

Unpopular Bible Doctrines #4: Repentance, False Faith, Fear, Bloody Animal Sacrifices

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Unpopular Bible Doctrines

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: 2 Timothy 2:24-26; John 8:39-47

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The God you believe in may not necessarily be the God who is actually there. The God you believe in is quite probably not like the God of the Bible. The God you believe in is perhaps not at all like the biblical God. Your God may not be God at all but simply a figment of your imagination.

The prophet Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Psalms 96:5 For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

The prophet Ezekiel 13:2-8 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

Romans 1:21-22 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...

Larry Wessels: Greetings and welcome once again to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers and I want to thank you for joining us today. Today I'm here with the Director of Pilgrim Publications, Bob L. Ross. Bob, great you have you here, brother.

Bob L. Ross: Glad to be here.

Larry: Bob is a noted author and speaker. He's written many books. He's done much public speaking, done a lot of public debates and he's also the Director of Pilgrim Publications which is one of the world's leading publishers of the 19th century preacher, the Prince of Preachers, Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Many of our viewers, no doubt, have heard of him and his works live on today, particularly through Bob's excellent work. In fact, before we lead into the title of this show today "Unpopular Bible Doctrines #4," this is show number four in that series, I'd like Bob to just give us just a quick introduction to Charles Haddon Spurgeon and some of the works that are available through Pilgrim Publications.

Bob: Well Larry, a few years ago, I felt a special leading or need or whatever to put this book in print, "The Gospel According to C. H. Spurgeon." Now, what this is is 35 sermons of Spurgeon just on the Gospel. I sense that of all things that we need, especially in the Baptist ministry today, was for Baptist preachers to be preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and we thought, "Where could we more effectively help do this or contribute to this than when young new ministers graduated from the seminary, put this book in their hands." So about three years ago and then also since, we have given away free copies of this to graduates of seminaries and Bible colleges where young preachers are going into the ministry. What this does is, it gives them the inspiration of the truth of the Gospel as it was delivered by one of the greatest Gospel preachers that ever lived, C. H. Spurgeon. These are totally unabridged, unedited and we give that away to young preachers, Larry. If there are any young preachers watching us that you graduated from seminary or Bible college or Bible school, if you'll get in touch with me, we'll furnish you a free copy of this book, "The Gospel According to C. H. Spurgeon."

Larry: Outstanding. The viewers at home can contact us at Christian Answers and we'll put you in touch with Pilgrim Publications. Also, their phone number and address will come up at the end of the program when we sign off so be watching for that at the end of the show and you can get to Bob Ross and a free copy of this Gospel book by C. H. Spurgeon. That way or contact our ministry and we'll put you in contact.

Bob: Of course, we're on the internet, Larry.

Larry: That's right. What's that internet?

Bob: pilgrimpublishments.com and you can put anything on the Google search engine with Spurgeon's name and it will pop up our website as a link.

Larry: Excellent. Well, with that said, let us get into our topic today. This is, of course, show number four in a continuing series on what we've titled as "Unpopular Bible Doctrines." There are many, many, many unpopular Bible doctrines and that's probably one reason why there are so many world religions today that go against it and so many cultic groups that go against what the Bible says. I like to think just off the cuff of the

Jehovah's Witnesses, for instance, a pseudo-"Christian," the word Christian in parenthesis, cult which came out with their own Bible translation called "A New World Translation," where because of certain doctrines that the Bible teaches were in there that didn't agree with them, they didn't agree with what the Bible says, they actually changed what the Bible says to fit their beliefs. The Unity School of Christianity did something to this with their Metaphysical Bible Dictionary.

So what you have are these different groups that they hate these Bible doctrines so much that they actually come out with their own translations or dictionaries to just change what the Bible says so it won't be contradicting what they believe. It also goes back to one of the historic, truly holy Bibles that came out through one of the founding fathers of this country, Thomas Jefferson. Thomas Jefferson used to read the Bible a lot but he found so many things in the Bible that he hated that what he started to do with his Bible and they still have it today at the Thomas Jefferson Estate in Monticello, I called there and confirmed it by talking to one of the people that watch over his estate today as a national museum and monument, you might say, but they still have his Bible there and what he did with every Bible doctrine he didn't agree with, he took some scissors and cut them out of his personal Bible. So what you have are these pages with all these deletions where he cut out verses he didn't agree with and he got rid of them because he hated those doctrines. They were very unpopular with Thomas Jefferson and so by the time he got through with all that, he had a much smaller version of the Bible. The pages are full of holes so you might say he had a truly holey Bible, that's my bad joke for the day. Sorry about that but it's true in reality.

With that said, let's move away from somebody that at least understood that he didn't like a lot of things in the Bible and he just got rid of them at his own discretion. And a lot of people do that mentally, they'll literally sit there and cut it out of their Bibles but they mentally cut doctrines and teachings of the Bible that they don't like. They just do it, maybe almost without thinking in a lot of cases. So we're going to go to these doctrines. If you missed shows 1, 2 and 3, I urge you to contact us to get a copy of those previous shows you've missed. We don't have time to recap all those because we've got so many still to go so we're going to try to finish this show and get through as many of these as we can while we have the time to do it.

Okay, our next unpopular doctrine as you can see it on the screen is: God must grant men repentance because they cannot do it themselves. A key text there is 2 Timothy 2:24-26.

2 Timothy 2:24-26 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

John 6:44, 63, 65, Jesus speaking, 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 15:16, 26 Jesus speaking again here, 16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you... 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.

God must grant repentance so that people can escape themselves from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will. So Bob, do we see something more of the sovereignty of God on the throne, the power, the supernatural power of God working in the lives of men here?

Bob: Well Larry, we not only see the sovereignty of God but we see the mercy of God.

Larry: Amen.

Bob: If God did not interfere with us, with our will, with our desires and our motivations, if God didn't jump in the front of us and stop our transportation going full speed in our own direction so many times, where would we wind up? We would wind up in the ditch. We would wind up in the pit. But God in his mercy and in his sovereignty, as you said, he interferes with us. People say, "Oh, I don't want God to interfere with my life in any way." Well, the worst thing in the world that could happen to a man is for God to leave him alone. There is a text in the Bible that says Ephraim has turned to his idols, leave him alone. That's the worst thing that could possibly happen to a man is for God to leave him alone.

Larry: In fact, in Hebrews 12, about the chastisement.

Bob: We want God to interrupt us. We want God to interfere with us. We want God to correct us and so that's what it takes and when that Gospel witness comes into your life whether it's by a mother's prayers or by a father's testimony, or by a Sunday school teacher or by a preacher or by a church or by an evangelist or by a Bible or by a book or by a tract, when that message crosses your path, that's God in his sovereignty working to bring you to repentance. Now, sometimes it takes more than one lick to do it. I know I could give my own testimony over a period of time, 4, 5 different ways that God finally brought me to repentance. But God gives the repentance by the fact that he brings these instrumentalities in our path to rebuke us, to convict us, to correct us and finally bring us to our knees in humble repentance and acceptance through the Lord Jesus Christ. If he didn't do that, who knows.

Larry: You definitely wouldn't have ended up believing on the Lord Jesus Christ without that.

Bob: You can look at the pagan nations where God has not sent his missionaries or not sent his word and you can see some of the things going on in those pagan nations, not only now but in history, all through the years. The thing about it is, wherever God sends the Gospel, there is the gift of repentance coming through the means that God has ordained to bring the message of the Gospel.

Larry: That actually reminds me of that place in Acts where the apostles were planning to go on a missionary tour to one place but then the Holy Spirit told them, "Don't go there. Go over here." So they didn't end up going in that certain place because God didn't want them to go there. He just left them alone, just basically left those people alone.

Bob: Larry, as much as it might conflict with the theology of some Bible teachers, God has never had a, you might say, universal type manifestation of the Gospel and going on. In other words, when I say that, it's difficult to explain exactly what I mean but what I'm trying to say is, at no time in history has there been a universal opportunity just like there was in one nation, the same is true in this nation. In other words, one nation has always had the advantage more than the other, not by virtue of their goodness but by virtue of God's choice.

Larry: Amen.

Bob: God has made England, for example, in the past 4-500 years, God has made England a blessed nation, a chosen nation out of which the Gospel has gone forth. God has made America the same way. So you go back to Israel, for example in the Old Testament, God did not choose Egypt as you pointed out.

Larry: Deuteronomy 7.

Bob: God didn't choose Persia. God didn't choose Babylon. God chose little Israel and out of Israel was this blessing. So you go on down through history and you find that there's never been a one world opportunity in every nation, every person had his equal opportunity as another. That's why we in America are so much in responsibility. We have so much of a burden of responsibility on us to not only accept God's word but be the propagators of God's word because there's been a great gift given to us. God has given us repentance, so to speak, to the acknowledging of the truth and it behooves us to fulfill our responsibilities.

Larry: That's right. Well, as you can see on the screen, our next unpopular doctrine: Men have a false faith in the true God. That's pretty amazing, isn't it? There you have John 8:39-47; James 2:19, your Old Testament reference.

John 8:39-47 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of

fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it... because ye are not of God.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

2 Kings 17:32-41 So they feared the LORD...They feared the LORD, and served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence. So these nations feared the LORD, and served their graven images... so do they unto this day.

It is so amazing, Bob, that here you have the true and living God, the God of the holy Scripture, the writ, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and, of course, the Holy Spirit, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19 and so forth but the true and living God is there. He has revealed himself in Scripture. You have all these people that give lip service to the true and living God yet as these Bible passages clearly point out, they can believe in the true God but it's not really a true faith that they have in the true God.

Bob: Well, you know, the best thing we can have as Christians would be if we had a line drawn over here: the true God and the true worshipers and over here, false gods. I mean, the trouble comes in where we have these professors of the true God and yet they're not really preaching and teaching and following the true God's word. There is no better example of this than in the case of Jesus dealing with the professors of the true God during his own ministry which at that time, were known as the Pharisees. Jesus said to them that they professed to be the children of Abraham and, of course, they had the law and they had the temple and they had the ceremonies. They were in effect known as the people of God on earth, the God of the Bible, that is. If you were to be back in those days, if you had been back in those days and you said, "Where are the prophets of the Lord?" They would say, "Well, go over there to the temple and find out. The high priest is up there. He can tell you about all those things." Yet Jesus said, "Your heart is far from me." And he said that, "You prefer your traditions above the law of God. You will set aside the law of God that you may keep your traditions."

And so it's absolutely true, Larry, we can have these professors of the true God and yet when we look and see what's going on, their heart is far from him; they are setting aside the teachings of the word of God that they can keep their traditions; and they are of a divided heart. So that is a great problem that we have today in preaching the word of God is that so many people are wedded to traditions that blind them to the truth and those traditions are associated with the true God and not by God himself but by the arbitrary

decree and practice of men. They have so shaped that with the true God and that creates a problem for us.

Larry: Right. Right. So, anyway that should unnerve a lot of people because just as you have head knowledge, let's say, of the true God and so forth, that doesn't necessarily mean you have a true faith in that God so it's dangerous.

So, as you look on your screen, you can see: Having a holy fear of God is unpopular. And our references for that are in Deuteronomy 10:12; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Luke 12:5; Psalm 111:10; Proverbs 1:7, 9:10. What's interesting here as you see on the chart, in the Bible, you have "the love of God" mentioned 88 times. You have "trusting God" mentioned in the Bible 91 times. These are things a believer should do: they should love God; they should trust God. "Loving God" 88 times. "Trusting God" 91 times. But now, "fearing God" is mentioned in the Bible and I'm only showing you a few references on this chart, but "fearing God" is mentioned 278 times which combines all the love, all the trust and all these other things, outdoes it by a vast array so you're told in the Bible to "fear God" 278 different times.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Luke 12:5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Psalm 111:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Now Bob, it's very unpopular. People don't think they should fear God. They think that God's a big Santa Claus, he's like a Grandpa, God loves everybody so God is going to be nice to everybody and God's got a wonderful plan for your life and so everything is going to work out hunky-dory in the end. Because of that, why in the world would we have the Bible telling us to fear God 278 times?

Bob: Well Larry, you and I were watching tv just a matter of hours ago about the D-Day invasion...

Larry: In Normandy with the Allies. WWII.

Bob: ...being recalled and on that occasion, one of the men was mentioning the attitude of the soldiers that were invading and you said something about how that men will show

a fear of God during hours such as war but then once they get out from under the pressure and the stress and the fear that is associated with war, then they're back to their old normal ways. You said, "Why is that?" and I said, "Well, that's just human nature."

Larry: There are no atheists in foxholes.

Bob: Right. It seems to be human nature to take God for granted in times when nothing is problematic but then it seems to be human nature to develop a little more healthy fear and respect for God in times of need and times of possible tragedy or possible death even or whatever it might be, something facing you, maybe a major surgery or some potential catastrophe, you tend to have more respect and more fear of God at that time. But the fear of God is something that we as human beings really have, first of all, intuitively but then we have to cultivate it and by cultivating I mean we have to inform ourselves by the word of God on how God would be feared and revered. If we do that, then we will somewhat free ourselves of the dread of God. Now, there's a fear of God that some people have that would be more appropriately defined as the dread of God. They dread God. Well, the true fear of God is mixed with reverence and fear and love so that it's like you would have a fear of a loving parent, a father, a mother, whom you respect and you revere them because of their characteristics and attributes.

So while we have the inherent dread or fear of God in a sense, we need to cultivate and discipline the fear of God so that it functions in a way that is pleasing to the Lord and also is acceptable to us. David said he loved the fear of the Lord and so we can grow to love the fear of the Lord. We don't want to love the dread of the Lord but we love the fear of the Lord, the reverence of the Lord. So there's a distinction there we have to make between this fear of God that is a dread like, "Oh, let the rocks fall on me! I don't want to see his face. Hide me from the face of him that sitteth on the throne." We don't want that kind of a fear or dread, we want the kind that draws near with a pure heart and a motive of worship and we have many illustrations of men like Isaiah said, "Holy, holy, holy." John on the Isle of Patmos when he saw the Lord magnified there. Paul when he was on the road to Damascus, he said, "Lord, what would thou have me to do?" So there are many instances in the life of Jesus where men showed their reverence to him, showed their fear for him. That's the kind of thing we want to be promoting as Christians and advocates of the word of God.

Larry: Amen, because most people in these religions and even so-called nominal Christians, they don't really have that fear and reverence for God. They're looking at God in some other way. They're not looking at God in the way he deserves and as far as respect, that respect and reverence is just almost not there and they have a false idea of who God is and that's why that fear is not there because they don't really understand what the word of God is. They don't fear and respect God for who and what he is and once you have a proper understanding of who and what God is, then that fear comes naturally and that's why we can find like at the end of Ecclesiastes, you hear the writer saying, "Fear God and keep his commandments." You have all these references, 278 of them, and all of a sudden they make sense because it all ties in to the very nature of the holy God that we're dealing with, the God with whom we have to do.

The next unpopular Bible doctrine and you can see it there: God interferes in the affairs of men. Now, we covered this a little bit in the other show in reference to another unpopular doctrine but basically you see there Acts 2:23-24; Acts 9:3-6. You have mention of Noah's flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, ten plagues of Egypt, Christ's birth, etc. You have Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. You have God actually interfering in the affairs of men.

Acts 2:23-24 Peter speaking, "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God," Peter here is speaking about Jesus, "ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 9:3-6 ...suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest... And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Genesis 6:13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven.

Joshua 6:20 ...when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, [that being Jericho,] every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Daniel 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. [This of course, speaking about Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego and a fourth like the Son of God.]

Now, this is unpopular with a lot of guys, a lot of people out there, because they don't think God can interfere with you. It's like you have that argument about you have a free will and God's not going to interfere with your free will. He's not going to take Jonah, for instance, and make Jonah go to Nineveh. He's not going to do that because he doesn't interfere with the affairs of men. This is a concept that many people just really believe in it. They think God's like the deists, like Benjamin Franklin thought of God, he's just like a time-maker, he made this clock and he just walked away and he didn't bother with his creation. What do you have to say about all this?

Bob: Well, the earlier time when the Philistines brought the Ark of God...

Larry: That's 1 Samuel 6.

Bob: ...we say it was captured and they put it in there with their god, Dagon, and old Dagon, although he was inanimate and whatever, he just tumbled off of his stump.

Larry: That's right.

Bob: I like to think of that as a comparison to free will as it's taught by men. Men have almost made an idol, a theoretical idol out of the doctrine of free will because everything must be brought into subjection to free will. Nothing can violate free will according to men so, thank God this is not true or we wouldn't be saved because if we had our absolute free will, we never would hear the Gospel.

Larry: I never would. I wouldn't be sitting here now. In fact, before I got born again, I would laugh if anyone said I'd ever be doing what we're doing right now.

Bob: Right and so if God were to leave us to our free wills without any interference whatsoever, we would do exactly what Jesus said, "You will not come to me." But on the other hand, Larry, I think some good Scripture to illustrate what the point is that God interferes, the whole book of Daniel is a book of God interfering.

Larry: That's right.

Bob: He interfered, for example, with Nebuchadnezzar by causing him to have a dream and then Daniel, of course, had been taken captive before this in the Babylonian captivity and Nebuchadnezzar, he was informed that Daniel could interpret his dream. So here Daniel comes in and then Nebuchadnezzar was thinking, "Oh, I'm great Nebuchadnezzar. I built this great empire," but the message was, "God's going to put you out to pasture. You're going to become like an animal." And so God interfered and drove Nebuchadnezzar from his kingdom and made him like an animal with all this animal growth on his body and everything.

Larry: He was out grazing in the grass.

Bob: And Nebuchadnezzar learned from that that there's a God in heaven and that he doeth according to his will among the inhabitants of the earth and among nations...

Larry: That's Daniel 4:35.

Bob: ...and he does according to his will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of man. Nebuchadnezzar had been a free willer, we could say. "I'm great Nebuchadnezzar. Look what I have done. Look what I have built." God puts him out to pasture and he comes back, "Hey, I'm nothing. God is everything."

Larry: He got his proper perspective.

Bob: "God is everything." And then we come on after him, of course, we have Belshazzar and he thought he could desecrate the vessels of God and use them in this pagan orgy that they were having there and a hand interferes and comes down and writes on the wall and says, "Our weight in the balance is found wanting and this night your kingdom is going to be taken from you."

Larry: Mene, mene tekel upharsin.

Bob: So there again, God interfered and removed Belshazzar from the kingdom. Of course, Daniel goes on, the same thing happened later in the book of Daniel. But the point that I'm making is: we in this human nature have an idolatry which we have attributed to free will as if we have the ultimate choice. We only have a subsidiary choice. We can only make a choice way down the line and God has the ultimate choice and the quicker we can learn that, the better off we're going to be in adjusting our choices so that they reflect the choices of Almighty God. As Jesus said to his own disciples, "You have not chosen me but I have chosen you."

Larry: That's right.

Bob: That's what it comes down to.

Larry: Excellent. Excellent. The next unpopular Bible doctrine and you can see it there on the screen: Old Testament animal sacrifices are unpopular. In fact, you know, animal rights activists actually picket God for this. I can almost see these animal rights activists with their little signs picketing God for having animal sacrifices and you can see all the references there: Leviticus 9:2-24, all kinds of animals are sacrificed in these altar sacrifices; Leviticus 1:14-17; Leviticus 5:8, you're supposed to break the necks of some of these animals; Leviticus 4:16-18 where you dip, sprinkle and pour the blood of the sacrifice out. Also, Leviticus 14:25, cute little lambs are sacrificed. Heaven forbid. Can you imagine seeing a cute little lamb being killed like this? Leviticus 8:21, burning animal sacrifices for a "pleasing aroma" to God. Leviticus 11, animals can be eaten and you find that vegetarians would have a large problem with this. Numbers 7, you have once again, that whole chapter and lots of different types of animals being killed as a sacrifice unto God.

Why are animal sacrifices really so unpopular? They are unpopular because God demands bloody sacrifices as payment, also know theologically as atonement, for sins.

Leviticus 1:14-17 ...he shall bring his offering of turtledoves, or of young pigeons. And the priest shall bring it unto the altar, and wring off his head, and burn it on the altar; and the blood thereof shall be wrung out at the side of the altar: And he shall pluck away his crop with his feathers, and cast it beside the altar on the east part, by the place of the

ashes:... and the priest shall burn it upon the altar,... it is a burnt sacrifice, an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Leviticus 5:8 And he shall bring them unto the priest, who shall offer that which is for the sin offering first, and wring off his head from his neck, but shall not divide it asunder.

Leviticus 14:25 And he shall kill the lamb of the trespass offering, and the priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and put it upon the tip of the right ear of him that is to be cleansed, and upon the thumb of his right hand, and upon the great toe of his right foot.

Leviticus 11:2-4 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, These are the beasts which ye shall eat among all the beasts that are on the earth. Whatsoever parteth the hoof, and is clovenfooted, and cheweth the cud, among the beasts, that shall ye eat. Nevertheless these shall ye not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the hoof: as the camel, because he cheweth the cud, but divideth not the hoof; he is unclean unto you.

Numbers 7:21-23 One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering: One kid of the goats for a sin offering: And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

I think, off the cuff, it just came to me just now, in the book of Job, right at the end of the book of Job, Job's crummy comforters, his three friends, Eliphaz and whatever his name is and those other guys, God asked for a sacrifice to make up for all the bad things they said about God. You know, they had to do a sacrifice there just to atone for all the wrong stuff they were talking about him to Job. Anyway, it's throughout the Old Testament, animal sacrifices. And one reason this is so unpopular, Bob, is really twofold: if God is going to let everybody off the hook and it doesn't matter what you believe and all paths lead to God, why do all these innocent, cute, little animals have to have their wings ripped, their necks broken, little cute lambs have their necks slit, blood poured out all over the place? Why do all these animals have to die as a pleasing aroma to God? I mean, that really comes to it. Why do these animals have to die like this for a God who in the end is going to let everybody off the hook?

Bob: Well Larry, you wonder about if the Spirit that dominates some of these people with regard to their supposed interest in animal preservation or their interest in, what's the word, cruelty to animals, you wonder if these people are really not operating out of a principle that somehow is continuous or an expression of the anti-atonement doctrine of the Gospel. The Gospel teaches the blood atonement and that's the blood atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave his Son as a lamb and he died on Calvary's cross to atone for our sins. Now, in the Old Testament, the president of PETA was Cain because he did not use blood sacrifices so he was the primary familiar of the anti-animal, cruelty to animals organization back in his day if we can parabolically deal with this. But all through the Old Testament, those who rejected the blood of goats and bulls and animals

in the system of ceremonies, actually they were anti-Gospel because they were saying, "We don't believe in the necessity of blood atonement."

Larry: Just like Cain.

Bob: Right, so finally when Jesus came and John the Baptist looked at him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world," and then the Apostle Paul said, "Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us," what you have here is the principle of atonement in the blood element: the blood of the animals of the Old Testament, the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the principle of substitutionary atonement, God taking the atoning sacrifice of the body of Christ and offering that as a sin offering and then we being set free on the basis of faith in Christ. We do not have to suffer the penalty for our sins.

So you wonder about these people who are always harping and carping about the animal situation. I don't know if there is necessarily a hard-core connection there but I just wonder how many of these people really approve of the doctrine of the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Larry: Right, because it comes down to them actually putting animals on the same plane with human beings and we find when we're hearing the teaching of Christ in the New Testament that he says, "You are worth so much more than a sparrow." He's always showing the value of man over animals, yet these people almost put the animals up on the same plane with man when we know that's not the case biblically. So they have a problem there. For one thing, they're not even accepting the categories of existence set in order of creation, set up by God but then on the other hand, it's the atonement itself. Why would God require this bloody sacrifice as an atonement for anything? Why does God need that? They are really questioning the motives of God himself in what's going on here with all this blood everywhere. As you said, that actually leads to the blood sacrifice of Christ in the New Testament where he shed his blood for atonement for our sins and to appease the wrath of God.

Bob: Very closely associated with that, Larry, in the New Testament we find Paul having to teach the believers that it was okay to eat things that had been killed.

Larry: Sacrificed to idols.

Bob: And he mentioned the fact there would be those forbidding meats, forbidding you to eat meats. Now, he tied that right in with a rejection of the Gospel of Christ, not that eating meats is a part of the Gospel but the point is: those who are given to forbid the eating of meats are the same ones who are opposed to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in this biblical context. Not that that would necessarily be the case today, although that's probably what you would find in my humble opinion.

Larry: I heard that.

Hebrews 9:11-14 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:4, 10-12 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man [Jesus Christ] after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.

Alright, let's keep moving on with all these unpopular doctrines. You see your next one there on the screen. It says: God sends curses on people. Your text here is Leviticus 26:16-39 and particularly verse 29 there. You also have in the New Testament: Revelation 16:8-11 and many, many more curses besides these.

Deuteronomy 28:15-19 But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

Deuteronomy 28:21-22 The LORD shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it. The LORD shall smite thee with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue thee until thou perish.

Deuteronomy 28:27-28, 35 The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, [otherwise known as hemorrhoids] and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart: The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.

Leviticus 26:27-29 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

Revelation 16:8-9 And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

But Bob, we've got a doctrine here where God himself curses people. I think just off hand, I think was it Herod in the book of Acts where God sent worms? He died because of these worms God cursed him with and there are just curses all over the place by God. But yet people don't want to believe that. They don't think God would do that, "How can a loving God do that to his creatures? How can God curse this guy and bless that guy?" So what do you have to say about that?

Bob: Well, it's something, Larry, that actually belongs in that realm of God's work that we know nothing about in the sense of we are do be judges by any means of who deserves the curse and who doesn't deserve the curse or whatever. But it's an absolute fact that you stated Bible examples and if you look through history, men who violate God's will are simply inviting upon themselves the curses and the judgments of God. So it's true, God's curse and I don't want to mention any names here, Larry, but one of the religious persons on the scene that does the blessings, someone has given a list of those blessings through the years and they're all curses. It's unfortunate.

Larry: I know what you're talking about a lot of people at home are going to wonder so if you want to know what Bob is talking about, you have to write us.

I want to thank you for joining us. We've been covering these very unpopular doctrines. I've got more we could go into but that should suffice it for now and, of course, one of the most unpopular doctrines is that you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved. You must believe that he is the Son of God and you must believe that he raised from the dead in order to accomplish your salvation and satisfy the wrath of God which is another unpopular doctrine, or else be sent to an eternal hellfire, which is another unpopular doctrine. But you must believe on the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved and with that, I have to conclude. Anyone that needs more information from us, please contact the numbers and address at the end of the show.

I want to thank Bob L. Ross from Pilgrim Publications for joining us. Bob, it's great to have you here, brother. Just remember, Jesus said that he's the way, the truth and the life and no man comes to the Father except by him. Well, thank you and join us again next time. I'm Larry Wessels for Christian Answers. God bless you all.

Bob: Amen.

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