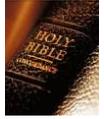


# The DEFENDER - April 2018



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: A Brood of Vipers

While preparing my message this year for Palm Sunday, I referenced the narrative in Mark 11 where Jesus' authority was challenged by the religious leaders of the day. These so-called church leaders were in a quandary about how to rid themselves of this Nazarene, who, in their minds, was becoming too popular with the people and threatening their authority. So they decided to trap Jesus with a question that would show Him to be either a blasphemer or a fanatic. Blasphemers, by Jewish law, could rightfully be stoned to death, which would quickly solve their “problem.” So they asked Him who it was that gave Him the authority to do the things He did. Jesus, of course, saw right through this guise, and knew that they were self-righteous, self-promoting people who were not really interested in the truth at all. They were more concerned about their position and reputation, not unlike our politicians in America today. So Jesus answered their question with a question of His own.

Was the baptism of John from heaven, or was it of men, Jesus wanted to know? They knew the right answer, but wouldn't truthfully tell Jesus. Trying to save face, they feigned ignorance.

John the baptizer, of course, had criticized the Pharisees for being legalistic and hypocritical, while criticizing the Sadducees for using religion to advance their political position. The Herodians, another political group, saw Jesus as a threat to their political future at a time when they were trying to regain from Rome some of their lost political power. None of these groups had any use for John, Jesus, the truth, or even the people they represented. They were just concerned about the power their positions afforded them.

I'm really not trying to draw any parallels here with what's going on with our own government and elected officials, although they certainly are obvious to see. The broader concern here is the fact that power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely (Lord Acton). We as Christians are not going to change human nature, but we can certainly remind those who act all high and mighty that it would behoove them to remember from where it is that their authority is derived. As Jesus was quick to tell Pontius Pilate when the Roman prefect tried to pull rank on our Lord, “You would have no power at all against Me, except it were given to you from above” (**John 19:11**).

In our nation, we the people have been given the freedom of speech as well as the power of the ballot box. As citizens, it's incumbent on us to elect people who will properly represent us and our God-given rights. And as believers it's our duty to remind them that there is indeed an authority higher and mightier than them. And it is to Him and Him alone that we are all ultimately accountable.

*Rev. Lewis*

# Answers for Our Catholic Friends

## Part 4 – Once Saved, Always Saved

### By Robert Luthardt

Deep doctrinal studies have their usefulness and can be valuable but rarely lead a lost sinner to Christ. Simple Biblical promises do so as long as God's Word is presented free of man's traditions (Col. 2:8), additions, and questionable emendations. "Ye shall NOT add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it" (Deut. 4:2), and "What things soever I command you ... thou shalt NOT add thereto, nor diminish" (12:32). "Every word of God is pure ... add thou NOT unto His words..." (Prov. 30:5-6). "And if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book ... if any take away from the words ... God shall take away his part out of the book of life..." (Rev. 22:18-19). Seems simple enough – DO NOT DO IT! Yet "high-minded" theologians have done just that.

The New Birth only occurs when uncorrupted scripture is heard in the opened ears of those God has called (Matt. 13:15-16) and whose heart God has opened: (one example – "And a certain woman named Lydia ... whose heart the Lord opened ..." Acts 16:14) and those whose minds God opens "to understand the scriptures" (Luke 24:45). "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding that we may know [LOVE] Him that is true, and we are in Him that is true ... Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and ETERNAL LIFE" (1 John 5:20).

Every descendant of Adam and Eve are born filled with darkness, blindness and death: "... of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat ... in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17) and "God saw the wickedness of man ... EVERY imagination of his heart was only evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Jesus confirmed man's fallen condition: "men loved darkness ... because their deeds were evil ...," (John 3:19) because, "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe NOT, lest the light ... of Christ ... should shine unto them" (2 Cor. 4:4).

God in His sovereignty (to raise the spiritually dead) first moves on an elect man's unregenerated natural human heart: "the heart of man is deceitful ABOVE all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9) for all descendants of Adam since the FALL are born spiritually dead: "And you, hath He quickened, who were [spiritually] dead..." (Ep. 2:1) and under Satan's control: "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience ... we all ... in the lusts of our flesh ... were BY NATURE the children of wrath" (Ep. 2:2-3) deserving eternal punishment.

We start out in our sin filled earthly life as natural born enemies of God: "... when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God ... their foolish heart was darkened" (Rom. 1:21, 29-32) and "As it is written, there is NONE righteous, NO NOT ONE" (Rom. 3:10-18) "For ALL have sinned ..." (vs. 23) and "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us .... For if, when we were ENEMIES, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son ... much more ... we shall be saved by His life" (Rom. 5:8-10) "... and you that were sometimes ENEMIES in your mind by wicked works yet now He hath reconciled" (Col. 1:21).

So, what exactly is the good news? Out of Adam's otherwise hopelessly lost race, God chose some to be His own adopted children: "According as He hath chosen us ... before the foundation of the world ... having predestinated us unto the adoption of children ..." (Ep. 1:4-5) "In whom we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to ... His own will ..." (vs. 11) and "who has saved us ... NOT according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace ... given us in Christ Jesus before the world began ..." (2 Tim. 1:9).

Once so enabled, we for the first time hear our Shepherd's voice (in scripture): Jesus said, "I am the door of the sheepfold ..." (John 10:7)." I am the good shepherd ..." who "... giveth His life for the sheep ..." (vs. 11) "and know my sheep ..." (vs. 14). "My sheep hear my voice ... and they follow me and I give them ETERNAL life ..." (vs. 27-28).

Scripture clearly explains the process of our being raised out of Adam's curse of being dead spiritually (Rom. 5:12, 17-21; Col. 2:11-12) being solely by God's grant to lost sinners of the unearned, undeserved, unmerited GIFT of faith by His GRACE alone: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that NOT of yourselves: it is the GIFT of God: NOT of works, lest any man should boast ..." (Ep. 2:8-10). Scripture further explains that the newly called born-again believer now has the Holy Spirit DWELLING in them making their regenerated heart the TEMPLE of God: "But if the spirit of Him that raised up Christ ... shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His spirit that DWELLETH in you ..." (Rom. 8:11) "know ye not that ye are the TEMPLE of God ..." (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 1:14; 1 John 4:12).

The Apostle Peter wrote: "Ye also, as lively [living] stones ... are a spiritual house, an holy priesthood ... acceptable to God ..." (1 Pet. 2:5) "who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light ..." (vs. 9). John confirmed Christ's divine will for us: "... as many as received Him to them gave He the power to become the sons of God, even to those who BELIEVE on His name ..." (John 1:12) but not by man's will but God's will alone (vs. 13).

Any who are burdened with guilt of heart or doubt of mind should trust Christ's words: "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9-10). Do this and receive the "peace that passes understanding ..." (Phil. 4:7) when you direct your prayer directly to God – no clergyman or any person, living or dead, need be (or even can be) involved. The best conclusion to any prayer is "in Jesus name" since He is our one and only intermediary to the Father: "And if any man sin, we have an advocate [DEFENDER] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1; Rom. 5:1; Ep. 2:14). Christ taught us to pray directly to the FATHER, NOT to anyone else (Matt. 6:9-1) and to never use vain repetitions: "when thou prayest ... pray to the FATHER ... in secret ..." and He shall reward you "openly ..." (vs. 6-7).

It is not only spiritual resurrection that is given to the foreordained of God: "He ... that BELIEVETH on Him that sent me, hath EVERLASTING LIFE ... passed from death unto life" (John 5:24 "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature ..." (2 Cor. 5:17) and, "NOT by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His MERCY He saved us ... by the washing ... and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5; James 1:18).

Some may say this is too simple, too easy. What it really is, is impossible – man cannot get himself saved. To be dead spiritually is analogous to physical death – having no life and no power whatsoever. When the disciples asked Jesus, “Who then can be saved? ...” Christ taught: “With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible ...” (Matt. 19:21-26) and “No man can come to me except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44, 63-65).

The unsaved jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: “Sirs, what must I DO to be saved?” (Acts 16:30). As to the jailer being given anything TO DO regarding his spiritual resurrection and regeneration, he was given nothing for him TO DO. He was simply told to “BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved ...” (vs. 31). Once drawn by the Father to Christ (John 6:44, 65) the now indwelling Holy Spirit begins a life-long sanctification process to which the believer has much to do. He is commanded to study God’s Word (John 14:26) “study to show thyself approved ... rightly dividing the Word of God” (2 Tim. 2:15). We are to receive Christ and His word as He commanded “as a little child” or never see the kingdom of God (Luke 18:15-17).

Christ issued another command. We are to “love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself ... this do and thou shalt live” (Luke 10:25-28).

What is a believer’s benefit? Jesus promised a mansion in heaven after He returns to earth for all the adopted children of God to take them home with Him (John 14:1-3). There will be permanent happiness with no tears, no pain, no suffering and no death. We are promised life eternal with the King of kings and the Lord of lords” (Rev. 21:4,6; 17:14).

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord SHALL BE SAVED” (Rom. 10:9-10, 13). Jesus said: “Come unto me ... and I will give you rest ...” (Matt. 11:28-30) and “Eye hath NOT seen, nor heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9).

Keep looking up.

Chief Source:

Author:

Publisher:

Simple Answers

Ray Yungen

Lighthouse Trails Publishing

P.O. Box 908

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866.876.3910

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*The Plan  
of Salvation*  
**COME, FOLLOW ME**

# Christ the Lord is Risen

By Nancy Long

Job 19:25 – *“For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.”*

Matt. 28:6a – *“He is not here: He is risen, as He said .....*”

Mark 16:6 – *“Be not afraid: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him.”*

Luke 24:6a – *“He is not here, but is risen .....* “

1 Cor. 15:55 – *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”*

Rev. 1:17b-18 -- *“Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen .....* “

## Christ the Lord is Risen Today

By Charles Wesley

“Christ the Lord is ris’n today,” Sons of Men and Angels say!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Sing ye heav’ns, and earth reply.

Love’s Redeeming Work is done, Fought the Fight, the Battle won,  
Lo! Our Sun’s Eclipse is o’er, Lo! He sets in Blood no more.

Vain the Stone, the Watch, the Seal; Christ hath burst the Gates of Hell!  
Death in vain forbids His Rise: Christ hath open’d Paradise!

Lives again our glorious King, Where, O Death, is now the Sting?  
Once He died our souls to save, Where thy Victory, O Grave?

Soar we now, where Christ has led, Following our Exalted Head,  
Made like Him, like him we rise: Ours the Cross; the Grave; the Skies.

What tho’ once we perish’d All, Partners of our Parent’s Fall,  
Second Life we All receive, In our Heav’nly Adam live.

Ris’n with Him, we upward move, Still we seek the Things above,  
Still pursue, and kiss the Son, Seated on the Father’s Throne;

Scarce on Earth a Thought bestow, Dead to all we leave below,  
Heav'n our Aim, and lov'd Abode, Hid our Life with Christ in God!

Hid; 'til Christ our Life appear, Glorious in His Members here;  
Join'd to Him, we then shall shine ... All Immortal, all Divine!

Hail the Lord of Earth and Heav'n! Praise to Thee by both be giv'n:  
Thee we greet Triumphant now; Hail the Resurrection Thou!

King of Glory, Soul of Bliss, Everlasting Life is This,  
Thee to know, thy Pow'r to prove. Thus to sing, and thus to love!

Alleluia ..... Alleluia

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in 1739, at the age of thirty-two. His original version contained the eleven verses seen above, with no "Alleluias", as is commonly viewed in hymn books today. However, the version to which we're accustomed has since been shortened, complemented with the "Alleluia" refrain, at the end of each verse.

Some say that Mr. Wesley wrote approximately 10 lines of poetic verse a day, for over 50 years. Many of these were turned into hymns that, not only expressed the truths of Scripture, but were also extremely upbeat and joyous. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing", "Rejoice, the Lord is King". "Jesus, Lover of My Soul", "And Can it Be?", "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing", "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus", are just to name a few. These and hundreds more, over 6000 in fact, continue to enrich, and make our lives more meaningful, in this current time in which we live.

Some hymns seem to capture, with absolute perfection, the beauty, and the meaning, and the spirit for which they've been written. This is one of those hymns! The prevailing theme here is the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and is probably sung in most of the world's churches at this particular holiday that some call "Easter".

Charles was the eighteenth of the nineteen children who were born to Samuel and Susannah Wesley. Sadly, only ten of these children lived to adulthood. Charles, himself, was born prematurely, in December 1707, and experienced an extremely difficult beginning, barely surviving his early months. God preserved his life though, living to the age of 81, while making quite the impact on the founding of Methodism.

Jesus Christ has indeed risen from the dead ..... Hallelujah!!! God has had a sovereign plan in place from before the beginning of time. Jesus Christ willingly left the glories of heaven, to come to this sin sick earth ..... to be born of a virgin ..... to live a perfect life ..... and to ultimately die, in order to pay, with His precious, perfect blood, the required price ..... for "sin". *God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we*

*were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16).*

God is love!! God is the epitome, the embodiment of love ..... His very essence is love!!! Such intense, overpowering, overwhelming love should cause us to pause, marvel, bow our heads ..... and give thanks. Please, Defender Friends, let’s all of us, who have been freely given this gift of eternal life, be grateful. Every single day, may we rejoice, and be glad ..... and be grateful for such a precious gift!!

To reiterate: God is not dead!!! He is alive!!! *“Because I live, ye shall live also” (John 14:19).* This is a promise on which we can all rejoice!

Through it all, we can have the victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ! What a God! What a splendid, marvelous, glorious God we serve!! We are indeed victorious, both here on this earth, as well as throughout eternity. Easter 2018 is past. Resurrection Sunday for this year is no more ..... but the truth that we serve a risen Savior ..... One who is alive and well, and will never leave or forsake His own, will be forever a certainty!! Let’s not hide the truth we know under a bushel, but be bold and shout it from the rooftops! Let’s **live** as though we believe!!



*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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### **DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS**

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT  
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC  
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC

### **WRITE TO US!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
In Defense of Truth  
2927 Cub Hill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

## **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Night Youth Group	7:00 PM