

Cut and Paste Christianity Part 3

Good, Bad, Heaven and Hell

In researching topics on a weekly basis for Sabbath study, I've been finding out just how skewed the world's view of Christianity has become. When a subject pops into my head, it rattles around for a bit, I try and dissect it and dig up various views from some of the on-line so-called Christian sites. What starts out as something small morphs into a much larger and deeper study than I had anticipated, like rolling a snow ball down a hill (for those of us who know what snow is) and watching it grow to enormity. The topic of "Cut and Paste Christianity" fits aptly to the doctrines of most all churches outside the true Churches of God. This is not a boast but if they are not living by every word that proceeds out of the Mouth of God (**Deut. 8:3, Matt. 4:4, Luke 4:4**), they're missing the mark.

I'll not slander any of their sites but will mention a few in case you'd care to do some investigation on your own (billygraham.com, 911Christ.com, bible.org).

There is a plethora of information from well-meaning folks who twist God's Word like a soft pretzel and have as much Bible knowledge as I have about brain surgery. Some of the websites really take effort to assuage the concerns of those who pose questions seeking biblical answers from life's issues. The deception is

blatantly obvious. Hopefully, this will assist us in having ready answers (**1 Peter 3:16**).

All this aside, I thought I'd limit this offering to just two concepts:

1. Being Good going to Heaven
2. Being Bad Going to Hell

Being Good

Matthew 19:16-17 “Now at that time, one came to Him *and* said, “Good Master, what good *thing* shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” And He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good except one—God. But if you desire to enter into life, keep the commandments.” (**Mark 10:18**).

That really sums up the whole “being good” idea right there, not even considering the lie of going to heaven. If Jesus Himself declines to share in the title of “being good” and says *only* God is good, how can we begin to compare or have any hope of measuring up to any level in comparison? There is however more of a focus on the good we can do.

1 Timothy 6:17-19- “Charge those who are rich in this present age not to be high minded, nor to put *their* hope in *the* uncertainty of riches; but *to put their hope* in the living God, Who abundantly gives us all things for *our* enjoyment; *To do good,*

to be rich in good works, to be generous in giving, to be ready to share; Treasuring up for themselves a good foundation for the future, so that they may lay hold on eternal life.” **Colossians 1:10**- “That you may walk worthily of the Lord, unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God;” The work we do and the work that is taking place in us is of foremost importance (**Phil. 1:6**). God does the saving; we need to do our part and stay out of His way. Those who do not conform to this belief are lying to themselves (**Titus 1:16**). We do have a standard by which we can compare ourselves and that is to the image of God and our Savior Jesus Christ (**Gen. 1:27, Gen. 5:1, Romans 6:5, 8:29, 1 Cor. 11:7, 15:49, 2 Cor. 3:18, Eph. 4:13**). “Do not lie to one another, *seeing that* you have put off the old man together with his deeds, And have put on the new man, who *is* being renewed in knowledge according to *the* image of Him Who created him;”- **Col. 3:9-10**. This is about as short and sweet as it gets. They never mention Sabbath keeping, keeping Holy Days, obeying all of God’s Commandments and so on. But it probably pays the bills and keeps some of these TV preachers in jets and mansions.

They spew out the lies about grace and “by no other name”, chopping up God’s Word to fit their agenda.

I do want to share a few lines from one of the sites on their idea of being good.

They explain that being good will not gain entry into heaven and that good people

do not go there, only “forgiven” people go to heaven. One site even said homosexuals can go to heaven if they receive Jesus. Also, just being nice, baptized, a church member, deacon, preacher, doing good deeds or giving to charities will not get you to heaven either. They are briefly correct in their assumptions but miss the overall message; **NOBODY GOES TO HEAVEN.**

Going to Heaven

Right now, let’s do a recap from part one to clarify that nobody goes to heaven.

From **Genesis 3:19**- “In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground; for out of it you were taken: for dust you *are*, and to dust you shall return.” God makes it clear; He is putting us right back where He got us from, the dust of the Earth. Many ask, “Well what about the spirit (the breath of life)?” Well, that belonged to God in the first place, it was not ours. Even if we were a baptized saint and had received His Holy Spirit, it would return unto Him (**1 Cor. 6:20**), our mortal body would still be returned to the ground from which it came. His Spirit returns to Him. **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – “And the dust returns to the earth as it was: and the spirit returns to God who gave it.” It doesn’t say anything about a trip up to heaven anywhere. What about all of our thoughts and memories? **Ecclesiastes 9:5-6**- “For the living know they shall die: but the dead know not anything, nor do they have any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, and

their hatred, and their envy, is long ago perished; nor do they any longer have a portion forever in all that is done under the sun.” Again, we see that when we die, our thoughts, our memories, all that we were, dies with us. We know nothing.

So, who does go to heaven? Jesus Himself answers this question in **John 3:13**- “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man which is in heaven.” (KJV). By the very words of Jesus Himself, NO person has ever ascended up to the third heaven where God the Father is seated. This deception is a lie from Satan and has been perpetuated through the ages and the many divisions among Christianity. Enough said. Nobody goes to heaven.

Romans 10:9- “That if you confess with your mouth *the* Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from *the* dead, you shall be saved.” That’s all you have to do. This particular scripture seems to be a favorite of those who subscribe to this misguided doctrine. Yep, it sounds good, let’s run with it and forget the majority of the rest of it...it’ll lead them right to the “sinner’s prayer.”.

The “sinner’s prayer” is an evangelical term referring to any prayer of repentance where the person admits they are a sinner, confess their sins and invite Jesus into their hearts to be the Lord of their lives. You’ll typically see the “sinner’s prayer” at the end of a church service or a “revival” (another biggie) in which the pastor will invite those in attendance for an altar call who want to have Christ in their

lives. The alter call is geared for a body count of how many people that were “saved” during the service. Once at the alter or down front, they will usually repeat a prayer uttered by the pastor and they will then become saved and “born again.” There is usually the mention that they are now saved from going to hell if they die as they now have Christ in their lives.

The fear tactic of going to hell is something that is ingrained in us since childhood. I always remember my grandma telling me, “Always be a good boy or the bad man will get you!” I always envisioned a Snidely Whiplash type character lurking in the shadows to whisk me off to a fiery doom (We’ll touch on hell in a little bit). The sinner’s prayer is a complete farce. This is yet another man-made invention by carnal men (deceived by Satan) who have not only undermined the very word of God, but also make God out to be a liar. We know God cannot lie (**Titus 1:2**). Along with Romans 10:9, they twist John 1:29, John 14:1 and Acts 4:12 to fit the “believe in Jesus” and off to heaven we go fairy tale.

Being Bad

As we have read that no one is good but God, this is probably a shorter subject. Now we know we are not all “bad” as we tend to think in human terms but all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**Rom. 3:23**). Do those who die without

repentance, baptism, knowing and living God's way through Jesus Christ have a second chance at the Second Resurrection? **Rev. 20:5-6-** "But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed. This *is* the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power. But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." God does not want any of us to perish, "The Lord is not delaying the promise *of His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is longsuffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." **2 Peter 3:9 (Ezek. 37:1-14, 1 Tim. 2:4-6).**

Sorry Grandma, the bad man isn't going to get us if we do what God says in His word. This of course doesn't include those who have committed the unpardonable sin (**Mark 3:28, Heb. 6:4-6**). Most of the modern Christian doctrines fail to teach or mention the resurrection from the dead much less a Second Resurrection.

Going to Hell

In looking into the roots of hell, you'll find a myriad of origins. One that I found of particular interest was one that pertained to ancient Israel, specifically those who

had been in bondage to Egypt for 400 years. Much of the Egyptian culture and influences of their pagan gods polluted those in captivity. The truth is that these pagan ideas have no origin in the scriptures. If we choose to continue believing this junk, we are simply putting our faith in lies and we know the devil is the father of lies (**John 8:44**). Much of their history and customs were lost over the centuries in captivity. In addition, most cultures have some form of “hell” or place of eternal damnation and judgment. But what does God’s Word have to say on the matter?

First, let’s look at the root of where hell came from; in the Hebrew word sheol and the Greek word hades. We know these from our studies over the years. It is important for us to understand these words in their original languages so that we can be clear that neither of these words should never have been translated as “hell.” In the Bible it is used as the following; the underworld, grave, hell, pit, the abode of the dead, and the place of no return. The word sheol is found 65 times in the Old Testament of the King James Bible and sheol was translated as hell in 31 scriptures. Would you be surprised to know that the word “grave” also appears some 31 times and the word “pit” 3 times in the King James also translated from the same Hebrew word sheol. There is no logical or scriptural justification for the word “hell” to take the place of the Hebrew word “sheol. There are numerous concerns in the King James Version one should be aware of. Over the centuries,

new beliefs were formed to create this modern view of hell, more specific, eternal damnation and punishment.

John 6:44- “No one can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day” (**John 6:65**). If a pastor is telling you to accept Jesus into your heart to avoid going to hell, he’s not even in the ballpark of telling you the truth. “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.”- **John 8:32**.

The whole alter call charade is to draw you in emotionally to repent from sin and then when they hand out their tracks or pamphlets afterwards, they’ll further their agenda coercing you to participation to avoid going to hell. I know these things first hand from attending Pentecostal churches in the past. Definitely a dog and pony show for a body count. False doctrine and fearmongering for sure. I must admit that there are an unlimited number of senseless false teachings in the church but all of them take a back seat to the evil teaching of hell. So many would be dispelled if folks would only read ALL of God’s Word (**Hosea 4:6**).

Romans 10:2- “For I testify of them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of the righteousness *that* comes

from God, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.”

Rev. 2:9- “I know your works and tribulation and poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy of those who declare themselves to be Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.”

Rev. 2:13- “I know your works and where you dwell, where the throne of Satan *is*; but you are holding fast My name, and did not deny My faith, even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.”

These false teachers don't know the real gospel of Christ. They have been taught about the terrible false doctrine of hell that is one of the greatest deceptions in the church and they shall be accursed (**Gal. 1:8-9**). Salvation is God's business and Israel made it their business as do modern churches which profess to be Christian. The only part we play in this picture is to believe, be obedient and live by faith. It is God that gives us this faith to begin with but the problem arises when man takes credit for God's work and changes His Word to fit a bill of goods. Modern day Christians are committing the same crime as did Israel, forgetting to live by every Word of God. The whole hype of “saving” souls is a man-made religious hoax. So, a warning to all pastors and preachers out there who are spreading this false

doctrine of heaven and hell, you will be held to a greater standard of judgment (**1 Peter 4:17, James 3:1**). The teaching of a false hope of “going to heaven” and the lie of “burning in an eternal hell” is certainly not preaching the “good news.”

Many Christians “play” church. They attend every Sunday (well Christmas and Easter) pray, pay tithes, and read the bible (one verse at a time). They do this because they think that doing these things will keep them out of hell. “Hey, I’ll throw a buck in the plate and sing a hymn or two...” All of these traditions and actions will not change one thing about their sinful carnal flesh. True spiritual conversion and diligent obedience to God’s way of life is the only thing that can give a person the power to live righteously (**Romans 5:8**). This entire process is in the Hands of God Almighty. Religion is big business and as with all businesses, the goal is to increase profit. How do churches increase their profits? By spreading their evil doctrines and scaring people into being Christians because more Christians equals more tithes and offerings. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of sound mindedness.”- (**2 Tim. 1:7**).

Jesus didn’t die to save us from an eternity spent in hell. Jesus died to atone for the sins of the world to save us from the only punishment for sin which is death. The wages of sin is death not an eternal life in hell. **Romans 6:23**- “For the wages of

sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rev. 20:14-15).

There is only one gospel of Christ. Christ died for us, paid the penalty for our sins, and was resurrected to life. **John 5:26-29**- “For even as the Father has life in Himself, so also has He given to the Son to have life in Himself; And has also given Him authority to execute judgment because He is the Son of man. Do not wonder at this, for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves shall hear His voice. And shall come forth: those who have practiced good unto a resurrection of life, and those who have practiced evil unto a resurrection of judgment.

“In an instant, in *the* twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for *the* trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruptibility, and this mortal must put on immortality. Now when this corruptible shall have put on incorruptibility, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?”- **1 Cor. 15:52-55**.

Our Lord and Savior is coming back for us. We have the promises of God to live by and the example of Jesus to follow. Our spiritual conversion will not take place

overnight. It will take the rest of our lives committed to prayer, study and growing in the image of Christ.

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