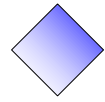


# The Voice of Truth



August 11, 2013

## Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part IV

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We have been looking at the views on church authority. This week let us take a look at the Presbyterian faith. The Presbyterian faith began in Geneva in 1534 A.D., being founded by John Calvin and John Knox. The Confession of Faith was introduced in 1522 A.D. From that time, the Bible was preached, being colored and molded by this creed. Presbyterians teach: Total Hereditary Depravity; It teaches that a baby is born a sinner, lost and so depraved that as it grows it can never do one good thing in any way to effect its salvation. A passage used is **Psalm 51:5**: "*Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*" From that verse it is taught that the little child is born full of sin. **NO**, David is merely saying he was born into a sinful world by parents, like all mankind, who are sinful. Notice this passage, David writing, as he did in **Psalm 51:5**; "*But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly*" (**Psa. 22:9-10**). David registers his assurance as being God's, from his birth. But Presbyterians teach babies are sinners, and sin separates one from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**), but David said God was his God from my mother's belly. Which one are you going to believe, man or God? The Bible does not teach that babies are sinners (**Matt. 18:3; 19:14**). The doctrine that a child is born a sinner actually if true would make a sinner out of the Lord. The doctrine holds that the sin is inherited from the parents, and all the way back to Adam. But, the Lord Himself was born of a human mother. **Psalm 51** makes no mention of the father, but my mother conceived me, if sin is inherited from the mother, then this would make a sinner out of the infant Jesus, since He was born of a human mother. If the doctrine that a child is born a sinner, this would make sin come from God.

Another passage used to teach "Total Hereditary Depravity" is **Psalm 58:3**: "*The wicked are estranged from the womb: They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.*" First we notice they "go astray." They are not "born astray." It says it happens as soon as they are

born. How soon is "soon"? Verse six says "break their teeth." Verse three says they speak lies. Do just-born infants speak? Do they have teeth? All this verse is saying is that man is so sinful that even at a very early age he goes astray.

Presbyterians teach: Unconditional Election. Meaning before the foundation of the world God chose to save certain individuals and condemn others. The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons (**Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11**). The Lord desires all to repent and be saved (**2 Pet. 3:9; 1 Tim. 2:3-4**). "*But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable with him*" (**Acts 10:35**). People who are disobedient will be condemned (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). Man's obedience is the key of salvation (**Rom. 6:17-18; Heb. 5:8-9**). Our manner of election is obedience to the gospel (**2 Thess. 2:13-15**). Christ died for the whole world (**John 3:16-17**); there is no limited atonement (**1 Tim. 2:6; Heb. 2:9; 1 Jn. 2:2**). Man decides his own destiny by his own free will.

Presbyterians teach: Irresistible Grace. Meaning God saves man whether that individual wants salvation or not; the man is unable to refuse it. The Bible teaches God desires to have all men saved (**2 Pet. 3:9**). Without faith one cannot be well pleasing to God (**Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24**). Without obedience one is lost (**Matt. 7:21-23; Heb. 5:8-9**). If it's irresistible, a person will be saved whether he wants to be or not, whether he reforms or not, whether he repents or not, worships or studies! The Christian religion is taught (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**); heard (**Acts 2:36-37**) and learned (**John 6:44-45**). There is no irresistible grace. We can accept or we can refuse God's grace.

Presbyterians teach: Perseverance of the saints. Meaning, once saved, a person is always saved. There is nothing he can do or say to be lost. Presbyterians teach that God will not let the called fall. Let's just hear God's word on this however. Paul said, "*Ye are severed from Christ, ye*

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who would be justified by the law; ye are fallen away from grace" (**Gal. 5:4**). A Christian can be severed from his Savior, and it clearly says he can fall from grace. The Bible teaches Judas, an apostle, by transgression fell (**Acts 1:25**). Paul knew it was possible to fall (**1 Cor. 9:27**). Demas loved this present world, and forsook Paul (**2 Tim. 4:10**). The truth is, the Bible teaches that we must continue worthy to be saved.

Presbyterians sprinkle water on infants (only the "elect ones" of course) and labels the act as "baptism." Baptism is seen by them as not necessary to salvation, but as an outward joining to their faith and as a sign of a covenant with grace already accomplished by God. The Bible teaches that baptism is immersion or burial in water in order to salvation (**Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 2:38**,

etc.). Only those who can believe are to be immersed (**Mk.16:16**). Infants cannot believe, therefore are not candidates for baptism.

The Presbyterian creed also looses God's law of divorce and remarriage (**Matt. 19:9**). "Willful" desertion (Leaving one's mate) that cannot be "remedied by the Church or civil magistrate, is cause sufficient of dissolving the bond of marriage." Christ stated that only fornication was reason to dissolve a marriage and that only the innocent could remarry (**Matt. 19:9-12; Mk. 10:11-12**). Presbyterian doctrine therefore adds to God's Word (**Prov. 30:6**). Which one will you take your stand with, Doctrine of men or God's Word?

(Part 5 of this article will be printed in next week's bulletin) ♦

## "I'm Not Bothering Anyone!"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Often we find folks who justify their sinful behavior by saying, "I am not bothering anyone." This excuse may sound thoughtful, but it is not. In fact, when we study the nature of sin, we learn that when we commit sin, any sin, we "bother" others!

Let us begin by noting that when we sin, we have "bothered" both the Father and the Son! Remember, it is sin that nailed Christ to the cross! Christ came to this world so that He could die (**Jn. 18:37**). From **Genesis 3:15** to the end of the Bible, we see our Lord Christ as the sacrifice for our sins (**Rev. 13:8**)! At the same time, we read in the Bible about the degree of love possessed by God. He loves man so much that He gave His only begotten Son as the supreme sacrifice (**Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8; 1 Jn. 4:9-10**). Therefore, let us not say that when we sin, we are not "bothering" anyone! God and Christ will both disagree with that statement!

Furthermore, our sins often "bother" men! When we are young, our sins affect the lives of our parents. Though we may not like to admit it, it is still the truth! In addition to this, there are some sins we commit that not only affect our parents, placing undue worry and emotional and/or financial strain upon them, but our sins can result in society (through taxes) paying for our housing and food for a time (i.e., prison)!

We also recognize that for the Christian, when we sin

and refuse to repent, it places a burden upon the church, wherein the church must withdraw from us (**II Thess. 3:6, 14-15; I Cor. 5:5-7**)! The church cannot continue to be in fellowship with a person who is "walking disorderly", or literally, "out-of-step" with God! Therefore, one's sin has affected an entire congregation of God's people! (One's sins have also placed a burden on a family of Christians who now have a family member from whom the church has withdrawn, **II Thess. 3:6; I Cor. 5:11**!) In light of these things, how can we say that the sins we commit do not "bother" anyone? In fact, just the opposite is true! "*For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself*" (**Rom. 14:7**).

Yet, if it could be proven that there is a sin which "bothers no one", remember that this sin has an effect upon the one who has committed it! Sin separates us from God (**Isa. 59:1-2**), and sin results in spiritual death (**Jas. 1:15; Rom. 6:23**)! Knowing that this is the case, who can believe that man can engage in sinful activities, but "bother no one"? It's impossible!

Let's stop offering excuses for sin. Rather, let us admit our sin, repent of it, and live as God wants us to live (**Acts 17:30; Jn. 14:15**)! In so doing, we can have a positive effect upon ourselves and upon others, influencing folks for good and not evil (**Matt. 5:16; Col. 3:17**).

Credit: *The Old Paths* - 7/14/13 ♦

**When an archer misses the mark, he turns and looks for the fault within himself.  
Failure to hit the bull's-eye is never the fault of the target. To improve your aim –  
Improve yourself. ♦**

## THE SCRIPTURES ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT

By David J. Riggs

Paul told Timothy, "From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (**2 Tim. 3:15**). Consequently, according to an inspired apostle, one can obtain eternal salvation solely by following the Scriptures. In **2 Tim. 3:16-17**, Paul declared that the Scriptures contain everything necessary for doctrine, reproof, etc., to make the man of God perfect or complete. He further added, "...thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**Verse 17**). Thus, there is not a single good work the Christian can do which is not designated in the Scriptures.

The apostle John clearly shows that the things which he wrote were given to produce the faith which brings life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). We freely admit that the Scriptures do not contain everything Jesus did. John said, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (**John 21:25**). Although we do not have everything Jesus did, we do have every necessary thing. We have enough to give us life in His name.

Luke said he wrote his book to Theophilus in order that he might know the certainty of the things which he had heard (**Luke 1:3-4**). In other words, Theophilus would no longer need to rely on what he had been taught by word of mouth, but could now prove them by the inspired writings. In **Acts 1:1** Luke said, "The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and

teach..." What did Luke mean when he said he wrote of all that Jesus did and taught? We know he did not mean every detail of the life of Christ, because John said if that were done, the world itself would not contain the books. He meant, therefore, that he had written all necessary things that Jesus did and taught. The Scriptures provide:

All necessary things which Jesus did - **Acts 1:1-2**  
 Certainty of His action and teaching - **Luke 1:3-4**  
 Life in the name of Jesus - **John 20:30-31**  
 Instructions to salvation - **2 Tim. 3:15**  
 Commands of the Lord - **1 Cor. 14:37**  
 The proper conduct - **1 Tim. 3:14-15**  
 Every good work - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**  
 Protection against sin - **1 John 2:1**  
 An assurance of eternal life - **1 John 5:13**  
 Standard by which teachers are tested - **Acts 17:11**  
 Standard which we cannot go beyond - **1 Cor. 4:6**  
 Blessings from God - **Rev. 1:3**  
 Joy that is complete - **1 John 1:3-4**  
 Standard of judgment - **Rev. 20:12**

If one reads and studies the New Testament and obtains from it all the things mentioned above, what else would he need? Do not men cast reflection on God when they imply that God failed to provide everything necessary for salvation? God declared that man is equipped for every good work through the Scriptures (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Who has the right to say that man is not equipped for every good work through the Scriptures?

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

## GOD HAS A RIGHT

Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
  - He has the power to take all of it. ♦

Either the Bible will keep you from sin . . .  
 Or sin will keep you from the Bible. ♦

## What Do I Owe My Congregation?

Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

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### The Nature Of The Kingdom Of God

#### IS NOT

1. Of This World (**John 18:36**).
2. Eating and Drinking (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. In Word (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
4. With Observation (**Luke 17:20**).

#### IS

1. In Power (**1 Cor. 4:20**).
2. Righteousness (**Rom. 14:17**).
3. Peace (**Rom. 14:17**).
4. Joy (**Rom. 14:17**).
5. Within You (**Luke 17:21**).
6. Unshakable (**Heb. 12:28**). ♦

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None are so empty as those who are full  
Of themselves. ♦

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### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**

Believe - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**

Repent - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**

Confess the Lord - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

Be Baptized - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**

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#### Schedule of Assembly

**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

\*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)