

# Unpopular Bible Doctrines #6: Military Service, Freudian Psychology & Psychiatry

*Unpopular Bible Doctrines*

By Larry Wessels

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**Bible Text:** James 4:6; Genesis 41:14-49

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**Larry Wessels:** Greetings and welcome to Christian Answers. I'm Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers and thank you for being with us today. Today we're doing a very special series of programs on Bible doctrines that are deemed to be unpopular. Now, joining me in this Unpopular Bible Doctrines series is my very special guest and Director of Pilgrim Publications, Bob L. Ross. Bob, great to have you here, brother.

**Bob L. Ross:** Thank you, Larry.

**Larry:** Bob L. Ross is one of the world's leading publishers of the works of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the famous Prince of Preachers from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Now Bob, for our audience, could you tell us a little bit about Charles Haddon Spurgeon and some of the works you have there with you.

**Bob:** Well Larry, probably most of the people listening to this program may be acquainted with Spurgeon because they would have an interest in Christian things and Spurgeon has been around a long time. But our interest in Spurgeon, of course, is in his sermons and works that were published in the 1800s, reprinting those and making them available. They're on the internet now more and more. They're being added to the internet even many of his books and, of course, they're on CD rom and in many ways, they're getting used in the world. One of the ways is this book here that we just recently did not too long ago anyway. It's Spanish sermons, Spurgeon in Spanish and there is a website now, a gentleman in Mexico City, a good friend of ours, is translating and putting Spurgeon's sermons on the internet in Spanish and this is one of the first books that's been done, 36 sermons by Spurgeon on the Gospel. This is the Spanish language edition of it. So we're trying to get Spurgeon known not only to the English speaking world of our generation but to other languages and in the United States where we have a great population of Spanish speaking people. We think this book will make a great contribution to helping spread the Gospel.

Then we have another book and this is an unusual book. A gentleman read through the entire 3,563 sermons, I think, of Spurgeon's sermons and it took him about seven years to do it and he collected these quotations. Over 5,000 illustrations and quotations from

Spurgeon on a variety of subjects. A lot of times people say, "I wonder what Spurgeon thought of that? I wonder what his idea was about this particular thing?" Well, you can go in here and he's got it indexed; he's got all the quotations referenced. Sometimes you pick up a book of quotations of Spurgeon and they're not referenced. You don't know where it came from. It could have come from John Doe and you'd never know but this man has it all referenced for you. You can find it in the context of the sermons themselves and trace it down if you want to read it in context to see if that indeed was what it sounded like when you read the excerpt. So, it's called "Exploring the Mind and Heart of the Prince of Preachers: C. H. Spurgeon." Put together by Kerry J. Allen, a Baptist Pastor from up in Illinois and this is one of our latest publications here that we are helping. We didn't actually publish this one but we're helping to distribute this book. So that's a little bit of information about Spurgeon.

**Larry:** Alright, Bob. For our audience: anyone that's interested in more on this subject and particularly the works and sermons of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, just call or write our ministry. You'll see those phone numbers and our address will be popping up at the end of the program so feel free to call or write. Also, if you'd like to get on our free newsletter mailing list, you can call or write to our ministry, Christian Answers, and you will receive a free subscription to the Christian Answers newsletter whenever it comes out. So that is there, yours for the asking basically.

With that, we'll begin our program. It ties right in with this which I've already mentioned. Military service is acceptable with God. This is doctrine #33. Military service is acceptable with God and we look at our Scripture references. You can see in Genesis 14 cross referenced with Hebrews 7:1-3 that Abraham was a warrior. He went out and saved Lot from the kidnappers and, in fact, he was even blessed for the slaughter of the kings there in Hebrews 7 by Melchizedek. We find in Deuteronomy 3 about Moses going out and doing military service for God and destroying those evil nations that God wanted to put out of the way. You look at the book of Joshua, almost the whole book. God tells Joshua to go into the land and wipe out those Amalekites and Moabites, Canaanites and all the other "ites." You look at 1 Chronicles and also 1 and 2 Samuel. You have the life of David from fighting Goliath to fighting the Philistines and all the other battles and wars he was involved in. Judges 6, Gideon. Judges 14-16, Samson as you mentioned before. You've got Judges 4, you've got Deborah and Barak. Acts 10, you've got the Roman centurion, Cornelius, who God sent Peter to to preach the Gospel. There was nothing said to Cornelius about him giving up his military service. As you go on to the mighty men of David in 1 Chronicles 11:10-47 and 2 Samuel 23:8-39. These men aren't condemned. The mighty men of war and battle are not condemned in the holy word of God for being soldiers for David. You find that Paul uses soldiering as an example for the Christian struggle with the world, the flesh and the devil. You find this in 2 Timothy 2:3-4; in Ephesians 6:10-17. Jesus himself commends the use of weapons in Luke 22:36, 38.

Hebrews 7:1. "For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him." So here we have Abraham being blessed after military service.

1 Chronicles 11:10-47. "10 These also are the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, and with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel. 23 ...and he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. 30 Maharai...Heled... 31 Ithai...Benaiah... 32 Abiel... 33 Azmaveth...Eliabba... 34 The sons of Hashem..." These are just a few examples of the many verses that describe the many soldiers in David's army.

2 Samuel 23:8-39. "8 These be the names of the mighty men whom David had: The Tachmonite that sat in the seat, chief among the captains; the same was Adino the Eznite: he lift up his spear against eight hundred, whom he slew at one time. 18 And Abishai, the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruah, was chief among three. And he lifted up his spear against three hundred, and slew them, and had the name among three."

Luke 22:36, 38. "36 Then said he," this is speaking of Jesus, "unto them, But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. 38 And they said, Lord, behold, here are two swords. And he said unto them, It is enough."

**Larry:** As we mentioned before about all pacifists, Bob, people, Jehovah's Witnesses, they say you can't be in any kind of military service; you can't serve your country in war. Any other comments on this? The Scriptures seem to be fairly clear about this.

**Bob:** You pretty well covered the Scriptural saying there, Larry, the presentation of the positive statements about that particular point and the basic underlying principle here in Romans 13 which I referred to a while ago and that is that we are to obey the powers that be. We are to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. "Render therefore to all men their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour," Romans 13:7. Now, someone says, "That sounds contradictory to what you said a while ago. God comes first." Well, unfortunately you don't have a right to define for God the rules that only God has the power and the wisdom and the sovereignty to define for you. God makes the rules so if we put God first, what practical way does that putting God first come out? Isn't it following his rules?

**Larry:** Amen.

**Bob:** And one of his rules is "render to all their dues." Now, God has ordained governments. The powers that be are ordained of God. You say. "All these evil men that rule and reign and so forth are of God?" Well, when we say the powers that be are ordained of God, we mean that government as a system of controlling society, regulating society, governing society. It's not every single individual, of course, in the government that is pure and righteous and just and good. If that were the case, we wouldn't have anybody to ever be sheriff or dog catcher or President or anything else because you'd never find a perfect person.

**Larry:** Right.

**Bob:** But we do find honorable men, committed men, generally good men, just men, fair men, that can serve in the government and do a good job of it in governing society. So we are a part on this earth and if you don't like this, well, just go ahead and buck it and see what happens. You say, "Well, I don't believe in having a driver's license." Okay, go ahead and see where you wind up. "I don't believe in getting insurance on my car or liability insurance." Okay, go ahead and try your hand at it. See if you can get away with it. I mean, if you want to try to buck the system of God that he has put government on this earth to regulate things. You say, "Well, I just don't think that's right." Okay, well, we've got ways that you can correct that. You can take it to your representative. You can go through the channels of change of the government and get the laws changed. You don't have to become an anarchist and a revolutionary. You can do it through the system that we have of getting these changes made. The point is: we're to render to all their dues, tribute to whom tribute and when we're called upon to serve in the service, then that's what we're to do because that's a part of the governmental system in the particular nation that we live in. And you'll find that you can get along far better with the powers that be if you cooperate according to the rules of the powers that be.

You know, there's a Scripture a lot of people misunderstand, Paul talked about the principalities and powers. He said, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against rulers and principalities and powers." Paul was talking about the governments that are on the earth. He was in a wrestling match, so to speak. In the book of Acts you see him before Felix; you see him before Agrippa; you see him before Festus; you see him before Caesar. These are the principalities and powers that were bothering Paul during his ministry. So we live with these principalities and powers and when we have good honorable men in charge of the principalities and the powers, the better it is for the church. So we're to render unto all their dues. Jesus said, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

I know a brother up in Indiana. He lost his church, the whole building, everything to the IRS because he had this little knot in his head that he was not magnifying the sovereignty of the local church if he collected taxes off of his teachers there that were in his school on behalf of the government. Well, here's the point and I talked to him face-to-face about this: I said, "Brother, were you using government revenue?" I said, "When you use government revenue, who makes the rules? You or the government?" Well, the government. So therefore if I'm going to use government revenue, I'm going to have to follow government law on that revenue and it's not a case of the government being sovereign over the church or taxing the church or whatever he called it, it's a case of government handling their money the way they want it handled. That's the whole point.

So anyway, people can get some funny ideas that are costly ideas in the long run because they will not render tribute to whom tribute is due in certain situations. Now, we grant that there are times when the government can, of course, be under evil men to the point that you have to even unto death go against the government like if they commanded you to deny Jesus Christ; if they commanded you to renounce your faith. Peter, you remember, he said, "We ought to obey God rather than men." Those things do happen but

they don't overthrow the basic rule that God has established government on this earth and we're to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's.

**Larry:** Right and as we can see, military service is totally acceptable with God, in fact, almost a prerequisite for any country to exist, to stand on this evil planet because there's a lot of wicked people out there and if you don't have an army to protect your people, you can get overrun by somebody.

Our next doctrine is Unpopular Bible Doctrine #34 and as you can see on your chart at home, God is displeased with the proud and those of high self-esteem. Now, of course, this is very unpopular in these days, particularly in light of people who teach high self-esteem such as, I'm thinking of like Robert Schuller and people of that nature where you're supposed to have this really good opinion of yourself and everything. But when we look at the Scripture, we see in James 4:6, here God resists the proud. 1 Peter 5:5, Proverbs 15:25, the Lord will tear down the house of the proud. Proverbs 16:5, everyone who is proud is an abomination to the Lord. Proverbs 16:18, pride goes before destruction. Psalm 119:21, the Lord rebukes the proud who are cursed.

1 Peter 5:5. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 15:25. The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

Proverbs 16:5. Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

Proverbs 16:18. Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Psalm 119:21. Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

On and on. I think this is an unpopular doctrine because today in this society we live in, people are basically proud of themselves. You know, they do the body building, the lifting to build up their muscles and to look good and to think highly of themselves. Bob, what can you comment about this as far as this age we're living in where you're supposed to have a high self-esteem? You're supposed to make yourself look good so you can show off your body and you can be proud of all of your accomplishments and maybe boast about some of the things that you've done. This seems to be the culture that we're in.

**Bob:** Well, the Apostle Paul said bodily exercise profiteth little or a little. There is a little profit in bodily exercise and I'm now getting into the old age bracket and I'm thankful that when I was younger I did do some of that bodily exercise because I believe it is profiting me a little now in that I'm sustaining my health to some degree.

**Larry:** Well, that goes without saying but when you look at people who are building themselves up to show off, to show off their muscles and show off their body sculpting, that's what I'm talking about.

**Bob:** That's what I was getting at but a little bodily exercise profits you, I think, is in this matter that, like I was speaking of, sustaining your life longer. Now, people that don't watch what they eat, people that don't exercise, people that just abuse themselves with various and sundry things, they're not going to get that little from that. But now, there are those, of course, who want the esteem, it's not just self-esteem, it's worldly esteem. They want to be esteemed by the world for their beauty; for their physical appearance; for all those things we're acquainted with that embellish the physical physique of men or women. They want the admiration of the world for this and, of course, that is not necessarily of any advantage to anyone.

Some of the most miserable people in the world are the people who have the most esteem by the world and they're miserable because: 1. They don't have any privacy. They don't have any anonymity. They can't walk out on the street without being mobbed by the crowds or the paparazzi or someone like this. 2. They've got so much money that they don't know how to spend it satisfactorily. They'll buy 5 or 6 mansions around the world that maybe they'll spend a night or two in in their lifetime and they just keep buying clothes after clothes after clothes, never satisfied. I remember one famous comedian years ago, he handed down his suits to another comedian. I'll just go ahead and mention his name, Jerry Lewis. He would give his suits to Joey Bishop. Joey Bishop said, "I never had to buy a suit. Jerry always gave me his." The story was, I don't know if it was true or false, but Jerry Lewis wore his suit one time and then handed it over to Joey Bishop.

Well, what am I saying? You can have all the excess wealth but, you know, you can't wear but one suit at a time. You can't drive but one car at a time. You can't sleep but in one bed in one house at a time. And you can't eat but one meal at a time. So all of this excess does not really give you an abundantly happy life or satisfying life. People that are looking for this kind of status, this particular kind of self-esteem that they're looked upon for all these things, really find it rather empty. They don't find it quite fulfilling. Not quite what they expected and for that reason we see every day all the time reports of people that we would think, "Oh, if I could just have their place in the world. If I could just do what they're doing. If I could just reach their height and all this, I would be so happy and fulfilled." But every day we see stories of people that are not happy. They're not being fulfilled. They're not being blessed in the way that you would think that fortune and fame and body building or whatever it takes to make people happy. It just doesn't happen.

**Larry:** Of course, the pride that goes with accomplishments or doing things, the problem is people are boasting from the self-esteem in themselves rather than boasting in the Lord and that's a lack of relationship with God that so many people out there are just proud of themselves and the things they've done.

**Bob:** You know, this word "esteem" sometimes I think it's misused. If we really perceived ourselves as God perceives us and we comprehended how God has loved us

through Jesus Christ and has died for our sins and has lifted us up from the miry clay and the prison house of condemnation and given us everlasting life and all this and we esteemed ourselves based on God's blessings upon us through Jesus Christ, we would really have a good self-esteem because we would be esteeming ourselves as God cherishes us, as God looks upon us, as God loves us and so forth. But generally when people start talking about self-esteem, they're talking about taking someone and just by worldly approach, a worldly approach, saying, "Well, you're good and you're not this bad," or there is some way that they could counsel them to get them to have a better opinion of themselves in that way. Using psychological principles to get them to have a better attitude about themselves.

That's really not the way that you can successfully bring one to a good image of what you might call real good self-esteem. The best way to do it would be to say, "Look, if you get your life in tune with God through Jesus Christ, through the forgiveness of your sins, through the indwelling of the Spirit of God in you as a Christian and you start reading your Bible and following God, you will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord and you will have a good self-esteem from that standpoint." But just to take worldly principles and try to deal with someone's self-esteem and get them to feel better about themselves and, "I'm okay, you're okay," that philosophy. "It doesn't matter about this. It doesn't matter about that. It doesn't matter about the other. You're fine and wonderful," and so on. It just doesn't work. It's kind of an effort to get people to pull down the blinders and just forget about a lot of those things that we realize in our minds that are there when we look at other people and deal with other people. It's just there and we can't pull the blinders and blinkers down far enough to get it out of our system.

So if you want a good self-esteem, come to Jesus Christ and submit to him and you'll start feeling better about yourself.

**Larry:** Amen. That's the right kind of self-esteem.

**Bob:** You'll have a better attitude. You'll start improving your language. You'll start improving your attitude and so on and so forth.

**Larry:** And humility will come natural when you have a trust and faith in Christ and your total dependence on him. It's very hard to be proud in the presence of God.

Anyway, let's move on to our next doctrine. Doctrine 35. You can see it on your chart there at home and that Unpopular Bible Doctrine is: God helps pagan rulers when it serves his purposes. Now, this is unpopular in the sense that most people think, "Well, God wouldn't help that guy. He's evil. God wouldn't do that because he doesn't even believe in him," and things of that nature. But this just shows more of the sovereignty of God which is another doctrine that C. H. Spurgeon said is one of the most hated doctrines that ever was, the sovereignty of God. But here we see God helps pagan rulers when it serves his purposes so that shows that God can do whatever he wants. We see here in Genesis 41:14-49, Joseph is sent to help Egyptian Pharaoh to survive the coming famine. 2 Kings 5:1-27, Naaman, an idolater, is cured of leprosy by the prophet of God. Daniel

5:18. We see Ezra 5:12. Jeremiah 28:14, God is helping Nebuchadnezzar take over all these countries. Also, Jeremiah 25:9 where he actually calls Nebuchadnezzar a pagan idolater, his servant. Habakkuk 1 and 2 talks about how God is going to raise up the Chaldeans and bless them in battle to defeat the Israelites. 2 Chronicles 36:22. Ezra 5:13. Isaiah 44:28, here you have Cyrus, a Persian king, that God's going to use to have the temple rebuilt in Jerusalem and so forth.

Daniel 5:18. O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour.

Jeremiah 28:14. For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also.

Jeremiah 25:9. Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

2 Chronicles 36:22. Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing.

**Larry:** Well Bob, this unpopular doctrine really ties back to people's misconceptions about God. They think that because somebody doesn't believe in the God of the Bible, the true and Living God who actually exists and all the other gods are idols as it says in Psalm 96:5, I believe by King David. They think, "Oh, God wouldn't do that because that guy doesn't even believe in him." This really touches back on the sovereignty of God and how God can call a bird from the east or a man from the west of any of these things. Any comments?

**Bob:** Well, we know from the Scripture that God raises up one and he puts down another of the kings and rulers among the people of the world. God is sovereign over these things. We can't explain this mystery. But as you cited, Nebuchadnezzar there in the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar when he went out and looked over Babylon and he said, "This is great Babylon which I have built." Well, that was true. Nebuchadnezzar had built Babylon but, you see, he failed to recognize that above him there was someone else, there was God. So God put him out to pasture...

**Larry:** Literally.

**Bob:** Right, and made him like a wild beast and then he was converted. I really believe the man was saved. I mean, he came back and he was so praiseworthy of God.



**Larry:** Do you think he got a good dose of humility?

**Bob:** I think he got a wonderful dose of it. He came back and he said that God ruled among the inhabitants of the earth and none could stay his hand or say unto him, "What doest thou?"

**Larry:** Chapter 4, verse 35.

**Bob:** Right. Nebuchadnezzar learned who the Lord was and submitted to him. But God is in charge of who runs this world. Now, we might think, "Oh well, that is really a bold statement to make in the light of some of these fellows that we see over here and over there and over yonder and everything." But remember this principle too: sometimes God will chasten a nation through allowing the rise of an unrighteous ruler and God will punish another people, you might say, through even letting another man rise up and become king, a ruler in a place and lead that country against that country and punish this other country for some of their evils.

**Larry:** There is a Scripture that even says that God will put a wicked man as ruler as punishment against that people.

**Bob:** Right. Now, you know when Saddam Hussein went down and invaded Kuwait, a lot of people said, "Oh well, that was a very wicked thing to do." But do you know what? Kuwait had been blessed of God. They had tremendous wealth. They had a lot of the blessings that the United States had pumped into their situation over there but do you know what? They still would not permit the Gospel of Christ. Despite all the wealth and all the blessings and all this, they would not permit, these Saudi Arabian people would not permit the Gospel of Christ. So maybe, who knows, God is sending them a message there with Saddam Hussein coming down there and giving them a blast. You just can't figure these things out because it's all in the mystery of the providence of God.

But anyhow, Larry, God does use pagan rulers to fulfill his purposes many times and all through history if you would read history very carefully, you would see the hand of God in how things have developed and changed and all the picture of history that you have, it's the painting of God's providence through raising up this ruler and putting down that ruler all through the ages of time.

**Larry:** You know, a lot of atheists argue that, "Well, there's no God because look at the world that's got all these evil rulers and governments and all these weird religions out there so there's no Christian God because if he was really there everyone would be a Christian and everybody would be living righteously and holy." But when we look at the text of Scripture and this is just one of those doctrines, we can look at the world and see that the Bible has given us a clear cut picture. In reality, it's exactly what God has described in the word. So just because there are bad rulers here doesn't mean that God is not in the heavens. It doesn't mean God doesn't exist. God is out there in control and if he's going to put a Hitler over here or if he's going to put a Mao Tse-tung over there or if he puts a Stalin over there, it's all still under his auspices. It's under his control. God is

there and you can't use these wicked and evil rulers to say that he's not but that's exactly what some atheists and other nonbelievers do. But the word of God which always tells us the truth tells us specifically what's going on so even when you've got pagan rulers in certain countries doing things, it does not mean that God isn't in control and that God is not there because he's told us clearly in his word what's going on.

Okay with that, let's go on to our next Unpopular Bible Doctrine. We see here doctrine #36 and we sort of, Bob, sort of touched on this a minute ago when we were talking about self-esteem. Psychology, man-made philosophy, worldly wisdom, are contrary to God's ways and laws. What we have here is an age that we're living in of a lot of the psychology nowadays that a thief and robber is not known as a thief and robber, he's known as a kleptomaniac. They have psychological terms for these. They come up with all these clinical terms for all these sins that people commit.

Now, when we look in the references here, we find Jeremiah 17:9-10, the Scripture there says that man's heart is desperately wicked, who can know it? Romans 1:21-22, a litany of evil by men. Colossians 2:8-10 talks about vain philosophy, the worldly wisdom. 1 Corinthians 1 also talks about this in verses 18-31. 1 Corinthians 2:6-8 and 13-14 talk about the wisdom of men, the philosophy of men. This all ties back into psychology of men, particularly coming from people like Sigmund Freud who as an avowed atheist who linked everything back in your history to sex. Also, Carl Jung who said he grew up in a haunted house and saw spirits in his house. He was another major builder of modern day psychology which is taught in universities. I even had to take a psychology class featuring Freud and Jung when I was a student at the University of Texas.

Jeremiah 17:9-10. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

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. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

Colossians 2:8-10. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.

**Larry:** Alright Bob, with these things said, psychology is very popular these days. You've got to have a Dr. Phil to watch on tv. Dr. Phil or all these other psychiatrists will tell you how to solve all your problems and you can solve your problems apart from the word of God. All you need is this self-help program or this Alcoholics Anonymous ten step program. Or this, that or the other to get you psychologically through your troubles without God. What do you have to say about that?

**Bob:** Well, in the Old Testament, the best book we have on psychology is, I think, the book of Job. Job was dealt with by three Ph.D.'s in psychology. I was trying to find their names here. It slipped my mind just for a moment about the names of these men. Zophar, Eliphaz and...well anyway, they're all here in the book of Job. Here we are in Job 2:11: "Eliphaz the Temanite, and Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite: for they had made an appointment together to come to mourn with him and to comfort him." Now, this is the best book on psychology in the Old Testament because the point is you can read in some of the things these psychologists told Job and you can see some truth there. I mean, you can see what they're saying makes sense but on the whole in the long run, the bottom line was: it didn't make any sense because they were not approaching it the right way. Job had a remark which I think is...well, I don't want to just be outrageously dogmatic but Job said to these three psychologists, "No doubt but ye are the people that wisdom shall die with you." And that's the impression you get from a lot of the psychologists. You see a tv program sometimes and someone says, "Well, he needs to get help. He needs to see a good psychologist," and I say, "Well now, where is that? Where is that person that's that good psychologist? How are we going to get guidance under him?"

But we don't reject everything that psychology teaches. I mean as Christians we don't think it's totally wrong just like in the book of Job. You can read these men that talked to Job and they said a lot of things that seemed to make good sense but on the whole, they just didn't know how to deal with Job; didn't know how to comfort Job in all this affliction that he was having at that time and they were a, you might say, a harassment to Job. Unfortunately, in worldly psychology they almost began with the fundamental principle, "We can't fool with the Bible. Now, we don't want anything. Let's get away from the Bible. Stop reading the Bible." I know one person, he told me he went to see a psychologist/psychiatrist and he said that the first thing he said was, "Stop reading the Bible. Put that aside. Get that out of the way." Well, that is just unfortunately seemingly one of the first foundational attitudes toward secular psychology.

**Larry:** From Freud and Jung, what do you expect?

**Bob:** We don't want any interference from the Bible. But you know, a lot of things people don't realize about Freud is he actually aped a lot of his teaching from the Bible. I went through it one time in a class, I was showing how that Freud scalped a lot of his principles from the Bible and applied them to a point and then when he got to the certain point about say, the Gospel or the Gospel should come in to deal with man's guilt, then Freud jumped the tracks and went to other means to deal with this particular problem. And the fellow finally said that he thought he could count on his hands the number of people that had been helped by him to overcome their neuroses or psychosis or whatever it was that they might have.

But at any rate, the Bible is a book of psychology because the word "psyche" means "spirit" and the Bible is a book about the spirit of man in relationship to God so it's a psychological book. So to that extent, psychology has aped the Bible or scalped the Bible of this particular idea. "Psyche" is a Greek word. So we don't want to give up psychology just on a wholesale basis here, we want to recognize wherever the truth may be in any

given secular science. We will recognize the truth but when it comes to solving man's problems, psychologists have no solution. They keep trying to develop something more and more. You know, they came up with shock treatments and do you know what shock treatments do for you? Essentially it does what the new birth does for you. It knocks you into your better senses than you had before. So a lot of people have gone through shock treatments and they have had it, kind of, fried out of them or whatever.

**Larry:** It sounds like a shocking experience.

**Bob:** I know people who have had shock treatments, some of them in our very church. But the point is: when the new birth gives you a shock treatment, then it's more permanent. It's more satisfying and it's longer lasting. So, so much for that.

**Larry:** Okay, and I'd like the viewers just to see this quick reference chart up here. I'm just going to quote it for you and you can read along: However, Scripture is very clear about how bankrupt these systems of self-exploration are since the "heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, who can know it." Only the Lord can see into the human heart, "I the Lord search the heart. I try the reins even to give every man according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings," Jeremiah 17:9-10. God uses his word to reveal what people need to know about themselves and others. The word of God presents the truth about man who is why he is the way he is and how he changes. Bob was just sort of referencing to that. Hebrews 4:12-13 says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

So as we see from these Scriptures and there are many more we could get into, it's not about some man-made theory or some self-help program, it's if you stick to the wisdom and knowledge of God and what he has said, then true psychology is achieved through knowing what God has revealed to you which is the truth of the reality that you find yourself in. So if you'll just read, let's say, the book of Proverbs, that will give you a lot of great insight on how you should live your life. It will solve a lot of problems for you on a whole lot of fronts from family life to financial life to interpersonal life. All the psychology you really need is found in the word of God because God, the maker of our minds, hearts and souls, understands it better than we do so why not take his advice?

Well anyway with that, let's go to the next Unpopular Bible Doctrine which you'll see on your chart is doctrine #37: Astrology, witchcraft and other occult arts are condemned by God. As we look to the word of God there, you'll see Isaiah 47:12-15 tells you that the astrologers cannot save you. Deuteronomy 18:9-14, those who practice witchcraft, this is what this passages says, those who practice witchcraft, interpret omens, communicate with the dead, cast spells, etc. are abominations to God. Exodus 22:18 says death to witches and sorcerers. Leviticus 20:6 says people who turn to mediums are cut off by God. 2 Chronicles 33:6 says that these occult tools and occult practices are wicked sins. Isaiah 2:6, magic is condemned. Isaiah 8:19, you're not to inquire of the dead. We find in

Acts 19:19 that the Christians there destroyed all their occult tools which actually amounted to a lot of money they threw away there for the glory of God. Galatians 5:19-21 says that this witchcraft and occult items are the works of the flesh. 1 Timothy 4:1 says spiritism is a doctrine of the demons.

Deuteronomy 18:9-14. When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.

Exodus 22:18. Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live.

2 Chronicles 33:6. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.

Isaiah 2:6. Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and are soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.

Isaiah 8:19. And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?

Acts 19:19. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver.

**Bob:** They got mad at Paul because this hurt their craft. They were earning their living off this and a certain man named Demetrius was converted and when he got converted, he quit making the idols of Diana and so they came together in a big uproar here and said, "Hey, these men are destroying our craft. They're undermining our way of making a living." So the whole world is turned upside down for these people. So it caused Paul a lot of trouble and he just barely escaped with the skin of his teeth on this one, in this particular city of Ephesus. He had a lot of trouble there with these people that were involved in this kind of stuff and idolatry and whatnot.

**Larry:** It also reminds of elsewhere in the book of Acts you've got that girl following him around saying, "These men are telling you about the way of salvation, that it's from

God," or something and Paul got irritated after a while and he rebuked and it turned out that prognosticator, that woman who could predict, she made a lot of money for her employers. He cast a demon out of her; it turned out she was demon possessed. All of sudden she couldn't do what she could do before and they got mad at Paul for releasing her from the demon who was possessing her.

Well Bob, we're just about out of time for this program. I want to let our viewers know that they can call or write us for free information on this subject or other subjects that we have available through Christian Answers. The phone number and the mailing address are at the end of the program. You'll also see our websites and email address so you're more than welcome to contact us that way.

Bob, I'd like you to take just another quick moment here and mention Pilgrim Publications and the works of Spurgeon that are available through your ministry that people can contact through us if they're interested. Go ahead.

**Bob:** Well Larry, the primary thing I've been involved in in my life for several years now has been the publication, distribution of the works of Spurgeon. I do other things but this is primarily what I'm engaged in and if people are interested in the publications we have by Spurgeon, we'd be glad to furnish them a price list of all the various titles that we have available which would include his sermons and several books and many other publications that we have by or about Spurgeon. Furthermore, we have a video on the life of Spurgeon done by Dr. Kenneth Conley. He did a very good job in giving us a one hour biography of Spurgeon. He went to England. He filmed all over the place over there where Spurgeon was born and was converted and baptized and pastored and all of that. That's available and we have Spurgeon on CD rom, his sermons and other works are on CD rom. Also, not too long ago we did a story of my trip to England, my pilgrimage to Spurgeon country, where we filmed all of these localities that are identified with Spurgeon's life and ministry and what went on in those places. Just a brief summary about the life of Spurgeon.

**Larry:** Very good, brother. Well, that's it for our program today. Thank you again for joining us in this series of Unpopular Bible Doctrines. We'll be back again for our next program so join us for that. In the meantime, I'm Larry Wessels with Christian Answers. Bob. L. Ross. Bob, thanks for being with us and Pilgrim Publications and we'll see you next time. Remember, Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except by me," Jesus says. So through Jesus Christ is the way of salvation unto the eternal God. Thank you so much. God bless you all.

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