

NOT EVERYONE IS A CHILD OF GOD : PART 1

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Washed Clean By The Blood Of The Lamb, We All Have Sinned, Wages Of Sin is Death, Jesus Is Our Father's Ambassador Of Love, Jesus Offered Himself As Vicarious Atonement For Our Sins, Jesus Opened The Way To Eternal Life, Verbally Confess Christ, Jesus Is Our Only Savior And God's Only Recognized Mediator, Faith In Christ Makes Us God's Children Through Spiritual Adoption, Salvation And Eternal Life Is Offered To All Men, There Are Not Many Paths To God, Blasphemy Against Holy Ghost, God Does Not Lie And Keeps His Word, Jesus Is The Door Of The Sheep, Not Everyone Is A Child Of God: Only People Who Accept Jesus Christ, Chosen For Adoption Before Foundation Of The World, A Conscious Choice, Naturalization

As my regular readers will know, it has long been my belief that upon accepting Jesus Christ as one's Savior, a person receives the free Gift of Eternal Life, and is forgiven for their sins. They are washed clean of all of their sins by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, as we can determine by verses such as the following:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Isaiah 1:18, KJV

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28, KJV

"And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my

body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many."

Mark 14:22-24, KJV

"And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:14-20, KJV

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."

Ephesians 2:13, KJV

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;"

Hebrews 10:19-20, KJV

"Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate . . . Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Hebrews 13:12, 20-21, KJV

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."

1 Peter 1:2, KJV

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

1 John 1:7, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Revelation 1:5, KJV

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Revelation 7:14, KJV

Of course, as all Christians realize, the reason why we must be washed in and covered by the Blood of Jesus Christ in the first place, is because God's Word informs us that we are all sinners. Again, consider the following Bible verses which clearly prove this point:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

Psalms 51:5, KJV

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one . . . For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Romans 3:10, 23, KJV

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Romans 5:12, KJV

"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)"

Ephesians 2:5, KJV

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come . . . I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

John 8:21, 24, KJV

As some of the previous verses reveal, as a result of our sinful condition, we all have a certain destiny with death. Following are a few additional verses which confirm this very same point:

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? . . . For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:16, 23, KJV

"The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law."

1 Corinthians 15:56, KJV

"Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

James 1:15, KJV

"If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it."

1 John 5:16, KJV

Thankfully, due to His Divine Foresight and planning, our Heavenly Father put a long-term plan in motion, whereby we can all escape this predicament, if we so choose. This Plan of Salvation was brought into full force when He sent His only begotten Son into this world; not only to serve as an Ambassador of His -- the Father's -- great love, but also to sacrifice Himself, forfeit His own life, and thus become a form of Vicarious Atonement for our sins. By willingly doing this, Jesus opened the way to Eternal Life for us all, and nullified our sentence of death as a result of sin. Consider the following verses:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 3:16, KJV

"That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 5:21, KJV

"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Romans 8:2, KJV

For our part, the requirements which we must meet in order to receive this free Gift of Salvation and Eternal Life, are to accept Christ as our Savior, believe in His Resurrection, and confess Him openly before men. Furthermore, we must also recognize Him as the only Mediator who is acceptable to the Father, and the only way to gain Forgiveness, Redemption and Salvation. Consider the following verses:

"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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Romans 10:9-10, KJV

"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."

1 Corinthians 12:3, KJV

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:2-3, KJV

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6, KJV

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Acts 4:12, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"

1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

If we do these things, and exercise this faith, the Bible informs us that we undergo a type of naturalization process, and we literally become the adopted Children of God, as well as beloved members of His very own household, as we see by the verses which follow:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"

John 1:12, KJV

"And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."

Luke 20:34-36, KJV

"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. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."

Romans 8:15-17, KJV

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:26, KJV

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,"

Ephesians 1:5, KJV

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"

Ephesians 2:19, KJV

This then is our Father's wonderful Plan of Redemption and Salvation in a nutshell. As I point out in articles such as "All Are Given a Chance, But . . ." and "Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?", this free, multi-faceted Gift of Forgiveness, Redemption, Salvation, Eternal Life and Spiritual Adoption is available to all persons everywhere, exactly as we are told in the verses which follow. That is why we are told that "God so loved the world". In other words, God offered His Son -- Jesus -- as Atonement for the sins of the entire world, and not just for a small, select group of people:

"The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe."

John 1:7, KJV

"That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him."

John 5:23, KJV

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

John 6:37, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:28, KJV

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

John 12:32, KJV

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

Acts 17:30-31, KJV

"Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life."

Romans 5:18, KJV

"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this

grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:"

Ephesians 3:8-11, KJV

"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

1 Timothy 2:3-4, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

1 Timothy 2:5-6, KJV

"For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

1 Timothy 4:10, KJV

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"

Titus 2:11, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

By looking at all of the previous verses from an opposite or reverse perspective, we can likewise discover several very important truths. The very first of these is the fact that if Salvation is offered to all men, it implies that no one -- not one single individual -- is, or can be, saved without accepting Jesus Christ. As I explain in the series entitled "Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?", this single truth exposes the fallacy of the widespread lie which proposes that there are many paths to God outside of believing in Jesus Christ. To believe this devilish doctrine is to basically call God a liar, and His Sacred Word a lie.

In the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus referred to this grievous sin of calling His Father a liar, blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. Furthermore, as I mention in other articles, the Lord said that this is the one unpardonable sin, as we can determine by the following verses:

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come."

Matthew 12:31-32, KJV

"Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:"

Mark 3:28-29, KJV

Contrary to what some nonbelievers may think, God does not lie. He keeps His word to us, and He fulfills His promises to us as well. If there is any falsehood involved, it is on the part of man, and not on God's part. This is made evident by verses such as the following:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

Numbers 23:19, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"

Titus 1:2, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in

himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."

1 John 5:10, KJV

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

1 John 1:10, KJV

To reiterate, to foolishly claim that there are many paths to God -- as so many deceived people do today -- is really to invalidate the Sacrifice of Christ. In effect, to believe this devilish lie is to make Jesus' Death on a cruel Roman Cross absolutely meaningless. For my part, I am convinced by the previous verses that there is only one path to God, and it is directly through Jesus Christ, who is the one and only Door. Choose any other door by mistake, and we will end up in the wrong place, and we clearly won't like it. Consider these additional verses:

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:1-9, KJV

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name . . . Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Revelation 3:8, 20, KJV

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This

is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand,
and when ye turn to the left."

Isaiah 30:21, KJV

The second and equally powerful truth which is revealed by the previous verses, is that contrary to another widespread, devilish lie which has been promoted for many decades now, not everyone is a Child of God. The previous verses inform us that we gain the power "to become the sons of God" when we receive, believe in and confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. If we are all already the Children of God, as this deceptive lie claims, then why is there any need for us "to become the sons of God" as John 1:12 clearly states? It does not make any sense, does it?

This very same truth is likewise expressed in the previous verses which concern the issue of adoption. Again, if we are all already the Children of God, then why is there a need for us to become the adopted Children of God, as the Apostle Paul explains in several of his Epistles? In fact, Paul informs us that our Heavenly Father actually put this Plan of Adoption in motion "before the foundation of the world". Due to His own Love and Foresight, He chose us for adoption "before the foundation of the world" as we see by these verses:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"

Ephesians 1:3-4, KJV

In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John informs us of the very same thing. John makes it very clear that there is a distinct division between the Children of God, and the Children of the Devil who worship the Beast. Common sense dictates that one cannot be both a child of the Devil and a Child of God at the same time. We are either one, or we are the other. Similar to the Apostle Paul, and using a method of implied comparison, John reveals that we have each been predestinated for spiritual adoption "from the foundation of the world". That is why our names are written in the Book of Life; because God knows the end from the beginning, even if we don't. Consider these verses:

"The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and

they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Revelation 17:8, KJV

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

Isaiah 46:9-10, KJV

As I stated a moment ago, we can't become something which we already are. Therefore, we can only conclude that we are not truly the Children of God, and we are not truly the adopted sons and daughters of God, until the day in which we are spiritually reborn -- and thus adopted -- through our faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This is precisely what Paul wrote in the verse that I shared earlier from his Epistle to the Galatians. Paul writes "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus". What is it that makes us Children of God? Our "faith in Christ Jesus". It could not be any clearer than that. If we don't have faith in Christ Jesus, we are not truly a Child of God.

Of course, it should obviously be understood that from God's perspective, we are His adopted children from the very start. Why? Because He has already seen the end from the beginning, and He knows beforehand what choice we will eventually make. However, technically-speaking, until we actually fulfill the conditions of Salvation which He has set -- meaning to accept Christ -- we are not yet born-again, saved Children of God.

It should be clear to you then, that if one does not profess faith in Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he is not a Child of God, no matter what anybody says. To reiterate, the previous verses make it very clear that a conscious choice is involved. To become a naturalized citizen of God's Kingdom, and an adopted member of His household, we must choose to believe in and receive Christ, and we must verbally confess our faith in Him before others as well. It is not simply an automatic process. It requires our conscious participation.

From a secular perspective, if a person enters a particular country, does that automatically make him a citizen of that country? Of course not. At best, he will be a visitor on a

tourist visa, a student on a cultural visa, a traveling businessman, a diplomat, a foreign worker with a green card, or something similar. In order for that person to become a legal resident and citizen of that nation, he must undergo a lengthy, complex process which involves years of work, piles of paperwork and bureaucratic red tape, a number of tests, proof of loyalty, a swearing in process, etc., first. He must prove that he is worthy to be legally declared a citizen of that country.

So it is with God's Kingdom as well. We must meet all of His requirements first, before we can ever hope to be declared one of His adopted children. Furthermore, we are made worthy through our acceptance of the Sacrifice of Jesus Christ. So again, not everyone is a Child of God automatically at birth.

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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NOT EVERYONE IS A CHILD OF GOD : PART 2

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There Are No Neutrals, We Are A Child Of The Lamb Or A Child Of The Goat, Parable Of The Wheat And The Tares, Revelation's Double Harvest, First Harvest, Harvest Of Wrath, Children Of Wrath And Children Of Disobedience, The Unbelieving Jews Are Antichrist Children Of Hell False Jews And The Synagogue Of Satan, Lying Spirit Of Antichrist, A Wide Gate And Broad Way To Destruction, Chaff Burned Up In Lake Of Fire, Perdition Of Ungodly Men, Vessels Of Wrath Predestined To Destruction And Vessels Of Mercy, Only Two Kinds Of People, No Neutrals, Lord Knows Them That Are His, Damnable Heresies, Dangers Of "Many Paths" And "Everyone Is A Child Of God" Doctrines, Doctrines Of Devils, False Religions, John 14:6, Suggested Reading List

As I explain in articles such as "Child of the Lamb, or Child of the Goat?", this is really a black and white issue with no ambiguous gray area in between. There are no neutrals. Even in the Gospels, the Lord makes it clear that we are either on one side, or else we are on the other. We are either for Him, or else we are against Him. Either we are a Child of God, or else we are a child of the Devil. We are either His sheep, or else we are Satan's goats. We are either good wheat, or else we are tares which are only fit for destruction. Consider the following verses:

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Matthew 7:22-23, KJV

"He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad."

Matthew 12:30, KJV

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."

Matthew 13:24-30, KJV

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep

on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."

Matthew 25:31-46, KJV

This double harvest of wheat and tares, sheep and goats, and the Children of God and the children of the Devil, is also symbolically mentioned in the fourteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation. In the following verses, we are told that one "like unto the Son of man" who wears a golden crown -- who we can assume is Jesus -- reaps the Earth. I believe that this represents the harvest of the good wheat; that is, the sheep who have accepted Jesus Christ:

"And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp

sickle. And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs."

Revelation 14:14-20, KJV

After Jesus rescues His children -- that is, the saved sheep or good wheat -- from the Earth during the first harvest, we are next told that another Angel comes out of the Temple in Heaven in order to reap the Earth a second time. Whereas the first event represents the harvest of God's Grace and Mercy, this second event symbolizes the harvest of His Wrath. This harvest reaps the grapes of wrath, which are synonymous with the tares and the goats. The Apostle Paul refers to them as the children of wrath and the children of disobedience. They are, of course, the unbelieving children of the Devil who have not believed in or accepted the Gospel and Testimony of Jesus Christ. Consider the following verses:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others."

Ephesians 2:2-3, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"

Colossians 3:6, KJV

By extension, and in a general sense, we can say that the previous verses are referring to the nonbelievers of all ages who have rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a result of their stubborn disobedience to God's Will -- which is that

they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior -- they do in fact make themselves subject to God's Wrath. Jesus Himself teaches us the very same thing in the Gospel of John when He says the following:

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 3:36, KJV

In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul mentions this very same Divine Wrath which is meted out against all ungodly and rebellious men when he writes the following:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Romans 1:18, KJV

Thus, in the previous verse set, Paul reminds us that prior to our coming to Christ, we were in danger of experiencing God's Wrath when he writes "we all . . . were by nature the children of wrath".

However, as I explain in the series "The Great Tribulation and the Rapture", as well as in a number of other articles, it is my personal belief that in both a historical and a Biblical sense, the previous verses actually refer to one specific group of people. As some of you will already know, Jesus had a number of very negative things to say regarding these people, as did some of the other writers of the New Testament, such as the Apostles John and Paul. Who were and are these children of wrath and children of disobedience? I am convinced that they are in fact the unbelieving Jews who Jesus Himself informs us have lost the Kingdom, due to their stubborn unbelief and sound rejection of their one true Messiah.

If you doubt that this is so, then please consider the harsh truth concerning the unbelieving Jews that is revealed in the following verses. Jesus, John and Paul are all talking to and writing about their very own Jewish brethren, whom they had to deal with day after day, and year after year:

"And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom

[the Jews who falsely claim to be God's "Chosen People"] shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 8:11-12, KJV

"Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you [from the unbelieving Jews], and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Matthew 21:43, KJV

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

Matthew 23:15, KJV

". . . Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it . . . He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God."

John 8:39-44, 47, KJV

"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."

Romans 2:28-29, KJV

"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the

seed."

Romans 9:6-8, KJV

"In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them [the Jews] which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:4, KJV

"I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan."

Revelation 2:9, KJV

"Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

Revelation 3:9, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."

1 John 2:22, KJV

"And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world."

1 John 4:3, KJV

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

2 John 1:7, KJV

Carefully notice Jesus' clear-cut responses in the previous verses. In one place He states "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"; and in another He outright says to the unbelieving Jews "Ye are not of God". If we are all the Children of God as some people erroneously believe, why in the world would Jesus say such things to anyone? It is obvious to me that "I never knew you" and "Ye are not of God" clearly mean that a person is not really a Child of God. The Apostle Paul also makes a very clear distinction when he writes "these are not the children of God". So, if we claim -- as so many misguided people do today -- that everyone is a Child of God, are we not in error? In fact, aren't we even

contradicting what Jesus said?

Furthermore, if we are all the Children of God as this modern false doctrine states, why would even one single person end up in the Lake of Fire? As you may know, in the Gospels, the Epistles and the Book of Revelation, we are clearly told that not just a few, but in fact many people will end up in that awful place. As Jesus tells us, the chaff will be burned up with unquenchable fire. Consider the following verses:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28, KJV

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

1 Thessalonians 5:3, KJV

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

2 Peter 3:7, KJV

"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jude 1:4, KJV

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name."

Revelation 14:9-11, KJV

"And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh."

Revelation 19:20-21, KJV

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever . . . And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:10, 15, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Revelation 21:8, KJV

For a more in-depth study of the topics of hell and the Lake of Fire, please consider reading the series entitled "Hell, the Lake of Fire and Universalism".

You will notice that the Apostle Peter refers to this as the "perdition of ungodly men"; and the Apostle Jude informs us that such ungodly men "were before of old ordained to this condemnation". In other words, as I explained earlier, as a result of His Divine Foresight, God knew beforehand that this would be the fate of these people. The people who end up in the Lake of Fire were not predestinated and chosen by God to be heirs of the Promise through Christ. In other words, they

were not predestinated to be His children. They were Satan's children all along. They were ungodly; that is, they were not of God. Isn't that what Jesus also said: "Ye are not of God"?

As shocking as this doctrine may be to some people, perhaps even to some Christians, nevertheless, it is in fact Biblical truth. Some people are simply destined to be destroyed from the very start. The Apostle Paul teaches us this very same thing in his Epistle to the Roman brethren. In the following verses he refers to these unsaved, unrepentant people as the "vessels of wrath"; just as in the previous verses that we examined, he also calls them the "children of wrath" and the "children of disobedience":

"What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,"

Romans 9:22-23, KJV

As you can plainly see, Paul makes a clear contrast between the "vessels of wrath" who are "fitted to destruction", and the "vessels of mercy" which God has preordained, and thus "prepared unto glory". What we have learned then from the Gospels and forward, is that there are two distinct classes of people who are mentioned in the Scriptures: the believers and nonbelievers, wheat and tares, sheep and goats, vessels of wrath and vessels of mercy, and the Children of God and the children of Satan. We are either one, or else we are the other. There is no middle ground. There are no neutrals. We are for Christ, or against Christ. We are either predestined for Eternal Life and the Kingdom of Heaven, or else we are condemned to wrath and the Lake of Fire.

Thus, whether we like it or not, and regardless of whether or not it agrees with what we have chosen to believe, based upon such a preponderance of Scriptural evidence, we must be willing to recognize that not everyone is really a Child of God. Some people -- in fact, many people -- are the children of the Devil. They are unsaved, stiff-necked, hard-hearted, unrepentant reprobates who will never enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven. However, be of good cheer; because if you personally have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, and if you are faithfully confessing Him before others, then you can indeed have the assurance in your heart of knowing that Jesus will recognize you on that Great Day. As the Apostle

Paul also wrote to his dear son in the faith, Timothy:

"Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

2 Timothy 2:19, KJV

So when the great Day of Judgment finally arrives, and Jesus sits upon His throne to judge the entire world, He will know you. He will not say to you "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity", as He will do with the children of the Devil.

Let me conclude this article by addressing those people who have made the mistake of embracing the false doctrines which I have discussed herein. Regardless of where you picked up these false doctrines, whether as a peace and love hippy of the 1960's era, or as a result of the politically-correct, watered-down, feel-good, false gospel which has surfaced in recent decades, nevertheless, they are still false, and they are in fact damnable. The Apostle Peter refers to such false doctrines as "damnable heresies", as we see by this verse:

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

These particular doctrines are damnable because they can lead people to believe that they are saved Children of God, when maybe they are really no such thing. In other words, if they swallow the lie which claims that everyone is a Child of God, or if they embrace its companion deception which erroneously promotes the belief that all paths -- including non-Christian religions -- lead to God, then they may never recognize their need to believe in, receive and confess Jesus Christ. They may never obtain true Salvation. That is the spiritual danger which such doctrines pose.

If you have embraced any of these false doctrines in your life, my hope is that this article will serve as a mechanism of enlightenment for you, and that it will bring you out from under your cloud of deception. Please embrace the true Light

by accepting Jesus Christ today. Forsake that false Angel of Light -- Satan -- and his false emissaries who preach their false doctrines of light, which are exposed in the following verses:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"

Ephesians 4:14-15, KJV

"Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Hebrews 13:9, KJV

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

1 Timothy 1:3-4, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;"

1 Timothy 4:1, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

Please notice in that last verse that John writes that whoever doesn't abide in the doctrine of Christ "hath not God". This is very similar to what John also writes in the fifth chapter of his first Epistle where he states this:

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

1 John 5:12, KJV

So once again we see that not everyone is really a Child of God despite their claims. If a person rejects Christ as the Son of God and the only Savior of the world -- this includes unbelieving Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Shintoists, Sikhs, Native Americans, Rastafarians, New Agers, Wiccans, Taoists, etc. -- they are simply not a true Child of God. Again, it is a black and white issue with no shades of gray. God's Word is very clear. Either John 14:6 and all related verses are true, or else they are not.

With these thoughts I will bring this article to a close. I hope that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been a blessing and an inspiration in your life. If you

have enjoyed reading this article, please consider sharing its URL with your online friends. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would also appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which are related to the topics which were discussed in this article. All of them are also located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server:

All Are Given a Chance, But . . .
Apostasy of Oprah Winfrey: America's False Prophetess?
Child of the Lamb, or Child of the Goat?
Hell, the Lake of Fire and Universalism
Is the Message of Salvation Meant for All Men?
Message to the World
Salvation is Free Through Jesus Christ
The Great Tribulation and the Rapture

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