

Unpopular Bible Doctrines #8: Death & Destruction by God; God Mocks False Teachers sermonaudio.com

Unpopular Bible Doctrines

By Larry Wessels

Bible Text: Exodus 11:4-6; Joshua 24:15

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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 are 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 are getting used in the world and 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, who 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 and 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 to 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; it took him about seven years to do it. 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 has 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 where 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: CH 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 published 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, 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. Unpopular Bible doctrine number 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, that of course is Noah's flood, "How would God dare to wipe out all the people on the planet except for 8 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 King Og and all his people. When Moses and then 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 the situation where Elisha curses these 42 children and these 2 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 and 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 is 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 you're thinking, "Oh well, God owes me a pardon. God owes me a pass. There is 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 undeserving. We are all unrighteous. All that is stated out 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 is just and consistent with what we deserve.

So we have nothing to complain about in this regard and the idea of objecting to some providential judgment or disaster that might happen to a people. Now, that doesn't always necessarily mean that God is in that as a judgment or as a punishment of some kind. You know, Jesus warned about interpreting it that way but certainly we deserve all that we get by way of any real judgment that God enacts among mankind.

Larry: Now Bob, let me ask you this: if it weren't true that God had done all these things, from destroying every last man, woman and child in these cities to killing all of these people in a flood and so forth, if it weren't true and God really was too loving and kind to do that, then it would make logical sense to think that he would never send his own Son to die a death on a cross and the suffering that we find in the prophecy of Isaiah 53, for instance. Suddenly, if God doesn't do things like this, then it wouldn't make much sense that Jesus would die a death like that for our sins so actually because God does do these things, he destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, he wipes out people, he brings judgment and disaster and terrible things upon people, it only makes sense then that God could send his only begotten Son into the world, Jesus Christ, to pay a sin debt, a horrible, bloody death that he suffered on the cross.

Bob: That's exactly right.

Larry: So we can almost see the Gospel, in a way, in the judgments of God that some people say go too far because if they say God goes too far here, they would have to say God would go too far with his own Son, Jesus Christ, and if that happens, then you have no Gospel. So that's how important it is in these situations.

Now, I just want to bring one thing out before we move on to our next doctrine. I saved this newspaper article a while back. I mentioned Elisha and the bears earlier, that was mentioned in 2 Kings 2:23-25 and it says children, 42 children killed, they were torn to pieces by these 2 bears because they were mocking a prophet of God. Well, I've got here and this is on the front page of last American Statesman a while back and it says here,

"High court spares juvenile offenders. Ruling bars death penalty for those 17 or younger at time of crime." So here you've got pictures of all these 17 or younger teenagers, young people, that did horrible crimes worthy of death and they've got them right here on the front page and when you look at that Scripture from some Hebrew scholars looking at that passage about Elisha and the bears, they say it could be young hoodlums. It could be like people like we're seeing here on the front of the page. It doesn't necessarily have to be little 5 year old or 6 year old kids. It could be people like we're seeing here and yet people immediately draw the conclusion that he's talking about little, bitty kids that these bears ripped apart. But no, really it could be people like this who have done horrible crimes and God destroyed them with these bears. So it's just something to keep in mind because all these murderous individuals here on this newspaper are 17 or younger and they've done crimes worthy of death according to the system of law that we have.

Well, with that said, let's move on to Unpopular Bible Doctrine 41, as you see on your chart there at home: God mocks and insults false religion in a politically incorrect way. Now, you know, we're always told to be nice and polite about religions and show respect and all that type of stuff and to a degree we should but there are times when we have to deal with the situation as the situation calls for. Let's take a look at the word of God here and see what we find. Joshua 24:15, 20, 23, Joshua brings out a choice for people to make. He says, "Choose you this day," and talks about putting away strange gods. He basically is talking about, "Well, you can choose your gods, these strange gods if you want to but for me and my house, we're going to choose the true and living God." So he acts like, "Well, these other guys are strange but we're going to choose the true and living God."

Ezekiel 8:9-18, false religion is referred to by the prophet of God as wicked abominations.

Deuteronomy 13:6-11, you have a direct command by Moses, death to religious idolaters.

Deuteronomy 7:25-26, graven images of gods, false gods, are to be burned. They are called abominations, cursed things and are to be abhorred.

Deuteronomy 12:2-3, destroy false religious locations and their artifacts.

1 Kings 18:27-40, God's prophet Elijah mocks and then kills false religionists at the famous showdown at Mount Carmel.

2 Kings 21:11, false religion is sin according to that Scripture.

1 Chronicles 16:26 and Psalm 96:5, gods of the nation and people are idols.

Ezekiel 6:9, false religion is like prostitution.

Habakkuk 2:18-19, refers to false religionists with their dumb idols.

Psalm 106:35-37 and 1 Corinthians 10:20, heathen religion is actually unto devils, not God. That's what the Scripture says.

Galatians 1:6-9, false religionists are damned to hell.

Revelation 2:13-15, false religion is of Satan and is hated by God. You have that right in the reference there. God hates false religion and basically that ties into the fact that basically the heathen are lost. Just because someone never heard of God or anything like that, the heathen who do not have the true religion of God as we find in the Scriptures are lost and are damned by God.

Ezekiel 33:8-9; Romans 1:18-32; 1 John 5:12; John 3:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Also in Isaiah 44:14-20, building a god or making a god out of a stump of a tree or out of wood and worshiping it and using part of it to warm yourself with by the fire and using the other part to worship. Isaiah basically says, "Does not this man have a lie in his right hand?"

Deuteronomy 12:2-3. Ye shall utterly destroy all the places, wherein the nations which ye shall possess served their gods, upon the high mountains, and upon the hills, and under every green tree: And ye shall overthrow their altars, and break their pillars, and burn their groves with fire; and ye shall hew down the graven images of their gods, and destroy the names of them out of that place.

2 Kings 21:11-12. Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols: Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

1 Chronicles 16:26. For all the gods of the people are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

Ezekiel 6:9. And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations.

Revelation 2:13-15. I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth. But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication. So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

Larry: Okay Bob, what we have here now is something that is truly, truly unpopular because most people in the world do not worship or believe in the true God of the Bible. They don't believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. They don't believe he died for their sins. They don't believe in the God of the Old Testament. They want to believe in all their other weird religion, the Hindus have their gods, the Muslims have their god, Allah, you've got the Baha'is, you've got all the different religious faiths out there and you've got all the nominal Christians that sort of believe parts that they want to believe. But in the end, they don't like the fact that we're saying that God mocks false religion, curses false religion, hates false religion. They say that, "No, it shouldn't be that way. All paths lead to God. One religion is as good as another." And ecumenicism, the Roman Catholic Church says that we should all come together and even in their Vatican II documents, in *Lumen Gentium*, it says even atheists can be saved according to the Roman Catholic Church. So what do you have to say about all this, Bob?

Bob: Well, that is just one of the modern façades that we have in the politically correct world in the category of religion, that we are supposed to recognize the validity of all religions. Now, we recognize the validity of the right for all religions to be in existence and for people to participate in those religions if they please to do so but when you say one religion is as good as another, that philosophy doesn't work on anything. I mean, you go down into the car lot and one car is as good as another? You go out here to buy a piece of meat at the supermarket, one piece of meat is as good as another? Here's one that's been lying there for 3 or 4 days and they've got it marked down to \$3 a pound and over here, the same cut of meat yesterday was \$7 or \$8 a pound today and fresh, one piece is as good as another? Well, by the \$3 3 or 4 day old meat. It doesn't work in doctors, one doctor is as good as another? It doesn't work in medicine. It doesn't work in anything. I mean, just name me any place where one significant item is as good as another. Now, I'm not talking about things like both pencils can write so one of them is as good as another. I'm talking about where there is a difference in skill, there's a difference in quality, there's a difference in the benefit that comes from something and in religion, it's just too serious a thing to say that one church or one cult or one sect or one group or one religion is just as good as another one. Now, if they are all no good, that might be so. One might be as good as another if none of them are any good. But if you put this Bible down by other so-called holy books and you tell me that one of those books is just as good as another, you just don't know what you're talking about. You have no concept of it.

So what you have presented here in giving this review is you might say a broad brushed analysis and in some instances specific analysis where you should not really have anything to do with them so far as accepting them, believing them and practicing them. Everything should be tested by the word. As the word says, "To the law and to the testimony. If they speak not according to this truth, this word, there is no light in them."

Larry: Now, it seems to me, Bob, along these lines, and you brought out a good point about one doctor, one medicine, things of that nature, the meat. You know, when people in life, let's say they've got a serious lawsuit going on and they want to win that lawsuit, is one lawyer as good as the next?

Bob: You have no better example of that than the suits that have been famous here lately. Michael Jackson, you know, changed his lawyer because the first one wasn't as good as the last one.

Larry: Right, then you have children, they get sick and a parent, if he takes that philosophy of well, one doctor is as good as the next and if he really loves his child and he's really sick, he'll most likely want the best doctor he can find to help his child. But then when it comes to religion, people don't seem to care about that.

Bob: Just any old thing will do.

Larry: Anything will do, so here they want to save their kid's life but then when it comes to saving their kid's eternal life, suddenly religion is not important. One religion is as good as the next.

Bob: People sometimes just don't want the weight of responsibility of analyzing religion, particular churches or doctrines, to see whether or not these things be so. We have an instance in the Bible, of course you know it, in the book of Acts...

Larry: Chapter 17, verse 17.

Bob: ...that these people were more noble than the people at Thessalonica because the Bereans read the Scriptures, examined the Scriptures whether those things be so but there are people that just don't want that responsibility. It's too much weight for them and they'd rather push it off on someone else and say, "Well, if I'm wrong on this, it's because that's what they told me. That's what they said. That's what the preacher said," or whatever. You've got to take individual responsibility out there. You've got to shoulder your own load.

Larry: In fact, God will hold you responsible on judgment day.

Bob: He said every one of us will give an account of himself to God. You're not going to be able to call in a brother, a sister, mother, father, cousin and all that and say, "Hey, here's the man to blame, not me."

Larry: Right, you have to answer for what you did. I think you really put your finger on it, Bob. People just don't want to take the time or the effort like those Bereans you mentioned in the book of Acts, to search these things out to see if they are so. They just want to be lazy and just go with the flow of life and live their lives.

Bob: There are a lot of people, Larry, that their Christianity and their church membership and their religion is about like this: they went down and bought them a Bible, now they take that Bible to church or Sunday school, they get home and they lay it down, 7 days later they pick it up again. They go to church, come back, lay the Bible down, go out to work, 7 days later they come back, pick up the Bible. And they never cracked that book

to study it. They never checked to see if what they're doing or hearing or believing or whatever is consistent with the word of God.

Larry: So often the case is that a lot of houses that I've been in and seen, the Bible is in their house but then it usually has the TV Guide or the newspaper or something else sitting on top of it and it's just kind of buried. There are things that people are reading more.

Bob: There are coffee stains and Coke stains all over the cover.

Larry: That's right because that just shows you where people's priorities are. Instead of studying and reading the word of God which leads to their eternal life, they're more concerned with watching a sports event on TV; they're more concerned with reading the daily newspaper; what are the special sales going on in the stores. They'll spend more time doing that or listening to the radio than at any time trying to put quality time in studying the word of God.

Bob: I went in a home one time and there was a beautiful Bible there and I looked at that Bible and I picked it up and it had a ribbon and I was going to take the ribbon and lift it up and that ribbon was so old and so decayed, despite the new look of the Bible, it just crumbled up because that Bible, although it looked new, it hadn't been touched for all these years.

Larry: Isn't there an old bluegrass Gospel song, "Dust on the Bible"?

Bob: Dust is on the Bible. Dust is on the holy word. But dust off the Bible and save your poor soul.

Larry: Amen. You see, that's another device of the devil. He gets people's minds away from the word of God and into all these things in life that are unimportant, all the things that don't matter. He gets their mind away from the word of God so that they waste their lives and waste their time chasing their tails, so to speak, on unimportant items whether it's football or the latest soap opera or whatever it is. They're wasting their time throughout their life until one day just like that foolish man who was building new barns, you know, "Thou fool, tonight your soul is required of you," and all of a sudden death comes and it's too late. Then they look back at their whole life, the word of God is all around them, churches on every street corner and they didn't know a thing, maybe just a very little thing, but hardly a thing of what was important and they had a whole lifetime to check it out but never bothered.

Anyway, with that said, let's go on to our next Unpopular Bible Doctrine. You'll see it there on the screen, Doctrine 42: God's logic is unpopular. God gives absolute truth when sinful men want relative truth instead. Our references here to this unpopular doctrine are Luke 6:46, where Jesus said, "Why do you call me Lord, Lord and do not the things I say?"

Matthew 22:29, where Jesus declared to those scribes and Pharisees, "Look, you're wrong."

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth and the life," Jesus said, "and no man comes to the Father except by me."

Luke 11:39-40, where it basically says, "Fools, logically did not God make both the outside and the inside?" as he's rebuking these guys who are not following the prescription of God's law.

Job 40:1-2, "Shall he that contended with the Almighty instruct him?"

Proverbs 13:20, "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

Proverbs 15:21, "Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom but a man of understanding walketh uprightly."

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." You have it in Greek there, en logos, and logos can also be understood from the Greek as being logic. The word, understanding of language, the word requires logic.

Finally, Luke 13:14-17, Sabbath day logic concerning healing.

Isaiah 55:8-11. 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. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Matthew 22:29. Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Proverbs 13:20. He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Luke 13:14-17. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? And when he had said these

things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

Larry: Now, to bring all of this together as you're looking at these Scriptures on the chart, basically God expects to use logic. A cannot equal non-A. If I say this, therefore that. When you read these Scriptures and the ones I've referenced here, you have a logical flow but what we have in today's society is that everybody wants to make truth relative and it doesn't matter what you believe. Your truth is your truth and if you want to believe that fine, I'll believe what I want to believe. Logic basically is thrown out the door. There are no absolutes. But when we read the Scriptures and particularly these, God expects us to know truth from error, right from wrong, if A then B. Logical flows, particularly of the situation in Luke 13, the last Scripture reference on your chart, 14 through 17, Jesus gives a logical explanation why he can heal on the Sabbath when these guys are saying you're not supposed to heal on the Sabbath. He says, "Wait a minute, don't you pull that donkey out of the ditch on the Sabbath if it's in trouble? Why can't I heal?" He's making logical arguments why he can heal someone on the Sabbath and logic is throughout God's book because that's a law that God has established in the universe that we find ourselves in. Bob, any comments?

Bob: Well, I wouldn't go so far as to say as one fellow said that God is logic or that logic is God but we do know that the word "logic" comes from the Scripture word "logos" which means "word," and a word is an expression of a concept and our mental apparatus works in making verbal expressions of concepts that are in our mind and so we know from this that God being an intelligent being, we conclude logically that God is certainly logical.

The Scripture that going over and over in my mind when I was listening to you is that one in Isaiah. You may even have referred to it but at any rate, I kept thinking about, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD," Isaiah 55:8 and 9. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Now, some people say, "Let's get together and talk about this. Let's have a meeting of counselors about this. Let's have a meeting of advisors about this." All that is well and good for your normal human affairs but when it comes to the Scripture, God says, "My thoughts are not your thoughts. My ways are not your ways."

So what do we do? Verse 11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." So, we're shut up to the word of God as that Scripture said that I quoted a while ago, "To the law and to the testimony. If they speak not according to this word, there is no light in them." So, we are shut up to the thoughts of God, we are shut up to the words of God and if we're going to talk anything over or counsel about anything or get advice about anything, it better be from people who admire and know and bow to the word of God because that is the ultimate revelation to which we are responsible and to which we're accountable.

And I might add, it's the only revelation of pure truth that we have. Now, we can have truth. We can have elements of truth and principles and all those categories of distinction that are truth but, do you know what? Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth. I am the truth." So if we don't start with Jesus Christ at the foundation and if we don't cap it off with Jesus Christ, we are not going to arrive at the truth. That's just the way it works. That's just the way the Bible instructs us. Submit your way unto the Lord. Trust in the Lord. Give it all to him and he will bring it to pass. He will work it out. He will make it clear. So, logic certainly the logic of God is not popular because his ways are not our ways.

Larry: That's right. Now, let me ask you this, Bob: you have a lot of people that will say, "Well, that's just your interpretation." You have come up with a Bible passage and you interpret it a certain way and let's say, I'm a Mormon of the Mormon church and I say I'm going to become a god of my own planet and so I can look at Psalm 82, for instance, "Ye are gods," and say, "Hey, the Bible says that there are going to be gods and I'll get to be my own god of my own planet someday." Things of that nature. Your interpretation and if I take a passage like, "Judas went out and hung himself," and then I take another passage from somewhere else and it says, "Go thou and do likewise," can I logically infer from that that I should go out and hang myself like Judas based on those 2 fragments of verses? Does logic play a part in, "Oh, that's just your interpretation"? Does logic play a part in, "Well, if I take Judas hanged himself, go thou and do likewise"? Does that play a part in understanding what the truth of God is?

Bob: It is true that everything we believe about the Bible is an interpretation and as an individual, as I comprehend it, as I read it and understand it, I do come to an interpretation. But for someone to simply fend off a teaching, an obvious truth or something by saying, "Oh, that's your interpretation," and by that they imply that because it is interpretation it can't be true, then they are committing a very serious fault of use of logic themselves.

Larry: Illogical fallacy.

Bob: Right, because everything has to be interpreted whether it's a musical note or a mathematical calculation of some sort. Whatever, it's going to have an interpretation and that's true of language and this Bible is written in a language with words and terms.

Larry: You see, without logic you can't have real communication. To interpret words you have to have the laws of logic in play to be able to make an interpretation or an understanding.

Bob: But generally when people have said, "That's just your interpretation," what they're meaning is, "Well, that's what you believe about it but I don't believe it. I don't accept it," and they are not really analyzing the situation fairly and squarely and objectively. They're just not approaching it that way.

Larry: That's right so it comes down to a logical understanding of the word of God through normal communication. I mean, people pick up a newspaper and they read the daily news or they pick up a novel and they read the book and understand it. Well, you can pick up a Bible and it's written in language you can understand. It's written in a communicative style that if you just read it and read it in context using your laws of logic, it will make sense and the truth comes out. So when someone says, "Oh, you're supposed to go commit suicide because it says in one passage, 'Judas went out and hanged himself' and then another passage it says, 'Go thou and do likewise,'" we know logically that that does not follow. That's a non sequitur. That's illogical fallacy. There are many illogical fallacies out there from ad hominem to different, card stacking to just a whole bunch of illogical fallacies that once we understand those, it aids us in interpretation.

But the bottom line is: when you check the Bible in context using the laws of logic, you realize that the Bible is not saying for us to go out and commit suicide, to go out and hang ourselves like Judas because if you read those passages just like you read a newspaper, you'll never come to that conclusion because the communication of the style of the writing of the Bible will make that clear to you. So that's why logic is so important. Logic is part of our reality and it must be used. And so often when people have false religious ideas, false concepts, it's because they are violating the laws of logic and communication to where that gets distorted and they end up with all these crazy ideas because they are not following the rules of the game established by the divine rule giver, God.

Okay, with that, let's move on to our next Unpopular Doctrine. That would be Unpopular Bible Doctrine and now in these days and age, this is really unpopular, getting even more unpopular. Bob, we might get thrown in jail someday for this one but that's life. Unpopular Bible Doctrine 43: homosexuality, lesbianism and bestiality are condemned by God. As the people can see this at home on their chart, I'm going to run through some Scripture references and here we go. Deuteronomy 22:5, no cross-dressing allowed. In other words, men are not supposed to wear women's clothes and women are not supposed to wear men's clothes. So that's forbidden by God according to the law of Moses.

1 Kings 15:11-12, King Asa removed all the sodomites and was commended by God for that.

1 Corinthians 6:9, abusers of themselves with mankind are listed in the category of sins against God.

Romans 1:24-32, homosexuals and lesbians are condemned there in that reference. In fact, I was speaking at a UT campus one day and this guy was asking about whether the Bible condemned homosexuality and all I did was read that passage, Romans 1:24-32. I just read it. I didn't give any interpretation or anything else and he got so mad he just stomped off so he got the meaning of that passage. He didn't like it.

2 Kings 23:7, Josiah breaks down houses of the sodomites and was commended by God.

1 Kings 22:46, Asa took sodomites out of the land.

Deuteronomy 23:17, no sodomites are allowed in the sons of Israel.

Leviticus 18:22, "Do not lie with mankind," no homosexuality allowed.

Leviticus 20:13, homosexuals are to be put to death under the Mosaic law.

Leviticus 18:23, no sex with animals. Now, it's interesting there if the viewers have seen these verses, you'll notice I just mentioned Leviticus 18:22 which talks about no homosexuality, the very next verse in Leviticus 18, the very next verse after "no homosexuality," is "no sex with animals." So bestiality is condemned right after homosexuality.

Okay, Exodus 22:19, death for those having sex with animals.

Leviticus 20:15, the man and animal are both to be killed.

Deuteronomy 27:21, "Cursed are they that lie with animals."

1 Timothy 1:8-10, homosexuals are called ungodly and sinners.

And, of course, we can't forget what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19. It's particularly when the sodomites were trying to break into Lot's house and get after those angels. It's pretty obvious what was happening there.

Deuteronomy 22:5. The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.

Romans 1:24. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Leviticus 20:13. If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

Exodus 22:19. Whosoever lieth with a beast shall surely be put to death.

Larry: Okay Bob, I just went over these very unpopular doctrines in our day and age, we have all these metropolitan churches which are homosexual churches. People say God is too loving to, you know, these are antiquated and outdated ideas. We've kind of touched on this kind of stuff before when we dealt with women pastors but people are now saying that you should have homosexual marriages. It should be ordained by law. They should get health insurance for this. All this homosexuality, lesbianism and, of course, the bestiality that we have in there, it all seems to be the politically correct thing to go with today. What are your comments on this?

Bob: Well, you know, this thing that we have today that is in the area of politics in some of the churches even and various categories of society, there is just nothing good that we can foresee coming from this particular practice and certainly how anyone could try to justify this kind of behavior from the word of God is inexplicable because over and over again we are warned. It just seems to me that common sense would dictate to these folks that what they're doing leads to death because just look at all the massive consequences or at least what appears to be consequences of practicing this particular lifestyle.

I baptized a gentleman years ago in a northern state and he was a professed Christian, married, had a family. I recall maybe these 2 young daughters and maybe a son. Well, something along the way, I don't know when it happened or what triggered it but he got involved in the early stages of the...what was that movement up in New York, that nightclub that was popular with gays and lesbian people up there?

Larry: I think I know what you're talking about. Some famous discotheque or something like that. Studio 54.

Bob: Yeah, I think that was it. I can't remember the name of it but it was very famous and being a musician, he almost had, you might say, a ticket into that situation. He was very good as a musician and he got involved in that. That was when it was the most rampant forms of sexual misconduct or sexual aberrations or sexual abnormalities or whatever you want to call it, irregular sex practices of those days and they didn't know what AIDS was then. They didn't know.

Well, of course, he got AIDS and he died. Eventually he died. This was right when the AIDS epidemic was starting and one of his daughters went on to be an accomplished, successful actress to some degree and the other daughter wrote a book talking about her father, telling about these things and the mother is a devoted Christian. But it's just a very sad thing for me as an individual being close to this family like I was at one time, at least, close enough that we stayed in their home and I baptized him. It's just a sad, sad thing and to me, when you talk about this kind of sexual behavior, that's what I think about: the

sadness; the death; the families that are destroyed; the children that are affected by all this. Why they can't see that that's the ultimate result of it and have that work on them to repent of their sin and trust in Christ is just beyond me, Larry.

Larry: That just shows the point of the matter that men when they get away from the laws of God, a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ because Jesus said, "If a man loves me, he will keep my commandments and my Father will love him," Jesus said. But the problem is people start getting into idolatry which in this case can be sex, perverted sex of one thing or another, and they're putting God out of their minds and pursuing this form of idolatry to bring themselves to where they're really more lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God.

We will 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 and 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.