

Chapter 1 : Is God's Love Unconditional? - Berean Publishers | Berean Publishers

Isaiah Then all your sons will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their prosperity. Jeremiah No longer will each man teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD.

Among all the events that take place on campus, Herbert W. Armstrong College graduation is one of the brightest highlights of the year. The Philadelphia Church of God currently employs people at headquarters; of them are under Armstrong started from scratch, both in terms of doctrines and in resources. Armstrong wrote in his autobiography. Ahead, now, was the possible transition from a small, struggling, virtually one-man work to a major-scale organization exerting a powerful influence on humanity the world around! Ambassador College was to provide the only possible means. It was to be the recruiting and training center, integrating into effective organization those whom God would call to surround me to become this Christ-led and Spirit-powered organism. It could never have gone around the world. It was the development of the college in Pasadena that made possible the growth of the whole gospel work! Armstrong also made this bold statement: Armstrong raised up colleges in California, England and Texas. Their purpose was to prepare and train young laborers. It needed more supporters educated in the way that Mr. Armstrong, the end-time Elijah, was educated. Armstrong College has grown remarkably over 17 years. Now it has two campuses. This growth and these blessings show that God has a special interest in His young people. This is plainly revealed in Genesis 3: God purposefully cut off the vast majority of human beings from the possibility of knowing Him. Throughout history, God has only called a select few into His Church. There is no other way to connect with Him. The entire world is cut off from God except for a tiny few. In a July 28, , sermon, Mr. Armstrong spoke powerfully about this, directly to the teenagers. God has revealed that to me, and I want you to get it! I want you to understand it! I want you to believe it! God has not called people just for salvation! God is going to call everybody for salvation in the end. This is a crucial verse. Unbaptized children of converted parents are not themselves converted, but neither are they cut off like the rest of the world. But they are a special treasure to God! At the end of his long life, Mr. These initiatives fulfilled a key prophecy: In this passage, what are the distinguishing characteristics of Elijah? That he would meet world leaders? That he would write and broadcast to millions? That he would turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers. How important family is to God! The Sin of Neglect In that same sermon to the youth camp in , Mr. I know that when my daughters were young, and I was first converted, my whole mind was on the Bible and the things I was finding there. Armstrong was 87 years old. The Worldwide Church of God had been around for nearly five decades before Mr. Armstrong fully realized the critical importance of reaching the youth! How easy is it to brush this responsibility aside in favor of digging into the Bible or speaking with our adult peers. In another sermon, given on Oct. Armstrong corrected parents for neglecting their children. They were just sending them off to school and letting the teachers take care of everything. By the time they are seven-, eight-, nine months old, they already have been infused with the spirit of selfishness. Too many of you neglect your little children. But Satan is getting into their little minds as fast as their minds develop. Satan is cast down to Earth, full of even more rage and hate, and he is constantly on the prowl for unsuspecting minds. Armstrong wrote another powerful article in the April Plain Truth: The school influence the outside influences all must be counteracted. The responsibility falls squarely upon the shoulders of you parents. The danger lies in ignorance, in laxity and in blinding the eyes to existing facts and conditions. They need lots of help! Armstrong said in that youth camp sermon. The Modern Dating booklet states: Struggling to act like adults when they are neither physically or mentally adult, many teenagers develop habits, personality traits and even postures which mark them for the rest of their lives. Do not neglect their needs in favor of flipping on the television after a long day of work. Do not even prioritize serving in the local congregation over your own children. They have a deep and gnawing hunger for a sense of belonging, especially within their own families. That is why the sin of neglect is so deadly. The responsibility lies with us! Get and hold their confidence, he said. You may need, tactfully and wisely, to help them alter it. Get them to confide in you, and make them

want to come to you with all their problems and troubles. Ignorance of these matters is their worst handicap—knowledge, if imparted in a right and sacred way, is their greatest protection. Virtually all wrongdoing, of every possible nature, is merely a result of lack of understanding! Teach him to resist inclination and impulse—to do what he ought to do, instead of what he wants to do. A teacher at our K school, Imperial Academy, told me recently that many of his students fail to consistently turn in their daily homework assignments. Early last year, my father, who founded Imperial Academy and Armstrong College, found it necessary to ban smartphones for students at both schools. If you are a parent of an Imperial or Armstrong student, do you diligently enforce this ruling? It takes a lot of work, and most of that work falls on you, the parent! Does your child turn in his schoolwork inconsistently? Does he struggle to carry on a conversation with an adult? Do his interests remain immature? Does he have problems paying attention during Church services? Explain the why of Christian doctrine. If your child is struggling, immerse him or her in the Bible. You will be amazed at how fast children can mature after a few weeks of focused Bible study. At first, they will not naturally enjoy it. But help them build the daily, consistent habit, and the love for Scripture will come. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. Go For the Goal God wants our children to struggle against Satan. He wants them to resist the pulls of the flesh. He expects them to battle the gravitational pull of peer pressure. But He also wants something else for them: As you turn your heart to your child, remember this: It does require hard work. It does require spiritual and mental combat. But it is abundant! God wants to give our children exciting challenges. He wants us to push our children to succeed. He wants them to have direction, vision, goals. He wants them to learn instruments, play sports, participate in clubs, work jobs—He wants them to grow!

Chapter 2 : The Church of God, Ministries International - Statement of Beliefs

"God, the great Creator of all things, doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least, by His most wise and holy providence, according to His infallible foreknowledge, and the free and immutable counsel of His own will, to the praise of the Glory of His wisdom, power, justice.

More Byte Show Interviews For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. This he said, signifying what death he should die. Yes, there are many scriptures that speak of judgments for evil doing, but those judgments are not in contexts speaking of salvation itself. The matter of judgments for evildoers will be discussed later in this book. As a matter of fact, the salvation of mankind was something determined by God the Father and Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. It is a certain fact that mankind **MUST** be saved. All mankind must be saved. And not only that, the apostle Paul made it clear that all mankind **MUST** also come to a full knowledge of the truth of the Gospel. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all [men], to be testified in due time ["in due time," in the Greek really means "in its own seasons" the last word is plural "seasons"]. A few such as ourselves are privileged by God to have that knowledge at this time. Others will obtain it when Christ returns from heaven at his Second Advent. There are others still who will not attain to that knowledge until they are resurrected from the dead and stand before God in what is known as the Great White Throne Judgment period discussed in Chapter Twenty of the Book of Revelation. All will appear before God at that time. God reveals that it is he and he alone who takes the privilege of making known the Gospel to special people whom he wishes to understand it during our present age. Christ made this teaching plain in the Gospel of John. God has chosen not to reveal it to most people during this age. The vast majority must wait until their resurrections and then they will receive the knowledge of the Gospel in full. That is what Paul taught. He said all men would come to a knowledge of the truth 1 Timothy 2: It is in the preordained plan of God that when Christ Jesus returns from heaven at his Second Advent, he will then start a program of subduing the earth and the rest of the universe into having a harmonious relationship with the Father. The apostle Paul mentioned this in 1 Corinthians chapter Christ will be totally successful in his endeavor. He will put down all the enemies of the Father including even the condition of "death" 1 Corinthians When death is destroyed after the end of the Great White Throne Judgment period, then all mankind will be made alive into a glorious resurrected state. The apostle Paul made it abundantly clear that all humans will be given life in Christ, as all humans had been subjected to death in Adam. Note what Paul stated, "For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ Jesus] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Since it is certain that in Adam our first parent all men do in fact die, Paul tells us in direct comparison that in Christ the second or last Adam , all men will indeed be made alive in a spiritual resurrection. The atonement of Christ and his propitiation for the sins of the world applies to all men who have ever lived. The apostle John put it this way. It is at that time, which Paul called "the dispensation of the fullness of times" that all mankind will be made to be "one" in Christ " and this accomplishment by Christ will be done without losing a single person. All mankind will be made into a single harmonious union with Christ and the Father. All in the universe will confess that Christ is the highest in authority under the Father. When the word "confess" or its cognates is used in the Old or New Testaments, it is always used in a context of free will being expressed by those doing the "confessing. God indeed inspires our confession. But not only does God inspire persons to make a proper confession of him, he is also the one who inspires a person to repent and to ask for forgiveness of sins, to believe and have faith in Christ. But what most people even preachers, evangelists and priests do not realize is that these works that mankind display are themselves attributes of grace that God gives to mankind to those in whom he chooses to reveal his truths. Repentance is something granted by grace to mankind Acts Belief itself is something given to man Philippians 1: Even our having faith in Christ is a gift of grace. God is the one who does the "willing" and the "working" in each person he calls to understand his truth of the Gospel. Paul summed up this principle with his clear statement in Philippians 2: They are given to a person by grace from God himself, though to us it may appear that we are

using our own "wills" and our own "works. This means that our repentance, our asking of forgiveness of our sins, our confession in Christ, our belief in Christ, and even the faith that we have in him, are virtuous attributes that God gives to us by his grace and the inspiration to perform them does not come from our own "wills" and "works. All mankind will one day in the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times come to express the Lordship of Christ Jesus of their own free will, but they will be doing so in a manner which God himself inspires Philippians 2: But wait a moment. Does this mean that there are no works whatever for mankind to do in order to be saved? Actually, works are very necessary to be saved, but it was Christ Jesus who did the works that the Father approves and those works of Christ have been appropriated to us. He was a substitute for us in doing the works that the Father accepts. The fact is, the atonement that Christ accomplished for mankind was not only in his dying for mankind on the tree of crucifixion. He also lived for mankind as a substitute for all mankind and is now sitting on the right hand of the Father in heaven in our place still as a substitute for all mankind. We are right now reckoned as sitting on the right hand of the Father because we are in Christ and he is sitting there as a substitute for us. We are sitting there in Christ not because of any works we have done. For by grace are ye saved through faith: This is the basic teaching of the Gospel. It is a teaching that shows Christ doing all the necessary works for us. It was Christ who GOT us saved through his righteous works. Christ pleased the Father in everything that he did. More than that, all our sins were placed on the back of Christ and he bore them for us in our place. We are now reckoned by the Father as being as free of sin as is Christ Jesus. One of the most essential doctrines of the New Testament is this fact that Christ was a substitute for us in all things. He was a substitute for us in his life on earth. He was a substitute for us in his death on the tree of crucifixion. And he is also a substitute for us at the present by sitting on the right hand of the Father until we reach that position ourselves in him at our own resurrection.

Chapter 3 : 20 Important Reasons To Read The Bible (God's Word Daily)

All mankind were born as spirit sons and daughters of God the Father (see D&C , 38; Moses). Heavenly Father's children participated in a council and chose to follow His plan or to rebel with Lucifer (see D&C ; Moses).

A strengthened form of pro; a preposition of direction; forward to, i. I, the first-person pronoun. A primary pronoun of the first person I. The immediate reference is to the LXX. The teaching is universal, but it may not be heard, and when heard may not be learnt. Every man therefore that hath heard. Pulpit Commentary Verse. The prophet, on describing the glorious triumphs of the Servant of the Lord in his new kingdom, added LXX. Godet suggests that the former passage was in the hapthora, from the prophets - the lesson for the day. If the discourse was uttered in the synagogue of Capernaum, this is not impossible. And they shall all be taught of God; i. This solemn truth is affirmed by the entire history of Christ. The vision of his majesty, even contact with his ineffable love, the sight of his humiliation and of the shedding of his precious blood, did not, by any necessarily acting law of mind, induce faith. Divine teaching by the Spirit of the Father and Son is the preliminary see notes on John Hearing may end in heedlessness, even when the Lord God Almighty speaks with us. His revelations at great epochs, his inner voice at special moments in our religious history, may be disregarded. The voice of God may be heard, yet not obeyed; the voice of conscience and revelation and inspiration, the sacred monitions and warnings of the heart, may all be slighted. But every one that hath heard the Father, and has also accepted the lesson - has felt the Divine drawing; being willing to do the will of the Father, he knows of the doctrine, whether it be of God, and he comes to Christ. Later on, Christ said, "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Lest, however, the hearers of Jesus, then or now, should conclude that the kind of direct teaching of which the prophets spake, and which he endorsed, was of that immediate kind which himself enjoyed, and which alone justifies this language, he continued - Matthew Henry Commentary 6: No one will come, till Divine grace has subdued, and in part changed his heart; therefore no one who comes will ever be cast out. None had seen the Father but his beloved Son; and the Jews must expect to be taught by his inward power upon their minds, and by his word, and the ministers whom he sent among them.

Chapter 4 : The Fate of the Wicked

WHY THE NEED FOR A UNIVERSAL ATONEMENT THE DESTINY OF MANKIND All mankind taught of God (Is. ;) All mankind saved (I Tim.) THE PLEASURE OF GOD.

Along with the Holy Ghost, these angels have the duty of dispensing their fire as a crown on the head of the man of God, Enoch Because this crown is living and not a hunk of gold or silver , devils wage war where they find it, Ode 1, 9: III Baruch chapter There is no power or authority greater than God. No thoughts concerning judgment are of any value except those He has determined. Therefore, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: It shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where unto I sent it", Isaiah This authority demands your attention and your fear! Out of the twelve tribes of mankind only the spiritual tribe of Levi is to minister unto God, Numbers 1: Everyone in the ministry today is not a spiritual Levite determined by God only! For His thought is not like the thought of the world nor the thought of the flesh, nor like them that serve carnally", Ode As the Judge of all creation, God cannot be taught the proper way to run His Court, nor the way to judge, nor can His Wisdom be searched out by man or devil, Isaiah Therefore, our invisible enemies who sought to overthrow truth by installing their own ministers have taught men "nothing" of authority, and the devils involved are not God, Isaiah There is no justification except by the legal system of laws God ordained which were designed to apply strictly for man, Isaiah Only by the decrees of the Judge and the Heavenly Court are all men most necessarily justified, Isaiah Therefore, righteousness is a verdict conferred previously by God on all human beings, Isaiah That word from Jesus is strictly for demons who work through unauthorized ministers of men. Righteousness is in Him, and He has not judged by appearance, nor according to the flesh but according to the appointed order of mercy and forgiveness for mankind already given by the Father, Isaiah 1: The trial and case for mankind rested in Jesus for a guiding light for those with enough wisdom to believe what he was showing, Isaiah This action is in strict adherence to the legal guidelines approved by the judge and the Heavenly Court! Devils have had a continuous advantage against men who were born in ignorance into a network of errors set by Satan over the world, Isaiah Errors were perpetuated because those born in each generation were nourished on them all their lifetime, Hebrews 2: Those key texts are very important if you are to understand. Only failure in believing the Word of God and of Jesus on this subject can prevent understanding of true judgment, Romans 3: Only in "the Father of many nations" shall all the nations be blessed, Genesis But only Jesus had the right love enough to forgive and bless every nation with eternal life, Luke 2: Salvation is only in Jesus and not the churches of today. Churches are Powerless to save, Isaiah Here are your keys for this thought: The sons of God all men were made exactly like the Father having Gods perfect personality in which God cannot sin nor is there any evil in Him, Genesis 1: Let us continue as Gabriel moves! God made every human being with a perfect nature like His own, Ecclesiastes 3: That nature is holiness, Deuteronomy 7: No thoughts or ways are ours whether we claim them or not except the thoughts and ways of God, Isaiah Any nature, or way, or thought in man not created in him by God can only come from the direct works of the devil, Genesis 1: In our Court, God does not place blame against men for being victimized by devils who captured them at birth, Jeremiah Our suffering having demons hold on to us and dwell inside our bodies has been necessary to help God expedite the judgment to condemn demons. It was necessary to show those rising to heaven daily who make up the "Watching" Heavenly Jury exactly who the "man of sin" is, Isaiah Judging by appearance according to the flesh, one might think God abandoned mankind leaving him to be victimized freely by superior devils, but His great purpose is to hasten judgment against demons by procuring a "confession" in order to glorify His Mercy to mankind! God knew that if asked, they would never tell the truth to the Court. So the Lord only is our righteousness exactly as it is written, Isaiah It is nothing for a man of flesh to be afraid of, but we should

rejoice in it. By believing the verdicts of the Judge in our Court, God rolls back the reproach by devils against every human being, Joshua 4: Judgment necessarily means redemption for mankind, Isaiah 1: Therefore, God made a difference in His treatment of mankind and devils at all times during the Judgment! From the beginning God issued His final verdict to the Court, Isaiah Therefore, "the books were open" then and now, Daniel 7: Recording the Judgment Verdict of God the Balance, we find only demons being judged for condemnation, Enoch Jesus gave the same witness of God to us as did Enoch as it is written, Matthew No where in the Word can we find a statement from Christ showing God planned to damn any one of His fleshy children, John Your doctrines prove the truth of these words. But God has denounced the error in "judgment" instituted by Satan from before the days of Isaiah until this very minute, Isaiah God only can teach the meaning of His Words, Isaiah This is done mostly when they come to heaven from their bodies, because Satan refuses to let their minds go, Isaiah No doctrine of unauthorized hirelings of men can undo this truth even though they may be forced by Satan to resist this Word because of their "church position". Man is therefore a balance. God gives him so many talents on the right side of his head, and then demons get weighed as being so much "lead", Psalm In the last letter we made it clear that only demons will be burned in hell, Isaiah Using her "scales, she and Satan taught demons how to "weigh out injustices" against mankind. But God has caused all their offspring "to stick in their own scales". They have the blame for all wickedness they weighed against mankind. Thus demons have worked hard to spring intricate traps which became a guarantee that their arms would burn, and they have made deep pits only to insure that their whole body is exterminated, II Samuel So sin has dissected demons and assured and secured damnation for each invisible part of their body. Demons alone will never repent, Revelation Man will repent after death, Proverbs 5:

Chapter 5 : THE SUPREME AUTHORITY OF GOD, OUR FATHER

There God himself said to his wifelike organization of loyal spirit creatures: "All your sons will be persons taught by Jehovah, and the peace of your sons will be abundant." Of course, her principal Son is Jesus Christ himself, brought forth as the Messiah when he was anointed with holy spirit in 29 C.E.

Those scriptures have to do with salvation itself. God wants all men to come to repentance and be saved. His merciful love also extends to his day-to-day behavior toward mankind. The gift of his Son is also part of his merciful love: His Son was given for all, not just the redeemed. God made available the gift of salvation by grace through the sacrifice of his Son, once for all see Hebrews 9: What is the condition? It is loving Jesus. What shows our love for Jesus? It is having his commands and obeying them. God the Father and our Lord Jesus love those who have and obey the commands of our Lord Jesus because they are the ones who love him. This is a specific, conditional love reserved for those who qualify by satisfying the condition. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. This time the condition of loving Jesus is to obey his teaching. Some may wonder what obedience to his teaching has to do with loving Jesus. Jesus said if anyone loves him he will obey his teaching. He goes on to make sure we understand by saying the opposite: Loving Jesus and obeying his teaching result in being loved by God. This time Jesus added that God the Father and Jesus himself will come to those who love and obey him and they will make their home with them – they will be indwelled with the Holy Spirit born again see also John Now remain in my love. If we obey his commands, we will remain in his love. By implication, if we do not obey his commands we will not remain in his love. Those who love him are the ones who obey his teachings and commands. Jesus added one more condition in John Those God loves believe this. Does God Love Everyone? The answer to this question is best illustrated by an example from Scripture. Obviously God does not love everyone, notwithstanding the claims of some pastors and teachers. God said he hated Esau, though he loved Jacob. Hate is an antonym of love – the opposite. The key to understanding that issue is found in 1 Peter 1: God alone can know through his foreknowledge how any person will react when confronted with the Gospel and whether a person will persevere in his faith. Because of what Esau would do, God hated him. Is that conclusion consistent with other Scripture? The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. Note David did not say God hated just the wrong. No, God hates all who do wrong, just as Esau did wrong and was hated by God. Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house Hosea 9: See also Jeremiah Note these are people Jesus is describing by their sins – cowardly people, unbelieving people, vile people, etc. They will all be thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. God hates those who do wrong, those who are wicked, violent, and do evil. There is nothing in Scripture that says God loves these people with anything other than his merciful love that is extended to all whether wicked or righteous. Teaching unrepentant people that God loves them with anything other than a temporary merciful love gives them a false assurance. The teaching of Scripture is that unless you repent, you too will all perish Luke The wicked must turn from their sin and turn to God through repentance. Sins God Hates What is it that God considers wicked such that he would hate those who do those things? See also Deuteronomy See those that God detests: There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: In the New Testament, Paul reviews sins God hates so much that those who practice them will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Do not be deceived: See also Galatians 5: For the devious are an abomination to the Lord; but He is intimate with the upright Proverbs 3: You love righteousness and hate wickedness Psalm Likely nothing angers God as much as the rejection of his Son by sinful man. Imagine giving up your child to die so others could be saved, only to find that those for whom you gave up your child were not grateful and refused to believe that you gave your child to die for them. Perhaps most of the world hates God. They reject him, they reject him as creator, they reject his Son, and they reject his commands. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands. But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him Deuteronomy 7: God keeps his covenant of love to those who love him and keep his commands. But God

emphasized how he would deal with those who hate him: See also Luke Whether we are loved by God is dependent upon whether we love his Son and have received him as our Lord. Those who love him and receive him as Lord obey his teachings and commands. In many scriptures cited above we see that the wicked are hated by God. If we claim that Jesus is our Lord but live wickedly, we lie and the truth is not in us. Instead of being loved by God we are hated by him, not only because of our wickedness but also because of our hypocrisy in claiming Jesus as Lord while living in disobedience to his commands. When Jesus is our Lord, our lives are to be characterized by love, righteousness, and holiness. Why the seeming connection between love for Jesus and obedience to his commands? The note on Exodus Is there a difference between the commands of God and the commands of Jesus? Jesus said that everything he said and did is just what his Father told him to do and say John 8: Jesus revealed to us the will of God when he told us what the Father told him to say. Many verses in Scripture testify that salvation is conditional. God made sure we understood this by setting up the contrast for us: Paul also made clear that salvation is conditional when he wrote to the Corinthian church: By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Note how explicit this explanation is. Paul assures them they are saved because they received the gospel he preached to them and they took their stand on it. But then he warns them that they must continue to hold firmly to it or they will have believed in vain. Likewise Paul emphasized conditional salvation to the Colossians: Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant Colossians 1: Paul reviewed the good news of the gospel, but then emphasized it was conditional, dependent upon continuing in the faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. Lest anyone think this is uncharacteristic of Paul, he concluded by saying this is the gospel of which he, Paul, has become a servant. In both of the above passages taught by Paul, he had a two-fold emphasis. They must continue “persist, persevere” in the faith. They must not be moved from the truth of the gospel. Jesus taught additional, conditional requirements for salvation. A person who would be saved must satisfy these or he will not be saved. What group of people will enter the kingdom of heaven? Only those who do the will of God. What is the will of God? Everything taught and commanded by the Lord Jesus. The leaders of the Jews held themselves out as exemplary in their righteousness. By this Jesus taught that the righteousness of hypocritical Pharisees was not sufficient; the righteousness that satisfies God must be of the heart. Will everyone enter the kingdom of heaven?

Chapter 6 : Chapter Romans 1â€“3

And all your children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of your children. all. Isaiah And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Why should God let you into Heaven? Do you know the answer? Are you confident in your salvation? Biblical Reasons To Read The Bible Fritz Chery 0 comments If someone wrote you love letters and you loved that person would you read those letters or just let them catch dust? Many Christians ask why should I read the Bible? We have time to do just about everything else, but when it comes to reading Scripture we say well look at the time I have to go. Instead of watching TV in the morning get in His Word. It is essential that you read the Bible as a whole. Start from the beginning. Challenge yourself and make a daily, weekly, or monthly challenge. Let Jesus Christ be your motivation and start today, it will change your life! Reading the Bible daily helps us to live life better. It helps you obey God and not sin. By guarding it in accordance with your word. I have sought you with all of my heart; do not let me drift away from your commands. Blessed are you, LORD! Teach me your statutes. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart. To guard yourself from false teachings and false teachers. Remember, I have told you ahead of time. To spend time with the Lord. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless. You will be convicted more of sin. No one goes to the Father except through me. But the Scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. To give us encouragement. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had. Your promise preserves my life. You have forsaken the love you had at first. Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. What can man do to me? You will know God better. Surely you have tasted that the Lord is good! For better fellowship with other believers. To defend the faith. We take every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ. To defend against Satan. Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever. Look on my suffering and deliver me, for I have not forgotten your law. The Bible helps us to grow as believers. He succeeds in everything he does. Wicked people are not like that. Instead, they are like husks that the wind blows away. This is what we pray: Scripture helps us serve God better. To use your time wisely instead of turning your mind to mush. Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days. But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. You will learn more about history. By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. Every chapter is showing something: Read thoroughly and you will see the bigger picture. It will make you wiser. Before you read the Bible, tell God to speak to you through His Word. Signup today and receive encouragement, updates, help, and more straight in your inbox.

Chapter 7 : International Bible Teaching Ministries

All mankind will one day (in the Dispensation of the Fullness of Times) come to express the Lordship of Christ Jesus of their own free will, but they will be doing so in a manner which God himself inspires (Philippians). This is when the whole of mankind will come to their ordained salvation promised before the world's foundation.

The vast majority of Christianity today believes that those who do not make a decision to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ in this short life will suffer eternal punishment, and that countless millions of ages from now they will be no nearer the end of their punishment than when it started. This doctrine has always seemed to me to be unworthy of a great God such as ours who is said to be all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-loving. Would He really create millions of creatures knowing they would be eternally miserable? Is shutting sin and sinners away in an eternal prison house the best that He can do? Has He no power or desire to save them? When our Lord Jesus Christ died on a cross and purchased our salvation, was it just for a small group He calls His church or was it for the whole world? I believe that the Bible alone contains the answers to these questions. And while I confess that in many passages it seems to support the teaching of eternal punishment, I have come to firmly believe that the true doctrine of the Bible is that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the entire human race. This doctrine is known as Universal Salvation or Universal Reconciliation. It is nothing new. Christians in every age have believed it, and it was the majority opinion in the Church during its first years. I would like to present the main points in the argument for the salvation of all through Jesus Christ in this short article. The thoughts of many Christians have been steeped in the doctrine of eternal punishment for so long that they may reject this argument out of hand. I ask you to keep an open mind and not let preconceived notions influence your opinion. I ask you to turn to the Scriptures to verify what I write here and ask the Holy Spirit, Who alone can teach truth, if what I am saying is truth. I ask you to be like the Bereans who searched the Scriptures daily to see if things were so Acts Universal Salvation Passages in the Bible. There are dozens, perhaps even hundreds, of passages in the Bible that tell us that all will be saved. Please read these passages without any doctrines or dogmas in mind to filter them through. What is the plain common-sense meaning of them? First of all there are numerous passages that say that God will save all, reconcile all, restore all, have mercy on all, gather all into Christ, and make all alive in Christ: Then there are a large number of verses that say that Jesus is the Savior of the world, died for the world, reconciled the world, and took away the sins of the world. And He died for all , that those who live should live no longer for themselves but for Him who died for them and rose again" 2 Cor 5: Furthermore, a time of universal worship of God and Christ is foretold in the Bible: The Bible says that God is good to all, loves His enemies, and His anger does not last forever! His tender mercies are over all His works " Psa Though He causes grief, yet He will show compassion according to the multitude of His mercies" Lam. Mercy triumphs over judgment James 2: There are also many verses that declare that God will release all of creation from the curse of sin and death, and that death and hell will no longer exist. O death, I will be your plagues, O sheol hell , I will be your destruction" Hos. O death, where is your sting? O hades hell where is your victory? Now many of these verses you can explain away if you really want to. Or you can say that God will force all men to worship Him right before He throws them into hell forever. But this is really twisting the normal sense of these verses around. There are, however, several passages in which the meaning is so plain that I believe no one can seriously deny that they teach universal salvation. Let us consider Col. No Christian denies that each time "all things" is mentioned in this passage it is all-inclusive. It includes everything ever made or that ever existed. Everyone accepts that Paul is talking about the entire human race here. We are all in Adam. It is obvious that we all die. The same "all" that die in Adam which of course is the whole human race are made alive in Christ. But when does this happen? The passage continues, "But each man in his own order. Please carefully read the marvelous passage, 1 Cor It ends with God being all in all. One more clincher passage is Rom. One man, Adam, sinned and brought death and judgment and condemnation to all men , the whole race. One man, Jesus, by His righteous act, His death on the cross, undid all the damage that Adam did! Adam spread death and sin to the whole race, and Jesus spreads justification of life to the same race, the same all men. How plain can this be? Those who argue for a partial salvation of the

race not only deny the plain meaning of this verse, but they say that Adam was more powerful than Jesus. They say Adam could spread sin and death to all men, but Jesus could only bring some men out of it. Eternal or Age-lasting Punishment? According to the Bible Jesus is the only name in heaven and earth by which a man may be saved Acts 4: No one comes to the Father except through Him John What does God do with sinners who die having never accepted Jesus in this life? As we have seen there is much support for universal salvation in the Bible, but believers in eternal punishment can point to about a dozen verses to support their claim of never-ending punishment Dan. God says He is not the author of confusion 1 Cor. Now if such an awful fate as eternal punishment is revealed by God in the Bible we should expect that He would warn us of it right at the beginning and that just about every page would repeat it. We should also expect that He would use language that left no doubt about the eternity of the punishment. God always sent prophets to warn His people of any impending danger, and what danger can be compared to that of suffering eternal torment? But the facts are that eternal punishment is not even mentioned until the book of Daniel, nearly two-thirds of the way through the Bible. And in the relatively few verses that do mention eternal punishment the words that are translated "eternal" are words that are used over and over in the Bible to describe things that have come to an end. In the vast majority of cases these words describe limited time periods. These are simple facts that anyone can verify. Let us start with the Old Testament. Jonah wrote about his time in the great fish, "The earth with her bars closed behind me forever olam " Jonah 2: Yet he was only there for three days Jonah 1: When a Hebrew slave loved his master he would have his ear bored with an awl and would then "serve him forever olam " Exod. Of course this could only mean for the rest of his life. Israel was not allowed to let a Moabite or Ammonite into the congregation forever olam Deut. The Levitical priesthood was said to be an eternal olam priesthood Ex The Sinai covenant was called an everlasting olam covenant Lev Sabbaths and ritual sacrifices were to be observed as a statute forever olam Lev. So when we read in Dan. God will punish until His people are corrected and repent. The word "olam" should be translated "indefinitely" or "age-lasting. Now let us turn to the New Testament where most of the so-called eternal punishment verses are located. We have about a dozen references to eternal punishment here. For instance we are told that some shall go to the "everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" Matt. In all of these dozen or so verses the length of the punishment is described by the Greek word "aion" Strongs or its adjective form "aionios" These words are used over and over again in the New Testament to describe limited time periods. Again, it is very easy to prove this by tracing their usage with a concordance. But first let me point out that we get our English word "eon" from the Greek "aion. Now the word "aion" is translated as "age" sometimes as "world" in dozens of passages in most Bibles. Here are some examples: Now try putting the sense of eternity into these verses and see how ridiculous it is: And yet this is the very same word on which the doctrine of eternal punishment stands! The words "olam" and "aion" have precisely the same meaning. They mean indefinite time , not never-ending time. They should be consistently translated as "age" or "age-lasting. The lake of fire lasts for an age of ages, not forever and ever. The phrase "forever and ever" is nonsense. What is the need for the second "ever" if the first one means never-ending. The Bible is remarkably consistent in the original Hebrew and Greek languages in which it was written. There were four words that were translated "hell" in the King James Bible. The Hebrew word "sheol," used in the Old Testament, merely describes the state of the dead without regard to reward or punishment.

Chapter 8 : The Purpose of Life | Philadelphia Church of God

Samuel taught: "All mankind, by the fall of Adam being cut off from the presence of the Lord, are considered as dead, both as to things temporal and to.

GOD - God is the supreme creator and sustainer of the entire universe who is eternal, all present, and all powerful. God is a loving, kind, and merciful being who is sharing His magnificent and eternal existence by reproducing Himself through mankind. Together, they form the basis of Christianity as taught by the church and as practiced by the true Christian. He is the Messiah who was prophesied in the Old Testament and described in the New Testament as being fully human and fully divine. He has existed throughout eternity as the "Word" and is the second member of the God family. He divested Himself of His power and His majesty, to become a human being in order to live a perfect life, thereby re-qualifying for eternal life. He then died for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected and ascended to heaven to become our Lord and High Priest. Jesus Christ will return to earth to establish the Kingdom of God where He will rule as King of kings with His saints as co-rulers forever. The Holy Spirit also serves as an earnest or guarantee of future eternal life. MANKIND - Humans have no inherent immortality as flesh and blood physical beings; however, they can receive eternal life as a free gift from our loving and merciful creator God. Although mankind was created by God as flesh and blood, He did so in His own image. Like mankind, angels also have free moral agency. Although angels were created to help God, some of them, led by Satan the devil, rebelled against God and His government. Their rebellious acts caused them to be transformed into demons. Salvation is a gift freely given through grace by God, with our ultimate reward given according to our works. Faith is necessary for salvation, of which, the basic elements are courage, action, and risk. True repentance is the first step toward reconciliation with God, and therefore ultimate salvation. After this ceremony, and as a result of all these actions, one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. It will be the world ruling government set up by Jesus Christ upon His return. Jesus Christ will be the King of Kings and will rule for all eternity with the resurrected spirit-composed saints ruling with Him. In the New Testament, the Kingdom of God is referred to as a "mystery". It was first preached and explained by Christ, then by His church. It includes the message of what Jesus Christ has done in the past, is doing now, and shall do. Ultimately, it is the message of the entire Old and New Testaments. The Bible refers to four resurrections. This is called the "second death". The law of God is taught in both the Old and the New Testaments. It requires both physical actions and spiritual convictions. The best known covenants were made with the physical nation of Israel. That covenant was re-established as the New Covenant with "better promises" and will be fully confirmed with spiritual Israel after the return of Jesus Christ. It also applies to the New Testament church from the time of the original apostles. They show mankind how to express love toward God and his fellowman, and are consequently the focal point of Christian life. It is to be taught and kept holy in accordance with the biblical instruction. They are ordained by God and were kept by the ancient Israelites. Keeping the holy days have been continued by the early New Testament Christians and are still kept today by modern day Christians. It is not the job of the church to "enforce" or "police" tithing, but simply teaches the responsibility to tithe. Each individual has the responsibility to "honor the Lord with his substance and with the firstfruits of all his increase. It is failing to meet the standards set by the character of Jesus Christ. The penalty for sin is death in the lake of fire, but all sin can be completely forgiven by God, who desires that all men be saved. God forgives sin upon the repentance of the sinner. Therefore, marriage, child rearing and the family are given a preeminent place in the teachings of the Bible and the church. He may bestow it in His mercy and love upon those who call upon Him in time of need, but often, according to their faith. The healings of Jesus Christ described in the Bible depict and represent His power to express compassion, to forgive sin, and ultimately, to resurrect the dead and eventually to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. Physically, it is a group of persons called out by God and impregnated with His Holy Spirit. As a spiritual body, the church is made up of baptized, Spirit-led people scattered all over the world.

Chapter 9 : Christian Universalism: True Biblical Christianity

First of all there are numerous passages that say that God will save all, reconcile all, restore all, have mercy on all, gather all into Christ, and make all alive in Christ: "We trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe" (1 Tim.).

Pulpit Commentary Verse Christians are all of them "taught of God" John 6: The "anointing," which they have from the Holy Ghost, "teaches them, and is truth, and is no lie" 1 John 2: And great shall be the peace of thy children. Messiah was to be "the Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9: His birth heralded the coming of "peace on earth" Luke 2: So far forth as men are true Christians, does peace reign in the conscience and show itself in the life. Externally there may be persecution, tumult, wars, fightings; but internally, in each heart, there will be a "peace that passes all understanding" Philippians 4: God "keeps in perfect peace" those" whose minds are stayed on him" Isaiah Matthew Henry Commentary The church is all glorious when full of the knowledge of God; for none teaches like him. It is a promise of the teaching and gifts of the Holy Spirit. All that are taught of God are taught to love one another. This seems to relate especially to the glorious times to succeed the tribulations of the church. Holiness, more than any thing, is the beauty of the church. There shall be no fears within; there shall be no fightings without. Military men value themselves on their splendid titles, but God calls them, Wasters made to destroy, for they make wasting and destruction their business. He created them, therefore he will serve his own designs by them. The day is coming when God will reckon with wicked men for their hard speeches, Jude 1: Security and final victory are the heritage of each faithful servant of the Lord. The righteousness by which they are justified, and the grace by which they are sanctified, are the gift of God, and the effect of his special love. Let us beseech him to sanctify our souls, and to employ us in his service.