

HEBREWS: REPLACING MAN'S RITUALISM WITH CHRIST
"Part V: Heeding Christ's WORD Above All Human Viewpoints"
(Hebrews 3:7-11, 17; 4:11-13)

Introduction: (To show the need . . .)

(1) Many Christian psychologists differ with writers like Jay Adams, Martin Bobgan and Dave Hunt on the **relation** of psychology to Scripture as a guide for believers. The Christian psychologists believe in using psychology **along with** Scripture where Adams, Bobgan and Hunt **resist** such counsel and opt for **Scripture alone**. The latter group argues that godless ideas by Freud, Jung, Rogers and others are foundational to basic presuppositions in Christian psychology, and this makes such science theologically errant.

Well, should a believer heed the input of Christian psychologists along with the Bible for guidance, or not? WHY?!

(2) Sharon Beach wrote in the April 2-8, '99 issue of the Voice: "To any or all of the Voice **religious** writers . . . If God created us in His image . . . how can we be imperfect, since God Himself is said to be perfect? If God is a loving God, why would He create us imperfectly, then punish us for being that way? Anybody who can answer these questions to my satisfaction will receive my deepest respect!"

The paper's editor, Alan Trevithick warned of a trap about Sharon's request on page 6, saying: "Anyone who is tempted by Ms. Beach's offer is well-advised to consider the phrase 'to my satisfaction'. How will we *know* that she is satisfied?"

Well, somebody could just not resist answering Sharon. The next issue (April 9-15, p. 5) sported the alias "Chuck" who wrote: "Hello Sharon: I think I can help you . . . God did create us in His image, we were created perfect, not imperfect, but Adam and Eve sinned thus becoming imperfect . . ."

Josh Wakefield of Canaan reacted in the April 16-22 issue, p. 5 writing: "Please don't listen to . . . stupid comments by Chuck and Trevithick . . . Sinning is a stupid, useless concept best ignored."

In the same issue, a regular religious writer, Bill Dunn threw his hat into the ring, writing, "Hi Sharon. God did **not** create us perfect . . . If He had then we **never** would've *sinned* . . ."

Well, are we to take the input of the most reasonable idea of the VOICE's religious writers to determine if God created us "perfect" or NOT, in what WAY, etc., or not, or check the Bible PLUS these writers' comments for the truth? WHY?

(We turn to the sermon "Need" section . . .)

Need: "In view of scientific progress, should we pay heed to man's insight on issues or **SUBJECT** all thought to the Bible? **WHY?!"**

- I. **When Israel was in the wilderness, a whole generation died for putting man's viewpoint ABOVE God's promise and track record!**
 - A. Hebrews tells us God disciplined the generation in Israel that wandered in the wilderness because of unbelief, He. 3:7-11, 17; 4:11:
 1. God was angry with the generation of Israel that erred in the wilderness, and so judged them to die in that desert, He. 3:7-11, 17.
 2. The sin that led to this judgment was **unbelief**, Hebrews 4:11.
 - B. If we view Israel's wanderings, we see this **unbelief** was a **dependence** upon **human viewpoint above trusting God's Word and character**:
 1. God had told Moses to take Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land **based upon** His **promise** to Abraham, Ex. 3:7-8; Ex. 2:24-25
 2. Yet, Israel **ten times** (Num. 14:22) doubted (a) this **promise** of arriving in the land and (b) **God's character** seen in His track record choosing rather to depend on **man's views** instead (as follows):
 - a. Israel **thought** it was **foolish** to expect to escape death from Pharaoh's chariots as the nation was all on foot. Thus, the people feared death regardless of God's promise to Abraham and His having miraculously freed them from Pharaoh to indicate He was willing and able to rescue them **again**, Ex. 14:11-12.
 - b. Israel **thought** it was **foolish** to expect to meet her thirst needs while facing bitter tasting water, Ex. 15:23-24. The people feared death regardless of God's promise to Abraham and His having rescued them **via** a miracle involving the Red Sea waters!
 - c. Israel **thought** it was **foolish** to expect to live in the wilderness without any **natural** provision for food, Ex. 16:2. She feared starvation regardless of God's promise to Abraham and of His already indicating His will to save by deliverance from Pharaoh!
 - d. Israel **thought** it was **foolish** to expect manna to come the **next day** as the wilderness was barren, Ex. 16:19-20. She feared death regardless of God's promise to Abraham and the fact that God had provided manna the **first** day!
 - e. Israel **thought** it was **foolish** to expect her Friday manna to be **preserved** until the Sabbath as it had **spoiled** the next day for the **other** days of the week, Ex. 16:27-28. The people did not depend on God's promise to Abraham and God's miracles so far!

- f. Israel **thought** it was *foolish* to expect to live where there **was no** water, Ex. 17:1-3. Though God had changed bitter water to pure and moved the Red Sea, she didn't trust His promise to Abraham and this proven divine help so far!
- g. Israel **thought** it was *foolish* to expect to be led any **more** by *Moses* in Ex. 32:1-7. She didn't consider God's promise to Abraham and past help through Moses' leading to date.
- h. Israel **thought** it was *foolish* to expect God to make them happy in the desert, Num. 11:1. She had not considered God's promise to Abraham and track record of help to date.
- i. Israel **thought** it was *foolish* to expect her cravings for **particular** foods to be met in the desert as God had given only manna, Num. 11:4. She did not value His promise to Abraham or His power to improve taste in having made bad water good.
- j. Israel **thought** it was *foolish* to expect to defeat the giants of Canaan, Num. 14:1-4! She did not value God's promise to Abraham or God's deliverance from Pharaoh!

II. **Thus, Hebrews tells US to heed Scripture or be disciplined for it:**

- A. We believers **today** must make every effort to trust God's Word and "rest" from our fretting about life's provisions based on human viewpoint and doubts of the faith or suffer God's discipline, Heb. 4:11.
- B. After all, **as it was** in *Moses'* era, how we interact with God's **Word** (promises) yields enormous **consequences**, Hebrews 4:12-13:
 1. The **God** of Scripture is *living TODAY* so as to check up on how well we **believe** His Word and obey it, Hebrews 4:12a.
 2. The **God** of Scripture is as *powerful TODAY* to fulfill His Word and to judge us in discipline if we do not heed it, Hebrews 4:12b!
 3. The **God** of Scripture uses His **Word** to *DISCERN* and **judge** sin in us as He did in the wilderness doubters so long ago, Heb. 4:12c.
 4. The **God** of Scripture uses His **Word** to evaluate **every** secret of our hearts, so we **cannot avoid** being **accountable** to Him, 4:13!

Application: (1) *To have eternal life, we must OBEY God's order for us to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, for eternal life, Acts 17:30-31.* (2) *As BELIEVERS, God holds us ACCOUNTABLE as in the case of ancient Israel, even with our physical lives, to HEED and OBEY His Word: (a) hence, we need to READ it and (b) lean on its instruction above ALL human viewpoints! (c) We should still CONSIDER advice from the learned (Prov. 11:14), but yet SUBJECT it all to SCRIPTURE'S words by way of priority!*

Lesson: *We MUST heed God's Word ABOVE all human viewpoints, for GOD ALMIGHTY holds us accountable to OBEY His Word!*

Conclusion: (To illustrate the sermon lesson . . .)

(1) Last Sunday, I shared with you the illustration of my daughter's acquisition of a special UCONN tee-shirt. We bought one that had UCONN's winning score over Duke in the championship game for Connie to wear before her surgeon who once played for Duke!

After giving that illustration, my conscience bothered me. I believe it is wrong to clown in the pulpit, and I wondered if I had erred in the way I supplied the humor in giving that illustration!

Well, Jake Voskuhl who played center on that UCONN team, heard of my illustration. I believe he heard of it by way of Kathy Brunetti's telling it to her relative who attends the same church as Jake.

In response, Jake Voskuhl wrote a get well card on special UCONN "Husky" stationery for Kathy's relative to pass on to Connie. He wrote: "Dear Connie, get well soon, (signed), Jake, #43."

When Kathy brought that card to the house on Monday, it was as though God were saying to me, "I heard that illustration, Don, and I **also** want you to be careful **how** you preach! Now, in **grace**, I will make mileage out of it all for the good, but be careful in the future!"

I came away with a deep sense of ACCOUNTABILITY to the Lord in regards to the ministry of the Word! HOW we respond to Scripture, how we TEACH it is not to be taken lightly! Let's HEED it as our SUPREME authority for ALL reality!

(2) Re: the Voice issue by which we began this message, Genesis 1:31 says that all God made, including man, was "very good". However, Genesis 2:17 shows God warning man that he would die if he disobeyed God. Thus, God made man perfect, but man **sinned** to become depraved, Gen. 3:6-24. However, believers are given *positional* perfection by faith in Christ (Eph. 1:3-13) and one day are given *experiential* perfection in the eternal state! (1 Jn. 3:2; Eph. 1:14).

(3) Re: "Christian psychology", **observable facts** in nature are *truth* acc: to Psalm 19:1-6 where **fallen man's thoughts** are *corrupt* acc: to Gen. 6:5. Well, "psychology" is a **mixture** of **observable facts** and **fallen man's interpretations**, so we must subject **all** "psychology" to **Scripture** so God's Word can purge out errant human views! [I teach the **best** route to take is to get a steady diet of Scripture, for then the Supernatural Counselor, Christ (Isa. 9:6), God's Word impersonated (Rev. 19:12-16), can meet all the needs of the heart!