

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1786 MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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SALVATION NOT NEEDED IF....

BY: C. D. COLE

"The fool hath said in his heart there is no God" (Ps. 14:1).

"Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee" (Job 36:18).

"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them that are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19).

My theme is stated with an incomplete sentence and it is my purpose in the message to complete it. Salvation is not needed if certain preachments of some men are true.



Location: 3.3 miles out Bryan Station Road. Right on Briar Hill Road.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Air-Conditioned Nursery Provided

Pastor Alfred M. Gormley
Ph. 299-1430 347 Sierra Drive
Lexington, Ky. 40505

I want us to see what slender threads the eternal well-being of the masses of mankind hang upon. I see many of my fellow mortals trying to support themselves on worthless crutches--some are walking on a crutch labeled "No God," another on a crutch labeled "No Hell," and still others are on a crutch labeled "Self-righteousness." The hope of these men is to take these crutches away from them for they are broken reeds and cannot support them. And my three texts do this very thing. The crutch of the theory of "No God" is taken away by the text that says that it is the fool who says there is no God. The crutch of "No Hell" theory is smashed by the text that says "Because there is wrath, beware." And the crutch of salvation by law theory is destroyed by the text that says that the

law stops every mouth and brings all the world in guilty before God.

I. SALVATION NOT NEEDED IF THERE IS NO GOD--No moral lawgiver to whom men must give account for the deeds done in the body. If there is no court of justice with which men will have to settle, salvation is not needed, and preachers are a pest in the earth and are guilty of robbing men and women of the happiness they so much covet.

Is there a God. Below are four answers:

1. The theoretical atheist: "There is no God." It used to put a man in a bad light before his fellow men to be known as an atheist, but this is no longer true. Atheism today, in many quarters is a badge of wisdom and a mark of pedantry.

(a) There are no natural atheists. Men have to educate themselves into atheism. The existence of God is written deep on the human constitution. No atheists among the heathen; they believe there is a supreme being to whom they must give an account. They are wrong as to character but are right as to his existence. An atheist is a sinner who has used the finger of philosophy with which to turn off the alarm clock of conscience.

(b) There are no atheists in places of danger or in the agonies of death. All the atheists are well men and in places of apparent safety. The famous atheists of other days like Voltaire and Tom Paine shook like other lost sinners in the agonies of death.

2. The practical atheist: "I wish there was no God," or "No God for me." Every man is by nature a practical atheist. If every lost man will be honest, he will confess that he wishes there were no God. No God means no law, no order, no restraint to lust, no limit to passion, no interference with my plans, no check on my will, no penalty for my sins. No God means no god but myself, nobody to consult but myself about what I can do.

Sin is self-substituted for God; it is doing what I please instead of what God commands. Sin is entering into competition with God for authority; it is taking counsel of my desires instead of making God's word the man of my counsel. Sin in its purpose is the overthrow of the government of God; it is pulling God from his throne and placing self there. Sin is deicide or the murder of God in its desire. Every unregenerate man would do away with God if he could. The carnal mind is enmity against God.

3. The agnostic: "I do not know whether there is a God or not."

4. The answer of the Christian: "There is a God--I know there is a God--I cannot do without God. My soul thirsteth for God, the living God. I know God through Jesus Christ. I know God in the forgiveness of sins.

A man once sought to ridicule the idea of any God. He asked his Christian neighbor if he had ever seen God. The believer admitted he had not. He was then asked if he had ever heard God speak, or if he had ever smelled God, or if he had ever tasted God, or if he had ever touched God. The believer readily admitted he had never apprehended

God with any of the five physical senses. He then asked the atheist if he had ever told a lie, and he admitted he had. He was then asked how he felt, and he confessed he had an uneasy or apprehensive feeling--a sort of something he could not describe. Now that feeling was his conscience telling him there was a God--a moral Lawgiver, to whom he must give account. The human conscience is God's inner witness to the fact that there is a God. Every man whose conscience has not been seared or tampered with has the feeling that there is a God to face. They have a sense of sin, and must have a religion to atone to their offended deity. That's why we have religions every where and among all people.

II. SALVATION NOT NEEDED IF THERE IS NO PUNISHMENT FOR SIN--If there is no day of judgment when all men will stand before God to be judged for the sins done in the body, then nobody needs salvation. But every man must give an account of himself to God. If sin is not dangerous, salvation is not needed. If there is a God who will punish sin in a day of judgment, then all sinners need salvation. 'Beware lest he take thee away and a great ransom cannot deliver thee.'

III. SALVATION NOT NEEDED IF THERE IS NO LAW. If there is a man anywhere not under moral law of God, that man will not need salvation. "For until the law, sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed where there is no law" (Rom. 5:13). You have to have a law to have sin, for sin is lawlessness. In the Bible we are told that salvation is from the curse of the law. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal. 3:13). The salvation we have in Christ makes the believer right with the law. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom. 10:4). "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21). To be saved we must have a Redeemer, and Jesus Christ is the only adequate Redeemer. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:7).

IV. SALVATION NOT NEEDED IF MEN ARE NOT SINNERS. If you can find a man or woman on earth who is not a sinner, you have a person who needs no salvation. But the Bible says all have sinned--that there is none that doeth good and sinneth not--that there is none righteous, no not one.

Are you a person who is willing to risk his eternal welfare on any one or all of these negatives? Are you willing to risk it on the proposition that there is no God? On the proposition there is no punishment? On the proposition that there is no moral Lawgiver to whom you must give account? Or on the proposition that you have never sinned?

God has spoken to us in His son. We have the message about His son in the Bible. It tells us that eternal life is in Jesus Christ. It tells us that the Son was punished that sinners might not perish. Despise this message and reject the Son, and when God speaks again, you will hear him speak in tones of judgment.

BETTER INSIDE

C. H. Spurgeon used to tell this story: "An American said to a friend, 'I wish you would come down to my garden, and taste my apples.' He asked him about a dozen times, but the friend did not come, and at last the fruit grower said. 'I suppose you think my apples are good for nothing, so you won't come and try them.'

"Well, to tell the truth,' said his friend, 'I have tasted them. As I went along the road I picked one up that fell over the wall, and I never tasted anything so sour in all my life. I do not particularly wish to have any more of your fruit.'

"Oh,' said the owner of the garden, 'I thought it must be so. Those apples around the outside are for the special benefit of the boys. I went fifty miles to select the sourest sorts to plant all around the orchard, so the boys might give them up as not worth stealing. But if you will come inside, you will find that we grow a very different quality there, sweet as honey.'

"Those who judge the church by its worst members (the hanger-on around the edge), those most like the world, make the same mistake."

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