

Any questions on  
natural law,  
divine establishment,  
the church, or  
government?

*Consequences of failure of the Church/Christians to teach Bible doctrine on natural law, divine establishment, & the church-state= Liberals win the minds of Christian children*

**Truth or Consequences:**

- ✓ **Breakdown of D.E. (anti-agentic view of humans, anti-capitalistic, anti-America, and anti-traditional family—gender perverted monstrosities.**

(consequences)

- ✓ Entitlement mentality—(“life owes me”!)
- ✓ New Generation sees *big* government as a good thing instead of necessary evil
- ✓ From a majority accepting the philosophy of Reagan to a majority accepting the philosophy of Obama

- ✓ Gender perversions: 40 years ago most Americans said they didn't know anyone who was gay or lesbian & claimed to know little to nothing about homosexuality. Today there is hardly a sitcom without a prominent gay character, gay-themed movies have won Oscars, media celebrates same sex marriages, elementary school textbooks indoctrinate children with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender ideology, many churches and synagogues now ordain gay clergy—and one of our elected officials is a man with cleavage who often wears a dress & high heels to work. In courts, religious rights are consistently losing the battle to gay rights, while university students have been expelled from their programs for refusing to endorse homosexual practice.

## (Truth or Consequences)

- ✓ Don't you just love positive law and all of the mushy human good (evil = corrupted good = privation) that is messing up the children?
- ✓ Don't you love Obama's celebration of gay leaders who celebrate sexual perversion?
- ✓ Don't tell me doctrine does not matter!

**“The ultimate test of a moral society  
is the kind of world that it leaves  
to its children”**

**Deitrich Bonhoeffer**

*Questions on  
covenant theology  
or  
dispensationalism?*

# Spiritual Foundations: Eschatology (1)

## THE JUDGMENT SEAT (βῆμα) OF CHRIST

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must (δεῖ) all appear before the judgment seat (βῆμα) of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good (ἀγαθόν) or bad (φαῦλον).

- ✓ Timeframe: right after Rapture/resurrection.
- ✓ No judgment for sins; believers = no OSNs.
- ✓ Issue = quality of works (HS or flesh)

# THE JUDGMENT SEAT (βῆμα) OF CHRIST

**1 Corinthians 3:11** For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, <sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is *to be* revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire.

- ✓ Divine good vs. human good
- ✓ Issue is not salvation



# THE JUDGMENT SEAT (βῆμα) OF CHRIST

**How any believer can prepare himself for a great evaluation:**

**1 John 2:28** And now, little children, abide in Him (μένετε ἐν αὐτῷ), so that when He appears, we may have confidence (παρρησίαν) and not shrink away from Him in shame in His presence (παρουσία).

**Rewards have eternal consequences (right now counts forever)**

**Matthew 13:43** "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

**Daniel 12:3** "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.

# **Spiritual Foundations for a Vibrant Growing Spiritual Life**

(Prerequisites for the supergrace and ultra-supergrace life)

## **1- Salvation by grace through faith, Eph 2:8-10**

- ✓ Recognition of our own unworthiness. Appreciation for God's marvelous matchless grace (avoid chains of legalism)

## **2- Fellowship with Christ (=FHS), Jn 15:1-5, 1 Jn 1:5-9**

- ✓ Countless believers are never taught recovery and so their whole life is w/o FHS & OOF-ship—whole life under convicting ministry of HS for unconfessed sins.

## **3 – Spiritual maturity, Heb 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Eph. 3:14-19**

- ✓ Countless believers have absolutely no vision and thus no desire for maturity or for the max. glorification of God. Church needs to stop tickling ears and telling stories—then tacking on verses. Local church needs to teach believers BD & apologetics in defending the faith (contra fideism).



# **Resurrection of the Son of God and Related Issues: A Doctrinal and Historiographical Study 1 – Introduction**

- 1. The resurrection of the Son of God (Introduction).**
  - a) Everything stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 1 Cor. 15:1-3, 15-19; 54-58.
  - b) Understanding the resurrection of JC enables believers to be steadfast (ἔδραῖοι), immovable (ἀμετακίνητοι), abounding (περισσεύοντες) in divine production knowing it is not in vain, 15:58. It is worthy to note that 60-90% of Christians who go off to college lose their faith within the first couple of years due to lack of preparation or simply - vol.

- c) There is no stronger message in the world. Nobody has apologetics like those found in the resurrection.
- d) Since resurrection of Christ is true then atheism, Islam, modern Judaism, et al are false.
- e) Note how Paul trash-talks death in vss. 54-56. He is not writing poetry here. He is saying that death has nothing on him. 'Death, you are going down! Yes, you can hurt me, but because of JC was raised you are going down. You are finished! One day we will be more alive than ever before. Death, Your days are numbered. You will be defeated!
- f) **John 14:19** - . . . because I live, you shall live also.

## 2. Related issues—in this special

- ✓ Death in the OT (prior to resurrection)
- ✓ Resurrection belief in the OT
- ✓ Views of death in pagan world – isagogics on Gentiles in the churches (cf. Homer)
- ✓ Resurrection in the Gospels—broad and personal
- ✓ Resurrection in the epistles— Paul and others.
- ✓ Resurrection power for the spiritual life

## **(Related issues)**

- ✓ Historiography & philosophy of history (absolutely critical, but not taught in religion or philosophy, even in the eight Ivy League schools – either on BA, MA, or PHD level.
- ✓ Ancient extra-biblical testimony of the resurrection of the Lord.
- ✓ The nature and validity of miracles
- ✓ Defense of the inerrancy of Scripture.

### 3. Doctrinal studies

- ✓ Significance of Christ's resurrection
- ✓ Heresy of "soul" sleep
- ✓ Death – the proper view
- ✓ The interim body
- ✓ The Rapture
- ✓ Our resurrected bodies
- ✓ The Bema Seat
- ✓ The Wedding attire of church age believers
- ✓ Eternal Rewards – shining like the sun
- ✓ Eternity with the Lord in literal resurrected bodies



## 4. Goals

- ✓ Strengthen the faith of the believer, by grounding him in the bedrock of the resurrection.
- ✓ Equip believer to handle U-tube and media attacks
- ✓ Enable the believer to live without fear of death
- ✓ Enable the believer to look forward to resurrected life with JC.
- ✓ Enable the believer to better appreciate the resurrection of JC.

## **(Goals)**

- ✓ Enable the believer to appreciate the wonderful applications of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the spiritual life.
- ✓ Enable the believer to defend the resurrection of Jesus – from the Bible.
- ✓ Enable the believer to defend the resurrection of Jesus – without the Bible.
- ✓ Learn principles of historiography to apply to other historical studies.
- ✓ Complete the study by August 2011.

## 5. Apologetics

- a) Biblical mandates (should be part of local church)
  - **Colossians 4:5** Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. <sup>6</sup> Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, *as it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond (ἀποκρίνεσθαι = answer) to each person.
  - **1 Peter 3:15** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense (ἀπολογία) to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

- b) Part of our loving duty (Matt. 22:37) is to find answers for those who criticize God's Word.
- c) Truth is able to stand on its own two feet. We have nothing to fear from truth (John 8:32; Jn 17:17). The Bible has withstood the criticisms of the greatest skeptics, agnostics, and atheists, down through the centuries.
- d) Unlike the religions of the world that appeal to mystical feelings or blind faith, Christianity says, "Look before you leap."

- e) God places no premium on ignorance, nor does He reward those who refused to look at the evidence.
- f) On the contrary, He will condemn those who refuse the plain evidence He has revealed,

**Romans 1:19** <sup>19</sup> because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse (ἀναπολογήτους).

## 6. Overview of the Major Categories of Apologetics

- ✓ Classical/Thomists. Unbeliever is offered evidence from natural revelation on the nature of God, logic, reason, creation, and then to Bible.
- ✓ Evidential (Josh McDowell, Lee Strobel). Logic and reason with a great deal data/evidence.
- ✓ Historical (Gary Habbermas, Mike Lacona).
- ✓ Presuppositional (Cornelius Van Til, Clark,).
- ✓ Experiential. Weakest but most popular.
- ✓ Anti-apologetics = fideism (“faithism). Faith alone in the absence of or contrary to reason. Strong fideism contends there no good rational arguments. Faith is on higher level than reason.

## **7. Historiography – how to do history (general rev.)**

- a) There is no 100% guarantee on any historical research as part of general revelation. Even if you have an artifact. All we have are documents written 2,000 years ago. My Santa illustration.
- b) Historiography: there are many different approaches: historian, philosopher, reactionary
- c) Biblical scholars do not know how to do history
- d) The greatest challenge in historiography is the ability to bracket and even transcend your horizons—to be able to manage your preferences, your desired outcome.

- e) Great for self and in challenging others. Ask others, “How do you manage your biases?”
- f) Most biblical scholars and atheists have absolutely no training in historiography and philosophy of history whatsoever.
- g) Learn how to present historical evidence for Jesus. My goal. When we finish you will have a far better grasp of historical evidence, the nature of the resurrection, and what to expect when you die and then when you are resurrected.



- h) Horizon: “How a historian view things as a result of their knowledge, experience, beliefs, education, cultural conditioning, preferences, presuppositions, and worldview.”
- i) Horizons are like sunglasses through which a historian looks.
- j) You can see this in any history book you read. No historian is exempt. No historian can look at data devoid of biases, hopes and inclinations.
- k) The historian who thinks he has has only deceived himself.
- l) Intellectual inertia can be very obstinate.

- m) Horizons, however, can be managed and even transcended. It is difficult, but history does have plenty of examples of people transcending their horizon (Apostle Paul, C.S. Lewis, Anthony Flew, Mortimer Adler, Ergun Caner, Hugh Ross, J. Budziszewski). However, most are not interested in truth enough to pay the price. Most rather let “what they want” to control their horizon. The goal is to discover what actually happened, guided by the best evidence, possible or impossible.
- n) Consider the horizons in sports over “calls” or events in which your children have competed. Why do people see more infractions against opposing teams? What about in seeing flaws in others?

## **8. Six Ways a Historian Can Transcend his horizon.**

- 1) Method – less ad hoc. Illustration with *House*.
- 2) Public – open to scrutiny.
- 3) Peer review.
- 4) Submitting ideas to unsympathetic experts.
- 5) Account for relevant historical bedrock.
- 6) Detachment from biases.

**9. Controlling Horizon: #1 Method: Problem of ad hoc. Robust 15 male comes to hospital with fever, vomiting, and pain in lower-right side of abdomen:**

- ✓ #1 Med student diagnoses “flu” due to fever. However this lack explanatory power
- ✓ #2 Med student: still possible it is flu- b/c fever.
- ✓ #3 Med student: “flu” – adds martial arts class and food poisoning. Explanatory power but has nonevidenced assumptions or ad hoc.
- ✓ House directs them to prep boy for appendectomy. Classic case without ad hoc.
- ✓ Critical that historians avoid ad hoc to fit their horizons. We will see this in alternate theories.

## 10. Basics on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- a) Bedrock: Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - 1) If the Bible is the Word of God, Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - 2) If the Bible is not the Word of God, but a decent and reliable history book, then Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - 3) If the Bible is as the critics claim (i.e. that virtually nothing in it is reliable), then we still have enough historical evidence to show that Jesus was raised from the dead.
  - 4) This is a “heads” I win, and “tails” you lose argument.

- b) You can take just the data that the critics allow and have enough to show that Jesus was raised from the dead.
- c) Just because someone does not accept the Bible, does not mean we cannot confront them with the evidence.
- d) Just because someone does not accept the Bible does not mean that they are absolved of responsibility before God.

## **11. Basic historical timeline that even the hardest critics accept.**

- ✓ 1 Cor 15:3-4. “What I received” – core of Christianity: death and resurrection of JC.
- ✓ Cross 30 A.D., – this ground zero for us.
- ✓ Mark 65-70 A.D.
- ✓ Matthew 80
- ✓ Luke 85
- ✓ John 95.

- ✓ Historians believe that any evidence that we have that is within 65 years should be accepted.
- ✓ Historians accept the historicity of Alexander the Great. But the two best biographies, Arrian and Plutarch are written 400 years after Alexander died. What if I told you that the evidence for Jesus Christ came 400 years after the fact, written by non-eyewitnesses? That everybody got everything right 400 years later?
- ✓ We have better sources for Jesus than we do Tiberius (33) and many others who are accepted by historians.



- ✓ Sources for Jesus.
- ✓ Paul: 1 Cor 15 about 53 AD and is early than Mark. It is about 23 years after Jesus. But what he gave he was given, and what was given predates even Paul's eyewitness of Jesus as per list of those Christ appeared to.
- ✓ Every critic alive says that this material on all of these appearances are from earlier sources. Way earlier than 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians. And there is only 25 years here!

- ✓ Even the critics think that Paul got this material very early in Jerusalem from the apostles about 35.
- ✓ Now we are 5 years from the crucifixion. There is no skeptic alive today who does not believe that Paul was not the author of 1 Cor. and Galatians.
- ✓ Now to Galatians 1 where we have his testimony, 1:16. This was about 2 years after cross. He received the material from 1 Corinthians right here. So we have James, Peter, John and now Paul. Consider the baggage each has and all together changed, revolutionized. They are talking about the crucifixion and resurrection appearances.
- ✓ With Peter, James, and John we have eyewitness material that goes back to 30 A.D.

# The Destruction of Death by the Resurrection of JC

## 1 Cor 15:26

1. Death as an enemy. Look at ravages of death all around us and throughout human history. Death destroys the creation of God. The pain of death from the wail of the widow, the moan of the orphan, the void from the loss of a friend, to the intense grief of the lost newlywed. Death takes no pity on the young and no mercy on the old. Death is not the way God originally designed things. It is not suppose to be this way.

2. Death is the enemy of all people—including God's people. It separates relationships. It stops interrupts work here.
3. Enemy is not an enemy that we will be able to avoid (except the rapture generation). Our end in our mortal body is inevitable.
4. Jesus Christ has accomplished a great victory over death. He has taken care of spiritual death and will take care of physical death.
5. How could we ever repay Him? What does He want?