SATAN'S ATTACK ON THE GOSPEL

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Turn in your Bibles to *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*:

> [1] Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; [2] By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. [3] For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

I received an email through my website this week from a man who had several questions concerning the King James Bible and the doctrine of salvation. In response to his question about the King James Bible, I gave him a statement that I make where I say: "The King James Bible is a perfect book, that presents a perfect plan of salvation, through the perfect Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ". I also state that the King James Bible is Miraculously Magnificent and Majestic: the crown jewel of all Bible translations. The King James Bible is the living word of THE LIVING GOD. My email contact stated that he had heard that the Devil had supernaturally changed the Bible over the years. I told him that what he heard was right. The Devil has accomplished that by taking possession of and using unsaved Greek and Hebrew scholars on translation committees to pervert the words (WORD) of God. I have studied the issue for over 33 years now. From my studies, I am convinced that if Satan could destroy one, and only one, book on the face of the earth, it would be the King James Bible. God will not allow that to happen.

An absolute faith in the truth of the word of God is an absolute necessity to avoid the pits of hell and the lake of fire. According to *Luke 16:27-31*, not even sending unto the lost sinner one resurrected from the dead will save them from the fires of hell and the lake of fire if they will not hear the word of God. *Luke 16:27-31* says:

> [27] Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: [28] For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. [29] Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. [30] And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. [31] And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. *Luke 16:27–31*

Folks, "Moses and the prophets" is the word of God. The LORD Jesus Christ is saying that if you will not receive the word of God as the source of your salvation from hell neither will you receive one that arose from the dead as your source of salvation from hell! The LORD Jesus Christ is the one that arose from the dead! In Luke 16, the LORD Jesus Christ is putting his WORD above even his resurrection. The Holy Ghost said this about the word of God in *Psalm 138:1-2*:

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> [1] I will praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
> [2] I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. *Psalm 138:1-2*

Psalm 138:2 is an amazing statement about the word of God. That is especially true if you consider the fact that 100 times God specifically calls out his name by using the phrase "my name". He is JEALOUS for his name. The phrase "holy name" is used 20 times in the Old Testament in relation to the name of God. The name of God was considered to be so holy that most Jewish people even refused to speak it. Scribes when they were preparing to write the name of God (Jehovah) in manuscripts considered the name to be so holy they would wash their whole body before writing it. Would to God that the whole wolfpack of modern day Bible correcting heretics, apostates, and demon possessed scholars had even a touch of this type of respect for God and the word of God. The Apostle Peter added an exclamation to the importance of the word of God in *2 Peter 1:16-21* where ir is written:

> [16] For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [17] For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. [18] And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. [19] We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: [20] Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. [21] For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost. *2 Peter 1:16-21*

The Apostle Peter said that the word of God was a more sure word of prophecy than even the appearance of the transfigured LORD Jesus Christ on the mount of transfiguration in *Matthew 17:1-6*. Apostate Christianity has nothing but contempt for the word of God. There is no sure word of prophecy coming forth from their corrupt minds. That is the logical outcome of publishing one perversion after another that they call a "new and better translation". So, God's word is to be exalted above his name. His word is more powerful than his transfiguration. His word is more powerful than his resurrection.

The Holy Ghost said in *Romans 10:17*: "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. The Bible is personified as a preacher in *Galatians 3:8* where it states: "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed". The Bible also says of itself in *Hebrews 4:12*: "For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.". The Bible not only knows your thoughts it knows the motivation

behind your thoughts. The Bible is also God's great washing machine for the church. *Ephesians 5:26* says that God sanctifies and cleanses the church with the washing of the word. Because of an outright denial of the word of God and the refusal to teach and preach all the counsel of the word of God, most churches in America are a stench in the nostrils of God. They stink of uncleanness and unholiness because they are not being washed by the word. If you are a Christian and will not study your Bible, you will get to stinking before God too.

According to the scriptures (the Bible), the gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost used the apostle Paul to declare unto us that gospel in *1 Corinthians 15:1-4* with proof of the resurrection following in verses 5-8. The proof of the resurrection is also documented in *Matthew 28:1-20*, *Mark 16:1-20*, *Luke 24:1-53*, *John 20:1-31*, *John 21:1-22*, and *Acts 1:1-11*. It is not just a head knowledge of the facts of the gospel that saves an individual from the eternally burning flames of hell and the lake of fire. In other words, it is not an intellectual assent to a bunch of Biblical facts that saves an individual. The Biblical facts are the truth, but do you believe them in your heart? That is the key to salvation. That heart held belief is what we call faith. It is that faith that causes the Holy Ghost to regenerate (save) an individual. We call that regeneration being "born again" (*John 3:5-7*).

When the Holy Ghost regenerates an individual he also gives them the gift of repentance. It is that gift of repentance that changes the heart and works of a once lost sinner. That repentance is the work of the Holy Ghost in and through the born again believer. Put another way, repentance is an outward manifestation of the works of the indwelling Holy Ghost in the born again Bible believer. That is why any doctrinally straight Bible teacher or preacher will tell you that if any person desires to be saved they must exercise Bible believing faith and repentance. *Acts 20:21* puts it this way: "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.". According to Hebrews 6:1 repentance and faith are the very foundation of salvation. *Hebrews 6:1* says: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God". Pastor Charles Lawson had this to say about repentance:

> Repentance is an evident sign of Bible believing faith. If you don't have repentance, you don't have Bible believing faith. Repentance does not precede faith. Repentance is a product of true faith. If the faith that you say you have in the Lord Jesus Christ does not produce repentance you have got intellectual assent to a bunch of facts, but you don't have saving faith.

Repentance is proof to individuals that they have not received a counterfeit salvation. If you have not repented, then you are not saved. You are still on your way to hell. According to *2 Corinthians 7:8-11*, the difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow is the difference between heaven and hell. *2 Corinthians 7:8-11* says this:

> [8] For though I made you sorry with a letter, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season.
> [9] Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for

> ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. [10] For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. [11] For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, *what* clearing of yourselves, yea, *what* indignation, yea, *what* fear, yea, *what* vehement desire, yea, *what* zeal, yea, *what* revenge! In all *things* ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter. *2 Corinthians 7:8–11*

God the Holy Ghost does not leave lost sinners in the same condition he found them in. Why is it that I can be so sure that if you have not repented, then you are still on your way to hell? If a person can continue in habitual sin, and it does not bother them, then it is evidence that the Holy Ghost is not in them. If the Holy Ghost is not in them, they have not exercised saving faith. Period. People that have not truly repented are still operating in the power of the flesh. The Bible says in *Romans 8:8-9*:

> [8] So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. *Romans 8:8-9*

Those that continue to work the works of the flesh do not have the Spirit of Christ. These be those that are worldly and sensual. They are also described in *Jude 14-19*:

> [14] And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, [15] To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard *speeches* which ungodly sinners have spoken against him. [16] These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling *words*, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. [17] But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; [18] How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts. [19] These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit. *Jude 14-19*

Notice in *Romans 8:9* and *Jude 19* those individuals are described as not having the Spirit. That means that they are still lost and on their way to hell.

Salvation is simple. Lost sinners complicate salvation by trying to add works to it. Many people who come under Holy Ghost conviction will never get saved because they will never give up on themselves. That was my problem for many months before I finally yielded to the Holy Ghost. Oh, what a change was wrought! You will either give up on yourself, or you will die and go to hell. By giving up on yourself , I mean to put your total faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing you can do to save yourself. There is nothing you can do to forsake the sin that is killing you

outside of the work of the Holy Ghost. You cannot get saved anytime that you want to. God the Father must draw you. God the Holy Ghost must convict you of your sin. God the Holy Ghost decides whether the profession of salvation you claim is genuine saving faith. When the Holy Ghost decides that you have exercised genuine saving faith, he then regenerates you into a born again Christian. The work of God the Father and God the Holy Ghost would have been of none effect had not the Lord Jesus Christ shed his blood on the cross of Calvary. Thus, all the work that was required to bring salvation to man has been completed by the Godhead. The lost sinner must put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That faith will be evidenced by the repentance that is worked by the Holy Ghost in the new believer. Repentance is two fold in its nature. First an everlasting child and Father relationship is established by the faith and repentance that leads to salvation. Second, fellowship in that everlasting relationship is maintained by the child of God living a life of repentance. So, a quick description of the Bible requirements for salvation would be: (1) God the Father draws; (2) God the Holy Ghost convicts (3) the lost sinner puts their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (4) the Holy Ghost converts, or regenerates the lost sinner; (5) the Holy Ghost grants the gift of repentance to the newly regenerated believer; and (6) the new believer makes an oral confession unto salvation.
How can we know that we are saved? *Romans 8:14-16* says:

> [14] For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. [15] For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. [16] The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: *Romans 8:14-16*

That indwelling spirit is our assurance that we are indeed saved. *1 John 5:13* tells us: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God". Closely connected with the doctrine of assurance of salvation is the doctrine of eternal security. There are 26 verses in the New Testament that use the phrase "eternal life" and 11 verses that use the phrase "everlasting life". I have studied all those in context. As strong as those 37 verses are, they pale in comparison to *1 John 3:9.* Almost without exception, those who believe that you can lose your salvation base that doctrine on a belief that if anyone sins they lose their salvation. If that is true, then what do you do with *1 John 3:9* which states: "Whosoever is born of God **doth not commit sin**; for his seed remaineth in him: and he **cannot sin,** because he is born of God." Did you catch that? They cannot sin! That should give any Bible believer, especially Bible teachers, much pause to consider the doctrine of sin as it is presented in the book of 1st John.
Many times in the past I have heard folks say during their testimony that the Devil was making them doubt their salvation. Folks that is not possible. The Devil makes no one doubt their salvation. If someone is doubting their salvation, that is the convicting work of the Holy Ghost. One of two things is driving that doubt. Either the person is saved and has gotten into sin or that person has never been saved. In either case the correct response to that conviction by the Holy Ghost is to repent. Tragically with the state of the apostate church in America and the corruption of the gospel by those churches and Bible correcters, I fear that most of those who doubt their salvation are in fact lost and on their way to a Devil's hell. Most members of the churches in America have been manipulated into praying

a faithless and repentanceless sinner's prayer that is leading them down a primrose path straight into the pits of hell. God is not in that. God is not a salesman. God is not a marketeer. God is not a psychological manipulator. Most of the so-called soul winners today have been trained to usurp the roles of God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. The interloping soul winner wants to do the drawing, the conviction, and the converting. When he is all finished, he wants to usurp the ministry of the Holy Ghost in assuring the target that they are "saved". As the result of heretical soul winning methods we have churches full of false converts. False converts and false professions have become the lepers and leprosy of our American churches.

Church families in America are dying because they are not adding born again Christians to their congregations. People are not being born again because they are being fed a false gospel. Unsaved people are being added to church rolls that have been made two fold more a child of hell than the unsaved preachers and soul winners who pronounced them saved. In closing I want to briefly deal with a much misused passage of scripture that is a classic example of a passage of scripture being ripped out of its context and being used to teach false doctrine. That passage of scripture is *Romans 10:8-17*. It states:

> [8] But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; [9] That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. [11] For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. [12] For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. [13] For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [14] How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? [15] And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! [16] But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? [17] So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. *Romans 10:8-17*

The point of contention is pulling verse 13 out of context and using it for a pretext to justify leading some one in a faithless "sinner's prayer". The target of the psychological manipulation is told: "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved". The manipulators leave it at that. That is the worst kind of treachery because it leaves out the most important verse in this context; that is verse 14. Reread verse 14 from above. The omission of verse 14 causes the passage to teach the opposite of what is actually said. What the passage is actually saying through a rhetorical question is that unless a person has believed they **CANNOT** call upon the Lord to be saved. There is an axiom that states that a verse that is pulled out of context is a pretext for false doctrine. That is a very apt description of what happens here. The corrupt soul winning techniques resulting from twisting the scriptures has destroyed many Bible believing churches.