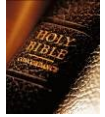


## The DEFENDER—March 2024



“. . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast  
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK : Pray For Israel, But Don't Worry

Those are the two main themes that we find in Psalm 122:6 and Philippians 4:6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; and by prayer with thanksgiving, be careful, or have fear, of nothing. The reason being, of course, is that the battle belongs to the Lord. Through the prophet Isaiah God tells us that no weapon formed against His people Israel would prosper.

There have been wars and rumors of wars against the Jewish people ever since Israel regained her statehood on May 14, 1948. Each time, Israel bends but doesn't break. None of the previous attacks have brought the sheer death and destruction that was leveled against the Lord's people by the terror group Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup> of this past year. Yet Israel's future will remain secure. God has given His promise throughout the scriptures that Israel will be the last nation standing. God, who cannot lie, told the virgin Mary that she would bear a son named Jesus, and that He would reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end (Luke 1:33).

The Bible gives the Jewish people five clearly defined covenants (Abrahamic, Land, Mosaic, Davidic, and New) which would see their fulfillment through Israel. They're unbreakable because their fulfillment isn't based on Israel's obedience but on God's faithfulness. God told Abraham that Sarah would bear a son named Isaac and the everlasting covenant would run through him and his seed after him (Genesis 17:19). God also promised Abraham all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession in Genesis 17:8. In the foundations of the Torah we find the Mosaic covenant delineated in Exodus, chapters 19-24. He told the children of Israel that if they obeyed His voice and kept His covenant, then they would be a treasure to Him above all other people. Through the prophet Samuel God promised David that through his lineage He would establish the throne of His kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13). The New Covenant is revealed through the prophet Jeremiah, who tells us that God would put His law in Israel's heart, forgive their sin, and be their God. He also promised that they would be His people for as long as the sun and moon and stars hung in the sky (Jeremiah 31:33-35).

These covenants guarantee that Israel will be restored to the Promised Land as a nation and its place of blessing. Someday all of Israel will be regenerated. The Messiah will return to establish God's Millennial Kingdom on earth and will rule from His throne in Jerusalem. And Israel will be the most blessed nation on earth (Zechariah 8:23).

Now fast forward to today and listen to the global mantra being hustled by the Biden Administration regarding a ceasefire and two-state solution for the land which God has already promised to the Jewish people. It's called the Promised Land for a reason, Joe. And remember, God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who don't (Genesis 12:3). For the sake of the righteous in our land, I pray for God's mercy on America.

Rev. David Lewis

**Saved by Grace or the Free Will of Man?  
God's Salvation: He Begins In Us (Phil.1:6)**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

The Son of God was the Creator of time and eternity, the universe and all in the world (John 1:1-16). The Lord Jesus Christ came as the "Light of the world and we beheld His glory" as the "only begotten of the Father full of GRACE AND TRUTH." Once called to believe, we have received the salvation won for us by Christ for His "Sons of God" freed from darkness to that very light (1 John 3:1; Rom. 1:19).

John the Baptist said of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), meaning not only the elect of Israel, but all those saved and called to be "Sons of God" (Deut. 7:6; 1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:9).

Jesus taught, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE: no man cometh unto the Father but by ME" (John 14:6), and He also said, "No man can come to ME except the Father DRAW Him:" and, "you have not chosen Me, but I have CHOSEN YOU" (John 15:16; 6:44, 65).

It is especially noteworthy that our Triune God early advanced His plurality when He said, "Let US make man in Our Image ... male and female" (Gen. 1:26-27). When the person of the Trinity appeared, "transfigured on the mount" (Mark 9:22-8) His raiment was "brightly shining," astonishing the three disciples. Later Christ appeared with "eyes of fire" to John in Revelation (Rev. 1:13-20). Next however, when the divine Son of God came twenty centuries ago, Christ muted His Divinity and condescended to become the promised "seed of the woman" (Gen. 3:15). He came by a miracle since the babe was conceived in the Virgin Mary "never having known a man." Mary was divinely "overshadowed by the Holy Spirit" and Jesus was singularly and uniquely birthed by the power and will of God (Luke 2:34-35).

The scriptures throughout, especially in the Apostles' epistles, is the sovereign clarity of God's grace manifest. Christ bore our sins and shed His blood in Justification and in Atonement by a price He did not owe, and we could not pay (Rom. 5:9, 6:38-40). Now we are guided into Christ's gospel truth by His Spirit (Rom. 8:9-11) and Grace imputed into our opened hearts (Acts 16:14, 30-31). Christ took our human manhood when born as the promised "seed of the woman," the lamb slain from the "FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD" (Ep. 1:3-7; Rev. 13:8) and bore our sins before anything or anyone even existed (Heb. 1:10; Ep. 3:9).

Jesus in His High-Priestly prayer petitioned the Father saying, "...as THOU FATHER art in me and I in THEE, that they may be one in US and that by them the world may believe. Thou hast loved them as THOU has loved ME... before the foundation of the world (John 17:21-26). It is only by Christ's one finished sacrifice on Calvary's cross (John 17:4, 19:30) that can alone redeem us when led to confess our sins, repent and turn away to righteousness. True BELIEVERS are granted everlasting life (John 3:16).

Let all who may yet think that WE MUST contribute our own good works and that we FRIST CHOOSE CHRIST by our own sovereign Free Will; hear now the words of Isaiah

(Is. 64:6), “But we are all as an unclean thing ... our righteousnesses are as filthy rags and we all do fade as a leaf and our iniquities like the wind, have taken us away.” The Apostle Paul seconded this to Titus, “...Not by righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy, He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5). Almighty God is the creating POTTER, we are but the clay (Is. 29:15-16; Rom. 9:21-24). Man’s totally depraved will is NOT FREE but is more captive and a slave to the subtleties of Satan and His emissaries (John 8:34, 6:16; 2 Tim. 2:26).

None can miss what the “Free Will” in Adam and Eve brought them and us – the “curse of God’s law” (Gen. 3:14-19) and the “bottomless pit” (Is. 14:14-19) and many descendants NOT written in Christ’s “Book of Life” and subject to the SECOND DEATH (Rev. 17:8, 20:6). True believers, saved from before the foundation, may rest in the arms of Jesus (Heb. 4:3-9). The Apostle Paul in “Free Will” persecuted Jesus’ followers and was traveling to Damascus when he was floored by a bright light and a voice from heaven (Acts 9:1-20). Paul was blinded for three days until God sent Ananias to heal him and to baptize him.

Some mistakenly and some rebelliously teach error against the Word of God in their “Free Will.” In 2 Peter we read, “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise ... but is long suffering to US-WARD, not willing that any should perish, but that ALL SHOULD COME TO REPENTANCE.” We need to know to whom Peter wrote His letter; to all peoples on earth or as he said, “...to them that have obtained like PRECIOUS FAITH WITH US, through the righteousness of God and our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Pet. 1:1). God’s divine power has given, “...unto US, life and godliness” (vs. 3-4). Now we know it is FAITH that God sent to US-WARD by “great and precious promises that none will perish.” Peter’s letter is NOT to all descendants of Adam, but only to those who have “obtained like precious faith WITH US and that by the WILL OF GOD and not of man” (John 1:13; Rom. 9:16).

One other verse that is misinterpreted by some is, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killeth the Prophets ... how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen gathers her children under her wings and YE WOULD NOT” (Matt. 23:27). This verse is isolated and offered to say that man’s “Free Will” is more powerful than the “Will of God” and yet for the preceding 36 verses in Matt. 23, jam-packed with condemnation of the very leadership that kills the prophets and apostles of Christ and crucified their Messiah. These false leaders were the very ones who “would not” come to Christ and forbid anyone to mention His name or His role in teaching His Gospel. Their Free Will brought down the temple and came down upon their own heads (Dan. 5:22-28 = example).

The renowned Nineteenth Century preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon preached a sermon which he called “Free Will – A Slave,” in which he stated the words of Martin Luther, “If any describes of salvation, even in the very least, as coming from the “Free Will” of Man, they know nothing of God’s sovereign GRACE and has learned nothing of Jesus Christ. Any that believe that lost men may, of their dead spirits and ‘Free Will,’ come to Christ, cannot have known scripture’s first principles. To come to saving faith in Christ none have either the willingness of heart nor the power. Yet by Christ’s grace alone, the Lord gives his elect both (Rom 8:33-34). Jesus alone is our “Alpha and Omega” in the reconciliation of man to God.

Man in rebellion to God is, “dead in trespasses and sins” and they will not come to Jesus Christ because they cannot. They are first called by God before they may come to Christ

(Ep. 1:3-11; John 14:6, 15-16). Now in a God-given new nature that becomes the “NEW MAN” renewed in knowledge by the “Image of Him that created him” (Col. 3:10-11).

Spurgeon in his sermon, “Free Will – A Slave” noted that all descendants are in God’s eyes legally and spiritually “DEAD” (Gal. 2:20) yet some profligates and some misguided theologians spout-out mightily of their free wills and boast of great knowledge not knowing they are “condemned already” (John 3:18). Unsaved man is perishing yet lives in merriment, sinfully ignorant of the fate that awaits the pride filled.

All born in Adam’s posterity are equally condemned by our sins in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds, done in and by the depravity of our inherited natures from the fall in Eden’s garden. In the disastrous lack of spiritual life in the condemnation of our souls (Ep. 2:1; Rom. 6:6) Jesus told Nicodemus, “except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God” (John 3:3), he cannot even enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:5). Jesus described this NEW BIRTH instructing him to “marvel not ... the wind bloweth where it wants, you hear the sound of it, but no one knows from where it came or where it is going, ... so is everyone that is born of the spirit” (vs. 7-8).

Christ also taught this ruler in Jerusalem that as “Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness” (Num. 21:8-9; 2 Kings 18:4) so must the “SON OF MAN” be lifted up for the promised “seed of the woman” has now at last come as the “Lamb slain from before the FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD” – to suffer and die in our place (Is. 7:14, 9:6, 53:17; Rev. 13:8).

Born anew, we are no longer what we once were. We now are given the very mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16) and made to become “pure and holy,” no longer willfully going astray or being corrupt and remaining hopelessly ruined (Luke 11:39, 12:1-3). The life we now live is life from God, we are no longer spiritually dead (Ep. 2:1) but Christ, by His Spirit lives in us (John 5:24).

The Apostle Paul speaking of God who called us to spiritual life shows that GOD DID THIS TRANSFORMATION in us by HIS WILL ALONE. Paul stated , “Being confident of this very thing, that HE which began a good work in you WILL PERFORM IT until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

<b>Chief Source:</b>	FREE WILL – A SLAVE
<b>Author:</b>	Charles Hadden Spurgeon
<b>Publisher:</b>	Free Grace Publisher/Chapel Library



**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for  
it is the power of God for salvation...**

**Romans 1:16**

## Resurrection Power

By Nancy Long

Matt. 28:6 – *“He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*

This is the time of year when we hear a lot, at least from the Christian community, about the Resurrection of Christ. Quite often though, we become so accustomed to the Biblical story of Jesus rising from the dead and His ascension into heaven that we fail to stop long enough to **“think”** ..... to even realize, just how awe-inspiring, majestic, and extraordinarily remarkable this event really **was**, and in fact, still **is** to us who live today! We cannot comprehend it! *“Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it”* (Ps. 139:6). Thankfully though, we’ve been given the faith to believe it! Lord, please forgive us if we ever take this truth for granted!!

Let’s sit back and ponder for just a moment: Jesus Christ, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Godhead, arose **bodily** from the grave by the supernatural power of God. *“Ain’t no power on earth can tie Me down,”* so goes the song “I Will Rise Again.” Can you fathom the awesomeness of this? ..... the amazement? ..... the wonder?! ..... the marvel?! Even the power of death could not hold Him in that tomb!! *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Cor. 15: 55 & 57). There is no more strong or mighty source of energy in the entire cosmos than this power: the **power** of the Resurrection!!

Hurricanes, tornados, monsoons, and tsunamis ..... natural calamities produced by the forces of wind and water, result in horrible devastation, causing much misery and extreme pain! Atomic and hydrogen bombs used in nuclear warfare, are weapons of great destructive power, and leave great ruin in their paths, tremendously altering life! Fires, and even disease, dramatically change and move those who are affected in new directions, changing the “best laid plans.”

The above mentioned examples all have the ability to reshape or modify lives from the outside, and doubtless have **some** “control” over everyday circumstances, but the apostle Paul **knew** that the **Resurrection power** is the only power that is able to transform lives from the inside! The fact that Jesus Christ had risen from the dead, transformed the disciples very reason for living. The fact that they were able to see Him, and to touch Him, after witnessing His death and burial, supernaturally metamorphosed those men!

Paul, humbly proclaiming himself to be the least of the apostles, realized it was the grace of God, and nothing but the grace of God, that enabled him to succeed in what he did. Paul’s desire to **know** Christ continued throughout his entire ministry. To **know** Christ more completely became the focus and delight of his life.

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for*

*whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended for Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:7-14).*

As stated above, to **know** Christ more completely became the focus and delight of this apostle’s life, not just to be cognizant of who He was, but to develop a deep, personal, and intimate relationship with Him; to **know** Him as only a child can know his father.

What is the purpose of life? What is the purpose of **your** life? The Resurrection of Jesus Christ prompts each one of us to remember that there **is** life beyond the grave, that we are indeed, **more** than physical beings, that we **all** have been endowed with an immortal soul that will live eternally with God, **if** we are true believers. Knowledge of this should be the source of great joy and excitement, as well as it should bring extreme comfort. All the hardships, and trials, and difficulties of life ought to pale in comparison when focusing on the glory of our future home in a place called heaven (Eph. 2:6 and Phil. 3:20).

Jesus Christ’s triumph over death was purposed and planned by God from before the beginning of time. The truth and power of the Resurrection **can**, and **will**, change a life. It is the greatest and strongest force in the universe!!

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, my Defender friends. Make this **“good news”** your very reason for living! I pray you share in a glorious upcoming Resurrection Sunday!



## FROM OUR MAILBAG

I think there is a major slice of the population that actually doesn't want freedom. They want security, and they unfortunately don't see it coming from their neighbor or from the Church or from God. They see it coming via welfare, food stamps, section 8 houses, WIC, Planned Parenthood, street crime, etc.

Add to their defeatist existence, the millions of illegal aliens who get free shelter and medical assistance, it's easy to see their deflation and surrender.

The American dream isn't dead, but it's crippled. Corporations with their corruption and greed is the monster to which most people fall prey. Owning a small business is an option, but most of them fail; of those that stand past five years, most of them make small earnings. Only an elite few find financial gain and even fewer than that, substantial wealth.

So there are millions and millions of people who have given up hope for an independent and free life. And sadly, have given up hope in God.

Add one more layer to the insanity of our lives, the wars, the hate, the murders, the broken homes, the children with cancer, the drunk driving automobile deaths, the fentanyl deaths, etc., and it's easy to see why people have lost hope and given up on liberty and God.

Blessed are those who despite their reality still put their trust and faith in freedom, liberty, and God.

Blessed are those who dare to believe in beautiful things like love, compassion, God and Heaven.

Blessed are those who take the narrow road.

By the grace of God go I.

*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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#### **WRITE TO US!**

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#### **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Good Friday Service (March 29th)	7:00 pm
Resurrection Sunday (March 31st)	11:00 am