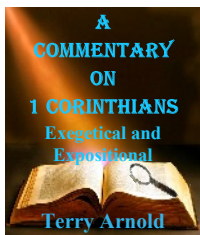


**** New Books ****



The author has in recent years completed commentaries on *First Corinthians* and *Revelation*. We now have these books as PDF documents for a donation. (Hard copies are currently not available).



'*A Commentary on First Corinthians - Exegetical and Expositional*' (330 pages)
'*A Commentary on Revelation - Exegetical and Expositional*' (150 pages).

The First Corinthians commentary is exhaustive and includes chapter study questions. It is designed for the preacher and student, and contains detailed exegetical, expositional and pastoral notes.

The Revelation commentary likewise is expositional and adapted from the series published in *Diakrisis* between 2020 to 2023.

The following endorsements have been given for the books:

'*With meticulous exegetical precision...the author carefully navigates through the entirety of 1 Corinthians providing a thorough verse-by-verse explanation...a highly recommended resource for readers seeking deep understanding and application of the text*'. (Todd Stanton, Pastor-Teacher, Sydney)

'*...Terry reveals the heart of the Apostle John's revelation...by 'leaving no stone unturned' approach to the interpretation and meaning...This work will encourage, excite, and motivate the reader to a greater appreciation of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ...I heartily recommend this commentary on Revelation*' (Pastor Keith Henderson, Qld)

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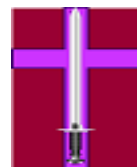
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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,
Teaching, Informing and Equipping the church.
Editor: Terry Arnold (Dr.Th; MABS; Dip.Bib.&Min.)

The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

We welcome comments or items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

Articles in this newsletter may be copied or reproduced provided it is in context and proper credit and references are given. We encourage distribution of this newsletter that others might be *taught, informed* and *equipped*.

This newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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Editor's Comment

Why are there so many Christians 'falling away', 'de-converting', and lately some leaving Protestant churches to join Catholicism or Orthodox churches?

God But Not Christ

Every soul is made in the image of God (Gen.1:27; 9:6), the law of God written on their heart (Rom.2:15), and with no excuse not to worship the one God of creation (Rom.1:19,20). But if that is as far as a person has settled, then they are left *outside of Christ* and His regeneration with the promise of Heaven. Romans chapter 1-3 does not save those who believe in God yet not Christ; it damns the 'whole world', both Jews and Gentiles (Rom.3:19), and by whichever law they *cannot keep* (Rom.2:6,12-15; 3:9-20). Only belief in Christ, His Gospel and by His law of righteousness can any be saved (Rom.1:16,17; 3:24-28; Acts 4:12).

Believing in God is not enough. Many fall away, de-convert or transfer to other religions because they have not *believed with the heart the Christ* who offered the perfect sacrifice to satisfy the very judgement the book of Romans speaks of.

False 'Decisions'

Many are deceived by a 'decisional regeneration' which is little more than a mental assent to truth, but one without an opening of the heart (Matt.13:19-23; Acts 16:14). The Gospel call with new decisional methods minimises the necessity of the Holy Spirit to draw and open the heart 'dead in sins' (Eph.2:1,5; Col.2:13). Hence many will hear the words '*I never knew you*' (Rom.7:21-23).

The Religious Deception

Many 'Protestants' have left Protestant theologies and adopted Roman Catholicism or similar Orthodox religions. Sadly many have difficulty in understanding the key areas biblical Christianity differs from Catholicism and Orthodox religions. Although there are similar cardinal doctrines with these religions, the gospels differ drastically as to *how a person is made righteous with God*. The Biblical doctrine of Justification by an imputed righteousness (Rom.4) is either denied or replaced with a righteousness gained by sacraments and works.

Where Protestantism appears divided, such religions offer a system of laws, sacraments and works that *appears firm and guiding*. But Biblical Christianity requires the person to '*work out their own salvation*' (Phil.2:12,13), to '*study as a workman dividing the truth*' (2Tim.2:15), moving from '*milk*' to '*meat*' (Heb.5:12-1), and thus to understand more the Gospel of grace that saved them (Eph.2:8,9).

The Mega Churches

Many Mega churches have also worsened this falling away with shallow feel

Editor's Health Update

For those subscribers who are not on e-mail for the newsletter, many may not be aware that the editor suffered a heart attack late August while travelling.

The editor would like to express his thanks for the many e-mails and text messages received concerning his health, and prayers for his recovery.

He has recovered fully at home and hopes to be back travelling and ministering in 2025, God willing.



Gospel Confusion Conference

Due to a health issue the editor was forced to postpone this conference last October. It is now to be re-scheduled - probably for the first half of 2025, God willing.

U-tube Clip Worth Looking At!

On the **Olympic Games**: Martyn Iles '*Living in Babylon*'
<https://youtu.be/TFk2Lta22zU?si=fnIAoaDXm6yMAQnj>

Inspiration

'Inspiration does not mean the Bible contains God's revelation. It does not mean gems of revealed truth are concealed in Scripture. It does not mean men wrote God's truth in their own words. It does not mean God merely assisted the writers. It means that the words of the Bible are the words of God Himself. Every word of Scripture was breathed out by God'.

(John MacArthur, Masters Seminary Journal 14/2)

'The excessive preeminence given to the Holy Spirit in their devotions and their preoccupation with gifts, ecstasies, and 'prophecies' has tended to neglect of the Scriptures. Why be tied to a Book out of the past when one can communicate every day with the living God? But this is exactly the danger point. Apart from the constant control of the written revelation, we soon find ourselves engulfed in subjectivity; and the believer, even if he has the best intentions, can sink rapidly into deviations, illuminism or exaltation. Let each remind himself of the prohibition of taking anything away from Scripture or adding anything to it (Deut.4:2; Rev.22:18-19). Almost every heresy and sect has originated in a supposed revelation or a new experience on the part of its founder, something outside the strictly biblical framework'.

(René Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, P.319)

also in history - with the early church Fathers mentioning Sunday keeping...They distinguished this quite early from the Jewish Sabbath...They also called Sunday 'Resurrection Sunday'. Some say that is the change of the Sabbath, but I don't see that as a good argument for a 'change'.

I see Acts 20:7 as Sunday? The first day of the week has always been Sunday? But if I am wrong on that I would be happy to look at any evidence...

On our website taministries.net you will find an article '*Saturday or Sunday*' and also '*Covenant Charts*'. The latter I have used with success with SDA's to show them they are in the *wrong covenant*...

The Lord bless you for your study on these things...

Hi Terry,

The terrorists Houthis official slogan reads 'God is the Greatest. Death to America. Death to Israel. Curse the Jews. Victory to Islam'.

(G.C., Qld)

Editor's comment:

This is what the heart of the war in the middle east is really about - the *extermination* of the Jews by terrorists and *retaliation* by a defending nation. Arguments run to and fro as to a so called 'occupation' and 'genocide' by Israel. Yet Israel has always been in the land and at times handed over land and even taken their own people out (Gaza 2005). They have also given into every peace offer which the terrorists have rejected. Yes, they do kill innocent civilians - those caught up as shields to terrorists who use hospitals and schools to attack from. The terrorists build tunnels under such places and into Israel territory. They have one main goal - *the extermination of a race of people*.

People need to consider what it is like to live in Israel on a daily basis and be surrounded and constantly attacked by enemies. Israelites are used to bomb warnings, sirens and shelters. Arguably some of the young people in the October 2023 massacre who were slaughtered, raped and mutilated - some were so accustomed to bomb warnings and sirens, they hesitated evacuate.

Israelites have apps on their phones that warn them of an attack in their area. Homes have safe rooms. *Thousands* of bombs fly overhead each year (much not reported by the main stream media) - fortunately almost all of these missiles are taken out by Israel's missile protection devices. After schooling young people must do military training to be ready for call up for the next war. Soldiers carry weapons when off duty. Security in public is abnormally high compared to other countries. This is life in Israel under *terrorism and with terrorists at their doors!*

Dear Terry,

Thank you for sending Diakrisis over the many years - appreciate your devotion and uncompromising stance to the Word. God bless you, in Christ...

(R.C., SA)

good market driven philosophies which at best sugar coat the teaching of the vital Gospel doctrines of grace. They are really just another form of the world's ecumenical religion, increasingly humanistic and shallow in doctrine. The ecumenical movement is messy and confusing with so many differing views, all attempting to unite differing faiths in an impossible harmony. It's progressivism and liberalism holds many professing Christians with hearts that do not bear real fruit and thus they fall away. Many, even their leaders, are becoming confused with 'de-conversions'.

The Media/Internet

The Internet and social media have added to the falling away in the west. Such media is awash with major doctrines being attacked. Many are influenced by sites that do not teach biblical or historic orthodoxy. Neither do they tend to enhance self study and critical thinking. Thus many are tossed to and fro by these means instead of being rooted in solid local church *teaching* with *application* to life.

The Antidote!

One wonders if those who fall away or 'deconstruct' within these groups have fully understood their unsaved depravity and the unmerited divine grace needed. Have they seen their unsaved state as a *slave* to and *dead* in sins, by *nature* a child of wrath (Jn.8:34; Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), *unable* to obey the law of God (Rom.8:7,8; Jn.6:37-44,65), having no understanding of the things of the Spirit (1Cor.2:14), with eyes blinded by Satan (2Cor.4:4), a heart *wicked* and *blinded* (Jer.17:9; Eph.4:18), with a righteousness as *filthy rags* (Is.64:6-8)? Has such a one understood the grace that makes the dead nature come *alive* (Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), *opening, regenerating* the heart (Tit.3:5; Acts 16:14), giving an *imputed righteousness* (Rom.4) not theirs, but wrought by the saving Christ, in a once and for all atonement on the cross to satisfy a holy and just God (2Cor.5:17-19)?

The antidote is to teach these truths, the negative concerning the plight of man against the law of God, and the positive concerning the deliverance in Christ Jesus the Saviour. These were the landmark teachings of the Reformers, the Puritans and the revivalists who saw nations turned upside down for Christ.

These old paths knew little of multitudes falling away, and certainly not the new phrases of 'de-conversions' ('de-constructionism'). The truths of *man's plight* and an *effectual grace* should perish the thought of wanting to 'de-convert' or change to another religion! When one has been given a new heart and is being renewed in the mind with the beauty of the person of Christ and His atoning work, what else is there to fall back to?

When Jesus said '*no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father*', many at that point '*walked no more with him*' and '*then Jesus said unto the twelve, Will you also go away?*' Let their answer be that of the reader: '*to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that you are that Christ, the Son of the living God*' (Jn.6:65-69)!

Terry Arnold

Persecution - India

‘Worship services at a church in a village in central India’s Madhya Pradesh state have been suspended since Hindu extremists attacked the congregation on June 1...The mob of about 20 villagers led by members of the Hindu extremist Bajrang Dal intruded into the house of Pastor Madia Damor in Thuvadara village, Jabua District, disrupting the worship service and beating the 50 people gathered for fasting prayer, including women and children.

The assailants...seized Bibles from children and began beating male and female members, Pastor Damor said. ‘There was all chaos. The children and women were crying, shouting, asking them to stop, but they forcefully dragged them out of my house. When I tried to stop the mob from attacking the women and children, they pushed me off and threatened me that they would kill me if I conducted church prayers in the village again’.

...The mob seized a 54-year-old Christian identified only as Noorji...He was isolated from the congregation, ...They started pelting stones at him...They warned the members that whoever gathers for prayers would be stoned to death...Noorji underwent treatment at a private hospital in Jabua for over a month. ‘He has not recovered fully yet’ the pastor said. ‘The treatment has been very expensive for Noorji’s family. He is only a laborer and earns daily wages for his livelihood’.

...Village Christians later went to Ranapur Taluk police station to report the attack...but the mob soon arrived, and officers sided with the assailants.

Hindu extremists previously launched attacks on the congregation in 2019, 2015 and 2012...In the 2019 assault, the pastor’s daughter-in-law was so severely injured that they had to cease worship services for a year.

‘Sunday worship, however, has now completely stopped...They have shut down the only church present in the village’, Damor stated.

The hostile tone of the National Democratic Alliance government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), against non-Hindus, has emboldened Hindu extremists in several parts of the country to attack Christians since Modi took power in May 2014, religious rights advocates say’.

(Morning Star News, July 19, 2024)

Editor:

Persecution in India has worsened since the *National Democratic Alliance* government, led by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata, began in 2014.

Attempts have been made by western watch groups as well as 3,000 ecumenical Christian leaders in India, to challenge the government on human rights abuse. They cite the attacks on Christians have risen from 127 incidents in 2014 to 720 in 2023. More than 400 churches have been destroyed or damaged and thousands of Christians displaced when they have refused to convert to Hinduism (laws in some areas forbid conversion to Christianity, with arrest). Many Christian schools and hospitals have been defunded and henced closed. India is now rated by many who report persecution, as the third worst country in the world.

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Greetings brother Terry, Thank you for sending the newsletter, a simple modest publication, but more readable than anything else I subscribe to. I was interested in your argument with the doctrines of SDA’s [‘The Strawmen in Christian Teaching’, Diakrisis, P.13-16]...I’ve had a lot to do with them having been brought to the Bible and the Lord Jesus Christ through an Adventist minister nearly 50 years ago, (who afterward left the denomination upon realising the errors of their false prophetess, E.G.White). I’ve never been a member of that cult.

May I add to the questions...by asking your response to the question: where in the NT is there support for meeting on the first day of the week?

We are in a Gospel church where...there is a solid adherence to the Word...we meet on Sunday. The most common answer I hear is from Acts 20:7, but my understanding of the context is that this event took place on Saturday night. This is argued by some non-sabbatarian scholars such as Dr Chuck Missler. Paul spoke until midnight, lights in the chamber etc, and Paul walked after the light of day 17 miles from Troas to Assos on Sunday morning. Also, the breaking of bread was more likely a fellowship meal than the Lord’s supper. The same time of day (of night) may also account for the time of the resurrection of the Lord...Is Sunday just a long standing tradition (one I enjoy) or is it solidly founded in the Bible, or is it just not known for sure?

*I do believe in justification by grace alone, not works and understand the ‘Rest’ we have in Christ and future millennial rest...I would enjoy your wisdom on this...
(G.H., Tas)*

Editor’s reply (excerpts only):

...It is uncommon to find someone today who will see the SDA as we used to describe them - a ‘cult’. It is mainly their teaching on the deity of Christ...and the atonement that makes them cultic...(of course E.G. White was cultic too)...the Law in their system of salvation is such a binding thing.

Short answer...I differ from some colleagues in theological circles who state the Sabbath has been changed to Sunday. I see the Sabbath as literally a REST day and Sunday as traditionally in the Bible and history as the main day of assembling. People confuse *rest* with *worship*? As a former Pastor, Sunday was my hardest working day - never a ‘Sabbath’ as I saw it, but a day of gathering, worship. I used to take a week day as a ‘sabbath’ and do something restful, meditate and regather for the next task of ministry. But everyone should make up there own mind as to when they keep a Sabbath (Rom.14:1-5).

I distinguish between the Jewish Sabbath (which is what the SDA’s have under the Mosaic covenant), and Sunday as simply a day for church assemblies. I see Sunday as the day that Christians first met to break bread and worship. I get that from the ‘first day of the week’ which was traditionally and in scripture, Sunday (Acts 20:7; 1Cor.16:1,2; Jn.20:19,26). This day is

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Charles Darwin Myth - The Eye

The following is a reply to a question concerning the belief that Charles Darwin was convinced against his evolutionary theories by the complexities of the eye.

Editor's reply (excerpts only):

Many have been deceived by a quote by Darwin...Here is what is quoted by Darwin with the evolution of the eye: *'To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, for correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree'* (*The Origin of Species* P.227).

But the quote continues...and Darwin holds firm to his *unbelief* in God: *'When it was first said that the sun stood still and the world turned round, the common sense of mankind declared the doctrine false; but the old saying of Vox populi, vox Dei, every philosopher knows, cannot be trusted in science. Reason tells me, if numerous gradations from a simple and imperfect eye to one complex and perfect can be shown to exist, each grade being useful to its possessor, as is certainly the case; if further, the eye ever varies and the variations be inherited, as is likewise certainly the case; if such variations should be useful to any animal under changing conditions of life, then the difficulty of believing a perfect complex eye could be formed by natural selection, though insuperable by our imagination, should not be considered as subversive of the theory'*.

Quotes sometimes need to be checked to an original source. In this case Darwin was perhaps puzzled, but still atheistic in the end...He refused to relinquish the idea of *'fine known graduations'*, as he writes in other *'letters'*. There is no evidence Darwin was convinced otherwise by the human eye.

Our Gospel tract *'Eternal Questions'* has a summary of evolution as an ice breaker...Molecular biology cannot prove self producing power in so called early forms of life. We see entropy, a downhill reproduction, not an uphill evolution. The *'links'* in evolution are missing....primitive > modern Plants - missing. *'Supposedly somewhere within the group called algae lay the sources of the higher plants, the vascular groups. Whatever these ancestors may have been, they seem to have been irrevocably lost in the vastness of time'* (Evolutionist, E. Olsen); single cells > invertebrates - missing. *'...Extensive searches by palaeontologists have failed to reveal pre-Cambrian strata rich in fossils...which Darwin believed must somewhere exist'* (Evolutionist, R. Leakey).

'The chance that higher life forms might have emerged in this way is comparable with the chance that 'a tornado sweeping through a junk yard might assemble a Boeing 747 from the materials therein' (Sir Fred Hoyle, Professor of Astronomy, Cambridge Uni).

'God created the heaven and the earth...God created great whales and every living creature...God made the beast of the earth... God created man...' (Gen.1).



The god of Sport

United States track star Noah Lyles praised God after securing the title of 'fastest man in the world' by winning a gold medal in the men's 100-meter final at the Paris Olympics...giving thanks to God before and after the race.

'I had to find my own journey with God, and a lot of that came through track because there were a lot of times where I thought I don't know if I can do this' Lyles told Premier Christian Radio... *'God, if you really want me to do this, give me a sign. He gave me a sign, and I said, 'I'll never doubt You again'*...Lyles has been open about the life struggles he's faced that nearly thwarted his Olympic dreams. *'I have Asthma, allergies, dyslexia, ADD, anxiety and depression. But...what you have does not define what you can become. Why Not You'* Lyles wrote... *'I thank God every day for getting me through each and every round, healthy, mentally and physically'*... *'My coach...recently died...and when I was running on the back stretch... 'This one is for you man...I know that he's watching...'* (Christian Post, August 07, 2024)

Editor's Comment:

In everything we do, we are to give glory to God (1Cor.10:31), but it seems a fashion today to attach God's endorsement to earthly dreams, and with *'give me a sign'* that He approves? The *'faith'* here is then based on the sign given?

Pope Francis - 'all religions are a path to God'

During a three-day visit to Singapore, Pope Francis declared that 'all religions are a path to God' sparking backlash among religious leaders in the U.S. ...Francis...stated 'If you start to fight, 'my religion is more important than yours, mine is true and yours isn't', where will that lead us?' he asked... 'There's only one God, and each of us has a language to arrive at God. Some are Sheik, Muslim, Hindu, Christian, and they are different paths [to God]'


...Bishop Joseph Strickland, who oversaw the Roman Catholic Diocese of Tyler, Texas, until his dismissal by the Vatican last year, stated 'Please pray for Pope Francis to clearly state that Jesus Christ is the only Way. To deny this is to deny Him. If we deny Christ, He will deny us, He cannot deny Himself.'

...In Singapore, Catholics are about 3.5% of the population, with Christians at 19%, Buddhists at 31%, Muslims at 15% and significant Hindu and Sikh minorities.

Editor's Comment:

Pope Francis has also said *'the heart itself is good'* - which is the Pelagian heresy of the 5th century, which denied original sin, taught the inherent goodness of humanity and the ability of man in himself to be saved. This is a false gospel (see Jer.17:9; Is.64:6-8; Rom.8:7,8; 2Cor.4:4; Eph.2:2-5; 4:18).

'Prophet' Jailed



'Sylvester Ofori, a self-styled prophet and the former leader of Floodgates of Heaven International Ministries in Orlando, Florida, who fatally shot his estranged wife in 2020, has conceded that he killed her', but will challenge the allegation that he pre-meditated the murder.

...Ofori, who had more than 60,000 followers on social media, attacked Tommey, 27...near the front door of her work ...Ofori was...following his wife as she walked...She knocked on the doors to get someone to let her in...Ofori shot her once...she collapsed a few feet away...Ofori then shot her more times in the head.

...Floodgates of Heaven International Ministries describes Ofori, born in Accra, Ghana, as 'a powerful internationally known prophet of the Most High God'.

Prophet Elisha Salifu Amoako, overseer of Alive Chapel International in Ghana said Ofori's actions were the result of a 'calculated witchcraft attack'...

(Leo Blair, Christian Post, Sept/2024)

The Hypocrisy of the Prophetic Movement

Founder of MorningStar Ministries in Fort Mill, South Carolina, Rick Joyner, has alleged that the ministry has mounting evidence that the [recently resigned] leader, Chris Reed, lied about a physical relationship with a former student, [and] should have been 'disqualified'... 'We were fooled'...Joyner also cited the sexual abuse of minors by a former volunteer and police officer.

A lawsuit filed against MorningStar Ministries...accuses Joyner, top officials and multiple staff members of gross negligence for engaging in cover-up of multiple incidences of sexual abuse...Joyner painted Reed as a disloyal, self-centred liar who disqualified himself from leadership...[but] Joyner suggested that keeping sexual abuse from happening is 'almost impossible' today with the ubiquity of pornography in society...

(Leonardo Blair, Christian Post, Sept/2024).

Editor's Comments:

Dozens of healing and prophetic ministries are recently being exposed. Rick Joyner was a popular best selling author in the nineties who captured millions with his wild visions and angelic prophecies. In 1992 he named a time (1996) and place (Atlanta) in predicting an intense 'spiritual battle' would defeat the south as in the American Civil War. The Olympic games in Atlanta that year were anything but what Joyner described. His visions were often repulsive, highly fanciful imaginations that simply added to scripture.

Joyner also commissioned Todd Bentley into ministry as an 'apostle' with prophecies that were false - Bentley fell into gross sins. One wonders how these 'prophets', unlike Biblical prophets, are so easily 'fooled' not discerning the abuse and sins that disqualify? (See *Diakrisis* Oct/96; Nov/Dec/2008).

therefore that has heard, and has learned of the Father, comes unto me' (vs.45). The connection in the two verses appears to be that God may draw one by him being 'taught' and 'hearing' and 'learning'. It does not say those who are truly taught will not come. Rather his sheep hear His voice and follow (John chapter 10).

The best we can do from the human side is to preach and teach the Gospel, lay out who God is against the plight of man, and proclaim his necessary grace.

Conclusion

Most agree that salvation requires a divine work of grace to begin with and that man responds to that. The difference in doctrines is in the *effectualness* of the calling, drawing, and in the ability or inability of man to refuse God's drawing and grace. But John 6:37-44 speaks of nothing of *mans ability*, but of *God's plan of salvation*.

There has to be a 'drawing' because *man is unable* to come (Rom.8:7,8; Jn.6:37-44,65), being lost in the *slavery* and the *deadness in sins*, by nature a *child of wrath* (Jn.8:34; Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), having *no understanding* of the things of the Spirit of God (1Cor.2:14), with *eyes blinded* by Satan (2Cor.4:4), a *heart wicked* to the core and *blinded* (Jer.17:9; Eph.4:18), and with a righteousness as '*filthy rags*' (Is.64:6-8)!

Oh how wonderful grace is for the unsaved man! '*That he [man] was unwilling before, is no hindrance; for God gives him the will, so that he is then of a willing mind. Thus every heir of Heaven must be saved, because the Spirit is put within him, and thereby his disposition and affections are moulded according to the will of God*' (C.H. Spurgeon, Sermon '*The Holy Spirit in the Covenant*', 1856).

Did Jesus go to the cross and die so that the Father could give grace, draw, and Christ raise up, but yet this all can be thwarted by man? God forbid! '*He which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ*' (Phil.1:6).

John 6:44 refers to an *efficacious work of grace* by which God lays hold of a sinner who is enabled, made willing. The drawing is a sole mysterious effectual work of God that induces a person to come to Christ so they understand the grace that has made their dead nature come alive (Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), opening and regenerating their heart (Tit.3:5; Acts 16:14) and giving an imputed righteousness (Rom.4) that is not theirs but wrought by the saving Christ in a once and for all atonement upon the cross to satisfy a holy and just God (2Cor.5:17-19)!

The teaching here in John 6:44 is not new. It has been taught down the running centuries by Reformers, the Puritans, in Awakenings, revivals and in the major Confessions of the faith (Westminster, Baptist, etc). It gives glory to God, not man.

The 'prince of preachers', Charles Spurgeon, stated: '*I should not have sought Him unless there had been some previous influence on my mind to make me seek Him...I saw that God was at the bottom of it all, and that He was the author of my faith, and so the whole doctrine of grace opened up to me...I desire to make this confession, 'I ascribe my change wholly to God'* (Spurgeon's *Autobiography*, Vol.1:168-69).

Terry Arnold

Greek. The word 'all' is 'pantos', translated in many interlinears as 'all peoples'. So, who are the 'all peoples'? It is not every single person, or else all would be 'raised up'. Many see the context in verses 35,36 with the 'light unto the world' as referring to a general call to all people groups (cp. Is.42:6 'light of the gentiles' and Rev.5:9 - God has redeemed out of 'every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation'). Verses 39 of John 12 also speaks of God who after performing miracles, blinds the eyes and hardens hearts - obviously this is not referring to drawing all to a salvation!

Again, John 6:44 is clear - the verse summarised literally states that *not one has the power to come to Christ except on the condition that the Father has drawn that same person; then Christ promises to raise that same person up*. Again this is backed by the verses beforehand - verse 37 limits the people involved to the redeemed whom the Father has given to the Son! *The Father draws (vs.44), gives to the Son (vs.37,39,65), the Son raises the same ones to eternal life (vs.39,40)*.

If John 12:32 is taken as everybody is drawn and are able to come, then Jesus must raise every person up on the last day, according to John 6:44! This is the heresy of 'universalism' and it contradicts scriptures which state only 'few' will be saved or chosen (Matt.7:14; 20:16; 22:14). John 6:44 either teaches the salvation of all those who are drawn, (some call this the 'elect'), or it teaches the salvation of every person (universalism).

Some say that 'John 6:44 does not say that all who are drawn must come, but that all who come must have been drawn'. This is semantics of what is *not stated* and is too often the product of bias thinking. The text simply describes an *inability to come unless drawn by the Father*. The necessary precondition for any ability to come to Jesus is the Father drawing that person.

Others say God's drawing doesn't cause the coming, it only makes the coming possible, and then the one who comes provides the decisive impulse, or cause. However, the cause of the coming is the 'drawing', for without the drawing '*no man can come*'! Added to this, where in scripture does it state that man 'provides the decisive impulse or cause'? Is man the instigator of a prevenient grace?

Such arguments from *silence* or *semantics* as to what the text otherwise *might say* too often amount to convoluted gymnastics with God's Word. The bias then seems evident - to have man with some ability, which *the text speaks against*!

God does not draw those who are not 'of God' and not his 'sheep'. Jesus said to some of the Jews '*He that is of God hears God's words: you therefore hear them not, because you are not of God*' (Jn.8:47; 10:11,1,15,26,27). '*Hearing the words of God*' would surely be hearing with understanding and synonymous with responding with faith or coming to Jesus. No one can come to Christ unless they are 'of God' and the *Father draws them to Christ*.

How Does God 'Draw'?

This is not an easy question, as the work of regeneration for the opening of the heart is a mysterious one (Jn.3:8; Acts 16:14). Immediately after John 6:44, Jesus says: '*It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man*

John Higgle says that if you have a friend or family member who is in the hospital you can go into that hospital, into that room and command that sickness to leave and as long as you're right with God in Heaven that sickness must leave. So if the sickness doesn't leave then guess what - there's something wrong with your walk with God. This was aired in March of 2010. Do you know where John Higgle was about a year and a half before this in October of 2008...John was lying flat on his back on an operating table with his chest cracked open. They were doing quadruple bypass surgery on John. Why didn't he just command his arteries to clear up...would have saved himself an awful lot of time and heartache....

I take no joy John Higgle had quadruple bypass surgery, but it interesting that what the Faith Preachers preach doesn't work for them and if what the faith preachers preach doesn't work for them, that ought to be a clue to them there just might be something wrong with what they're preaching. Why are they sick?...Kenyan the grandfather of this movement died from a tumour. Kenneth Hagin the father of the modern Word Faith movement died from heart disease...Oral Robert, the world's most famous faith healer next to Benny Hinn died from heart disease. Rod Parsley was diagnosed with throat cancer a few months ago. Parsley is the one that wanted you to sew \$547 into his ministry. He says he can feel your faith tugging on him. I cannot tell you how many times I have seen Rod look square into the camera lens at people out there in TV land saying 'you send me money God will heal you, send me money God will heal your child' ...

(By Justin Peters: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NICjozD12oI>)

Editor's comment:

Below are excerpts I recently received from a pastor in Africa: 'The Agony of Deceit...The death of Bishop Allan Kiuna Nairobi Jubilee Christian Church 9th July 2024 KENYA...How many have died yet given their life savings to these false teachers and prophets? Paul warned the Corinthians of 'another jesus...another spirit...another gospel...Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light...MINISTERS also transform themselves...' (2Cor.11:3,4,1,15).

If we expose them it may help millions to find the true salvation from Jesus Christ, who came to be a sinner's substitute, punished by His Father on the cross for sin, now His own as the God-man Jesus to save sinners from everlasting torments in Hell. By grace you are saved through faith. The gift of righteousness was earned by Jesus Christ (Rom.5:12-22), credited to sinners as God the Father made Christ Jesus sin for us in order that we can be made the Righteousness of God in Him, Jesus (2Cor.5:21).

...Bishop Allan Kiuna, Jubilee Christian Church, was your quintessential Word of Faith, health and wealth preacher. He succumbed to cancer at the age of 57...God gives life and God takes away life, at any age, at any stage...Our days are fixed by God's predetermined will (Deut.32:39, 1Sam.2:6, Ps.90:12-14). The impression given by the leading Word of Faith preachers (including Allan Kiuna) is that they have such faith as to be above the realities of life...While they

secretly battle for many years with deadly diseases...This is how the great Bishop Eddie who recently died, long hiding his battle with cancer even as we all watched him wither away in television screens (it is called 'Positive Confession')...Up to the time of his death he had spent 459 million shillings (\$4,600,000 AUD \$3Mill USD) to try and beat what could easily (if their teaching is true) have been beaten by prayer, faith command, positive confession or any such prescriptions of faith.

What does this preaching do to poor people who cannot afford the millions? Men like Benny Him travel with personal physicians yet preach divine health.

There is a reason we shall always weld ourselves to error and deception...(read 2Thess.2:9-12, 2Tim.3:1-5, 4:3)...Let's not keep quiet but help release people from under their power, so they would be able then to discern these false teachers, real hypocrites secretly getting treatment...We pray the average vulnerable African without finances for medical treatment would be able to come to know the true Gospel which is for rebels, about salvation from the wrath of God which leads to Hell forever, to have eternal life in Heaven.... not your best financial, trouble free life now...

Is the gospel now in 2024 under a possible final vomit of apostasy being the The Word/Faith Healing/Prosperity heretical teaching which is world-wide?...The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, lying wonders and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth that they might be saved. For this reason God will send them strong delusion that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness (2Thess.2:9-12). This is a powerful delusion!

(Ps. Elly Achok, Nigeria - a converted former healing/prosperity teacher)

Signs and Wonders

I do believe in a miraculous God with miracles and healings. However, many today seek signs and wonders, yet do not understand the *purpose* for them in scripture and history. *Signs accompanied the historical redemptive acts of God.*

In the history of Israel and the church signs and wonders came *in clusters*. The deliverance of Israel from Egypt and the coming of the Messiah saw periods of signs and wonders, both to prove God's mediators as sent from God. The signs and wonders by Jesus were prophesied *to prove the Messiahship of God's Christ.*

However, signs and wonders in the end times are always *lying and false* (Matt.24:24; 2Thess.2:9). *'An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign'* (Matt.12:39).

A gospel with signs and wonders added cheapens and overshadows the Gospel. Evangelism must be without signs and wonders so that it focuses on Jesus and His work alone. The true Gospel calls for faith by hearing, not by sight. The false gospel of signs and wonders produces multitudes of false converts (Matt.7:21-23).

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gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which has sent me, that of all which he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which sees the Son, and believes on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day' (vs.37-40).

Verses 37 and 39 clearly state the ones the Father gives *will come* and *not be cast out* (vs.37) and *none* will fail and *all will be raised* (vs.39). Verse 37 and 44 are not separated - the *giving* and the *drawing* means that *all* these people will be saved. Further, this work of the *Father drawing* and the *Son raising up* in vs.44 is repeated in vs.65: *'no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father'*. The *'given'* (vs.37,39,65) and the *'drawing'* (vs.44) are synonymous - no one can come unless granted by the Father (vs.65).

A parallel passage to this is John chapter 10 - *'But you believe not, because you are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand'* (vs.26-29). Again the Father gives to the Son those who will follow, who will have eternal life, and the same will not perish.

Objections

The context of John 6:44 clearly says that not one person can come to Christ unless the Father draws that same one. If drawn, Christ will raise that one up.

The passage does not state that there will be no *'resistance'*. At least from a human perspective there may well be resistance, considering all unsaved are already resisting, being in a state of depravity, a *slave* to and *dead* in sins, by *nature* a child of wrath (Jn.8:34; Eph.2:2-5; Col.2:13), *unable* to obey the law of God (Rom.8:7,8; Jn.6:37-44,65), having *no understanding* of the things of the Spirit of God (1Cor.2:14), with eyes *blinded* by Satan (2Cor.4:4), a heart *wicked* to the core and *blinded* (Jer.17:9; Eph.4:18), and with a righteousness as *'filthy rags'* (Is.64:6-8)!

However, *any resistance will be overcome* considering *the one drawn will be saved*. There is no mention of resistance to such grace ending in any failure to be saved here because of man's ability, his will, or anything else.

Some say that God draws everyone and then it is up to the person to choose or not choose any grace given, therefore not all will come. However this premise is reading *a premise from silence into the text*. There is nothing in the text that states that any have the power to resist this drawing. Added to this, how can they thwart the surety of being *'raised up'* when the text promises this as a *result of the cause - the drawing?*

Some pit John 12:32 against John 6:44. *'And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me'*. Firstly, the question needs to be answered - does this passage contradict the clear teaching of John 6:37-44? The answer is *'no'*, and any *clear must interpret the seemingly unclear*. Secondly, the word *'men'* is not in the

'No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day'.

If ever there was a scripture that causes a divide, a difficulty, it is these words of Jesus in chapter 6 of John's Gospel. The words are plain, until some begin to say what it does not say, or show other scriptures as seeming contradictions.

This author is constantly stunned but not surprised at what is accepted and not accepted even by both sides of theological divides. Ignoring the labels of 'Calvinism' and 'Arminianism' or any so called theologies in between, what does this scripture literally teach?...

The Word Study

'No man can come'...

The literal 'no one can come' ('*oudeis dunatai*') is emphatic - not even one has the power or is able ('*dunatai*') to 'come to me'.

'*unless the father*' here is a conditional negative ('*ean mé*'). Interlinears often have 'if' or 'unless'. The condition is that the Father must 'draw' the one spoken of in the passage.

The '*drawing*' is the Greek word '*élkuse*' - to draw toward without necessarily the notion of force (as in another Greek word '*súro*' translated 'draw' or 'drag' - which rather implies force or violence - see Acts 8:3; 14:19; 17:6; Rev.12:4).

Those who create the strawman that God does not 'force' people to come to him are reading too much into this word 'draw'. '*Elkuse*' is a drawing that induces the person to come. The same Greek word is used in John 12:32; 18:10; 21:6,11; Acts 16:9; 21:30; James 2:6; see also Septuagint 2Sam.22:17; Ps.10:9; Jer.38:13. The '*elkuse*' in John 6:44 is also Greek active voice - the action is done by God himself.

Again, some tend to overstate this 'drawing' as an irresistible force, a dragging, etc. But it will do no good to overplay the word ('*elkuse*') to being more like the other Greek word '*suro*' (see above). As we will see, the 'drawing' is a loving effectual inducement, a change of the will to being made willing to come.

'*And I will raise him up on the last day*' - the 'him' ('*auton*') is the same one drawn by the Father and who will be resurrected by Christ.

The Context

The above simple word study must be put in context so as to interpret what is being stated here. The immediate context goes at least back to verse 37. Before this Jesus had been saying some increasingly hard things, moving from the physical food and bread, to Himself being the food and '*the bread of life...come down from heaven*' (vs.31-36). The listeners wanted a 'sign' and were murmuring at His words (vs.30,41). But Jesus does not pacify them, but rather increases the tension with what is the will and the role of the Father and the Son in giving eternal life.

Verse 44 is closely linked with these preceding verses: '*All that the Father*

[The following is excerpted from '*Prophetic Word for Australia by Margaret Court*', played on Vision TV in an interview with Margaret Court, who teaches a Word of Faith, healing, prosperity gospel. Editor's comments in bold and brackets]

[Presenter] '*Many prophetic words were released over Australia that Australia is a leader in Revival...[Since when has Australia ever been a 'leader in revival'?] I heard somebody prophesy that Australia is on the campuses and many missionaries are going to be sent out of Australia, so I want to bring on Pastor Margaret Court...[While this author commends Margaret's stand against the gender confusion and same sex marriage today, yet Margaret denies God's gender qualification for a pastor/Elder? (1Tim.3; Tit.1)]*

Can you first of all begin with your heart for Australia...[Margaret]:...Since I was born again. When I was number one in world tennis...when I got born again, I didn't know anything about the the word of God or the Bible. But I always had a heart for my nation...I really feel that it is such a time of intercession...to go back into the travail and birthing...[This is a new and common phrase used by 'Word of Faith' Pentecostals for intercessory prayer. It confuses scriptures like Romans 8:26,27 which have the Spirit doing the intercession...] *We've had the Proclamations, Declarations...no other nation has ever had the prophetic word of the great Southland of the Holy Spirit [This is a myth put forward by Pentecostal Col Stringer. In 1606 the Portuguese and Roman Catholic explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros thought he had discovered this great 'southland' when he came to what is now known as Vanuatu. He never made it to Australia! The full proclamation by Quiros has nothing to do with Australia or the Holy Spirit! See full article in Diakrisis May/June 2014]*

I believe the Holy Spirit is hovering over our nation waiting for his church to rise up to wake up to give birth to bring Heaven to earth. [The church is to 'give birth'? We 'bring Heaven to earth'?]...We had the world prayer assembly here in Perth in October last year which brought a wonderful unity to our city amongst the ministers, and people came in from all around the world, so I really believe it's an atmospheric that God's wanting...it's not about people, not about a church. I believe it's very atmospheric in what he's wanting to do. [What exactly is 'atmospheric'? The idea of the Holy Spirit being out there somewhere (in the 'atmosphere?') is common in Pentecostal teaching. Yet the believer has the permanent indwelling Spirit]. We already carry the presence. He's wanting that presence to get thicker and thicker [What is 'thicker and thicker' when speaking of a Divine person?] that we become a lighthouse nation, a nation unto him. Presenter: 'Oh wow, phenomenal, praise the Lord...any prophetic word for Australia, a word of affirmation?...[Margaret]: I really sense there is a realigning and a redesigning happening within the church...There is a great hunger...a passion. Particularly I'm seeing it in our young people getting on fire. I just feel like he's building bridges across the nation...wherever you go people are getting saved and it is very atmospheric...[This is flatly refuted by church statistics.

People may be making ‘decisions’, young people may be revelling in their hyped ‘alive’ meetings, but the nation is not growing in Christianity, People are not *‘being saved wherever one goes’*. This is life in a Pentecostal bubble of unreality] But the church has got to realize she carries the presence of God, it’s greater is He that is in it, a Christ within us. We already have the presence He wants, His presence to be atmospheric and that’s what I’m really sensing in Western Australia since the world prayer assembly, this atmosphere, whether it’s a businessman...you can go on the streets, I mix a lot out in the political and business...they’re ready they are so ready and I just believe God’s hands coming heavier on our nation. We are a lighthouse nation and the bridge between Israel and Australia, the bridge between other nations it’s just getting closer and closer as we stand together. **[People are not ready and willing; most are blind as to what is coming! Are we a ‘lighthouse nation’?]** God does not want a third world war, He wants an Awakening in the nations of the world **[This not what scripture teaches! The last days will not be a world revival but a falling away and a war to end all wars. The ‘Awakenings’ in history were also decidedly not Pentecostal]** and he wants to demonstrate himself very very much in this time through his love, through his presence, through his word. He doesn’t do anything outside his word. He’s waiting for the church to take his word and to bring Heaven to earth. I really sense it in my spirit there is such a love and a passion for Jesus like never before. **[Where is any of this prophetic word about the sovereign God of the Bible? This is the common separation of the Spirit from the Word]** That intimacy...He’s waiting for us. He’s done everything, he’s just waiting for us; so he wants those raindrops of mercy to come down on our nation, on the nations of the world...**[This is the impotent god who is ‘wanting’, ‘waiting’ at the whim of man’s doing]**...God gave me a word for Australia and the Word was like leap and prevail and I truly believe now it’s time for this beautiful nation to leap and prevail and overcome, over some of the nonsense that was happening in the Medias. **[Where is this action mandated in scripture?]** I feel like the enemy is attacking the church and with violence...the bishop stabbing, so much unrest, but out of all this we are going to see the glory of God over the nation of Australia because I believe that God has prepared a Remnant in this beautiful nation, a Remnant is coming forth...**[This same Pentecostal prophesying has been going on for nearly 70 years or more, often with imminent dates, periods being set]** Elijah thought he was the only prophet left, but God said no there’s 10,000 other prophets to come out of the cave...**[Where is this in scripture?]** I believe it’s a time and season that the cave prophets are coming out. **[They have been coming out of the ‘caves’ of their own heart for many decades now with the same unscriptural and extra biblical nonsense]** God is going to do phenomenal things and that’s why our expectations are high even above the mountains...

[False prophets ‘steal’ from God’s inspired Word, speaking false hope, foolishly, falsely with lies, light, pleasant, smooth things out of the imaginations, visions, vanity, deceit, idols of their own hearts and spirits (Is.30:10; Jer.5:13; 14:14; 23:16,30-32; Ez.13). There are no more ‘prophets’. We have the final complete more sure prophecy of the scripture! (Heb.1:1,2; 2Pet.1:19-21)]

A Message for Ministers, Pastors, Elders, Teachers...

‘All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works’ (2Tim.3:16,17).

We need to teach the Bible. No one needs our wisdom; no one even needs our experiences; no one needs to hear about our life stories. God needs a group of men who stand before other men and when they open up their mouths they have one purpose - to proclaim what God has said and to make it known to explain it’s good for teaching but it’s also good for reproof and for correction.

Any minister who does not clearly rebuke people and correct them is a coward and is loveless. He loves himself more than he loves the people. He wants people to like him and that’s his goal. But we must teach the truth. We must also tell people they are wrong and then we must tell people what they must do to be right. That is our task and that is why in many cases the world hates us. Do you know why Europe hates Christianity, true Christianity? For the same reason the United States hates true Christianity - because we’re the only ones telling it it’s wrong and that’s the greatest crime you can commit today.

Christian ministers of Christ that are true are standing up and telling the world you are wrong and they hate us...That’s why the two witnesses in the book of Revelation when they die the world is happy because finally the Word of God is silenced and no one is afflicting the conscience of the world anymore. There’s peace, peace, because the witnesses of Christ have gone away now, we can live in our sin and live in our rebellion and we don’t have to have any affliction of heart because there’s no voice of God on the planet.

What’s sad is that many people can go into an evangelical church and experience the same. The minister may even teach good theology but he never tells people they’re wrong, he never corrects them...’

(Paul Washer)

Editor’s Comments:

2Timothy 3:16,17 says a lot about the use of the Word of God. Preaching and teaching the Word of God has to at least at times have reproof and correction. Both are to be applied to the preacher first, then the listeners. The danger with every preacher is the inherent desire to be popular and liked, before the proclamation of what the text literally says.

We do not also ‘offer’ the Word but *proclaim* it. This is especially with the Gospel. It is not an ‘offer’ as some speak in some circles. It is a proclamation which ultimately ends in ‘repent or perish’.

The Gospel will never be popular with the world but always hated as foolishness and folly. We are not PR officers between God and the world. There will never be peace with the Gospel, but war. That war begins in the heart of man, which is wicked to the core. The Gospel becomes glorious only when that heart is opened to the magnificence of the person of Jesus Christ.