

DISTORTED AND CONTRIVED RELIGIOUS TERMS #1,

By Jon Gary Williams (Part 3 of 4)

TERMS FOUND IN THE BIBLE BUT GIVEN DISTORTED MEANINGS

CALLED

The claim is made by many preachers that they have been “called” by God. By this they mean that God called them through some unusual experience. Some have said that God spoke to them through a bright light, telling them they were to preach. Some have claimed they were called to preach when they were seriously ill. Others have said God, in a dream, called them to preach. A farmer once told his friends that while he was plowing, in the clouds he saw the letters G P C and interpreted this to mean Go Preach Christ. But one of his friends told him, “From the looks of your crops, I believe God was telling you to Go Plow Corn.” Indeed, the Scriptures speak of a “calling,” but not of a mysterious, extraordinary calling. Actually, the Bible teaches that all who have obeyed the Gospel have been called — called in the same way — through the “Gospel” of Christ. “Whereunto He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 2:14). There is no other way to be called.

HELL

Jehovah’s Witnesses and a few other religions are known for teaching that “hell” is not a real place and that no one will go there. They believe when the lost die they merely cease to exist, which means that hell is nothing more than death. However, Jesus exposed this idea when he taught that the souls of the lost continue to exist. “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” (Matt. 10:28). Additionally, Jesus spoke of hell as a place of “outer darkness” (Matt. 25:30). The apostle Paul, speaking of the lost said, “Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord... “ (2 Thess. 1:9). Likewise, the apostle Peter spoke of hell as the “chains of darkness” (2 Peter 2:4), and Jude as “the blackness of darkness” (Jude 13).

PREDESTINATE

Most of the protestant world teaches that God individually predestinates (selects) those who are to be saved, even before they are born. Though the Bible speaks of predestination (Rom. 8:29,30), this is not individual predestination. Rather, God has predetermined a group to be saved — that group being made up of all who choose to obey Him (Heb. 5:9). Individual predestination is false for two reasons. First, because the Scriptures teach that God wants all to be saved (2 Tim. 3:9). The water of life is for “whosoever” (Rev. 22:17). Second, because God does not favor any person over another, He is not a respecter of persons. “And Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him” (Acts 10:34-35).

SAINTS

In the Catholic Church, some deceased people are elevated to what is called “Sainthood” and hold a special place in Catholic veneration. Such people are said to be “Saints.” There are four steps before someone can become “Sainted” according to Catholicism. First, such a person must be submitted by a Catholic Bishop. Second, a Postulator (church official) who coordinates the process and serves as an advocate, must prove that the candidate lived heroic virtues. Third, one miracle acquired through the candidate’s intercession is required. Fourth, before Canonization, a second miracle is required. Then the Pope declares the person a “Saint.” Obviously, such teaching is nowhere found in the Scriptures. Actually, the word “saint” is simply a contraction of the word “sanctify” which means “to be set apart.” The fact is, all Christians are “saints” because they have been set apart to God. Ephesians 1:1 says, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus” (compare 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1). Also, it is quite evident that having died is not a qualification for being a “saint.”

ANTICHRIST

This word is often falsely applied to a yet future wicked person. It is claimed that at some point this peculiar person will arise to wage a so-called “Armageddon” war against Christ. Such a doctrine is completely false, being entirely fabricated. There will be no such future person. The Scriptures clearly teach there was not one, but many anti-christs, and that they existed in the first century. “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that anti-christ shall come, even now there are man anti-christs...” (1 John 2:18). “For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an anti-christ” (2 John 7). The fundamental belief of the anti-christs was that all flesh is inherently sinful. And since all flesh is sinful, Jesus could not have possessed a fleshly body. To them, Jesus only seemed to have a body of flesh, appearing rather in some spiritual, illusory form.

TRIBULATION

One aspect of premillennial doctrine is the belief that before a so-called millennial reign of Christ on earth, there will be a “tribulation” period of seven years on earth, corresponding with a seven-year “rapture” of the saved above the earth. Such teaching is nowhere found in the Scriptures and is completely false. The “tribulation” mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 24:21 (to which premillennialists refer) was a tribulation that took place at the time of the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., and was a part of several events that took place before that generation would die. “Verily, I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled” (Matt. 24:34). Also, the apostle John said that he and others were experiencing “tribulation” (Rev. 1:9). A yet future seven year tribulation on earth is perverted teaching. (seektheoldpaths.com)

Braggs church of Christ Bulletin
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Sick & Shut-in

Bennett, Norma
Brashear, Logan
Bunch, Margaret
Cunningham, Jerry
Evans, Carla
Evans, Steve
Hall, Donna
Horn, Bobby
Isbell, Bill
Isbell, Thomas
Moore, Jean
Moore, Roger
Mouse, Tyler
Nunez, Bob
Prichard, Barbara
Prichard, Bobby
Prichard, Paula
Sturgeon, Wayne
Sullins, Ray
West, Dawn

Evangelism

Cliff Lyons, Ilya Muzychenko and Markov Roman, Russia
Ricky Gootam, India
House to House/Heart to Heart
Website - Braggschurchofchrist.com
Facebook.com@braggscc
In Search of The Lord's Way- Tulsa, OK, on
KQCW TV 19 - Sun 7:30 am

Attendance

February average - 35
Attendance last Sunday - 34

Scripture Reading – Prov. 2:13-15

News & Notes

Gospel Meeting with Allen Webster - July 25-27, 2021