctrinal principle is our inheritance of a sinful nature when our first parents succumbed to the temptation of Satan in the Garden of Eden; *wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*<sup>9</sup> It is not possible for a perfect and Holy God to tolerate any sin; and the result is that our sin separates us from Him; *but your*

*iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*<sup>10</sup>

Because of man's sin, God introduced His divine Law, and commanded Moses and Aaron to *go unto the altar, and offer thy sin offering, and thy burnt offering, and make an atonement for thyself, and for the people.*<sup>11</sup> Specifically, it was the blood of the sacrifice that appeased God; *for the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*<sup>12</sup> The Law provided a means of forgiveness for the sins committed by God's people, but the indwelling sin nature remained which resulted in man's repetition of sin. *For the law... can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.*<sup>13</sup> *The true desire of God has always been steadfast obedience to His Word; and Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*<sup>14</sup>

While the Law defined sin and served as our schoolmaster, it clearly aroused the need for a better Sacrifice through a new and better covenant or testament. Jesus Christ became the *mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*<sup>15</sup> However, in order to become effective a testament (will) requires the death of the testator, and Christ the perfect Lamb of God willingly gave His life's blood on the cross as a worthy sacrifice for our sins. Faith in the shed blood of Christ on Calvary results in repentance, which is the beginning of a true Christian life. The blood of Christ covers the sins we have committed and allows our sinful nature to be changed. He freely gives us His enabling grace and seals the Holy Spirit of promise in our hearts,

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allowing us to overcome the sin that would otherwise reign in our lives.

The second coming of Christ to claim His own is the final doctrinal principle we will consider. At this time the resurrection of the just and the unjust will occur. *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*<sup>16</sup> *Scripture is clear that man will either receive the mercy or the judgement of God in eternity depending on the choices we make in this life. Those who believe and live an overcoming life are not condemned but will pass from death into life.*<sup>17</sup> How regrettable is the plight of the unbelieving, unrepentant sinner at this time! The bodies of the lost are resurrected, but only to hear their judgment at the great white throne

and to be cast into the eternal lake of fire to be tormented with the Devil and his angels.<sup>18</sup>

On the other hand, the resurrection of the just is a wonderful event when our body lying in the grave will change and become a new body and rejoin with our living soul. *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*<sup>19</sup> Those believers who are still alive at this time will *be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*<sup>20</sup>

A wonderful and indescribable culmination of faith and hope accompanies this miraculous event as the redeemed look forward to an eternity of *joy unspeakable and full of glory with our risen Lord and Savior in heaven.*<sup>21</sup> Only then, will we truly comprehend the depth and fullness of God's love:

“Oh, love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong! It shall forevermore endure--the saints and angels' song.”<sup>22</sup>

(Footnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 5:17

<sup>2</sup> Psa. 119:160; 19:7-8

<sup>3</sup> 2 Tim 3:15

<sup>4</sup> 1 Tim. 6:19

<sup>5</sup> Neh. 9:6

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 5:7

<sup>7</sup> Isa 6:3

<sup>8</sup> 1 Pet 1:16

<sup>9</sup> Rom. 5:12

<sup>10</sup> Isa. 59:2

<sup>11</sup> Lev 9:7

<sup>12</sup> Lev 17:11

<sup>13</sup> Heb. 10:1

<sup>14</sup> 1 Sam. 15:22

<sup>15</sup> Heb. 8:6

<sup>16</sup> John 5:28-29

<sup>17</sup> John 5:24, John 3:18, Gal. 6:7-8, Rom. 8:1, Rev: 2:7,11

<sup>18</sup> Rev. 20:11, 13, 14; Mat. 25:41

<sup>19</sup> 1 Cor. 15:44

<sup>20</sup> 1 Thess. 4:17

<sup>21</sup> 1 Pet. 1:8

<sup>22</sup> Hymns of Zion #289

“For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Heb. 13:5