

# Unpopular Bible Doctrines #11: God Kills on the Spot & Shuts the Door on Those Crying

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*Unpopular Bible Doctrines*

By Larry Wessels

**Bible Text:** Genesis 19:26; Luke 13:24-30

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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 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 are on the internet now more and more. They are being added to the internet, even many of his books and, of course, they are on cd rom and in many ways they are 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 has 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 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've 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 traces 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 is 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 and yours for the asking, basically. But with that, we'll begin our program.

With that said, let's move on to our next Unpopular Doctrine and we have plenty of them but this is Unpopular Doctrine 49 as you can see on the screen: God can and does kill people on the spot. We can see many examples here. Genesis 19:26, right there you have Lot's wife turned into a pillar of salt. Leviticus 10:1-2, Nadab and Abihu destroyed by fire from God. Number 16:31-35, Korah swallowed up by the earth and then another 250 of his followers and friends consumed by fire right on the spot. Numbers 16:48-50, 14,700 killed by God in a plague in one day. 2 Samuel 6:6-9, God kills Uzza on the spot for touching the Ark of the covenant. 2 Samuel 12:15-23, God kills David and Bathsheba's his infant son. 2 Kings 10:1-30, Jehu is blessed by God, that's verse 30, for killing all the house of Ahab and all Baal worshipers. Jeremiah 28:13-17, God kills the false prophet Hananiah. 1 Kings 13:21-26, God kills with a lion a disobedient prophet. Acts 5:1-11, as we move into the New Testament here. Ananias and Sapphira drop dead on the spot for lying to the Holy Spirit. 1 Samuel 2:25, the Lord desired to put to death Eli's evil sons.

Genesis 19:26. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Leviticus 10:1-2. And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Numbers 16:31-35. And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also. And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

Acts 5:4-6, 10. Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him...Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

Larry: So whether you like it or not, God who is the Creator of all things and the Maker of all people can do with his creation as he likes and if he wants to punish somebody by killing them right on the spot, he can and will. Bob, any comments along those lines?

Bob: Larry, I was just thinking about that verse of Scripture in the Old Testament that speaks to the subject, "See now that I, even I," and I'm reading Deuteronomy 32:39, "even I, am he, and there is no god with me." I am sovereign. I am the only God. "I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." And I think of Nebuchadnezzar when he walked out in Babylon and looked over his kingdom and he was exuberant. He was all pumped up with adrenaline and he looked out and perhaps put his hands together and perhaps crossed his arms and maybe extended his arms and said, "This is great Babylon which I have built. Boy, what a wonderful fellow I am." You know, Larry, it wasn't any time until he was out on the pasture like an animal eating grass. Why? He did not recognize God and he did not give glory to God and, in effect, he tried to assume the role of God, that he was the great one. And one of the men that you mentioned there in the book of Acts, he took glory and thought he was some kind of a god and God smote him. Now, God doesn't go around smiting everybody that does this. I mean, it's not like he's a policeman out here to stop every speeder that he sees but these things are examples for us, Larry. These things are lessons for us and the fact that God doesn't wipe us all out is a mercy. I mean, if God were to be a policeman after every one of us, there wouldn't be any of us left.

Larry: That's right. Everybody would be gone.

Bob: But he sets an example out of one. He says, "Now look, study that. Read that. Think about that and you adjust your life and you behave yourself and you do the right thing so that this judgment does not come upon you. Look what this kind of attitude deserves." So this text that I read and all these examples that you gave were dealing with a subject which we call the sovereignty of God. That's a big word but it means something even

bigger and when Nebuchadnezzar got through with his dinner out there on the pasture, I don't know if he had bitter weeds or not. I was raised on a farm, Larry, and when our cows went out and ate bitter weeds, we had bitter milk. But at any rate, when Nebuchadnezzar got through with all that, God restored him. Nebuchadnezzar came to himself and he said, "I have learned my lesson." And over there in the book of Daniel 4:35, one of the favorite verses of everybody that reads the Bible, he says this, "And all the inhabitants of the earth are as nothing." Now, he was out there on the balcony in Babylon and he was something but now what is he? He says, "Hey, I'm nothing. I'm nothing." "And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay," or stop or halt or hinder, "his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" Why are you doing this?

You know, we have so many today that they want to question the authorities, question the leaders, question the people that are in power by actually the ordination of God because God set up government, and they blaspheme some of these men instead of praying for them. The Bible says to pray for all those that are in authority. Fear those that are in authority. Have a reverence and respect for them because of their position. But here Nebuchadnezzar, he says, "None can say unto him, What doest thou?" God has this power by virtue of his inherent sovereignty. That's a part of his very essence as a Being, that he is sovereign. Oh, you can squawk and mock and put me and Larry down and vilify us as stupid and ignorant and fanatics. That's neither here nor there, God is still sovereign. God is still on the throne and, my friend, if you're sitting there somewhere listening to this and you are squawking and rebelling against God, don't be surprised if the roof caves in. Don't be surprised if a fly gets stuck in your throat and you gag to death because if you want to play with God, you're playing with somebody much bigger than you and the best thing you can do is get right down on your knees and thank God that he is a merciful God, that he hasn't done to you like he did to these that Larry talked about him destroying. So God does kill, in fact, no one ever departs this earth, Larry, unless they get their ticket from God.

Larry: That's right.

Bob: Can I tell you a little story? Have I got time on this one?

Larry: You can.

Bob: A little short story. I know I have blabbed a long time here but there is a story out of Iraq in the old days back when, I think, the Abyssinians were ruling over there years ago and it's a parable. A master had a servant. The servant went down to the market to buy groceries: some vegetables and fruits and so on. When he was at the market, he looked down at the end of the aisle and he saw death in his deathly clothes and, you know, the images that you see drawn of death. He saw death and death raised his hand to wave at the servant and the servant was so scared and frightened he took off running, he dropped his groceries and he left Baghdad and he went down to a city as far away as he could get called Samarra. We've heard about that in the news here lately, by the way, Samarra. I

thought of this story. So he thought, "Well, I'll be safe down here. Wow, that was a close shave, meeting death there in the market." Well, back up in Baghdad, the master, he said, "Where is my servant? Where are my groceries? I'd better go and check on him." So he goes down to the market and he looks around and lo and behold he meets death and death recognizes him. They start chatting and he says, "Well, I came down here to look for my servant and I can't find him." Death said, "Well, I saw him a while ago and I raised my hand to wave at him and he ran off." He said, "You know, I was really surprised to see him here at the market. Unfortunately, I have an appointment with him tonight in Samarra." Do you get it, Larry? The very place the man fled to was where death had an appointment to meet him.

Larry: That's right. That's right.

Bob: So nobody ever leaves this earth without an appointment. Its appointed unto men once to die and God is the one that determines in his sovereignty when we're going to go. Augustus Toplady, he wrote that famous song, "Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee," he said, "Every man is immortal until God is through with him." And I have thought about that for years.

Larry: That's right. You're only here because God has ordained that it be so for as long as you're here.

Anyway, let's go on to Unpopular Doctrine 50 as you can see on the screen it says: God has and will shut the door on people who cry out to him for mercy. Starting with Genesis 7:16, God closed the door behind Noah after he entered the ark. Luke 13:24-30, Lord open to us and then of course the Lord says to these people that are trying to get in and be where the Lord is, he says, "I do not know where you are from." He won't open the door for them even though they are crying to him. Matthew 25:10-13, the door is shut on the 5 foolish virgins who want to get in where the bridegroom is but he won't let them in even though they are out there knocking. Deuteronomy 23:1-3, God calls Ammonites, Moabites, he equates them such as with bastards, shall not enter into the assembly of the Lord even unto the tenth generation. Matthew 22:9-14, you have an uninvited wedding guest who apparently jumped over the wall and got into the wedding without his wedding garment and he is thrown out by God even though he wants to be there. Proverbs 1:24-32, God mocks at those who call on him and are destroyed. So God is mocking them as they are being destroyed even though they are calling out to him. Jeremiah 11:11-14, God will not listen to the cry of the people when disaster comes on them. Why is that? Because they won't repent. They won't turn from their sin. Ezekiel 8:18, they cry to God loudly but God will not listen to them. Micah 3:4, they cry to God but he hides his face from them because they practice evil.

Genesis 7:16. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.

Luke 13:24-30. Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath

shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

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.

Micah 3:4. Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Larry: Bob, any comments?

Bob: Yes, Larry, very much so. We are living in a dispensation of mercy. I know sometimes other terms are used but when I say "dispensation of mercy" I mean a period of mercy. Noah and the flood, God didn't have mercy. He destroyed the earth at that time. He said he'd never destroy it again by flood but God has restrained his wrath and allowed us to live. He has allowed me to live, I have passed my 71st birthday, Larry, and you didn't send me a birthday card.

Larry: Oh, now you're going to make me feel guilty forever on this video. On this video I will be guilty forever.

Bob: You didn't send me a pack of walnuts or a Colin Street Bakery fruitcake.

Larry: I will take you out to lunch after this video is finished.

Bob: All right, okay. Now, 71 years, God has put up with me. I mean, I've been at the mercy of God living these 71 years and it's that way with the whole world. If God were to judge any of us on the basis of how we have acted these 71 years, we wouldn't be in jail, we would be 6 feet under. We'd be dead because the wages of sin is death. That's what sin deserves, is death.

But I was thinking about this as you were reading and talking. In Proverbs 1:24, "Because I have called, and ye refused." You know, God has called in so many ways. Basically God has called through his ministers, the church, the ministry of preachers and missionaries down through the years and now God invented the printing press. I say God invented it because all inventions that come to mankind are revelations from God using the minds of those people to get this where he wants it and when Gutenberg invented the printing press, he was just doing the will of God. Books started going around. What are they doing? They are calling people. The Bible comes out printed, translated into how

many languages and even how many versions and how many translations. You know, some people complain about the Bible being translated. Look, I don't care if it's translated into 5,000 different versions because if it will get someone to read it and if it's a half decent translation, they are going to hear God's call. They are going to hear God's voice, as it were, calling.

And what is he saying? "Repent of your sins. Come to Christ. Judgment is coming. You need to be saved." He's calling and he says, "You have refused." You have refused and if it wasn't for his grace, I guess that refusal would be final. What do they say on that show, the program, "Is that your final answer?"

Larry: I don't watch enough TV to know.

Bob: "Is that your final answer?" You will say, "No, I will not have this man to rule over me." Well, what does God say, "I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof," you will not have it, "I will laugh." Now, isn't it something when God will laugh?

Larry: When your calamity cometh.

Bob: When your calamity cometh. And it's going to come and here is God who is going to be sitting up there laughing at your calamity. "I called you. I stretched out my hand. I gave you counsel. You set it all at nought. You blasphemed me. You used my name as a cuss word, as a lie word. You used it every day of your life practically saying, God damn this and God damn that and God damn the other and now your calamity has come and I'm going to laugh at you. I have the last laugh." And it is just. It is absolutely based on the righteousness of God that he will judge people if they refuse his grace, if they refuse his Son, if they refuse what he has done in longsuffering and patience and forbearance with mankind. Think of all of the sin that God tolerates every day here in Round Rock, Texas, Austin, Texas, Cedar Park, Texas, and on and on around this community. All the sin that he tolerates: the drunkenness, the immorality, the killing and the drugging and all this and the ungodly religion and false doctrine. He tolerates it. He is patient with it but he is still calling. He is still stretching forth. He is still giving counsel but there is a day coming when we're going to have, "I will laugh at your calamity."

Larry: That's right. God is to be respected, revered....

Bob: And that's an unpopular doctrine that God laughs at man's calamity. You don't hear that every day on television, do you?

Larry: That's why it made the list. Okay, with that said, move on to Unpopular Doctrine 51 as you can see on your screen: Imprecatory Psalms, those are biblical prayers that accuse the wicked, call for the destruction of evildoers and a rejoicing in God's judgment against the wicked. Now, the imprecatory Psalms are popular with God but not with men. So what we have here, as you can see from the Psalms listed underneath here, Psalm 94:1-4, 23, God of vengeance. He will destroy the wicked. Psalm 58:6-10, vengeance of

God against the wicked. He will wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. Psalm 137:8-9, Babylon devastated. Blessed are they who dash its little infants against the rocks. See also Isaiah 13:1, 16, 19. Isaiah 21:1-10, 47. Jeremiah 50-51, the whole chapter. Habakkuk 2:4-20. Along these same lines, Psalm 69:22-28, blot them out of the book of life. Psalm 59:12-12, destroy them. We are talking about the wicked. Psalm 109:6-15, let the wicked's prayer be sin. Let his days be few. Let creditors take his possessions. Let his posterity be cut off, etc. Psalm 139:19-22, Slay the wicked. I hate the wicked with perfect hatred.

The Lord Jesus Christ and his apostles used the Psalms constantly in teaching men to know God. The New Testament correctly quotes the Old Testament approximately 283 times, an astonishing 41%, that's 116 of the 283 of all the Old Testament quotations are from the Psalms. According to the Gospel records, Christ himself alluded to the Psalms over 50 times. The pattern in the imprecatory Psalms is 1. Accusation of the wicked. 2. The prayer for the destruction of evil and evildoers. 3. Rejoicing in God's judgment.

Psalm 94:1-4, 23. O LORD God, to whom vengeance belongeth; O God, to whom vengeance belongeth, shew thyself. Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves? ... And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity, and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea, the LORD our God shall cut them off.

Psalm 58:6-11. Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as cut in pieces. As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun. Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath. The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.

Psalm 139:19-22. Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, ye bloody men. For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.

Larry: Bob, any comments?

Bob: Larry, that is fantastic, the facts that you have assembled there and also, of course, the Scriptures that there is so much in the Bible about the wrath and anger of God that's expressed in prayers, even in prayers, even David's prayers. And to show you how unpopular that is, I read a man one time who said that it wouldn't be appropriate to use some of the Psalms in worship because of those kinds of Scriptures of the wrath of God. But God wants us to know that he does have that attribute about him which we call justice. He is a just God and he has that attribute that justice has to be satisfied one way



or another and the only way it can be satisfied for the individual person is through Jesus Christ who died to fulfill the law of God in the sense of the penal sanction of the law. He accepts the penalty and God's wrath is swallowed up or wiped away in the blood of Christ as a satisfaction because he is an acceptable substitute. Christ died for our sins. He gave himself for our sins. He is our Passover lamb.

Now, again, God's going to laugh. I was thinking of this text here in Psalm 2. You were talking about the Psalms. Psalm 2 is another place that speaks of the laughter of God and that too is in connection with just what you're speaking about that the wicked will be destroyed and God will be laughing about it according to this Psalm here. Verse 4, Psalm 2, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure." So there is that particular characteristic of God that men are going to have to deal with one way or the other. Now, we have today, we say that someone is in denial. Well, with regard to this particular concept of God, I'm not so sure that they'd like to live in denial just about everywhere rather than face up to the fact that this is a characteristic of God. It's just not politically correct to emphasize this point but it's there. It's not going to go away. It's not going to vanish because I don't believe it or you don't believe it or the next fellow over here. We can get together and have a majority vote against it and we can rip it out of the Bible that we're not going to read and believe that anymore but it will still be there.

Larry: In fact, to go back to something you just said in the early part of your comments, the crucifixion and shed blood of Christ actually demonstrates that all these imprecatory Psalms are true because a brutal death by Christ on a cross and a brutal crucifixion that was actually ordained by God, Isaiah 53 is all about that and the Old Testament prophecy and then, of course, Acts 2:23 and so forth augment that and prove that as well. God ordained his own Son to die a horrible death like that to satisfy the justice of God. Now, if someone doesn't accept that, that means that they are going to have to accept the justice of God's wrath on themselves instead of taking Christ as their substitute.

Bob: That's the great joy and comfort about being a Christian. You can accept what Jesus Christ did by simple faith. God doesn't require you to work. God doesn't require you to buy it, earn it, whatever. Accept it, what Jesus did. He did enough. I mean, my goodness, look at what he suffered and you think you're going to add to that? Accept it and you are pardoned. You are forgiven. What could bring you greater joy than to escape this wrath to come because Jesus Christ has suffered that wrath for you? Now you can live in freedom and you can enjoy the pardon and you can go on your way living for God and praising God and worshiping God, thanking him for this great salvation that has come to us through his Son.

Larry: Of course, what Bob, is a consequence if God would allow his Son to die so miserably like that, what is he going to do to a sinner who spits in God's face and the sacrifice of his Son? What is he going to do to that person?

Bob: In other words, if you insult God and insult the Son by rejecting the Son, by trampling the blood by which you are sanctified underfoot, this blood by which you are

redeemed, you trample this underfoot, you reject it, you cast it from you, what is the sore punishment Paul said?

Larry: If you think crucifixion was bad, the Scriptures get into it quite definitely. In other words, accept Christ. You do not want to feel the full weight of the wrath of God on yourself. Why take the punishment when Christ has already done it for you if you simply, as Bob said, accept it and believe on the Son.

All right, we're ready for our next Unpopular Doctrine, this one being Unpopular Doctrine 52. As you can see by the screen there, it says: God says he is revealed as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as you find in Matthew 28:19. This theologically and historically has been known as the doctrine of the Trinity. Now, more than 60 Bible passages mention the 3 persons together. Matthew 3:16-17. Matthew 28:19. 2 Corinthians 3:14. Ephesians 4:4-6. Titus 3:4-6. John 3:34-35. John 14:26. John 15:26. John 16:13-15. Romans 14:17-18. Romans 15:13-17. Romans 15:30. 1 Corinthians 6:11, 17-19. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22. 2 Corinthians 3:4-6. Galatians 2:21, going all the way through Galatians 3:2. Galatians 4:6. Ephesians 2:18. Ephesians 3:11-17. Ephesians 5:18-20. Colossians 1:6-8. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5. 1 Thessalonians 4:2, 8. 1 Thessalonians 5:18-19. 2 Thessalonians 3:5. Hebrews 9:14. 1 Peter 1:2. 1 John 3:23-24. 1 John 4:13-14. Jude 20-21.

Matthew 3:16-17. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Romans 15:30. Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.

2 Corinthians 3:4-6. And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Colossians 1:6-8. Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Galatians 4:6. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Larry: Anyway, with that said, what are your comments along these lines?

Bob: Larry, it's my perception that the reason that the Trinity is rejected by some and distorted and whatever, is because the attack is really not on the Trinity per se, they want

to get rid of the Son of God. Jesus Christ declared himself to be, come down from heaven, come down from the Father, he came in the flesh, said, "I was with my Father. I came into the world." And the people of his day interpreted that to mean that he was claiming that he is the Son of God and he is blaspheming because he makes himself equal with God. So the attack on the doctrine of God, the Trinity or whatever, focuses on Jesus Christ.

Now, you say, "Well, why is this?" Because Jesus is the only way of salvation. You see, if the devil can get Jesus out of the way, he has won the battle so he doesn't have to attack the Holy Spirit and get people off track about the Holy Spirit. He doesn't have to get them off track about the Father, I mean, Jesus is the one who died for our sins, the Son of God. So the devil puts all his admonition, all his guns, all of his trained targeteers attacking the person of Jesus Christ. So now when you pick up a piece of literature or listen to someone teach who is denying the Trinity, mark it down, they will go for the jugular, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Son of God. They want to get that out of the way. They will do it in various ways. They will interpret Son of God to be less than the Son of God, "Oh yes, we believe he's the Son of God," but in what sense? And so that's why the Trinity is attacked. It's because they want to destroy the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and why do they want to destroy that? Because that's the heart of the Gospel. Accepting Jesus Christ as the Son of God is the heart of the Gospel. When Jesus said to Peter, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said, "Flesh and blood did not reveal that to you but my Father which is in heaven revealed it to you."

So that's the heart of the Gospel. When Philip was on the road and the eunuch was in his chariot and Philip got the Bible down and he was reading the Bible...

Larry: It was Acts 8, if my memory serves me correct.

Bob: ...and the eunuch said, "Who is he talking about here?" And Philip preached to him Jesus. He said, "Well, what hinders me to be baptized?" He said, "If thou believest that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." You see, if you start there, you'll go the rest of the way.

I mean, people come into my bookstore sometimes, Larry, and they say, "What's a good piece of literature to answer this cult or that cult or that cult?" I say, "Right here." I get the Bible and I open it up and I say, "Here's a good book right here. John 3:18, 'He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.'" I say, "Now, put their nose on that and don't let them move. Don't let them argue with you about hell. Don't let them argue about the Trinity. Just hold this to them and say, 'Do you believe this? You don't need to be talking about something else if you don't believe this. Do you believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the only begotten Son of God? Do you believe on his name for salvation?'" If they won't hear this, they'll not hear one though he be risen from the dead. So if you can convert a man to Christ, have him to trust him as the Son of God, you won't have any trouble with him the rest of the way. That will wash away 5,000 errors about other things.

Jesus said in the book of John 8:24, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." Now, that's what the crux of the matter is. I mean, you can get them converted from sprinkling for baptism to immersion. You can get them converted from believing you can lose your salvation to not losing your salvation. You can get them converted from believing in evolution to believing in creationism. You can maybe get them to get away from believing that hell means annihilation to something else. And on and on you can go getting them converted from believing those things and they'd still be lost. They'd still be going to hell, "If you believe not that I am he, the Son of God, you shall die in your sins." So that's why the Trinity is attacked. Satan wants to, again, destroy the testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Trinity upholds that. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Son? "Oh, the devil says. I'd better get to work on this one. I'd better get my guns ready on that one." That's the big gun to fire back is that Jesus is the Son of God. Boom! Boom! Do you see that error out there? Jesus is the Son of God, boom! Let them have it. Blow them out of the water.

Larry: And the key to the phrase "Son of God" indicates that because he is the Son of God he is of the essence of the Father who is God, making him God at the same time. That's why "Son of God" is so important because that makes him God equally with the Father. It kind of reminds me of, I think it's John 10:30-33. He says, "I and the Father are one." In the actual Greek it's, "I and the Father, we are one." Or you get John 1:1 and following, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father)."

Bob: "God sending his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh." Charged with blaspheming that led to his crucifixion. Why did they think he blasphemed? He made himself equal with God because he claimed to be the Son of God.

Larry: That's right. That's right.

Bob: That's blaspheming they said.

Larry: Mark 14:62 and following, you have his trial there before the high priest and the Sanhedrin for that very reason because they knew he was quoting from the book of Daniel when he made his argument about that and they knew that had to be the Messiah and God. So anyway, there are plenty of references on this subject and, like I said before, there is more material here that would fill up several shows. We don't have time to go into all the verses but this is a major Unpopular Doctrine with a lot of false religions and cultists and so forth who will attack and as Bob said so adequately there....

Bob: And another thing they do, Larry, they try to veil their unbelief by saying, "We believe in Jesus but he's just another prophet like Moses, Mohammed, Buddha," and so forth.

Larry: Exactly. In fact, you can talk to a Muslim and he'll say, "I believe in Jesus," but he thinks Jesus is just a great prophet but he's not as good a prophet as Mohammed. Think of the Baha'i World faith, they say, "I believe in Jesus." The Hari Krishna will think that Jesus is just another avatar with all the other gods and goddesses that they believe in. So it reminds me of, what is it, Matthew 16 where Jesus says, "Who do men say that I the Son of Man am?" You remember the disciples are saying, "Well, some people think you're this. Some people think...." You said it already in your comment that Peter put his finger right on the key point. When Jesus is asking, "Who do these people think I am?" And everyone is saying, "Well, they think you're all sorts of people."

Bob: By the way, Larry, you mentioned the Baha'i. I was at their temple in Chicago, Illinois years ago and they had literature, of course there. They had a guy and I asked him about Jesus. "Oh yes, we believe in Jesus." And they had this literature, Jesus, Buddha, Mohammad and so on.

Larry: They believe all of them at the same time.

Bob: They were combining all the wisdom of all the sages of the world and Jesus was just one lumped in the crowd.

Larry: That's right because they believe that all the religions are true at the same time.

Bob: Until you come to last one.

Larry: Their particular prophet just happens to have one up on all these other great prophets but that religion itself explodes when you start to show the contradictions...

Bob: It's just like Jesus predicted which proves he's the Son of God again, "False prophets shall rise and say I am Christ."

Larry: That's right. 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 are 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 are interested. Go ahead.

Bob: Well Larry, the primary thing that I have 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 am engaged in and if people are interested in the publications we have of Spurgeon, we'll 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 Connolly and he did a very good job in giving us a one hour biography of Spurgeon. He went to England and he filmed all over the place over there where Spurgeon was born and was converted and baptized and pastored and all that. That's available.

And we have Spurgeon on cd rom, his sermons and other works are on cd-rom and 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 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.

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