



The Grace Proclamator and Promulgator

“To testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

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THE DOCTRINE OF ETERNAL ELECTION DISCOVERED, COMPREHENDED, AND EMBRACED



Editor's note: William Huntington was a perplexed Arminian who in his study of the holy word of God kept running into the doctrine of eternal election unto salvation. Like so many of us who were raised in the camp of the Arminians, he tried to avoid the doctrine

but it kept popping up everywhere he studied in the word of God. This article is his testimony of how he came to comprehend and embrace this wonderful doctrine. (I gave his testimony its current title.) I know that, to many of you who read this, it will be a blessing. His experience certainly parallels my own experience in coming to see and embrace the doctrine of grace. Instead of trying to read the whole Bible as did Huntington, I set up headings on a large piece of paper on my desk and when I would find a

Scripture on reprobation I would write that Scripture down. I did the same thing with election and others. The time came when I could no longer kick against the pricks and embraced, by God's grace, the wonderful body of truth that relates to salvation which we call the doctrine of grace. I used the singular, doctrine, instead of referring to the doctrines of grace for a particular and biblical reason. I recently taught a lesson in Bible School in which I dealt with this matter. We were studying John chapter 7. **John 7:16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.** When Jesus referred to his doctrine he always did so in the singular. The apostle Paul followed the same practice.. **2 Timothy 3:10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.** On the other hand, when they spoke of false doctrine both Jesus and Paul referred to doctrines. **Matthew 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Colossians 2:22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?** If you are perplexed about finding this doctrine of grace in the Scriptures I pray that this may be of an encouragement to you. May God bless you and bless this to your heart as you read it. (RWC)

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HUNTINGTON'S TESTIMONY

By William Huntington

The doctrine of eternal election began to

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appear very plain in the Bible, which led my mind into greater perplexity than ever; read where I would, it appeared. However, if I found it in the Prophets, or in the Epistles, I regarded it not; but if it appeared in the four Evangelists, then I thought it was Christ's own word, and would certainly stand fast for ever. I therefore got my pen, ink, and paper, and was determined to read every book in the Bible carefully, to see if each penman of the Scriptures had written respecting this doctrine. This was a hard task for me, as I could not read one chapter with

propriety. However, I began, and read through several books, writing down the chapters and verses in which the doctrine of election occurred; and the more I searched after it, the plainer it appeared, for the doctrines of eternal election and absolute predestination seemed to be the principal arteries of that whole body of divinity. However, I fled to the Evangelists, in hopes of setting the doctrines of Christ by them to contradict all the Prophets. But, alas! I found Christ preached it more forcibly than all the Prophets put together, as appeared by the following scriptures: **"Ye are not my sheep" (John 10:26). "Ye shall seek Me, and not find me" (John 7:34). "I pray not for the world" (John 17:9). "And He said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God; but to them that are without, all these things are done in parables" (Mark 4:11). And again, "But to them it is not given". I pray "for them that Thou hast given Me" (John 17:9). "I lay down My life for the sheep" (John 10:15). "All that the Father giveth me shall come to Me" (John 6:37). "I know whom I have chosen" (John 13:18). "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him" (John 6:44). "Many are called, but few chosen" (Matt. 20:16). "And the angels shall gather together His elect from the four winds" (Matt. 24:31). And, "Of all the Father hath given Me, I shall lose nothing" (John 6:39).** And I saw that the doctrines of predestination and election reflected the tremendous doctrine of reprobation in many passages of the Scripture.

All these doctrines run through the whole Bible. There are some whom Christ did not redeem; as He declares, **"I lay down My life for My sheep, but ye are not of My sheep,"** etc. No; for they had sold themselves to work wickedness. **"And the house of such is established in the hands of him that bought it;" it is fixed "in a walled city, and shall never go out in the year of jubilee" (Lev. 25:30).**

The renowned offspring for wickedness spring from mixed marriages in the antediluvian world, selling birthrights in the patriarchal age, the sins of presumption under the law, the great

transgressions in prophetic times, amount to the unpardonable sin under the gospel dispensation; and these sinners bear the mark of reprobation; for, if they were elected, they would not be allowed to break through into the hopeless regions; for election guards the gulf of reprobation, so that neither Abraham nor Lazarus could pass over it. Let men say what they please, **"God hath made all things for Himself, yea, even the wicked for the day of evil" (Proverbs 16:4)**

But the Arminian (free willer) thinks that God is just like himself, (Psalms 50:21) and that He will turn and twist like a weeping willow; say and unsay, call us by grace to-day and damn us tomorrow. However, I found Him, as Job did, to be **"of one mind, and none can turn Him" (Job 23:13)**. As He says, **"I am God, and change not, therefore ye are not consumed" (Malachi 3:6)**. It appears to me that some heathens have a stronger confidence in the immutability of devils than some Arminians (free willers) (whom I have talked with) have in the immutability of the Most High.

THE END

A WORD TO THE READERS!

Because we are now publishing the paper for the Internet as well as hard copies that are mailed I have changed the format somewhat. Because we have to prepare it in PDF format for the printer and also we are publishing it in PDF format for the Internet, I am no longer continuing articles to other locations as in the past. When you start reading an article it will continue without being continued elsewhere until it is finished. This is especially important for publication on the Internet. For some readers it may also be preferable. I have always tried to start two or more articles on page 1 but that will no longer be the practice. I will try each time to put a list of the articles that are in each particular issue on page one (1). The pictures that are printed in the paper that is mailed out will be in black and white but the pictures that are published on the Internet will be in color. If you wish to read back issues of the paper they

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When you find a paper that you would like to read simply click on that paper you will be taken to the PDF file. I know that most of you know this but some of our readers may not.

CHRISTIAN, YOU ARE RICH!

By James Smith

"But you are rich!" Revelation 2:9

Real saints always feel themselves to be 'poor sinners'. Many of God's people are really poor in reference to the things of time, for God has chosen the poor of this world—to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He has promised to them that love Him. They are often persecuted, tried, tempted and cast down; so was the church in Smyrna; but Jesus says to her, **"But you are rich!"** So are all the Lord's people.

Rich by relation—God is their Father, and Jesus their elder Brother.

Rich by donation—Jesus has bequeathed unsearchable riches to them.

Rich by promises—the Lord has promised all good things.

Rich by faith—for he who believes shall inherit all things.

Rich in expectation—for they look for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Christian, you are rich! Jesus has willed to you . . .

His righteousness—to justify you;

His blood—to cleanse you;

His Spirit—to sanctify you;

His heaven—to be your everlasting habitation!

Precious Savior! I would admire and adore
Your love! O teach me to live out of self—on
Your fullness!

Thailand Missions Report

“The churches of Asia salute you...” I Corinthians 16:19

By Bill Lee

I want to begin with an apology for not sending out a report sooner. There are many things in life which prevent us from doing the things we would like to do. For some time now my Mother has been very ill. For the last five years she has had Alzheimer's, that terrible disease which takes family members from us before they die. I have spent all of the time I could with my Mother in the final days of her life. On December 18 my Mother died from this disease. Many years ago she asked me to preach her funeral, and on December 21 I had the privilege of doing this. God was gracious and gave me the strength I needed to fulfill her desire, and for this I am thankful.

With this behind me, I now must try to catch up with things which have been lacking. Among these things are this report and our getting ready for our upcoming trip to Thailand. The Lord willing, Janice and I will depart for Thailand on January 3. We are scheduled to return to the U.S. on January 17. There is much to be done in preparation for this trip, but with the Lord's help we will be prepared when the time comes. Dr. Bryan Darling and Hope Greenlee will be accompanying us on this trip. We look forward to being with them as we go from village to village preaching God's Word and ministering to the medical needs of the people.

There are several things I look forward to on this trip. Among these are meeting with some individuals, villages, and churches who have expressed an interest in our visiting them. This is in reference to people, and even churches, who want to learn about Baptist doctrine and practice. In some of the villages of Thailand there are established churches which were organized by organizations from the U.S. who have sent missionaries there in the past. These missionaries are now long gone, but yet these churches still exist. But through personal Bible study and the testimony of members of the churches we have organized there, these churches now have serious doubts concerning their doctrine, as well as the validity of their

churches. These have asked us to come to their villages and explain true doctrine to them, as well as instruct them in the matter of the Lord's church. We look forward to this opportunity to speak to them concerning the greatness of our God and the effectual saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also look forward to instructing them concerning the church that Jesus built, as well as the ordinances of Jesus' church. As we present these truths to them, we have no idea how we or these biblical truths will be accepted. But if our God allows us to go to these places, I am convinced He has a reason and the outcome will redound unto His glory.

In the past we have encountered some churches who seemed to have the idea all they had to do to become a Baptist church was to simply change the name of their church. But when biblical truth was presented to them, especially concerning baptism and the Lord's supper, they decided the change was just too great for them to make. And they, as many here in the United States, have decided tradition and the popular way is more important to them than the truth of God's Word. But we will see what happens when we meet with these, and we pray for God to give us the wisdom we need as we deal with them. It is encouraging though that these individuals and churches have sought us out and have at least shown an interest.

As you already know, Bro. Wayne Camp is now in Thailand teaching at the school. We look forward to seeing Bro. Camp and Ruth in Thailand. Bro. Camp reports that things are going well at the school, with those in attendance showing great interest in learning more and more of God's Word. Bro. Paul Brown, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Newcastle, Ok. will soon be joining Bro. Camp in Thailand to also teach in the remaining part of the school year. We appreciate Bro. Paul and his willingness to go to Thailand and teach in the school.

This school is of great importance to the Lord's work in Thailand. The pastors and others

who are students at the school are able to carry what they learn back to their home villages and teach the people there the things they are learning. We have seen a great spiritual growth among the churches as the results of the teaching in the school. Many of the churches have grown in membership. This has caused these churches to increase the size of their buildings. And while we are thankful for the numerical growth in many of the churches, we are most thankful for this spiritual growth we have noticed.

The school has influence not only in Thailand, but also in Burma and in Laos as well. Students from both Burma and Laos attend the school and are able to carry the truth of God's word back to these countries. There are several churches in these two countries that are now faithful to God's word and the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in areas we are not able to go. But while we are not able to go into these countries, the word of God knows no boundaries and is reaching many in the regions beyond.

We also look forward to once again meeting with the people from Burma who suffered so

greatly from the devastation of the earthquake. We will meet with them, as we did on a previous trip, in the border city of Mai Sai. In our previous meeting we were able to give financial and medical aid to those affected by the earthquake. Because of the generous concern of many here in the U.S. we will be able to do this once again. These Christians have received absolutely no help from their government or anyone else in Burma. Because of the help we gave to them on our last trip, many homes have been rebuilt and church buildings have been rebuilt. But there remains so many who have not yet received help. We were only able to help some of the saints and churches on our last trip. But because individuals and churches here remain concerned and willing to help, we will be able to help others on this trip. These saints in Burma are doing all they can to help themselves and they have not asked us for any help. But once we were made aware of this great need, we felt compelled to help them. I think there is just something in Christians which gives them the desire to help fellow saints who are in great difficulty. The love of Christ constraineth us, and the people there are most appreciative of the generosity of people so far away from them.

REPORT FROM THAILAND

By Wayne Camp
January 1-9, 2012

Acts 15:3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

It is with a great deal of joy that I write this report. We went to the first church that was started in this Thailand work (Pa Sak #1) for services on January 1, 2012. When the gong was sounded for the beginning of services people began to pour into the house of worship. When more than I had ever seen at this church were in the building I looked up and more were still coming in. They filled up every chair with the exception of two or three on the platform. People then began to sit on the platform in front

of the pulpit. When that was full they began to sit down on the floor in the middle aisle. They



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filled it up about halfway to the back sitting four abreast. When the congregation was counted there were 175 people present. It was a joy to preach to this large congregation. There were 14 additions to the church—nine adults and five older teenagers. I should point out that it is not uncommon here for people to unit with a church



on the first Sunday of the year if they decide to do it near the end of the year. There was great joy among the people in the services. This church is already taking special offerings every Sunday to enlarge their building and quite a number of people dropped offerings in that special box. It is certainly good to see the churches taking more responsibility for their building programs. For a long time they always looked to churches in the U. S. A. to fund such things.

A week ago today a Thai man was saved in the church at Na Hui. He is married to a La Hu woman who is a member of of that congregation. He was baptized last Sunday afternoon (December 25, 2011). This church has just recently enlarged their building and at the rate that they are growing they may have to do the same thing again soon. Currently they are taking special offerings to put a ceiling in their building to make it cooler.

The congregation at Pa Tong Eh was also blessed with a profession of faith recently. She was baptized on January 2, 2012.

One of the congregations that is located near the children's center asked if we could be at the children's home on January 2. They wanted to come and show respect to Brother Anond and

us for the work we are doing here. To our surprise, 10 churches showed up with over 200 people present for that special service. One of the ways that they show their respect is to wash your hands. This is not a religious thing like footwashing. It is a tradition among the people. The churches came in groups to wash our hands. When each group completed there would be someone there with a towel to dry our hands. Then another group would come. Needless to say by the time they finished our hands were well washed.

Brother Bill Lee, his wife, Janice, Dr. Bryan Darling, and Hope Greenlee are here at the present time visiting the churches and doing medicine. Yesterday, January 7, we all went to Na Hui for services. Due to the fact some of the churches had come to cut down on the number of places the team must go to administer medicine the house was packed. People were seated on the front porch, also. It was a long day because of so many people being present. There were three very severe cases that were treated. One man's foot was in such condition that he possibly would have lost it soon had they not treated it. Hopefully with what they did yesterday and the medicines they gave him to continue to use the foot will be saved. Another lady had a very severe burn. She is the pastor's wife and I know her so I encouraged her to go in and let them treat her hand. She was rather timid about doing so and was not going to go. I went in and told brother Anond that someone should go get her and insist that she let them look at her hand. It was a pretty severe burn that she had been treating herself. When she came out after being treated she was so happy. Dr. Darling treated it and gave her some medicines to continue treatment. I do not know the nature of the third severe case but it was a day well spent. After the morning services the church supplied an abundant meal, as this church usually does, and after we ate the team went to work doing medicine. It was about 4:30 PM or later before they finished.

Of course we are off an extra week from school because of the medical team being here and we have to take advantage of their being here when they can come. We had a good first half of the school term and are looking forward

to getting back to classes in one more week. As older students finish work or quit coming we see students with more education coming to classes. This allows classes to move faster.

This year I have made a practice of asking questions at the beginning of each class. Sometimes the questions are about what we've covered previously in the class. Other times I ask questions about something I have taught in previous years. The first few years of school I could ask questions about the Old Testament and rarely would I get an answer. Now, it is very common to have three or four students pop up with the answer the moment that I ask the question. That indicates to me that they are retaining some of the knowledge that they are receiving. There is one young student that is especially perceptive about what we study and very good at retaining it. One day recently I asked a series of about five questions and he answered every one of them. They were about things I taught last year so I was very pleased with his retention. Other students have shown similar encouraging progress.

I will try to be more prompt with my next report but for now I want to thank you for your support of the Thailand work and for my personal support. I can assure you that the labor here is not in vain but God is blessing. I continue to be amazed at the fact that churches continue to contact brother Anond wanting to understand what we believe. The church that the team is visiting today is a large congregation who just dedicated a new building who asked Brother Anond to come recently and teach on what we believe. He did so and today the team is visiting that village and will administer medicine. Then Brother Lee will also be talking to the pastors in order to help determine whether they can be invited into the work or not. There are two things that stand out in the interest these churches show in in the Lord's work that is being accomplished here. First, most have never heard of the doctrine of grace and when they do hear God seems to open their hearts to the truth more easily than the hearts of people in America are opened. Second, the idea of church independence appeals to the people and the churches. They have been taught that they cannot operate without some hierarchal

system overseeing the churches. It reminds me of a letter I wrote to a Southern Baptist pastor working in Thailand. I was inquiring about a particular church and in the process of that inquiry I came upon his name and e-mail address. It showed that he was the overseer of several churches. When I wrote and asked him about it he was very blunt in his answer in which he assured me that he was over those churches.

On another occasion my wife and I were in a local restaurant eating dinner one evening and happened to be sitting close to a table where two Southern Baptist preachers were carrying on a conversation. One of them works out of the city of Chiang Mai. The other was visiting here from India. The gentleman from Chiang Mai said to the brother from India, "I go golfing every day. I can hire these native preachers to do the work and that gives me a lot of leisure time to golf." Believe it or not, he was boasting. It sounded as if he was advising the brother from India to do the same thing.

Well, I intended to finish this report a couple of paragraphs ago so I will now. May God bless you is my prayer.

THE ROAD OF NO RETURN

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

"Soon I must go down that road from which I will never return!" Job 16:22

Job 16:22 When a few years are come, then I shall go the way whence I shall not return. [KJV]

An approaching **journey** lies before me. I have to pass from time--to eternity; from this world--to the next. And the time of my departure, although to me uncertain, cannot be very far distant. A few years--perhaps a few days--will close my stay on earth!

It is an **unavoidable** journey. I must go. There is no choice. Willing or unwilling, when God's *summons* for me arrives--I shall have to set off.

It is an **unknown** journey, I have never taken it before. I have no practical acquaintance with the road, the mode of transit, the dangers or the

discomforts which await me. And there is no one who can clearly explain them to me. Those of my friends who have traveled that way, have never come back to relate their experience.

It is a **solitary** journey. I must accomplish it alone. The most beloved of my present companions cannot accompany me. They may think of me, feel for me, pray for me--but they cannot be with me. We must separate; they to remain behind--and I go forward.

It is a **momentous** journey. For at its termination, I enter upon *my everlasting destiny!* It will convey me either to the *mansions of happiness*--or to the *abodes of misery!* The narrow boundary between the present and the future state once crossed--there will be no possibility of change. **"He who is unjust--let him be unjust still; and he who is righteous--let him be righteous still."** *Revelation 22:11*

It is a **final** journey. **"Soon I must go down that road from which I will never return."** My pilgrimage will be forever ended. It will be my *last journey*. And if I am a Christian, how welcome is this fact! I shall be done forever with *sin* and *sorrow*. Eternal felicity will be mine--perfect holiness, and perfect happiness. This journey leads me to my eternal home, to my Father's house, to my everlasting rest!

Then I will not shrink from its approach, nor complain of its accompaniments. It may be linked with much that is painful and unpleasant--but it is my way *home*; and therefore, although life has many ties and many joys, I feel an earnest desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better than being here. **"For this is not my resting place, because it is polluted, it is ruined, beyond all remedy!"** *Micah 2:10*

Death is a **solemn** journey--but it is a **safe** journey to Christ's people; for He will not only receive and welcome them at its close--but He will be with them as they are passing through it. Oh, it will not be lonely with Him! And He is a guide who is well acquainted with the way, for He has trodden it Himself. He went for the purpose of smoothing its difficulties, clearing its dangers, dispersing its terrors--and He fully accomplished His purpose. Therefore when I walk through the *dark valley*, I will fear no evil; for you, O Jesus, will be with me, and your rod and your staff shall comfort me!

IDOLS REMOVED

James Smith, 1842

"I will cleanse you from all your idols!"
Ezekiel 36:25

Idolatry is a sin to which we are all prone. Everyone has idols of some kind. Here the Lord expresses His determination to *cleanse* us from them. This cleansing work is very *painful* work — but it is absolutely necessary. Idolatry defiles us, and unfits us for the service, presence, and glory of God. Idolatry is an insult offered to the Divine Majesty. All have their idols — some idolize their trade, some their children, some their bodies, some their appetites, some their books, some their property, some their peculiarities, some their office, some their gifts, some their partners, some their connections, and some their comforts.

But all are wrong, and we must expect that God will use means to cleanse them — for our God is a jealous God, and will not allow of a rival. The *furnace of affliction*, and the *floods of trouble* are generally employed for this purpose. Now you are in affliction, inquire:

What *idol* have you been putting in the place of Christ?

Where have your affections been?

What have been the principal objects of your pursuit and pleasure?

Has not some *sin* been indulged; some *creature* been inordinately loved; some *object* been unscripturally followed?

Has Jesus had all the heart? If not, it is no wonder He has put you into the furnace, or called you to pass through this affliction. Now let your prayer be, *Cleanse me from all my idols; cleanse me thoroughly, and make me clean.*

Perhaps this very affliction is an answer to your prayers. You have prayed to be conformed to Jesus; to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit; and to have the promises fulfilled in your experience. Now the Lord comes to answer your prayer, and to fulfill His promise. He comes with the *rod* in His hand, and says, **"I will cleanse you from all your idols!"**

Your bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, says the Apostle. If you have been setting

up your idols in the Lord's temple, is it any wonder that He is displeased, or that He visits you thus? His promises are stable — and must be fulfilled; your hearts are idolatrous — and must be purged; and the Lord will purge away the idols out of your hearts. Do not think then that the Lord deals unkindly. He is . . . granting you your desire, fulfilling His word, and manifesting His love.

It is for your spiritual welfare that He tries you thus, He has said, **"Behold, I will allure her; and bring her into the wilderness, and speak to her heart, or comfortably to her."** The furnace shall not be heated more than is necessary, **"He stays His rough wind in the day of the east wind: by this therefore shall the iniquity of Jacob be purged; and this is all the fruit to take away His sin."** *Isaiah 27:8, 9.*

The more idols — the more purging; no idols — no purging. Have you not procured this unto yourself? Remember your way when in health and prosperity; look back and see the folly you have indulged; the idolatry you have committed. Is not Jehovah just, faithful, yes, gracious, in thus dealing with you? He might have said, "Let him alone!" or have cast you out of His sight, and driven you to darkness, desperation, and despair. Better by far be cleansed from idols, however painful the process, in order to be glorified; than be left by the Lord to perish in your sin. Then let your language be,

The dearest idol I have known,
Whatever that idol be,
Help me to tear it from your throne,
And worship only Thee!

NO ARMINIANS IN HEAVEN

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

They are all Calvinists there, every soul of them. They may have been Arminians on earth; thousands and millions of them were; but they are not after they get there, for here is their song, **"Salvation unto our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."**

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

IS THE EVERLASTING COVENANT OF GRACE REALLY EVERLASTING?

By Wayne Camp

Hebrews 13:20 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.

The question which is the title of this message is no joke. To any serious student of the word of God it is preposterous, even outrageous. If there is anything clear in the Scriptures it is that God's covenant of salvation, God's covenant of grace, the everlasting covenant between the Father and the Son was made before the foundation of the world and shall be praised throughout all eternity by those who have been its blessed objects.

Perhaps you are wondering why I am writing this article. I learned recently that a Southern Baptist preacher in a Southern state preached a sermon in which he took the position that a new covenant was made between the Father and the Son at the cross and was accepted three days later by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This man is rather high up in the Southern Baptist Convention. He was filling the pulpit at a rather large Southern Baptist Church in the unnamed southern state

This man made two very unscriptural arguments in his sermon. First he declared that when God said let us make man in our image that the plural **us** referred to the Father and the Son and not to the three persons of the Trinity. I have never heard this argument concerning the creation of man. I know at least two people who heard the statements, wrote them down and sent them to me asking my opinion. Hopefully, one can get a tape and get a transcription of the man's exact words. If not, I think I will be able to establish the words in the mouth of at least two, perhaps three or more witnesses who heard him

say this.

Second the preacher said, "**Christ and God made a new covenant on the cross and God accepted it 3 days later through the resurrection. That was God's Plan before the foundation of the earth and it says he sent his Son to the earth to die. He would not have sent him if that wasn't the plan.**"

I can honestly say that I have never heard that a new covenant between the Father and the Son was made at the cross and was accepted three days later through the resurrection. It seems that this fellow is rather confused and that is a shame in view of the fact that he is connected with a Southern Baptist seminary where young preachers and church workers are trained.

In this article I'm only going to deal with his second error. Later I may come back and deal with the first one but for now I only plan to deal with the second.

DEFINITIONS THAT CONFIRM THAT THE COVENANT WAS NOT MADE AT THE CROSS

When Christ shed his blood on the cross he was shedding the blood of the everlasting covenant. **Hebrews 13:20 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.** According to the Thayer, the renowned Greek lexicographer, the Greek word translated *everlasting* in this verse has the following meaning: "**Without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be; without beginning; without end, never to cease, everlasting.**" This covenant, the blood of which Jesus shed on the cross, was without beginning and without end. It had always been and always will be. It is as eternal as God himself. **Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.**

There are a number Scriptures which unequivocally teach that the covenant between

the Father, the Son, **and the Holy Spirit** was entered into before the foundation of the world and continues today and will throughout all eternity.

NAME'S WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF THE LIFE FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Yes, there are those whose names were written in the Lamb's book of life from the foundation of the world. This is made clear in a Scripture that says that there are those whose names were not written in that book from the foundation of the world. **Revelation 17:8 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.** The negative in this verse implies a positive. Those who go into perdition do so because their names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. There would be no point in the Holy Spirit causing John to write this verse if there were not those whose names were written in the book of life from the foundation of the world.

The same people whose names were written in the book of life from the foundation of the world are those who were chosen to salvation from the foundation of the world. **2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.** The expression "from the beginning" in this verse is very similar to and has the same meaning as "in the beginning" found in the following verse. **John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** Certainly no serious student of the word of God would deny that this refers to eternity. These were chosen to salvation in eternity.

It is further borne out in the first chapter of Ephesians that there are those who were chosen before the foundation of the world.

Ephesians 1:4-5 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: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.

These chosen people are the same people who were given to Christ to save in the everlasting covenant of salvation of which our text speaks. ***John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.***

THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. ***Revelation 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*** The notion that the Father and Son entered into a new covenant at the cross and that covenant was not confirmed until three days later through the resurrection is ridiculous in the light of Revelation 13:8.

I think also of First Peter 1:18-20. In that verse is clear that the matter of the death of Christ was settled before the foundation of the world and that we are redeemed by the blood that was foreordained before the foundation of the world. ***1 Peter 1:18-20 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; (19) But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (20) Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.***

On the basis of the blood of God's foreordained Lamb he promised eternal life. Nothing was decided at Calvary in the sense of a new covenant. The covenant had been settled long before Calvary. ***Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.***

GOD'S PURPOSE AN ETERNAL PURPOSE

God's purpose of salvation expressed in the everlasting covenant of redemption is an eternal purpose and it was purposed in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world. ***Ephesians 3:10-11 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, (11) According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** Here we have that word eternal that was discussed and defined earlier in this message. Everlasting and eternal are from the same Greek word. In our text the word everlasting was used and here the word is eternal. But it means the same thing. ***"Without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be; without beginning; without end, never to cease, everlasting."*** God's purpose of salvation is without beginning and without end. It has always been and always will be. It will never cease. The notion that the covenant was not made between the Father and the Son until the cross is without basis in the Scripture. It seems the preacher that advanced this notion must to have just reached up into thin air and fetched it from his own human reasoning without any regard to the teachings of the word of God.

Everything that God purposed to do in his eternal purpose was grounded in that everlasting covenant entered into before the foundation of the world. He has declared the end from the beginning. He has declared the things that are not yet done before they come to pass. ***Isaiah 46:10 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. Acts 15:18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.***

What happened at the cross was exactly what God had planned and determined beforehand to be done. ***Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Acts 4:27-28 For of a truth against thy holy***

child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, (28) For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

The everlasting covenant originated in eternity according to God's gracious purpose. It's blessings flow to us through the Lord Jesus Christ and his finished work of Calvary. Having originated in eternity, and being everlasting, it flows from eternity through all of time and into eternity future. I have tried to think of any Scripture that would teach that the Father and Son entered into a covenant of any kind at the cross. That seems absolutely contrary to all that the Scriptures relate about the work of the Blessed Trinity in salvation. At the cross Jesus finished the work that the father had sent him to do. His doing that work was not entering into a new covenant but carrying out the covenant entered into before the foundation of the world.

Salvation is of the Lord in its origination, in its execution, in its application, in its demonstration, and in its consummation. Nothing has been added to God's plan or God's covenant of grace from its origination in eternity or through its execution in time. And nothing will be added to it in the eternal ages. Everything involved in it is eternal. It has no beginning in time and no ending in eternity in the future. It amounts to nothing less than nonsensical error for someone to suggest that God the Father and God the Son entered into any kind of new covenant at the cross. May God deliver us from such flawed thinking.

“OUR SUFFICIENCY IS OF GOD!”

James Smith

2 Corinthians 3:5

Let us think of this, whenever we are cast down on account of *our weakness*, or the difficulties we meet with in our pilgrim way. We are weak—but Jesus is strong; and His strength is made perfect in our weakness. He has given us His Word, that He will work in us to will and to do of His own good pleasure. He speaks, and

it is done. The word of the Lord knows no obstacles or difficulties; all things must obey Him.

His fullness—is our sufficiency; it is opened to us in Jesus, and we receive from it according to our needs, weakness, and faith.

“Through God,” said David, **“I shall do valiantly.”** **“I can do all things,”** said Paul, **“through Christ strengthening me.”**

Look not then at your own emptiness, or weakness; but look at what God is to His people, and what He has promised to give them, and sing, **“Our sufficiency is of God!”** **“God is our refuge and strength—and as our days so shall our strength be.”** **“His grace is sufficient for us; His strength is made perfect in our weakness.”**

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

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