

ETERNAL MEANS FOREVER



**An Exposé
of the
Ultimate
Reconciliation
Heresy**

David Alsobrook

Eternal Means Forever

Will Everyone Eventually Be Saved?

**An Expose of the Ultimate Reconciliation
Heresy**

by David Alsobrook

First Printing, March 1986

Designed and Produced by Custom Graphics, Tulsa, Oklahoma

© Copyright 1986 by Anointed Bible Study Fellowship, Inc. aka David Alsobrook Ministries. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Permission to reprint usually granted upon request.



Contents

Chapter 1 Why I Wrote This Message	7
Chapter 2 "Everlasting Means Age-Lasting"	13
Chapter 3 "In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive"	21
Chapter 4 The Lost Are Really Lost	31

"He that believeth not the Son *shall not* see life."
(John 3:36).

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and
shall be turned unto fables."
(2 Timothy 4:4)

Chapter One

Why I Wrote This Message

One of my most frequently asked questions is, "What are you working on now?" During the time I wrote this book my answer invariably produced a strange look of puzzlement. More often than not a follow-up question, such as, "Who believes that nonsense?" was asked in disbelief.

It may surprise you to know that there are millions of people who believe that someday everyone will know God's forgiveness. After he was deceived by numerous errors, the once highly esteemed church father, Origen (second century), taught that all creation will be perfectly reconciled to the Creator. The Universalist Church, founded by a former Wesleyan evangelist in the early 1800's, promotes the ultimate salvation of all as their basic tenet of faith. The Unitarian and the Unity groups do not believe in a literal/eternal punishment. Nor does the Christian Science faith believe in a literal damnation (or in the literal existence of sin, for that matter).

When you question common sinners if they really believe they will suffer eternally for their sins, few will acknowledge this possibility, holding instead to a false and cunningly deceptive line of thinking which reasons that a God of love could never sentence someone to an everlasting punishment. Humanism declares that all men are God's children (apart from spiritual re-birth) and will forever know His smile.

These examples we Full Gospel believers readily understand, as there are many cults, false religions, and

deceived people "out there in the world" who believe many lies.

However, the reason most Spirit-filled Christians looked at me with a puzzled expression when I answered their question is, they found it hard to believe that such a subject had any relevance at all in our circles.

How I wish that were true! Perhaps you have heard of P.C. Nelson, that greatly renowned Greek scholar of the early Pentecostal movement? His former aide, now a very old retired minister, frequently sends me his newsletter which is entirely devoted to the heresy that all will ultimately be reconciled back to God.

I have met this sweet old man on a few occasions. He always asks me if I have "seen the light yet" from his articles. I always tell him in a soft tone I cannot see the light in his newsletter, because the darkness is always printed in it! He then tells me he is praying for me and compliments any one of my books. (I do not rebuke this elderly gentleman, but entreat him to consider other passages of Scripture rather than the few distorted quotations he prints. I have rebuked, however, other younger active ministers who are leading people astray with their errors.)

My First Encounter with This Heresy

I remember her clearly—eyes shining, face radiant, voice shouting in an aged, raspy sound. Now in her eighties she no longer preached more than a few times a year, but her victorious spirit added to any service she attended.

I met Sister Jones (not her real name) in a lengthy revival I conducted in the early seventies. Others told me about the many great revivals she had held for more than 40

years before age had taken its merciless toll on her faculties.

Most preachers loved her dearly and I was no exception. She stayed with each message intently. She correctly discerned the moving of the Spirit in each night's service as I preached on various subjects.

Occasionally she would approach me after a service to add a point or two which I gratefully received.

One night as I preached on **Eternal Judgment**, however, her demeanor was quite different than usual. I attributed the crossness of her expression to the soberness of the message. (Since I stressed the eternal importance of following Jesus in this present life.)

I was to find out how wrong my assumption was when she paid an unexpected visit the next day. I vividly remember her frail and scrawny figure loaded down with all sorts of large books. "Sonny," she said emphatically, "come here while I learn you something." She further said, as she motioned me to a chair, "I've forgotten more of the Word of God than you'll ever know, but there's a part I remember that you obviously haven't learned yet."

I laughed at her abrasiveness good-naturedly and obeyed her command wondering what she was up to. Was I ever in for a great surprise!

Rather than expounding upon some dark mystery of the Scriptures, or upon some quaint personal interpretation of a passage here or there, (as I anticipated) she said things that left me completely speechless.

Sister Jones pointed a long, bony finger at me and in a most uncharacteristic tone of voice said, "*You preached false doctrine to the people last night!*"

"I did?" I asked astonished at her accusation, and even

more hurt by her unkind tone.

"I did?" she mockingly echoed. "*You most certainly did!*"

With this introduction she launched into a detailed study of the Scriptures from which she twisted out her teaching in the most dogmatic tones. She tried to cram into my 18-year-old head that everyone, regardless of their acceptance or rejection of Jesus Christ before death, will eventually be saved!

I will not go into all the ideas she perpetrated that sad day, but will answer them and others later. My purpose in sharing this unfortunate incident with you is to demonstrate how that even a well established, Holy Ghost Christian, who had faithfully served the Lord for many years, had been deceived by a spirit of error. (I later learned how the enemy gained this foothold in Sister Jones a few years earlier. Her unrepentant son had been tragically killed.)

This may sound too strong a statement, but I believe it, on the basis of 15 years' observation, to be totally accurate:

I have never met anyone who believed this error who didn't have a deceased unsaved loved one, or who weren't overtaken in other errors as well.

I am not on a witch hunt. I wish this book had not been needed. The sad fact is that last year alone (1985) three close pastor friends embraced this false teaching.

One of these pastors went so far as to write a book about his "new revelation." Another talked with me over two hours unyielding on any point (the spirit of error always renders a person unteachable). The third pastor split his church and hurt the spiritual walk of several sheep. His formerly amiable spirit became cruel and vindictive. Although we tried to deal with him in the love of Christ all

our efforts were spurned. In the end he cut off all communication with us.

I have not written this message because I enjoyed doing it, but because my heart is broken over this wile of the devil. Too many letters come across my desk to leave this error unreproved. (I often receive letters asking me about ultimate reconciliation.) There are too many innocent sheep, gullible to every wind of doctrine, who need the counsel of God's Holy Word on this point. That is my sole reason for writing this book. I pray God will use it to warn the immature and to deliver, if possible, those who have been taken captive of the devil.

"What's the Use?"

A few years ago a West Coast evangelist with a thriving healing ministry gave up his calling for antiques after he "got the revelation" that everyone will eventually be saved in an age or two. "So what's the use?" he asked a mutual friend, "of knocking yourself out now to save the world?" Here's one Man's plausible answer:

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT" (Matthew 7:14).

Chapter Two

"Everlasting Means Age-Lasting"

This is one of the first statements made by the ultimate reconciliation proponents (hereafter shortened to "ultimate wreckers"). They then inform their audience that "everyone will eventually be saved" and that "God's plan of salvation for the whole human race will one day be realized."

Most audiences are understandably shocked when they first sit under an "ultimate wrecker". Usually they are saints who have been burned in the historic churches and have begun following a particular man's ministry for awhile. The teacher is usually someone who possesses a fair amount of Scripture knowledge. His teachings offer more insights than the usual standard fare presented in most churches. Sadly, his ministry is often most appealing to devout saints of God who have turned their backs on the world. (I have repeatedly noticed how the spirit of doctrinal error does not attack the lukewarm; the lust of many things chokes the Word in them.) If the enemy cannot get us with lifeless, apathetic "churchianity" he will try to get us off track through doctrinal means.

More and more I am seeing the enemy's subtility in the doctrine of "universal salvation," or as some have termed it, "the restitution of all things" (a take off from Acts 3:21). The enemy knows he can't knock off some hardy soldiers with either the lust of the flesh or religious apathy. He has to entice these particular Christians with some of the same bait he used on Eve, "You will be as God," he promises (see Genesis 3:5).

The temptation is one of "hidden knowledge" and "secret truth" for "a chosen few." Satan, the father of lies, perverts the clear meanings of numerous scriptures to hatch this falsehood. He tells the hearers they have arrived.

A false teacher is usually too wise to immediately introduce his errors. He starts by gaining the confidence of a handful of sheep and begins to sprinkle his basic teachings with a thought here or a line there. After he tests the waters he launches into his fairytale doctrine. I believe Satan assigns his ministers places where he wants them to go. Jude referred to false teachers as "blown about by winds" (verse 12). These "winds" may be, perhaps, religious spirits which blow "every wind of doctrine" through cunning men who "lie in wait to deceive" (Ephesians 4:14).

Paul shocked the Corinthian church when he informed them that many of their favorite preachers were actually ministers of Satan disguised as ministers of righteousness (see 2 Corinthians 11:12-21; also Galatians 1:8-9).

After an "ultimate wrecker" subtly gains the devotion of a handful of followers he announces "a special revelation" in store for "those with ears to hear." Furthermore, this special truth is not for just anyone's ears. He advises, "Don't bring anyone who is not moving in the deeper kingdom truths to tomorrow's service...this is just for a special group of overcomers who are able to receive this kingdom mystery."

He flatters his congregation telling them "how mature" they are and "ready for the deeper things of God." He is certain they are spiritually keen enough "to see the light" which will "answer so many of the questions you've had for such a long time. Maybe you've asked yourself, 'What about the heathen?' 'What about the unsaved? Will they have to

suffer forever and ever without end?" With a glint in his eye he then answers these questions with another one, "How many of you realize that much of what you were taught in your nominal church was part of the Babylonian system? What I'm going to tell you will dispel forever the myth of Dante's inferno and other fables held over from the Dark Ages before the Church came into the present hour of restoration."

One of the primary things taught is that in the Greek New Testament the words "everlasting" and "eternal" are literally "eon" (age). As such they do not mean "everlasting" but only *age-lasting*. "Aristotle said 'The length of a man's life is an eon.' Do you know the Bible breaks time into distinct ages? The English translators didn't know what to do, so they put 'everlasting' in there where it should read 'age-lasting.' The wicked will be punished for an age in the lake of fire, not forever and ever like our faulty translations say."

After they listen to this travesty upon the Greek language the hearers are then informed:

"Hell will not last forever and ever and ever. A God of mercy could never punish a product of His creation eternally. Hell is remedial—there the unbelieving realize their foolishness and grieve over their sin with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Do you know what brimstone is? It's the burning sulphur that ancient Greek philosophers said would purify the soul. John didn't say it would be an ocean of fire but a lake of fire. A lake has a side you get into and a side you come out of! It isn't limitless. After an age in the lake of fire even a Hitler is purified. Jesus died for the whole world and that's exactly who is going to be saved...THE WHOLE WORLD. May God have mercy on those ignorant preachers who torment godly mothers over their sons who

died in sin. They grieve in vain. The Bible says 'we should not mourn as those who have no hope.' The Lamb of God took away the sin of the world. Do you think the plan of God can fail? Paul said 'as all men died in Adam, even so will all men be made alive in Christ.' Joel said, 'I will pour out My Spirit upon ALL FLESH.' Isaiah said, 'all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of God.' Yes, friends, Jesus will 'see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.' Listen, if the devil succeeded in keeping one soul in Gehenna forever and ever then Christ's conquest over him was not complete because the Bible says, 'He died for EVERY MAN' and 'the Lord is not willing 'THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH.' Friends, I want to tell you something here tonight: GOD'S WILL WILL ULTIMATELY BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN! Somebody say, Amen!"

Other twistings of the Scripture, of course, are presented in the hour or two the hearers give place by subjection to such blatant error.

Just What Does *Aion* Mean?

The Greek word *aion* (Strong's number 165) and its derivative *aionios* (Strong's number 166) are used 199 times in the New Testament. The words "world," "forever," "everlasting," and "eternal" are the usual translations.

Were the overwhelming majority of Bible translators wrong, when, for instance, they rendered Revelation 14:11, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever..."?

The "ultimate wreckers" prefer to say "this verse should be translated 'from an age to an age.' After the age of punishment is completed the purified will inherit the ages of blessedness."

Let's see what the Greek scholars say about *aion*, *aionios*.

First, the highly reputed *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* renders the singular *aion* in the following ways:

1. *age, a human lifetime, life itself*
2. *an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity, forever*

It is quite true that the singular word *aion* can mean an age with reference to a beginning and an ending, such as the human lifespan. The secular Greek writers used that word often to measure a set period of time. The word *aion* can also mean an unbroken age, eternity, and forever. The meaning would have to be derived from the context of its usage.

But let's look at the plural *aionios* and the ways it is used in Holy Scriptures. First, let us notice Thayer's definitions for *aionios*:

1. *without beginning or end, that which has always been and always will be*
2. *without beginning*
3. *without end, never to cease, everlasting*

Let us now examine many of the occurrences of *aionios* in the Greek New Testament. The English word(s) which are translated from *aionios* and its compounds will be italicized in the verses we study.

"Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into *everlasting* fire" (Matthew 18:8).

Notice this *aionios* fire is, according to the lexicon

definition noted above, "without end, never to cease, everlasting." Not only is the fire "without end" but the damnation reckoned against the lost individual is likewise "without end" as the following verse reveals:

"But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of *eternal* damnation" (Mark 3:29).

A person who is under *aionios* damnation "hath never forgiveness" Jesus plainly says. No release from the judicial pronouncement of damnation. Never. This is why we are compelled to do all we can under the direction of the Holy Spirit in leading men and women to our Savior.

Not only is the fire "without end"; not only is the condemnation "never to cease ", but the punishment is likewise eternal:

"And these shall go away into *everlasting* punishment: but the righteous into life *eternal*" (Matthew 25:46).

Notice, Christ employed the same Greek word *aionios* in describing the life the righteous will enjoy during the same unbroken period in which the wicked are punished.

If you would like to study more verses where *aionios* is used, look up the following references. I have grouped all the scriptures which contain *aion* and *aionios* with reference to the lost. There are over 50 times *aionios* is used with reference to the saved (in eternal life and eternal glory), but I will not list them here.

Every place in the Greek New Testament using *aionios* with reference to everlasting, eternal, and forever punishment:

Matthew 18:8, 25:41,46;

Mark 3:29;
Luke 16:9;
2 Thessalonians 1:9;
Hebrews 6:2;
Jude 7.

Every place in the Greek New Testament using *aion* with reference to eternal punishment:

Matthew 12:32 (translated world);
Mark 3:29 (translated never);
2 Peter 2:17 (trans, forever);
Jude 13 (forever);
Revelation 14:11 (for ever and ever);
Revelation 20:10 (for ever and ever)

Furthermore, I would like to quote from the widely read *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* in reference to *aionios*:

"The predominant meaning of aionios, that in which it is used everywhere in the N. T., save the places noted above, may be seen in 2 Cor. 4:18, where it is set in contrast with proskairos, lit., 'for a season,' and in Philemon 15, where only in the NT. is it used without a noun. Moreover it is used of person and things which are in their nature endless, as, e.g., of God, Rom. 16:26; of His power, 1 Tim. 6:16, and of His glory, 1 Pet. 5:10; of the Holy Spirit, Heb. 9:14; of the redemption effected by Christ, Heb. 9:12, and of the consequent salvation of men, 5:9, as without end, Luke 1:33; of the life received by those who believe in Christ, John 3:16, concerning whom He said, 'they shall never perish,' 10:28, and of the resurrection body, 2 Cor. 5:1, elsewhere said to be 'immortal,' 1 Cor. 15:53, in which that life will be finally realized, Matt. 25:46; Tit. 1:2.

"Aionios is also used of the sin that 'hath never forgiveness,' Mark 3:29, and of the judgment of God,

from which there is no appeal, Heb. 6:2, and of the fire, which is one of its instruments, Matt. 18:8; 25:41; Jude 7, and which is elsewhere said to be 'unquenchable,' Mark 9:43.

"The use of *aionios* here shows that the punishment referred to in 2 Thess. 1:9 is not temporary, but final, and, accordingly, the phraseology shows that its purpose is not remedial but retributive." (page 43)

How could any honest heart study the Greek and say the eternal punishment of the Scriptures is not eternal? One pamphlet by an "ultimate wrecker" bases all his Greek meanings *with quotes from other universal salvation pamphlets and books* rather than from reliable Greek lexicons and dictionaries. By following this faulty method of study they place themselves in the undesirable position of the false teachers warned about in 2 Peter 2:1; and 3:16:

"There shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies...wrest(ing), as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

In the next chapter we will look at most of the other scriptures "ultimate wreckers" twist in order to substantiate their error.

**"He has also put eternity in their heart."
(Ecclesiastes 3:11 Berkeley)**

Chapter Three

"In Christ Shall All Be Made Alive"

How simple to understand the plain statement of John 3:36,

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son *shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him.*"

How easy to understand Revelation 14:11,

"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and *they have no rest day nor night*, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

In view of these and many other scriptures one may reasonably ask where "ultimate wreckers" get scriptural support for their views. I will share some of the more often used texts, from which it will be easy to see how the meaning is twisted out of its context.

The Restitution of All Things

The so-called "restitution of all things" is taken from Acts 3:21. Rather than meaning the restoration of all things, period, Peter says,

"Whom (Christ) the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, *which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets* since the world began."

It should be noted that the restoration is specifically limited to the things the holy prophets spoke. Peter is actually

referring to prophecies about the first coming of Jesus!

The King James Version does not correctly translate the first part of the verse. Peter is actually saying, "whom heaven had to receive" as most other versions render it. ("Ultimate wreckers" interpret the verse as meaning that Jesus must remain in heaven now until everything is restored to God through a special company of believers. Only after everything is reconciled can He return.)

In other words, the Christ could not come until the proper time designated by God and predicted by the Old Testament prophets.

Then Peter immediately gives one example of such prophecy in the verses that follow:

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me. Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and *all the prophets* from Samuel and those that follow after, *as many as have spoken*, have likewise FORETOLD OF THESE DAYS..."

Peter concludes telling his audience that God sent His Son Jesus unto Israel "to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (verse 26).

Peter was not referring to a supposed reconciliation to God in the lake of fire off in a future age, but to a universal restoration of fallen man back to God following the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as living men turn from their iniquities (repent) during the Church Age.

I Will Draw All Men Unto Me

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me" (John 12:32).

The word "men" is italicized in the King James denoting an addition to the text. Jesus actually said, "I will draw all to Me." What "all" did He mean? Earlier in John 6:37 Jesus explained,

"All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me; and him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out."

Furthermore, "ultimate wreckers" delight in misinterpreting Isaiah 52:10 also, which reads,

"The LORD hath made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God."

This means everyone will eventually be saved, we are told, rather than meaning the Gospel will be proclaimed unto the uttermost parts of the earth, as in fact, it does mean.

It should be further noted that "all" in the Bible does not always denote every single person. For an example, please notice Hebrews 11:13, **"These all died in faith..."** The writer is referring, of course, to all the heroes of faith he has presented thus far in chapter eleven. But did he mean every single person in that chapter died? Obviously not, because he tells us eight verses earlier, **"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him..."** (Hebrews 11:5). The writer is simply using "all" as meaning most. Don't we do the same today? When I was in a shopping mall last week I overheard a lady say, "All the women are wearing this dress." This was an obvious exaggeration.

The World Has Been Reconciled Back to God

Two other verses which are used to teach that everyone will ultimately be reconciled to God are:

"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them..." (2 Corinthians 5:19).

"And He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

Here we see classic examples of twisting the Scripture. In the first verse Paul immediately went on to say,

"...and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, Be ye reconciled to God."

In the second quote John indeed teaches a universal atonement, or propitiation, made by the Messiah. He is reiterating John 1:29,

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Jesus indeed died for all men that all might live through Him, but it is conditioned upon **"whosoever believeth"** (John 3:16) and is nowhere guaranteed automatically to every son of Adam. It is interesting to note Paul's progression in Romans 10:12-17. He assures his readers that **"the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**

But then he asks,

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they

hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

But after one is sent and they hear the gospel will they all proclaim

"How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel..."?

"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Isn't it interesting that Paul did not go on to say that the gospel rejectors will eventually be saved anyway? No, he conditions God's free salvation to **"all that CALL upon Him."**

No one goes to hell whose sins have not been atoned. They perish because they have not individually accepted the atonement Jesus provided. He died so they would not have to perish. But He forces His will upon no one. This error completely dismisses the biblical teaching of man's responsibility to repent and believe the gospel. It dispels the efforts of worldwide evangelism as ultimately non-essential.

This fallacy actually teaches that a hard-hearted Christ rejector who has repeatedly refused God's offer of eternal life will somehow be saved regardless of his indifference. Contrast this view with Proverbs 29:1,

"He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

The other day a news story told about a man sentenced to life without parole. He is only 22 years old. He will spend the rest of his natural life behind bars for an act that took only a few seconds of time. This is viewed as justice to the natural mind.

How much more, then, those who repeatedly spurn the love of God? Many times each day sinning against Him, hundreds of times throughout life, even thousands of times, refusing to hear the gospel and the call of the Spirit to come to Christ. Decade after decade of hard-heartedness blaspheming the lovely Name of the One who alone can save them. There was no mercy for those who despised Moses' law, how much more worthy of greater punishment are those who tread underfoot the Son of God? (see Hebrews 10:28-29).

All Will Confess Jesus is Lord

Another twisting of Scripture often employed is Philippians 2:10-11; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3. The statement goes like this: "When the 'things under the earth' confess Jesus Christ is Lord they will be saved, for 'with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.' Furthermore, Paul also said, 'No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.' This gives us further proof that when every tongue makes this confession every heart will have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit."

It is true that all things (both men and angels) "under the earth" (signifying post-death) will confess the sovereignty of Jesus Christ. This confession will not be unto salvation, but rather, as Paul explained in the same text "to the glory of God the Father." The fact they are "under the earth" brings Hebrews 9:27 to bear: "As it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the

judgment." In 1 Corinthians 12:3 Paul is teaching about judging the source of a spiritual manifestation. He says nothing about salvation at all in that passage! Once again we see how "ultimate wreckers" can only substantiate their teaching by deliberately misrepresenting the context of their quotations.

The Whole Creation Will Be Delivered

Another passage twisted into universal salvation is Romans 8:19, with special emphasis upon verse 21, "the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption." The "creature" has reference to the animal and vegetable creation which has suffered the effects of man's disobedience ever since Adam sinned.

To see this point, notice the pre-fallen state in Genesis 1:30 with reference to "every beast of the earth" as well as "every fowl" and "every thing that creepeth." What did God give them "for meat"? "I HAVE GIVEN EVERY GREEN HERB."

The day Adam sinned God obviously slew innocent animals in order to clothe our first parents (Genesis 3:21). They have been suffering ever since because of man's sin. (God had placed all creation under man's dominion according to Genesis 1:26-28).

Eventually, the effect of sin caused the lion's teeth to grow pointed and sharp. He began to tear and kill other animals, rather than eat straw like the ox. Isaiah predicts a day coming when the animal kingdom will once again be restored to the perfect state which existed before sin entered the world. Space will not permit me to develop this point concerning the creature's deliverance from bondage now. I would like to refer you to Isaiah 11:6-9, 43:20, 65:25. Notice also, in Isaiah 55:13 how the plant kingdom will be

physically and fully restored from the curse of Genesis 3:17-18. (It was legally and partially restored in Genesis 8:21).

I declare to you that the earth will be healed of its groaning during the physical, literal reign of King Jesus! To show, however, that Paul was referring only to the natural creation on this planet in Romans 8:19-22 and not to people, compare Romans 8:22 with the next verse. Notice how he says "the whole creation groaneth" with "And not only they, but...even we ourselves groan..."

The "corruption" from which the creation will be delivered further strengthens this point. It means "decay," literally, which we see all around us. See Isaiah 35:1-3, 43:19, 51:3, and 60:13 for further confirmation. The smog, polluted water, scarred hillsides, and geological faults will be no more when "the desolations of many generations" are repaired and "the old wastes" are restored (Isaiah 61:4). Truly "earth shall wax and wane no more" when "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun, doth his successive journeys run." A study of Psalm 72 enlightens us further concerning the glorious reign of the King of kings, (especially notice verses 16-19).

(I would ask you to forgive the above delineation, but it does give a ray of joyous delight to such a depressingly sad subject.)

All Will Be Made Alive

"In Christ shall all be made alive" is one of the current most quoted phrases. A couple of tracts are circulating by that title now, and almost every "ultimate wrecker" has a tape so entitled.

It is one of the easiest verses to correctly interpret,

however, when taken in its context:

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward *they that are Christ's* at His coming" (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

Verse 22 is plain enough to see by itself. Paul says "in Adam all die" which is universally true since all men are descended from Adam. As Paul stated in his justification epistle,

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned" (Romans 5:12).

It is true "in Adam all die," but it is not conversely true that all men are IN CHRIST! Notice: "*...in Christ* shall all be made alive." Only those who believe on Him are in Him. "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature," and only "in Christ shall all be made alive" (see 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:26-29). Paul's glorious statement, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive," has been twisted to mean something Paul did not mean. Only "they that are Christ's" will be made alive "at His coming" (verse 23).

Paul's purpose in this passage, it should be noted, is to dispel the Corinthians' error of "no resurrection" (verses 12-17). His concern is primarily with bodily resurrection. The unrighteous will be raised from the dead, also, but as Jesus pointed out in John 5:28-29, "unto the resurrection of damnation." The resurrection of the unjust will be "*to shame and everlasting contempt.*" The righteous, on the other hand, will shine like "*the stars for ever and ever*" (Daniel 12:2).

What a contrast!

Chapter Four

The Lost Are Really Lost

In this chapter I sense the need to show the permanency of the sinner's character throughout the ages to come, the unceasing torment of the sinner throughout eternity, and his utter and complete lostness without hope after death.

Although these Bible facts were well established in chapter two where we studied *aion* and *aionios*, I wish to use other scriptures and scripture phrases which teach the eternal judgment of God without using *aion* or *aionios*. This is done for the sake of those who may insist that our understanding of these particular Greek words is incomplete or invalid. In this way we hope to silence the opposition of those who oppose themselves, if perhaps they can recover themselves out of the snare of the devil.

Let Him Be Filthy Still

Bible scholars throughout the history of the Church generally agree that the final chapter of the Revelation gives us a glimpse of the eternal state. In verse 11 we see the fact that one's character remains unchanged for the better or for the worse in the hereafter:

"He that is unjust (unrighteous), let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still."

The time of probation for the righteous is over. The time of change for the unrighteous is likewise over. A glorified saint (a changed holy one) will never again be

subject to temptation or capable of sinning, anymore than Christ could possibly sin, **"for we shall be like Him"** (1 John 3:2).

As comforting a thought as this indeed is to the true Christian, it should likewise be as tormenting a thought to the unholy. **There is no possibility of change in the hereafter.**

Furthermore, the "ultimate wrecker" will do well to take heed to a sure promise of God only eight verses later:

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his name OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE, and OUT OF THE HOLY CITY, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:19).

God will not tolerate malicious tampering with His Holy Word. A person may at first be deceived and later be restored through repentance and belief of the truth, but woe unto the man who settles into a state of permanent deception on this matter!

If the Tree Fall

Solomon expressed it this way:

"If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: AND IF THE TREE FALL TOWARD THE SOUTH, OR TOWARD THE NORTH, IN THE PLACE WHERE THE TREE FALLETH, THERE IT SHALL BE" (Ecclesiastes 11:3).

The Bible means a person when it speaks of "the tree" in this passage (write for our article on "The Trees of the Lord"). "If the tree falls toward the north" pictures the believer who goes to "the city of the great King" which is

on "the sides of the north" (Psalm 48:2). This city is located on "Mount Zion" (Psalm 48:1) which the writer of Hebrews equates with "the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" (Hebrews 12:22).

"If a tree falls" (if a person dies) "toward the north" (the city of God) or "toward the south" (the opposite direction) "THERE IT SHALL BE" (he will never change direction).

If He Had Not Been Born

This one especially strikes a deep chord inside me. If the "ultimate wreckers" are correct they make Jesus a horrible liar! That's the long and the short of it.

If every person will eventually be saved, or "if there were only one eternally damned soul it would be a defeat of Calvary," then Jesus lied!

Sound farfetched? Listen to the words of Jesus concerning Judas Iscariot:

**"The Son of man goeth as it is written of Him:
but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is
betrayed! *IT HAD BEEN GOOD FOR THAT
MAN IF HE HAD NOT BEEN BORN*"
(Matthew 26:24).**

If Judas Iscariot could be purified by the burning sulphur, in say, ten ages (due to the heinousness of his sin), he would still have the billions and trillions of heavenly ages without end to enjoy. He could walk up to Jesus 30 billion years from now and say, "I guess You weren't right after all when You said it would have been better for me to have never been born." I can assure you that such a thing will never happen. The son of perdition went "to his own place" (Acts 1:25) and will never get out. "As he loved cursing, so let it come to him...Let it be to him for a belt

with which he girds himself continually" (Psalm 109:17, 19 *New King James*). Once again we see the absurd foolishness of this Christ maligning error. If you have been listening to an "ultimate wrecker" it is high time you let God be true and every man a liar, no matter how good a friend, or likeable his personality.

Wolves, Jesus warned, dress in sheep's clothing.

A Great Gulf Fixed

Abraham explained to the rich man in hell that there was

"a great gulf fixed (a wide chasm established between the saved and the lost): so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence" (Luke 12:26).

The Dogs Stay Outside

The holy city described by John in Revelation 21 is full of glory and splendor. Who wouldn't want to go there? The wonders of the world pale by contrast.

Will everyone gain access to this city of which glorious things are spoken?

"And there shall in no wise (under no circumstances) enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27).

Who will enter into the city of God?

"Blessed are they THAT DO HIS COMMANDMENTS, that they may have right to the

tree of life, and MAY ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES INTO THE CITY" (Revelation 22:14).

Where are the ungodly?

"FOR WITHOUT (*outside*) are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Revelation 22:15).

(Who are "dogs"? Those who go back to vomit, 2 Peter 2:20-22.)

No Rest From Undiluted Wrath

"If any man worship the beast...The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, WHICH IS POURED OUT WITHOUT MIXTURE (*undiluted*) into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and THEY HAVE NO REST DAY NOR NIGHT..." (Revelation 14:9-11).

Where Their Worm Dieth Not

In warning men of Gehenna (hell fire) Jesus compared the eternal finality of those there with this phrase: ***"Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"*** (Mark 9:44, 46, 48). This is a quote from Isaiah 66:24, which in that case, refers to a future judgment on this planet against the rebellious. The worm signifies decay upon the rotten, unburied flesh of the God haters whose burning carcasses will be viewed with contempt by the godly (compare to Malachi 4:1,3).

That Jesus applied this phrase to an even sorer

punishment is clear. After the resurrection of the unrighteous dead, they will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20 in their corrupted bodies, and will be hurled into the lake of fire—**BODY AS WELL AS SOUL!** This is a fact many Christians overlook.

Note carefully these sayings of our Lord:

"...and not that THY WHOLE BODY SHOULD BE CAST INTO HELL..." (Matthew 5:29, repeated again in verse 30).

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy BOTH SOUL AND BODY IN HELL" (Matthew 10:28).

"...rather than having TWO HANDS or TWO FEET to be cast into everlasting fire...rather than having TWO EYES to be cast into hell fire" (Matthew 18:8-9).

In the lake of fire there will be, in my opinion, specially made creatures which will eat upon the resurrected bodies of the lost. That this will be perpetual is obviously His meaning in the phrase: **WHERE THEIR WORM DIETH NOT, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.**

It is my prayer for the majority of readers (who were never deceived in this error) that they will be moved upon by the Spirit of God afresh for world evangelism, in light of the eternal horrors awaiting the lost, "...by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). Those of us who teach and preach must take heed to rightly divide the Word of truth. We must teach both the love and the judgment of God.

In the eleventh chapter of Romans, the apostle Paul instructed his readers to behold the goodness and severity of God. Throughout the preceding two chapters he had

discussed his kinsmen according to the flesh, Israel, and shown both how Yahweh had blessed His covenant people in His goodness and also judged them in His severity because of their disobedience and obstinate heart.

I don't want to be misunderstood in what I am preparing to say to you, dear friend, but the gospel we hear preached today, for the most part, does not incline the hearer to behold the severity of God. Most well-known ministries major on showing people His goodness, and,

"Oh that men would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!" (Psalm 107:8,15,21,31).

We need to behold God's goodness, His acts of mercy, His unfailing love, and rejoice in the assurance of our salvation as multitudes of Scripture passages teach us.

His goodness, however, is to those who "continue in His goodness," Paul warns, "otherwise thou also shalt be cut off" (Romans 11:22).

The Bible is full of examples of God's wrath, yet few Christians now will listen to a man of God who points out these facts.

Notice carefully these New Testament passages as you look them up in your own Bible: Acts 5:1-11, 12:20-23; Romans 2:5-9; 1 Corinthians 10:5-12; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:26-31, 12:25-29; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 2 Peter 2:4-13, 3:3-12; Jude 11-15; Revelation 2:21-23 (and many other passages).

Unlike Paul, who "kept back nothing profitable" (Acts 20:20), there are hosts of shepherds who **"cannot bark"** (see Isaiah 56:9-10) nor **"sound an alarm"** (Joel 2:1) because they love **"the praise of men more than the praise of God"** (John 12:43).

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:2-3)

To order extra copies of this book write to

David Alsobrook Ministries

P. O. Box 2676
Paducah, Kentucky 42002
U.S.A.

Or

David Alsobrook Ministries

P. O. Box 983
Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N1
CANADA

We suggest a contribution of—

75 cents for 1 copy

\$5 for 10 copies

\$48 for 100 copies

\$90 for 200 copies

—to cover both printing AND postage.

Also Available from This Author

**The Mind of Christ
Melchizedek
The Fields Are White
Awake, Church!
No Lion Shall Be There
The Fruit of the Spirit
Called to Perfection
And Thy House
The Seven Temples of God
Free from Fear
Have You Ever Heard of Heavenfire?
Jesus Bore Our Sorrows
The Accuser
The Precious Blood
God Cannot Lie
Was the Cross Enough?
True Worship
Fulfill Your Ministry
Divine Energy of the Holy Spirit
The Bible Truth on Abortion
Falling Under the Power
Living, Powerful and Sharper**



Order from

**David Alsobrook Ministries
P.O. Box 2676, Paducah, Kentucky 42002
or in Canada
P.O. Box 93, Guelph, Ontario N1H 6N1**