

Let us bow our heads; If we need to use the Recovery Procedure as found in 1 John 1:9, let us do so at this time that we might be in fellowship. (pause) Father, we thank you for the privilege and opportunity to study your word and for the freedom that you have provided for us here. Furthermore, we express our appreciation to God the Holy Spirit who will enlighten us regarding the message this evening. We as priests pray this through the person of our Lord Christ Jesus, our High Priest, Amen.

So-called Problem Passages:

1. Genesis 4:3-5, “In the course of time Cain [an unbeliever] brought to the Lord an offering of the production of the ground [He expected the Lord to accept him on the basis of his own merit; Cain, a religious person was working for salvation], (4) and Abel [a believer in contrast to his older brother] brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions [in order to worship the Lord since his sacrifice depicted the cross]. And the Lord had regard for Abel [a believer] and his offering [representing the future work of the cross], (5) but for Cain and his offering he had no regard [since Cain’s work was bypassing the cross]. So, Cain was very angry [at the Lord], and his countenance fell.” [Cain will spend all eternity in the Lake of Fire, not because of his murdering his brother, but because he rejected the work of the cross.]

2. Matthew 25:32-46: this passage does not describe how one is saved or not saved; it is discussing how these two groups namely the believers and unbelievers treated persecuted believers in the Tribulation.

Matthew 25:32. And all the gentiles [believers and unbelievers] shall be gathered before Him [Christ at the 2nd Advent]. And He shall separate them [individually] from one another, as a shepherd [Christ] divides the sheep [believers who will inherit eternal life] from the goats [unbelievers who will suffer in the Lake of Fire forever].

The right hand is the side of approbation; the left, the side of disapprobation.

25:33-34, “And indeed, He shall set the sheep on His right hand [approval], but the goats off to *His* left [rejection]. (34) Then, the King shall say to those on His right hand [the sheep analogous to Gentile believers], Come, blessed of My Father, inherit [blessing in] the kingdom [Millennial Kingdom] prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

These gentiles were not saved by what they did (verses 35-40). What they did was a manifestation of their appreciation for the 144,000 Jewish evangelist and teachers and since they did these deeds while in fellowship with God, they will be rewarded.

25:35-36, “For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; (36) I was naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.”

No one is saved by feeding the hungry, by clothing the sick, visiting the persecuted in prison etc. That would be salvation by works! These courageous and kind acts of believers in the Tribulation will be a manifestation of their spiritual growth.

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith and this [salvation] is not out from you, *but* a gift from God [the Father], (9) not out from works, lest anyone [that no one] should boast.”

So, these future believers in the Tribulation will not be saved by their good works, but by their faith in Christ, and as a consequence of their faith in Christ and spiritual growth, they were appreciative of the believers who had evangelized and taught them.

25:37-40, “Then, the righteous [those with imputed righteousness] shall answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry, and fed you, or thirsty, and gave you drink? (38) When did we see You, a stranger and invite you in, or naked, and clothed you? (39) Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and came to You? (40) And the King shall answer and say to them, “Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren [144,000 Jews: Revelation 7:4-8; Revelation. 14:1-5], you have done it to Me.”

These gentiles responded to the 144,000 Jewish evangelist and teachers of the first half of the Tribulation. The 144,000 were cut off from all commerce. So, it was through the help of these converts that the 144,000 lasted as long as they did.

25:41-43, “Then, He also shall say to those on the left hand [the goats analogous to the unbelievers], ‘Depart from Me, you accursed ones into everlasting fire [Lake of Fire] prepared for the Devil and his angels. (42) For I was hungry, and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave Me no drink; [these unbelievers had no desire to put themselves in harm’s way to help the 144,000 Jewish evangelist and teachers] (43) I was a stranger and you did not take Me in; I was naked, and you did not clothe Me; I was sick, and in prison, and you did not visit me. [In the church age, many Christians will not help other believers being persecuted much less the unbeliever.]”

Keep in mind that believers can treat other believers just as bad as these unbelievers will treat the believers of the Tribulation.

25:44-45, “Then, they will also answer Him, saying, Lord [at the 2nd Advent, these unbelievers will know that he is Lord, but it is too late], when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister to You? (45) Then, He shall answer them, saying, Truly I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these [144,000 Jews] you did not do it to Me.”

The unbelievers of the Tribulation will become hardened through their rejection of Christ. As a manifestation of their hardness, they had no empathy or concern for the 144,000 evangelists and other believers as well.

25:46. And these [the individual gentile unbelievers] **shall go away into everlasting punishment** [starting in Torment and ending-up in the Lake of Fire], **but the righteous** [believers with imputed righteousness] **into everlasting life.**

3. Galatian 5:19-21:

Galatians 5:19. Now, the works [actions] **of the flesh** [the sin nature] **are plainly seen such as** [a representative list dealing with the sins of the Galatian believers] **fornication** [*pornea*: including adultery], **mental and moral defilement from wrong doing** [*akatharsia*: 1st Thessalonians 2:3; Matthew 23:27] **and sexual sins related to abnormality and criminality** [the Greek word *aselgeia* means extreme indulgence in sensual pleasure related to alcohol, drugs and sexual perversions]. **(20) Idolatry, sorcery** [witchcraft; drug users], **antagonisms** [hostile feelings and actions toward others related to pettiness], **strife** [discord, contention for superiority], **jealousy, outburst of anger, selfish ambition** [rivalry, competition], **dissensions** [trouble makers such as the Judaizers], **religious factions** [self-seeking, contentious groups; heresies]. **(21) envies, drunkenness, carousing** [orgies], **and similar things like these, of which I forewarn you** [Galatian Christians] **just as I have forewarned you, that those who keep practicing** [throughout their lives] **similar things as these shall not inherit** [the rewards in] **the kingdom of God** [the eternal state; although they will not lose their sonship, but could lose their inheritance].”

Paul is warning the Galatians about losing their inheritance since they had returned to their former lifestyle and had lost the battle to their sin natures committing mental sins, overt sins including sexual sins and consequently were continually out of fellowship and failing to advance in the spiritual

life. Christians who fail to execute the spiritual life, will lose their inheritance.

Some Christians read this passage and exclaim, “Woe unto me, I have lost my salvation.” All Christians commit sin and some of the sins mentioned in this passage. If we could lose our salvation through one or more of these sins listed above, none of us would be going to heaven. You have never been angry or jealous! Even sexual sins cannot remove one’s salvation. If they could, many of the greats listed in the Hall of Fame found in Hebrews 11 would not be going to heaven. Noah got drunk and was involved in sexual sins as per Genesis 9:20-27), Abraham committed adultery with Hagar, the Egyptian girl, David committed adultery with (or raped) Bathsheba and then murdered her husband, Uriah the Hittite. Even though Moses did not commit a sexual sin, he did divorce his first wife and remarry. How can Christians be so completely ignorant and think that this passage is talking about losing one’s salvation?

“Shall not inherit [the rewards in] **the kingdom of God** [the eternal state; they will not lose their sonship, but possibly their inheritance].” First of all, no Christian can inherit the Kingdom of God. So, obviously, it is not talking about inheriting a kingdom. The interpretive word in this passage is the verb ‘inherit’ (*kleronomeo*). It is simply talking about inheriting honors, rewards and decorations in the eternal state.

Heirship is based on sonship. You must be a son before you can become an heir. The Galatian Christians were Sons of God (Galatians 3:26-28), and since God is very wealthy, the potential for tremendous inheritance is there. All Christians will inherit certain blessings (such as a resurrection body and certain amount of blessing in the eternal state), but the greatest blessings of one’s inheritance are dependent upon whether the Christian completes the spiritual life, or not. Romans 8:17, “Now, if we are children and we are, also heirs, on the one hand heirs of God [the Father], and joint heirs with Christ. If indeed [if it is true that], we suffer with Him [pass all three stages of undeserved suffering], that also we might be glorified with Christ.”

Another important word in this passage is the present active participle of the Greek verb, *prasso* which means to practice. The present tense is progressive; it refers to those believers who keep on committing certain sins through-out their entire spiritual lives. They are never able to gain control over their sin natures since they are not “growing in grace and knowledge” and so are failing to execute the spiritual life. In the context, we are talking about Galatian believers who are out of fellowship. They have completely abandoned the spiritual life. So, Paul warns them that if they fail to advance to spiritual maturity, the place where the believer loves God and shares in God’s happiness, then that believer will die the Sin unto Death (1 John 5:16) and lose his eternal rewards in the form of Escrow Blessings.

4. Matthew 6:14-15; 10:22:

6:14-15, “For if you [disciples] forgive others for their transgressions [they are functioning in fellowship and operating under grace.] **your heavenly Father will also forgive you** [when you, disciples name your sins], (15) **but if you do not forgive others** [because you are justifying your implacability, your hatred, bitterness etc. and so refusing to name your sins], **then, your Father will not forgive your transgressions** [because you refuse to use the recovery procedure as stated in 1 John 1:9].

If a believer forgives others in grace who are committing sins against him, then he will remain in fellowship with God. However, if that same believer should react to others with some emotional sin like anger, implacability and bitterness, and rather than naming that sin or sins, he justifies his antagonism, he will remain out of fellowship.

Matthew 10:22. And you [the twelve] will be hated by all [who reject the truth and hatred motivates murder lust.] **for my name's sake, but he** [anyone of the twelve] **who endures** [under pressure with happiness as per James 1:12] **to the end** [of this ministry] **this one will be delivered**

[from all the hostility in this ministry to the ‘Lost Sheep of Israel’ and will be promoted to the permanent rank of apostleship in the Church age. The only exception was Judas for since he did not endure under pressure and continue his spiritual life, and so under emotional revolt of his soul took his own life.].

5. Ephesians 5:5-8:

5:5. For you know [Ephesian believer] **this** [principle of application] **if you have learned the *pertinent doctrine* that every male sexually immoral person** [an idolater of the Greek phallic cult], **either a pervert or a pimp** [or a panderer], **who is an idolater will not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ even God.** (This is a warning to certain Ephesian believers that they could lose their inheritance through promiscuity.)

Romans 8:17, “Now, if we are children and we are, also heirs, on the one hand heirs of God [the Father], and joint heirs with Christ. If indeed [if it is true that], we suffer with Him [pass all three stages of undeserved suffering], that also we might be glorified with Christ.”

The Christian is not to imitate the lifestyle of the morally degenerate unbeliever. If he does, he will lose his eternal inheritance. Though he will lose the inheritance of the greater blessings, he cannot lose his salvation.

Ephesians 5:6. Let no one deceive you with empty words [false teaching]; **for because of these** [sins of immoral degeneracy] **the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience** [disbelief or unbelief in Christ, the unbelievers: If these reversionistic Ephesian believers do not change their lifestyle, they will suffer the same judgment in time as the immoral unbelievers].

God judges immoral unbelievers and believers which punishment occurs many times during national judgment. When this judgment occurs, God

will usually execute the immoral Christians and unbelievers under the concept of the Sin unto Death. Thus, Paul is warning Christians involved in immoral degeneracy not to participate in this form of degeneracy. In others words, stop going to the Temple of Artemis.

Ephesians 5:7. Therefore [believers], stop being joint participators with them [the unbeliever in immoral degeneracy as mentioned in verses 5, 6].

Some theologians maintain that the Christian cannot commit the sins of immorality. Yet, in this passage the Ephesian Christians are commanded to stop imitating the immoral unbeliever.

Ephesians 5:8. For you were formerly darkness [spiritually dead], but now you are light in the Lord [current positional sanctification]; begin [since they were not] walking as children of light.

In the Church Age, Current Positional Truth establishes our relationship with Christ. It refers to the Church Age believer in union with Christ and is the key to understanding the Church Age and how the royal family came into being and furthermore, is the basis for distinguishing between Christianity and religion. Christianity is a relationship with God without merit whereas religion is a system of works to gain the approbation of God. Never shall the twain meet!

6. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10:

“Or do you [Corinthian believers] not know that unrighteousness [as a lifestyle] will not inherit the kingdom of God [loss of their greater blessings in the eternal kingdom]? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters [way of contacting demons], nor adulterers, nor transvestites, nor homosexuals (10) nor thieves, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.” This passage is not talking about an act of sin, but a lifestyle. If the believer has a lifestyle related to these sins, he

cannot advance spiritually. If the believer does not advance spiritually to maturity, he will not inherit the greater blessings in God's kingdom.

7. 1 John 5:18-20:

There is perfection in both Positional Sanctification (in Christ) and in Ultimate Sanctification (the believer in resurrection body) because these two depend upon the sovereignty of God, not man's volition. While on this earth in your mortal body you can fail and sin, but in Positional Union with Christ and in your resurrection body, there cannot be failure or sin.

1 John 5:18. We know [those who understand that the Christian cannot fail in union with Christ] **that everyone who has been born** [regeneration at salvation] **from God does not sin** [in union with Christ], **but He** [Jesus] **who has been born from God** [the Holy Spirit provided the 23 chromosomes at the point of Mary's conception], **keeps watch over him** [the believer] **and the evil one** [Satan] **does not snatch him away** [cannot remove his salvation].

In order to understand a passage like this, one must understand certain things about hermeneutics. Usually, one can determine the meaning from exegesis, but other times one must look for an interpretive word, phrase or doctrine in the context in order to properly interpret the passage. In this passage the phrase "in Him" found in verse 20 tells us that we are dealing with the doctrine of 'Positional Sanctification.'

1 John 5:19-20, "We know that we are of God, and that the whole world [the unbelievers] **lies in the** [power] **of the evil one** [through demon influence]. **(20) And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us** [spiritual] **understanding** [a spiritual I.Q.: human I.Q. plus the Filling of the Holy Spirit equals spiritual I.Q.] **in order that we might know the true one** [the Lord] **and we are in the true one, in his son Jesus Christ** [a reference to positional sanctification: the interpretive phrase]. **This one is the true God and eternal life."**

Only in this mortal body can you use your volition to sin. In union with Christ there is no volitional function; and in the resurrection body you will not be able to use your volition to sin. Therefore, since there is no failure or sin in either Positional Sanctification or Ultimate Sanctification, the believer cannot lose his salvation. That is the point that John is making here. So, even though the believer may die the sin unto death as per 1 John 5:16 for his colossal failure, he cannot lose his salvation.

Revelation Passages:

8. Revelation 21:8: “**But for the cowardly ones** [only in the sense of not being able to face death and eternal future] **that is the unbelieving ones** [they do not believe in Christ]: **detestable ones** [people who would tend to make you throw up mentally such as self-righteous people who think that they are qualified by their own merit and so see no need for salvation] **murderers** [too much scar tissue in the soul and too much garbage in the subconscious to the point of destroying faith], **male fornicators** [including adultery; those preoccupied with sex and sexual lust], **drug abusers** [unable to comprehend the gospel due to drug use], **idolaters** [distracted through religion and demonic involvement] **and all the pathological liars** [never face reality], **their part will be in the Lake which burns with fire and sulfur, which is the Second Death.** [these sins are distractions from believing in Christ]

This verse begins with a conjunction which sets up a contrast between this verse and the previous verse. The previous verse dealt with unbelievers responding to the gospel; these unbelievers in this passage remained as unbelievers for two reasons: first because they were distracted and hindered by one or more of the six categories of sins mentioned above and secondly, too cowardly to listen and examine the gospel message.

Concerning the first two words in this verse only the first noun in this verse has an article; the second is anarthrous that is without an article. Thus, according to the Grandville Sharp Rule, if two nouns or substantives are joined by the Greek conjunction “kai” (and) and only the first noun or

substantive possesses an article (the English ‘the’), it is a hendiadys. This is what we have here. So, the first two words should be translated as ‘the cowardly ones even (that is) the unbelievers.’ The rest of the words are associated or connected to this hendiadys by conjunctions. They are a special category of sins; those sins which tend to hinder or distract the unbeliever from believing in Christ. Remember that no sin in itself prevents an unbeliever from becoming a believer since the penalty of all sins was paid for on the Cross, but sins can hinder one from believing in Christ and that is the issue in this verse.

In this verse, we do not have the Greek word *porne* which is a prostitute, but instead we have the Greek word “ pornos ” which is a male who fornicates or commits adultery as a lifestyle. Prostitutes are not normally preoccupied with sex; they are just trying to make a living. However, men who are involved in much fornication become obsessed with sex. They never look beyond the female body in a one-night stand. They look at life from the standpoint of sexual lust and stimulation, never understanding that happiness is in the soul. They are so preoccupied with their present or next conquest that they never give the salvation message any real consideration.

The Greek noun “ pharmakos ” is where we get the English word ‘ pharmacy .’ It refers to a sorcerer or a drug user. These meanings are closely related since many sorcerers were drug users. If a person becomes addictive to narcotics, the neurons of the brain will be damaged or destroyed and so limit or seriously damage the cognitive function of the brain. If the unbeliever destroys this important function, he will not be able to comprehend the gospel and so dies as an unbeliever bound for the Lake of Fire.

The Greek noun *eidololatrias* refers to an idolater. An idolater is someone who worships an idol, a physical object which represents a god that is a demon. If one worships demons, it is an easy step to become demon possessed. Obviously, if one is worshipping demons, he will not give much thought to the gospel. Furthermore, if a person is so weak that he is

willing to turn his body over to a demon, he has lost considerable control over his volition. An idolater or worse a demon possessed idolater has severely hindered his chances of becoming a believer.

The Greek adjective *pseudes* means a lying one, with an article in this context refers to pathological liars. Pathological liars as cowards lie all the time even when it is not necessary, and they do so to avoid facing reality. If a person never faces reality regarding the simple things in this life, how is he ever going to face the reality of the eternal state and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

Certain sins can definitely distract and hinder the unbeliever from believing in Christ. To die without believing in the Lord Jesus Christ is the worst and most horrible thing that could ever happen. When the unbeliever's soul departs from his mortal body, it is his first death; when he enters into the Lake of Fire, it is called the Second Death (Revelation 20:14) for he will for all eternity be separated from having fellowship with God.

9. Revelation 22:15, “Outside [of the eternal state] are the dogs [unbelievers who follow the pattern of the dog as per 2 Peter 2:21-22a]: drug addicts and male fornicators and murderers and idolaters [demonism and the phallic cult: combines demonism with fornication], and everyone who loves and practices the lie [a pathological liar impulsively lies to avoid reality, and truth even when it is completely unnecessary. Since he loves to lie and always does so, he has no integrity. All of these combine to make it extremely difficult for him to believe in Christ.].”

You might wonder why are other sins not mentioned in this list like worry, fear, telling an occasional lie etc.! The sins which are opposed to the Laws of Establishment are rejected in this passage by the Unbeliever (the dog vomiting up something bad). Such sins as worry, fear etc. do not fit into this category.

There is a similar passage in Revelation 21:8, but the reason for these lists is different. In Revelation 21:8, the unbelievers never even considered the salvation-message due to their cowardly attitude in facing eternity and in their involvement in sins of distraction whereas in Revelation 22:15, the unbelievers did hear the gospel and subsequently had rejected it. The unbeliever may have not been degenerate before hearing the gospel, but after hearing it and rejecting it, he will become degenerate. So, this list of sins are those sins which the unbeliever had rejected at one point in his life, but after rejecting the gospel, his attitude and thinking changed due to black-out of the soul. As his soul was shedding truth through the process of blackout, the sins in this list became more appealing and so entered into them.

Documentation regarding the Greek word *ekso* (outside or outsiders).

Mark 4:11, “And He was saying to them, ‘To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to those outside [τοις ἔξω: unbelievers] get everything in parables’”,

1 Corinthians 5:12-13a, “For what have I [Paul] to do with judging outsiders [τοὺς ἔξω: unbelievers]? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? Yes, of course [for that is your right and responsibility]. (13) But those who are outside [τοὺς δὲ ἔξω: the unbeliever], God judges.”

Colossians 4:5, “Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders [τοὺς ἔξω: unbelievers], making the most of the opportunity.”

1 Thessalonians 4:12, “so that you may walk honestly [respectably] toward those outside [τοὺς ἔξω: unbelievers], and so that you may not lack in anything [regarding material needs].”

Documentation regarding dogs:

2 Peter 2:21-22a, “For it would have been better for them [the victims of false teaching] not to have known the way of righteousness [the gospel with emphasis on imputed righteousness] than having known it completely, to turn away [culminative aorist: strong rejection of the gospel after all the facts] from the holy commandment [the command to believe in Jesus Christ: 1 John 3:23] delivered to them [via normal and the crisis evangelism]. (22) It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog [reference to a gentile unbeliever] returns to his own vomit,” [paraphrased from Proverbs 26:11].”

When the dog vomits, it represents rejection of false teaching, and sins of degeneracy. It is very unusual for a dog to vomit since he is a scavenger; it really has to be bad. The return to the vomit and eating it is the acceptance of false doctrine and a movement toward degeneracy. By analogy, the dog vomiting is his rejecting drugs, male fornication, murder and idolatry, but after hearing and rejecting the gospel both through normal and crisis evangelism, he goes back to what he has rejected and now desires one or more of the following: the drugs, male fornication, murders, idolatry and the ones practicing the lie.

Matthew 7:6. “Stop giving what is holy [information about the spiritual life] to dogs [gentile unbelievers], and stop throwing your pearls before swine [religious Jewish unbelievers], with the result that they will trample them [information about the spiritual life] under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.”

Matthew 15:22-28, “And behold, a woman of Canaan [a Phoenician] coming out of same coasts kept calling out to Him [importunity: troublesomely urgent from the viewpoint of the disciples], saying, ‘Have mercy on me [apply grace to me], O Lord [as a believer, she recognizes the deity of Christ], Son of David! My daughter is horribly [implies that some illness was related to this possession] demon possessed [the daughter is a

gentile unbeliever].’ (23) But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and kept on begging Him, saying, ‘Send her away, for she keeps on calling out after us [the disciples were embarrassed].’ (24) But He answered and said [to the Canaanite woman], I am not sent except to the lost sheep [unbelievers] of the house of Israel [not to gentile unbelievers such as her daughter]. (25) Then, she came and worshiped Him, saying, Lord, help me! (26) But He answered and said, ‘It is not fitting to take the children's [Jew’s] bread [grace provision] and to throw it to the little dogs [a reference to her gentile demon possessed daughter].’ (27) And she said, ‘True, O Lord; but even the little dogs eat of the crumbs [provision] which fall from their masters' tables.’ (28) Then, Jesus answered and said to her, ‘O woman, great is your faith! So be it to you even as you wish.’ And her daughter [a demon possessed gentile unbeliever] was healed from that very hour [the demon was removed],”

Psalm 22:16, “The dogs [Roman Gentile unbelievers] have surrounded me [Jesus on the cross]; the assembly of the wicked [the religious Jews], they have encircled me, they [the Roman soldiers] have pierced my hands and my feet [when Jesus was first nailed to the cross].”

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Based on the scholarly work of R.B. Thieme Jr.

I recommend downloading 'THIEME'S BIBLE DOCTRINE DICTIONARY' from this website: rbthieme.org