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ONE LAWGIVER

By: C. D. Cole

James 4:12, *“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy:...”*

Our eternal destiny is in the hands of one person. This person is God, Matthew 10:28, *“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.”* Proverbs 29:25, *“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.”* He is the only one to be feared. Psalm 111:10, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:...”*

Our temporal affairs are also in his hands. In Him we live and move and have our being. He is in control everywhere and of everything. The forces of nature are His creation and under His control. Job 37:5-10, *“God thundereth marvelously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened.”* Yes, God has only to breathe in order to destroy the work of our hands.

God is one person with whom we have to do. We can escape others but we cannot escape him. Criminals against human laws may find asylum in other countries but all dominions are policed by Him whose eyes are in every place. You may escape the G-men of Uncle Sam, but there is no hiding from the G-men of God. There is nothing to be gained from a protest against the government of God. Millions are protesting the policies of human government as they are being plunged

deeper and deeper into debt, and all governments are tottering to a fall. The masses may rise up and put down human government, but the government of GOD is in no danger from human hands. Psalm 45:6, *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever:...”* What is your relationship to God?

OUR CONDITION - GUILTY

By nature we are all guilty. Ephesians 2:3, *“...and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* Romans 3:19, *“Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.”*

Every man by nature is under law. Men are under the moral law of God in every age and in every region. The man in this country who has never heard of the Bible is under God’s moral law. The millions in benighted lands who have never heard of the Bible are under law. Romans 2:14-15, *“For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;”*

Now judged by the law of God, every man is guilty. Romans 3:19, quoted above. That is the status of every man who has not been saved. Under the law of God, no man has a thing that he can plead – his mouth is stopped. No one can plead innocence; to do so is to add to sin. I John 1:8-10, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful*

and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” And there is no mercy from the law.

That which follows proven guilt is condemnation. In court when a man is found guilty, the sentence of condemnation is pronounced by the court. This is a sad and solemn hour in human courts. It is often associated with fainting and screaming either by the condemned person or by a loved one. It is never taken lightly; it is never considered a trifle. Men try to escape the sentence. They leave nothing undone. They resort to every known expedient. They fight for their lives with every ounce of energy they have. And they call upon others to help them. Men are in earnest about temporal affairs. In matters pertaining to temporal good they bestir themselves.

The eternal things are of vastly more importance. To be hungry for a few days may be bad, but it is nothing to be compared to eternal hunger; hunger that can never be satisfied. It is bad to suffer for a few days but that is nothing in comparison with eternal suffering. How strangely men behave in the face of eternal realities. What a crime for Christians to be cold and indifferent towards the eternal welfare of their lost relatives and neighbors.

OUR NEED – FORGIVENESS

The need of the guilty and condemned sinner is forgiveness. There is forgiveness with God. Psalm 130:3, *“If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?”* The word forgive means “to let off, and not punish.” If the Lord should hold us to account for our sins, then who

(Continued on page 3)

SOME SERIOUS AND TIMELY QUESTIONS CONCERNING MAN

By: C. D. Cole

WHAT IS MAN?

Man is God's creature, the acme of creation. Genesis 1:26-27, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." And man was made to have fellowship with God.

Man is a tri-fold being; body, soul and spirit. His personality is in his soul, his desires, his will, his affections, his love; the body is the house he lives in, and his spirit is the part that understands. Paul calls the body this earthly house. Genesis 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Man is both visible and invisible. The body is visible and tangible; the soul is invisible and intangible. Man has both a physical and a moral heart. His physical heart determines his physical condition; his moral heart determines his condition before God. When it is said that God looks on the heart, it is not the physical heart but the heart of the soul, the heart of his personality. God judges a man by what he loves as a moral being. Sin resides in the moral heart. Matthew 15:18-20, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornication, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: ..." The body does not sin; it is only the tool or instrument of righteousness and unrighteousness. I Corinthians 6:18-20, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

WHAT IS SIN?

Romans 4:15, "...for where no law is,

there is no transgression." A psalm of David, Psalm 51:2-4, "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: ..." Crime is against society, but sin is only against God. All are not criminals, but all are sinners. Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" Sin is rebellion against God. Sin is an attempt to dethrone God. Sin is a denial of God's authority. And as the judge of all the earth, God alone fixes the penalty of sin, and the penalty is death; including the second death in the lake of fire. The only source of danger for sin is from God. Sin exposes to the wrath of God. Matthew 10:28, "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." Romans 8:31, "What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" John 3:36, "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."

As judge God must either punish sin or put a premium on it. He must enforce His law or abdicate His throne. He must deal with sin in justice or be defeated by it. And you may be sure God is not going to be defeated. God is in no danger from man, but man is in danger from God.

Sin belongs to man as a moral being, who is accountable to God. As a moral being man was made in the image of God, and was pronounced good. Man's original likeness to God consisted of two things: personality and holiness, man was made a person and also a holy person. Adam was a person who reflected the glory of God in his person. His body needed no clothing until after he sinned. Genesis 3:21, "Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them." The divine purpose of clothing is not for protection from cold, but to hide the shameful body. People should wear clothing who live in warm climates as well as in cold climates. The Bible does not indicate there

will be any clothing for our resurrected body. Philippians 3:20-21, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,..."

MAN'S IMAGE TO GOD

Man's natural image to God is in his personality. Man has personality just as God has. This distinguishes man from the beasts. Personality consists of self-consciousness, God-consciousness, self-determination, and the power of choice. The pig has no self-consciousness (if he should find out he is a pig, he would no longer be a pig, but he will never find it out). The pig has no God-consciousness (he has no feeling about God). He has no power of choice he lives by natural instinct suited to his nature.

Man's natural likeness to God can never be lost or forfeited. Man can never cease to be a person. Sin cannot destroy personality. Insanity can only obscure it. Personality cannot be burned out in hell.

Man's likeness to God is the basis of redemption. Redemption is for persons, who are self-conscious and God-conscious. There is no redemption for animals who have only a body. When they die they die bodily and will never have a resurrection.

Man's natural likeness to God is what makes human life sacred and is the basis of the law against murder. Genesis 9:6, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." James 3:9, Men "...which are made after the similitude of God."

Man's likeness to God as a holy being has been lost by sin. As a sinner man is a person but not a holy person. Colossians 3:9-10, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:"

Let us look a little deeper into the question of what sin is. Sin is made up of two things: guilt and defilement; a guilty stand-

ing before God and filthy state in God's sight. God's description of man through David, Psalm 14:1-7, "*The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD. There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous. Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge. Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.*" Also Psalm 53.

Guilt calls for punishment from God and filth excludes from the presence of God. Guilt puts the sinner in danger of punishment by God and his moral filth unfits him from fellowship with God. These two branches of sin are brought out in Revelation 22:1, "*He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*" When God winds up his work of human salvation, the word will go out, seal up the fountain of mercy; stop the stream of forgiveness; the eternal state of every man is forever fixed.

WHAT IS SALVATION?

What is salvation? Salvation is deliverance from sin, both from the body and soul. It is deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin and also from the defilement of sin. Salvation is for the whole man.

Salvation is in three tenses: past, present and future. The believer in Christ has been saved, he is being saved, and he is yet to be saved. He has been saved from the guilt and penalty of sin; he is being saved from the damming power of sin because he is not under law but under grace; and he will be saved in the future from the very presence of sin. Peter's address to the Sanhedrin, Acts 4:10-12, "*Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders,*

which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Romans 13:11, "*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*"

SALVATION IN THREE INSTALLMENTS

The first installment is justification at the moment of faith. The believer is no longer condemned. The guilt and penalty of his sins have been put away on the basis of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he has everlasting life. Romans 4:8, "*Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*"

The second installment is received when he dies. The body goes into the grave to sleep until Christ comes. And the spirit or soul goes to heaven to be with Christ. Paul said it is better to depart and be with Christ. Psalm 116:15, David said, "*Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.*"

The third and last installment is received when Christ returns and raises our bodies from the grave. Philippians 3:20-21, "*...from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body...*"

QUESTION THAT CANNOT BE ANSWERED

My last question cannot be answered. Hebrews 2:3, "*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation;...*" A Welsh minister began his sermon like this. "My friends, I have a question I cannot answer, and you cannot answer it. The angels in heaven cannot answer it. And if the devil were here, he could not answer it." As he spoke death like silence prevailed in the congregation. All eyes were fixed on the speaker. He proceeded, "this is the question nobody can answer, '*How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?*'" That is all one has to do to go to hell, just neglect to take the salvation God freely offers through Christ.

PAUL DECLARES THE GOSPEL

I Corinthians 15:1-4, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By*

which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"



Continued from Page 1

could stand? Who could escape punishment? The answer is obvious – not one.

This forgiveness is in Jesus Christ. Christ is the channel of forgiveness. Apart from faith in Him no man can be forgiven. Acts 4:12, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*"

It is on the ground of His redemptive death. His blood was redeeming blood. He did not die the death of a martyr. His blood was the purchase price paid for our redemption.

Ephesians 1:7, "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*" He was under no obligation to die for us. Man, to enter heaven, must earn heaven and if he cannot earn it himself it must be earned for him by another. Heaven to us is a free gift, for we could not earn it; but it is a gift which has value; which has cost something and Christ has earned it.

A man may inherit a fortune through the will of a relative, but the fortune itself was the result of work on the part of another. We inherit salvation without work or price on our part, but it was not without work or price on Christ's part.

"Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die;
Another's death, another's life,
I risk my soul eternally."

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