

Romans 14:19  
So then let us  
follow after things  
which make for  
peace, and things  
whereby we may  
edify one another.



John 8:32 and  
ye shall know  
the truth, and  
the truth shall  
make you free.

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## Two Simple Answers To “Conditional Immortality”

*Jim Everett*

### ***Fourth in a series of articles on “Conditional Immortality”***

First, in **Matthew 10:28**, Jesus is giving assurance to His apostles whom He is sending on the “limited commission” — don’t be afraid of what men can do to you. By having a priority in fears, there is an understanding of the greatness of God and His protective ability. Man can kill the body but he cannot kill the soul — thus there is a difference between the outer part, the living animated being, and the inner part of man. Fearing God more than man is based on an understanding of the greater power that God has. But if man can do what God can do by killing the body, why would Jesus say, “*But rather fear him...*”? Jesus is saying to His apostles, If you have to die — and later they did — those who kill you cannot touch that which is the “inner being” (soul).

There is significance in the words used by Jesus to describe the differences in the greatness of power: “*Kill*” (Greek, *apokteino*) means taking life, murder, put to death (Vine, p. 630). It is taking the life from the body by inflicting sufficient harm on the body so as to render it incapable of existing — man can take life by harming the body sufficiently. But only God can “*destroy*” the soul — (*apollumi*) “*The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of well-being...*” (Vine, p. 304). Jesus’ statements surely indicate the immortality of the soul. If man were able to kill the body but not kill the soul, then when the body dies, the soul lives on — otherwise, to kill the

body would also be to kill the soul. God is able to destroy the body and soul in hell (gehenna) — remember, it is not said of God that He is able to “kill” the body and soul but rather that He is able to “*destroy*” both in hell. In the parallel account in **Luke 12:4-5**, it is stated differently and proponents of “conditional immortality” would have Jesus say that God will “*kill*” the soul. But, again, look at the contrasts between the power of men and that of God. Men have the power to kill the body but after that, have no power to do anything more — that is, they have no power to affect the soul, as **Matthew** records Jesus’ statement (**10:28**). In **v. 5**, the admonition is to fear the One, which after He hath killed — and the parallel contrast goes back to the power of men to “*kill the body*” — also has power to cast into hell. “*Killing*” has reference to the body — not to the “killing the soul.” Instead of trying to make Jesus say that God “kills the soul,” the consistent parallel is the power of God to deal with the soul, which man cannot touch, by inflicting eternal loss of well being. Matthew’s account, “*...destroy both body and soul in hell,*” is recorded by Luke as “*after he has killed (the body) hath power to cast into hell.*” It is after the “*killing*”, that God still has power to do something else. Luke’s account does not say that God “kills the soul,” which is what one embracing “conditional immortality” would like for Him to say.

Then, Jesus answered the materialistic Sadducees conclusively in **Matthew 22:23-33**. The Sadducees and their belief are identified and they

pose their “unanswerable” question for Jesus. The dilemma they posed for Him is found in verses **24-28**. Jesus answers in verses **29-33**. In His answer He proposes first that in the resurrection — which affirms that there is a resurrection of the dead — men are as angels. The point of comparison is that angels do not marry but that necessarily implies something else about the nature of angels. Are angels created beings or eternal? Are angels immortal? They do exist separate from God (**Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4**). From Peter’s second epistle (**2:4**), evil angels have been cast down to “tartaros” and bound in chains — they are existing beings, currently bound and experiencing some form of punishment as they await the coming judgment. Jesus then makes an argument based on God’s statement of “being” — *“I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”* Then He states the second part of the argument: *“God is not the God of the dead but of the living,”* (**v. 32**). The necessary conclusion from His argument is that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are living, though dead physically. “Conditional immortality” contradicts Jesus’ argument.

## OVERCOMING THE WORLD

*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?* (**1 John 5:4-5**). There are at least two books in the New Testament that deal specifically with the theme of persecution and the need for Christians to fight and persevere in spite of opposition. Those books are First Peter and Revelation. Even a cursory reading of each book reveals clearly that God’s people were under attack; outside forces sought to diminish the influence of these Christians; and political power was brought to bear against these early saints—a power that was decidedly hostile to Christianity. Both books were written to encourage those under siege from the world to continue “until death.” Their Savior suffered; they would follow His example in this regard.

In First John the theme of overcoming is an important one. Those who have been born again are assured of being able to overcome the world. These are the ones who gain the victory. Believing that Jesus is the Christ assures us that victory can be ours. John’s letter discusses and explains what that kind of faith is; rather than simple mental assent; victorious faith involves the believer in all kinds of activities. Loving one’s brother, prayer, confessing one’s sins, abiding in Christ—all these and many more, explicate the practical meaning of *faith*.

To believe that Jesus is the Christ is to believe that He is the divine Son of God; He is deity. This is something, along with the denial of false teachers that Jesus had actually come in the flesh, that enables the Christian to overcome the onslaughts of the Devil (**1 Peter 5:7**). God in the flesh—Jesus Christ alone is worthy of the totality of our allegiance. *“For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”* (**Hebrews 9:13-14**). The intercession of Christ continues on behalf of His children. Christ and Christ alone guarantees our victory over sin.

True confession identifies us as those who have been born again. This leads us to love for God. True love for God leads us to obey His commandments. These are not burdensome; they are not impossible to obey; they are for our spiritual benefit. This is a demonstration of our faith—saving faith. We are God’s children.

Do you believe Jesus is truly God and truly man? Do you believe Jesus is the divine Word of God who became flesh for our salvation? If not, how can you expect to walk in victory over sin? It may be that the world has overcome you!

**Randy Harshbarger**

## Wives Respect Your Husbands

Just as surely as the scriptures teach that husbands are to love their wives, even to the point of dying for them they ALSO teach that wives are to respect their husbands. Just as feminists skip over those verses which teach men what they are to be to their wives, they also ignore the verses which teach women what they are to be to their husbands, and it’s just as hypocritical. Paul says in **Ephesians 5:33**, *“Nevertheless do ye also severally love each one his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she fear her husband.”* Here the King James uses the word ‘reverence’ for ‘fear’ and that of course is the meaning. The literal word is “phobeo” whose definition includes , “to be in awe of”, which is the case here.

I can hear some women right now saying, “If you just knew my husband....” Truth be told, there have been times my own wife could be heard saying that. No man is perfect any more than any woman is perfect. But, if there is any shred of manhood about him there is something there in him for you to admire and respect. Maybe you just need to make up your mind to look for it. You may need to dig a little, and



that's alright. He's your husband. He desperately needs your respect and YOU need to give it to him!

When you find one thing in your husband that inspires you'll probably find several others just lying around in close proximity. Communicate your respect to your husband in a way that means something TO HIM. Flowers may reach you but would be like giving cat-nip to a pit bull for most men. Find what works for your man.

**Cleveland Reddinger**

## AMERICA NEEDS THE BIBLICAL FAMILY

**Jim Stauffer**

What is the appearance of the biblical family? We must go to the Bible to see that type set forth. God, who chose Abraham as the progenitor of not only physical Israel, but also spiritual Israel (**Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:29**), said this about him, **Gen. 18:19** *"For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him."* The biblical family is one that practices righteousness and justice. These have been tenets of God's covenant with every generation of man.

Hannah, who was barren and had a great desire to bear a child promised God if He would give her a child she would *.....give him to the Lord all the days of his life.....* **1 Sam. 1:11**. While she strongly desired a son, she also wanted one who would learn righteousness and justice as Abraham had taught.

Paul taught husbands to love their wives *...as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it....* He also told wives to *...be in subjection unto your own husbands as unto the Lord.* (**Eph. 5:22-25**) In the next chapter of that book he told children to, *...obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.* (**Eph. 6:1**)

These instructions were given in the New Testament to guide families to conduct themselves in righteousness and justice as Abraham did.

When America was founded most people of the new nation respected the wisdom of these teachings. Of course life was much different back then. Fathers were involved in daily efforts to feed the family by producing daily bread and protect it from harm from those who would do harm simply because the nature of their presence threatened those who were here before them. Mothers were courageous in their efforts to nurture children who were not sheltered from harm from evil sources but rather prepared to deal with it. The entirety of the family understood

peace and harmony with all around them was not guaranteed, but rather something good people would strive to achieve. This continued and as a result the national community in large part pulled for each other and often sacrificed to help one another in the struggle to provide sustenance and safety.

Many today, who no longer accept Jehovah as God and the Bible as His word claim this was not the case. They are simply trying to revise history in favor of their current lifestyle and beliefs. Furthermore, they reject the fact we have gradually distanced ourselves from God at the governmental level. They reject this shift away from God has brought with it a negative effect on society. They would deny this shift has led us away from the "old time" concern one neighbor has for another.

When someone whose primary goal is to get all he can in material goods from this life, denounces the very concepts the Bible has taught for centuries such as, *"Love thy neighbor as thyself"*, that love goes away and with it the concern over the benefit anyone else may receive from society. This was the origin of the "Me" generation and the descent into a level of selfishness that can lead to such evil as we now see in society.

The lack of love for one another has led to the breakdown of the biblical family. More one parent households. A lack of leadership of children by two parents, an authoritative father and a nurturing mother. Children become selfish and hardened at an early age. They become fearful and distrustful of others and view society as their enemy.

Whether one believes the United States was ever a "Christian Nation" or not isn't really the important issue here. What is important is that we all learn what it means to *"Love thy neighbor as thyself."*

Passing laws may help deal with the evil, but it will not eliminate it. Only a change of heart will do that. Jesus tells us evil deeds come from the hearts of men, *For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: (Matt. 15:19).* Paul says this about law, *But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious (1 Tim. 1:8).* We know from experience there are those who do not respect the law. The answer then lies in the change needed in the hearts of men. We must return to the principles of God.

We all need to learn the lesson taught by the Good Samaritan. He was identified as the one who loved his neighbor *And he said, He that showed mercy on him. And Jesus said unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. (Luke 10:37)*

We will when the godly principles of justice and righteousness lead our families and our nation.

**Psalm 1:1** *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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## **OUR ADDRESS IS:**

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

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## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10