

Unpopular Bible Doctrines #7: God Condemns Astrology, Witchcraft, & Sin; No Women

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Unpopular Bible Doctrines

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: 1 John 3:4; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35

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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 Doctrine 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 19th 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 are 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 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 from 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 and 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 and 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 yours for the asking, basically.

Well, with that, we'll begin our program. 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 passage 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.

Alright Bob, you know in our culture today you've got tv shows like "Bewitched" and now there's all these offshoot tv shows that are similar to that and you've got like "Buffy the Vampire Killer" and other shows of this ilk. You've got witchcraft being honored. You have astrology columns in the newspapers all across America. You've got the palm reading signs around town when you're driving down the road and you have a picture of a hand and they'll read your palm and crystal ball gazers. All of this is very popular. People will read tarot cards to predict your future. So this is very popular in our culture but it doesn't seem to be too popular with God. Any comments.

Bob: Well, it is certainly condemned in the Bible. Over and over again from Old Testament and New Testament, we find a condemnation of these magical arts or whatever you want to call them, witchcraft, occult, seances or channeling. You know, it flies under different categories or terminology but in the word of God, we don't have anything magnified along the lines of supernatural powers of this sort that are approved of God and we recognize that to some extent these things exist. We can't explain them, of course, we have no logical explanation. Some people say, "Well, what about dabbles and demons?" Well, it may be but still we can't necessarily put our finger on the specific cause or the specific origin of something that might happen of that kind.

Now, you referred to a Scripture in Acts 19 where the converts, once you're converted to Christ, you really don't have anymore need for this kind of stuff. You know, at one time in your life, you might have felt the need for a fortune teller or a rabbit's foot or a palm reader or whatever because you looked to that as some kind of an outside power. You see, that's all that is. You're looking for outside power and the outside power you're really looking for and really need is Jesus Christ. I mean, I don't say they're really seeking Christ but this seeking idea, this motivation to seek, this motivation to want help from the

outside, this is only fulfilled, only met when you have Jesus Christ in your life. So these people here, once they had come to Christ, they heard Paul preach and they were involved in all this stuff you were talking about here. This, by the way, was in Ephesus and it said they burned their books.

I'm reading here Acts 19:19, "Many of them also which used curious arts." Now, curious arts just means that people had a curiosity about this particular thing and they sought after it. They "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." That's a lot of money. You'd like to see some of that kind of repentance today where people would burn the wicked works that they are involved in to that extent. But this shows you that it's not consistent with the word of God when one believes and trusts in Jesus Christ to be involved in this kind of thing.

Now, we have a lady down in my hometown here in Pasadena, where I live now anyway, and she has a palm out on the street there and I pass it practically every day. So one day, just for the sake of having a little fun out of her, a woman had predicted the Second Coming of Christ at a certain date and another woman came into my bookstore and told me that Christ was coming at another date so I had two predictions and I said, "I wonder what someone with the gift of future knowledge would say about this." So I called up this lady who is the palm reader and I said, "Now look, I've got a problem. I've got one woman telling me that Jesus is going to come on a certain day and I've got another woman telling me that Jesus is going to come on another day." I said, "With our gift of knowledge about things in the future, what do you say?" She said, "Well, let me tell you this," she said, "if he shows up on either one of those dates," she said, "it would be the antichrist." So I had it from a word from a psychic that the other two women were wrong. Well, I think all three of them may have been a little bit out of bounds.

Some people, you know, they make money off of this. The thing about it here was 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 by 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: That also reminds me of elsewhere in the book of Acts you've got that girl following them around saying, "These men are telling you about the way of salvation, it's from God," or something and Paul got irritated after a while and he rebuked her and it turned out that prognosticator, that woman who could predict, made a lot of money for her employers. He cast the demon out of her. It turned out she was demon possessed. All of a 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.

But now, just to throw in my two cents worth here: you know, my mother and my grandmother both practiced black magic. I knew about it all when I was growing up but I wasn't born again. I wasn't a Christian. I didn't know much about any of that stuff. I just saw them doing these funny things. My grandmother, back then she lived out in Schulenburg, Texas but she was like the county soothsayer and the healer so people would go to her from what my dad said because that was my grandmother on my dad's side, go to her to get healings, particularly if they had a sty in their eye or had some kind of minor physical malady of some sort. They would go to her to get these healings and she used this black magic book that purportedly and I've got that book, it's hidden away as a reference for me. I don't want anyone else to see that because I haven't burned it like maybe I should, Acts 19, but I saved it for a reference for my counter occult ministry. But it says it's the guide for white and black magic by Simon Magus and so it's actually claiming to be black and white magic spells from the Simon Magus that's mentioned in the book of Acts which is interesting.

But when you look at all those witchcraft spells, you find that it's constantly using the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So you use witchcraft spells in the name of this church and the deceitfulness of the devil, in my opinion. So you repeat the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit several times. You use like a clove, maybe a leg of a frog. You add some other items in according to this book and you can heal that sty in the eye. You can heal little minor, like an earache, something of that nature. From what my dad said, it worked a lot of the times. This actually worked.

Then my mother after my grandmother died, she picked up on that book and then she started doing all that stuff. It was so funny, after I got born again and became a Christian, I went to visit my house and I could almost, my mom and dad had used it and I could almost feel a sense of evil there as a result of all this black magic. So I really would say there's a demonic entity associated with this because it goes back to what Bob was saying that these people are using something outside of God. Now, what's so deceptive about this is it used the name of Christ in the witchcraft spells. It used the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit but then it added all this other stuff to give it a Christian veneer when really, as we know from the word of God, this is all condemned by God. But the deceitfulness of it was to make it look like it was Christian, look like it was biblical and these black magic spells were of God. That's exactly what we were talking about before with false prophets and cults. They, Jehovah's Witnesses talk about the Bible but all their doctrine is perverted. Mormons, same thing. Witchcraft, the same thing goes on.

Another quick thing I'll tell you is I went to an occult fair once, I was at a Jehovah's Witness convention in Houston at the Astrodome witnessing to the Jehovah's Witnesses but they also had at a side convention center an occult fair and I thought, "This is interesting. You've got the Jehovah's Witnesses over here in the Astrodome and we've got all the occultists and witches over here. So I'm in the right place to be an evangelist. I've got plenty of people to deal with here." So I was handing out tracts and witnessing to the Jehovah's Witnesses all day but I said, "I don't want to just leave out these witches and everything. Let me go over there for a while and see what happens." So I went in there and checked out the palm readers and the crystal ball gazers and the witches that were all

around there. They all had little booths and book tables. It was sort of like being instead of a Christian book convention, a CBA convention, it was a witch's convention. Anyway, I didn't last too long in there because I think I went and the first table I went to, I asked a few questions and I started bringing up a few Bible verses and they kicked me out of there within about two minutes. They wouldn't let me back in so I just went back to the Jehovah's Witnesses because there were plenty of them around outside. Anyway, it goes back to how these people know that God doesn't condone this stuff. What they're doing is wrong.

Bob: It's also, Larry, strange that they also recognize someone that's not of them.

Larry: Exactly. Well, there's a spirit there.

Bob: I've had that experience.

Larry: It's like when I went to my mother's house and I could feel that evil. It's almost like, you know, I've had that sense before when I was with eight Mormon missionaries who came to my house one night and I was witnessing to all of them and that sense of evil was in that room. So, just stay close to the Lord and you stay close to his word and you preach it whether in season or out of season and the Lord will get you through.

Anyway, we can go on on this but it's obvious that occult arts, witchcraft, astrology and we know Jeane Dixon and all of those astrologers, they're wrong almost all the time but the Bible is right. We've got over 2,000 fulfilled Bible prophecies. God's word is always 100% correct even on predictions of the future but these astrologers are almost wrong, I think someone did a statistic, 94% of the time the astrologers and that includes Jeane Dixon, one of the most famous astrologers, are wrong 94% of the time. We know from Deuteronomy 13 and Deuteronomy 18 that if they speak not according to this word, of course, that's Isaiah there, but also if they predict something and it doesn't come to pass, don't be afraid of them. Don't put any attention in them. This is exactly what happens with the astrologers, witches and all the rest.

With that, let's move on to our next Unpopular Bible Doctrine. As you can see on your chart, Unpopular Bible Doctrine #38: God's doctrine of sin is condemned by unrepentant sinners. Now, this is pretty obvious. I'm really stating the obvious but it's so true and it's so unpopular. God's doctrine of sin is condemned by unrepentant sinners so needless to say, if you have a doctrine of sin, it's going to be very unpopular.

When we look at some Scriptures here, we can take 1 John 3:4, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." "Transgression" means "to overstep; to cross over the line God has drawn or to jump the fence." The word of God, which is the law, is the fence referred to therefore transgression is an act of rebellion against the known will of God.

1 John 5:17, "All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death." Unrighteousness is wickedness an iniquity, inward crookedness, perversity and

stubbornly contrary. Romans 14:23b, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." If our actions are not those motivated by faith then it is sin. Open sin is probably not hindering revival as much as a lack of faith.

Then you've got James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." That's failing to act on what you know is right.

Of course, here the consequences of sin which I'll mention right after I give this quick list here, you just saw those references but also Galatians 5:19-21, the works of the flesh, all these sins. Romans 6:23a, the wages of sin is death. James 1:12-15, sin conceived brings death. James 2:10, one sin will send you to hell. I've brought that up a lot on our live tv shows to people. All it takes is one sin and you're out of here, buddy. Colossians 2:13-14, God keeps records of sin, etc.

Galatians 5:19-21. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Colossians 2:13-14. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.

So all are sinners because even just one sin was enough to send you to hell. That's why you need the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from your sins. So no matter how righteous you think you are, it doesn't matter. Just one little sin anywhere and you're lost. That's why you need Christ to save you and you need to turn to him.

Now, what does sin do? It separates you from your Creator, Isaiah 59:2. It separates you from your church, from your children, from your companion. It sears your conscience, your character, your children and your career. It steals your peace, it steals your power and it steals your perception. All this, of course, is referred to in Isaiah 59:8-10.

Now Bob, any further comments on the gravity of sin? The problem we have in our culture and why it's so unpopular is people don't think a holy God, a righteous God, a God who is going to bring justice at the end of time is that serious about sin. They think more he's a big Santa Claus in the sky and that oh, he'll look the other way and if I have some kind of ethereal faith in a God somewhere, everything will be okay. They don't seem to think sin is as serious as the Scripture makes it to be.

Bob: Well, in some respects, Larry, religion has to take responsibility for the attitude of a lot of people out in the world, not necessarily all of them or generally all of them but a lot of people out in the world who have an approach to this particular subject and religion and I'm putting that in quotation marks, has to accept some responsibility for having

created this because religion in a very real sense, on the whole, has failed to maintain the truth of the Scriptures with regard to sin and how it's to be dealt with by the atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, how has religion gone about handling this thing of sin? Well, let's take one of the most well-known churches for example, the Catholic church, what do they do? Well, they're going to function with their ceremonies and with their Mass and with their various systems of forgiveness, confession or whatever, they're going to deal with sin this way: they're going to hear confession; they're going to put the wafer in your mouth; you're going to have Mass and this is going to deal with your sins. It doesn't happen that way. That's not the Gospel so it doesn't take care of sin. So there's a lot of unfulfilled Catholics walking around out there who have gone through the ceremonies but they are not happy in their relationship to God. You ask anyone walking down the street just out of the clear blue sky, "Are you going to heaven?" "Well, I hope so. I'm doing the best I can do." That's not the Gospel. If you ask that of a Christian, "Are you going to heaven?" "Yes, I have a strong faith and expectation to go to heaven." "Why?" "Because Jesus Christ died for all my sins and that takes care of my sins and so I have nothing for which to be condemned. Jesus Christ has saved me."

Larry: John 3:18.

Bob: Now, if you talk that way to someone that's been brought up in some religious system where that what we call works or ceremonies or something you have to do, you have to comply with, you have to obey, you have to fulfill and this is supposed to bring you peace and you don't have it, it has failed you. It has failed you and so therefore when I say the attitude toward sin that has developed out there is because of the failure of religion to present the true Gospel of Christ by which people would be fulfilled in relation to understanding and comprehending and absolving this thing of the guilt of sin. Do you know what psychology is all about, what it's built on? The guilt of sin. That's the whole foundation of psychology. If the Gospel was being preached to these people and they were accepting the Gospel, you wouldn't have any patients for the psychologist. They would go out of business if the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ was preached to these people.

But it's just amazing how that philosophies about sin and how to deal with it, how to handle it, how to regard it, are actually all rooted in a rejection and a distortion of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and basically, mainly I'd say it's a distortion by religious teachers, religious leaders.

Larry: That's because they're not showing the gravity of what sin is to a righteous and holy God who had to send his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into this world and die a horrible death that you have outlined for us in the Scripture to pay for the wrath of God against that sin. You see, people don't realize that, look, this sin is so serious it took God himself to come onto this planet and pay the penalty for that sin which took the life of his only begotten and beloved Son. That's how serious sin is.

Bob: Let me tell you a personal experience I had years ago with a young man who knocked on my door. He was out witnessing, passing out his literature of his religion and he came to my door and we were talking and I said, "I'm saved. I'm saved." He said, "What do you mean you're saved?" I said, "I will never have to face God with regard to my sins. They've all been taken care of." He said, "Well, how can that be? How can you claim that you will not have to face God for your sins?" I said, "You've got a Bible," and so we opened the Bible to the book of Romans, about the fourth or fifth chapter where it said, "Our old man is crucified with him that the body of sin might be destroyed." I said, "You see this body here? This is a body of sin. This is where sin comes from, this body, and it says here that body was destroyed because it was crucified with Christ. Now you see my body but God counted it crucified with Jesus Christ and all those sins have been crucified with Christ and therefore God will no longer charge me, he will not impute sin to me." And I put his finger on it. I said, "Put your finger on that verse. Read it. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not charge or impute sin." He said, "What does that mean?" I said, "There is somebody God won't charge sin to." He said, "Who is that?" I said, "The man who has been crucified with Christ." "Who is that?" "It's the man who has accepted Jesus Christ as his substitute. It's him." He said, "Oh, here I am out here going out, working for God, trying to save myself, trying to do all these works and you're telling me that I won't have to have any?" I said, "That's right. God won't charge you with sin if you'll accept Jesus Christ."

You know, he didn't confess Christ right then but I think it hit him that, "Hey, there's something besides what I've been hearing. There is something besides what I've been told. There's something in this Bible here that someone has not been telling me," and I hope that that man was later saved. But you see, they're not dealing with sin. They're not dealing with it and there's not one out of a hundred of these people belonging to the cults if you ask them, "Are you saved?" they'll say, "Yeah."

Larry: You're right about that.

Bob: They're not.

Larry: They all are thinking they can get themselves in by their works and it doesn't work that way at all. It's by grace are you saved.

Bob: That's one thing I tell people that I don't disagree with some of them about when they say that you can lose your salvation, I say, the kind of salvation they have, you not only lose it, you ought to lose it.

Larry: Amen to that.

Well, our next unpopular doctrine is Unpopular Bible Doctrine #39 and as you see on the chart there: God does not condone or ordain the placement of women pastors in the Christian church. You can see there by the Scripture references, 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. 1 Timothy 2:8-15. 1 Peter 3:5-6. Titus 2:3-5. 1 Timothy 3:1-13. Acts 21:9. Acts 18:24-26.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

1 Timothy 2:11-15. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.

Well Bob, we're in some pretty hot water here with this doctrine, this Unpopular Doctrine #39 about no women pastors. Now, we're not talking about women can't be teachers in church with other women, let's say, or they can't be evangelists. We're just talking about the office of bishop or pastor of a Christian church and when you look across the landscape out there, there are a lot of so-called Christian churches that have women pastors. What do you have to say about this whole situation?

Bob: Well Larry, you said we're in hot water. I haven't said a word. I'm leaving you to boil in your own stew here. I haven't said a word. This is a subject that obviously today in the modern day in which we live and I'm not saying that we're an exception. Probably in days gone by, the same situation in certain places then but in the modern age in which we live, there seems to be more of an influx because of the notoriety that some women have attained on television as television evangelists or speakers or whatever category that would specify that. But radio and television have given more impetus and recognition to the woman minister since, well at least the last 40 or 50 years, something along that order, even maybe before that.

But Larry, this movement, I'll just be perfectly honest with you about women preachers is mainly associated with the rise of the Pentecostal Charismatic movement. Now, before the 1900s and that's about the time the Pentecostals came on the scene, they claim of restored tongues, I think, in 1901, you just didn't have many women claiming to be...I mean, how many Puritans were women, for example? How many Reformers back during the Reformation were women? How many of the early American evangelists were women?

Most of this came about with the Charismatic Pentecostal movement and I don't know, it just seems to me that this movement, it's been characterized by the prevalence of women in it. I'm not knocking women per se, I'm just saying that women have been involved in this more and then what do we have? We have more of what at least sets itself up as being deception than any form of religion because you've got, first of all, dreams and visions. Well now, how do I know that you're telling me the truth if you had a dream or a vision? How do I know it's of God? How do I know it's not of the devil? You see, it opens the door for deception. Then the claim for speaking in tongues. Well, how do I know that you're not putting on? They themselves have admitted there is a lot of putting on out there. And how do I know that it means anything? You don't have any interpreters

and some guy maybe pops up and says he's going to interpret it but how do I know? You see, it opens the door up again for deception.

Now, why is that associated so much with women? It's because of the text you mentioned, 1 Timothy 2. It says in verse 12, 13, 14, "Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." A man showed me an article a month ago, two months ago and he had studied Genesis, the first three chapters and he came up with 23 changes that Eve had made to the word of God just in the book of Genesis there in that area. I said, "Now what? I knew there were some differences but I never thought there were 23. I want to read this." So he went into that thing point by point showing how Eve was deceived and made 23 changes to the word of God based on comparison to what God had said to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

So here's the reason: the women for whatever reason is more easily deceived than the man. Now, in this Pentecostal movement we were talking about, do you know who it was that first spoke in tongues? It was a woman, Agnes Ozman. She was supposedly the one through whom God restored tongues and this happened supposedly in 1901, I think it was. It's in their history books. They tell about it. And do you know who it was that in the early 1900s popularized the Charismatic movement so much? It was a woman, Amy McPherson.

Larry: I've heard of her.

Bob: Then there was another one named Etta, I forget her last name but anyway she was in there. Alma White who as in the Pillar of Cloud and Fire, she denounced a lot of it. She exposed a lot of it. There was another woman preacher out of Detroit, M. D. Beall. She popularized the Latter Rain they called it. Then we had, of course, Kathryn Kuhlman came along. Then we're on down to our age and we've got all these others that are out there. I'm not going to mention any names but there's just this woman preacher movement that goes back to that Pentecostal Charismatic movement that started with a woman, Agnes Ozman and Charles Parham. They started it in 1901 and ever since then.

So that is what you might say is the historical identity of it and today most of your women preachers that have anything to do with the other religions, other faiths, other churches, they've borrowed it. They've seen the Pentecostal women and so they've aped them. They've copied them.

Larry: So with the advent of all these women preachers in these so-called Christian churches everywhere, of course, what we're seeing right now is going to be very unpopular because there's just a lot of churches that have women preachers and you so often see these churches that have a husband and the wife. The husband and wife are like joint preachers or elders of that church. Of course, I never see that in the Scripture. We went over all of the Bible verses that cover this and arguments I've heard from people are that, "Well, that was for back then. Now it's different." What do you say to that?

Bob: I had that told to me one time by a woman who said she was called to preach and I asked her why she thought God wanted her to preach. She said, "Well, Jesus appeared to me in a vision," she said, "right over there in that corner and he told me to preach." I said, "Why would Jesus tell you to do something when in his word it says not to do it?" She said, "Well, where is that?" I read her the Scripture. She said, "Oh, that was back in those days. That's not for us today. That was back under the law." I said, "No, it says 'as also saith the law.'" She said, "Well, I don't care what you think it says or what it says or whatever. I'm going to preach because Jesus told me to preach."

Now, was this a real apparition? It may have been but was it Jesus? I don't think so. I don't think so. It could have been a fake vision of the devil, as far as I'm concerned, to tell someone to do something contrary to God's word or that is not revealed in God's word. So I just say, Larry, that they are deceived on that point that if they think it's just for the past or something of that sort. I know a lot of the modern educated women ministers, by educated I mean they've gone to even seminary, a lot of them don't take very strongly to Paul. They don't think too much of his inspiration and they tend to think that Paul was just chauvinistic or was overly influenced by some negative thinking about women or whatever. But nevertheless, that's just a point of view that they take and it doesn't set aside the Bible. We're still going to think that Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit...

Larry: 1 Corinthians 14:37.

Bob: ...and that what he wrote is the message that God would have us to adhere to concerning women preachers.

Larry: Which, as you say preachers, you really mean like also pastors. Actually, elder of the church.

Bob: Well, when you preach the Bible, you exert some degree of authority and it says here that we will "not have a woman to usurp authority over the man." And when you're preaching the authority of God's word, the rule of God's word and you're trying to expound doctrine and practice, etc. to men, you are in effect ruling or you're using authority over them and that's not the order that God wants.

Larry: That's right. And I've found that people that have women preachers and they go along with that, generally have a lower view of Scripture because obviously they're not following Scripture. If you're not going to follow Scripture, you can come up with all these ideas. "Well, Paul was chauvinistic. Well, Paul was a woman hater. Well, that was for back then." And if you can do that on women pastors and elders and so forth, there are so many clear Scriptures that say you're not to do it in the Bible, if you can do that with those Bible verses, coming up with excuses like that, you can do that on any doctrine in the Bible. So it doesn't just have to stop there where, "Oh well, the women pastors, let's not do that. That was for back then." Then you can start taking other doctrines of the Bible and start throwing them out the window and the next thing you have is theological anarchy and liberalism and it just becomes a big confused mess.

So with that, Bob, we're going to leave it there and I'm sure that was very unpopular with a lot of our viewers right now but, hey, we're sticking with what the word of God says. The word of God is not popular on many points and this is one that's a clear cut case. In fact, most of the churches I've come across, Bob, that do have women preachers, a lot of times I see that they go wrong on many, many biblical issues.

Bob: I have never heard a women preacher that rung the bell with Scripture. I don't mean with that they didn't preach a lot about things in the Bible and all this but I've never heard one that seemed to really have a comprehension of what they were preaching. It's just been some little twist or some little...

Larry: Woo, you're going to get a lot of people mad with that comment. You'll probably get some emails. Watch out.

Bob: We'll see.

Larry: Unpopular Bible Doctrine #40 is: God calls down terrible judgments, disasters and destruction that many people say goes too far. Then our Scripture references here are Genesis 6 and 7 and that, of course, is Noah's flood. How would God dare to wipe out all the people on the planet except for eight people in the ark? That seems to be going too far, some people would say. Exodus 11:4-6. Exodus 12:29-31. God kills the firstborn of Egypt. I mean, some of these are little infants, things of this nature, children. God kills all the firstborn of Egypt. Numbers 21:33-35, they killed the King Og and all his people. When Moses and them came into the land, they wiped out all the people of this King Og. Deuteronomy 3:6, King Sihon is killed and all his people: that would be men, women and children. People say that's terrible. You kill everybody even the women and children. Joshua 6:21, they utterly destroyed all in the city: men, women, young, old, sheep, ass, all with the edge of the sword. Joshua 10:28, 37, 39, 40, they destroyed all that breathed. 2 Kings 2:23-25, you have this situation where Elijah curses these 42 children and these two bears come out as judgment by God and kill these 42 children. How dare God kill all these children? Genesis 19:24, Sodom and Gomorrah destroyed with fire and brimstone by God. Ezekiel 8:18, 9:6-10, no pity by God. He slays old and young, both maids and little children and women. Ezekiel 4:12-13, the Israelites shall eat dung for their iniquities, the prophet says. Jeremiah 13:14, dash them together. God will show no compassion, no pity, no mercy, no sparing, but he will destroy them all. Jeremiah 19:3, 7, 9, 15, God plots evil against Jerusalem. People will eat their sons and daughters and their friends. Jeremiah 25:31-33, God will slay from one end of the earth to the other. The dead will be like dung on the earth. Nahum 3:1-19, God greatly curses Nineveh and people looking at those curses there in those verses will say, "That goes too far." One more here for the road: Judges 16:28-30, God allows Samson to die with his enemies. Here's a man who apparently is going to commit suicide and kill a bunch of people in this temple at the same time and God gives him the strength to pull it off.

Ezekiel 8:18. Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Ezekiel 9:6-10. Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house. And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city. And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Ezekiel 4:12-13. And thou shalt eat it as barley cakes, and thou shalt bake it with dung that cometh out of man, in their sight. And the LORD said, Even thus shall the children of Israel eat their defiled bread among the Gentiles, whither I will drive them.

Jeremiah 25:31-33. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Bob: It's just one of those elements, Larry, that's related to the sovereign right of God to exercise his judgment whenever and upon whomsoever he chooses or decrees because after all is said and done, we're all worthy of the judgment of God against our sins and it's a mercy to any of us that God does not consume us all and that we are all were punished for our sins. I mean, if you're sitting out there today and just thinking, "Oh well, God owes me a pardon. God owes me a pass. There's nothing I've done to deserve anything from God." You're just deceiving yourself if that's what you're thinking because we all have sinned. We all have violated God's law. We are all deserving. We are all unrighteous. All that is stated that clearly in Scripture and whatever God does to us as individuals or as nations or as a world as in the case of the pre-flood world of Noah when God destroyed all the inhabitants of the earth except Noah and his family, whatever God does, it is just and consistent with what we deserve.

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 from Pilgrim Publications. We'll see you next time and 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 said. So through Jesus Christ is the way of salvation unto the eternal God. Thank you so much. God bless you all.