

THE BAPTIST DEFENCE

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Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

The Exaltation Of Man

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Universal . . .

Exalted from Eden to
Eternity, what a glorious
thought! But how is this
accomplished? The Bible
is very clear about this.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

THE FALL

When Adam, the “one man” in Romans 5:12, was created, he was not created perfect; he was created perfectly innocent. If he had been perfect, he would be God, and man is not God but a creation of God.

Adam, in his created state, then sinned against a holy God and became an enemy of God and his righteousness. Thus man fell into a sinful trend, and his nature was changed from Adam’s nature in his original state into a nature that is alienated from the image of God; man became depraved in his heart and mind: Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?* Romans 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

This fall of Adam was total, perpetual and universal. His intentions were no longer divine; his emotions were apostate, his knowledge was carnal and insufficient to divine comprehension, and he had no hope and was without God in the world (Eph. 2:12).

This lapsarian¹ man not only is self-destroyed but has also the potential to traduce his disposition to his children; and as the first child nears birth, he, too, is a part of this destruction, this condemnation, this depravity. This is a fall that inhabits the entire human race since that first notable day in Eden.

In his hopeless, depraved, and carnal condition, man has been unable to approach God again with the same fellowship and relationship that Adam had before his fall by sin. He can no longer come to that light that he once knew and that fellowship that he once enjoyed with his Creator: 1 Tim. 6:16 *Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

THE FRUITLESSNESS

John 15:4 *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

The product of the fall of Adam is fruitlessness. No man can bear fruit of himself; he must abide in Jesus Christ before any fruit can be brought forth.

Many in their fallen state try to produce fruit unto God in their religious practices, their “holy” attitudes, their religious fervor, and their social engineering; but God will not accept this kind of fruit, because it is not fruit unto righteousness but mere feeble efforts of fallen man.

THE FEAR

The fear that each human being should have before a holy God has been hidden beneath the covering of sin and selfishness. He does not fear God, because true, divine fear comes

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¹lapsarian - a Latin word meaning “fallen.”

EXALTATION OF MAN

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by the grace of God.

Rom 3:18 *There is no fear of God before their eyes.* The only fear of God that man has is his fear of God's judgment, but that is only from a carnal position and is not a Godly fear.

THE FOLLY

2 Tim. 3:8 *Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. 9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.*

The folly or foolishness of man is always before God, and he laughs at man's arrogance and self-importance. Men are of the opinion that God is unnecessary and that man must save himself.

The Humanist Manifesto says in part, "We can discover no purpose or providence for the human species . . . no deity will save us; we must save ourselves." This shows the foolishness of fallen man.

So man must be exalted above the position of no fear and a position of folly and self-aggrandizement. He must be brought exotically to a new position before a holy God.

THE FULLNESS

Rom. 15:29 *And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.*

There is a fullness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, because Christ has fullness, righteousness, and grace: John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth . . .* John 1:16 *And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.*

Oh, the fullness of Christ! How precious it is! We have received from him this divine exaltation to a position before God that will stand forever.

Exalted to a position as sons of God. Without Christ we could never have been exalted to the position as sons of God: 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Eph 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; We were dead in our trespasses and sins, and God has made us alive (quickened us) unto God: Rom. 6:11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Exalted to a position of friends. John 15:14 *Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.* We are friends of God, having been raised spiritually from the dead, just as Abraham was a friend of God: James 2:23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.*

Exalted to a position of glory. Rom. 8:30 *Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

That same saving grace will also glorify us. In Romans 8:30 glorification is related as though it has already happened. We are so sure that we shall be glorified that the Holy Spirit speaks here in the past tense.

Exalted from Eden to Eternity, what a glorious thought! But how is this accomplished? The Bible is very clear about this.

John 6:45 *It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every*

man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. 46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

Christ has wrought the work with his perfect life and his perfect death. He has died in our place to bring us to God and to give unto us eternal life.

If you today can repent or turn from your sins, turn to God, believe on his Son, Jesus Christ, with a faith that is wrought of God, then you will be exalted above Adam's condition before his fall. You will be brought into the family of God: Gal.3:26 *For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.*

Dear friend, Hell awaits those who remain in their fruitlessness, their lack of fear of God, and their folly. Believe on the Lord, Jesus Christ, and you will receive his fullness. You will be prepared for Heaven, and you will be glorified when Jesus returns to take his children out of this world, which the Lord has not prayed for, but he has prayed for those who will come to him by faith.

The hour is late, and the need is urgent. May you be exalted from your depraved state into the glorious family of God by faith in Jesus Christ. Ω



What Are We Fighting For?

Sometimes Christians have questions as to whether we as Americans should be fighting against some foreign power, that perhaps we should be a peaceful people and lay down all of our arms and "try to get along." What are we fighting for, anyway?

FOR A LAND

We are fighting for a land, a beautiful and abundant land. Every American, whether Christian or not, should love this land in which we live. All in all, this country has the most beautiful and the most productive land in the world, especially with all of the natural resources we have and the "mind to work" in the American people.

If we cannot protect ourselves from those who would destroy this land and make it a dunghill of backward, uncivilized, and undemocratic rule, then perhaps we do not deserve what we have, and perhaps we should live as people lived 600 years ago.

God has given us this land, and we should guard against its enemies just as Israel, God's chosen nation, fought against theirs.

FOR A PURPOSE

The purpose of Democracy is to give opportunity to everyone who wants to apply himself to them to better himself, his family, and his posterity.

If this purpose is not worth defending, then we do not deserve the greatest form of government that has ever been devised by human minds.



Our Democratic Republic is well worth defending, I believe, and I would give my life in defense of the form of government that we have, despite all of the corruption that is in it. This form of government outshines any other kind of government in existence today.

FOR A FREEDOM

Most precious of all in this great country is our freedom. Speak all you want about those who want to take it away; we must use what we have, for what we don't use, we lose.

Freedom of speech is a most precious thing. We may not like what someone says or writes, but we must be willing to fight for the right to express belief in things, else we shall be bound to the opinions of the elite.

Freedom of religion is probably the most precious of all. Efforts of Baptists in the early years of our country made religious freedom a commanding option for our forefathers. The founding fathers listened and hearkened to this pressing need. We may not like someone's religion; but if that religion is from the heart and does not bring harm to individuals, then it must have the right to exercise.

If we lose the freedom of religion, we will be bound to someone else's religion; but as long as we have our religious freedom, we will have the

great opportunity and duty to give the Gospel to every creature. The duty is always there, but the opportunities come and go. We must "work while it is day ... the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Are these things worth fighting for? Yes, they are! We should not give them up lightly.

Thanks be to God for those who are willing to volunteer their time, their efforts, and their lives for this land, its purpose, and its freedoms. Let us pray for them fervently, love them diligently, and support them fully.

Since I could never, because of my physical limitations, serve my country in a military way, I remember, pray for, love, and support our military men and women every way that I can.

I found a poem written in 1929. It is entitled *Don't Quit*. Part of it goes like this:

Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
You can never tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems afar
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem the worst
That You Mustn't Quit!

Don't let politicians or religious leaders dampen our spirit of survival, and let us pray without ceasing concerning those people and those things that make this country great.

-Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

¹Ben Lief, 1929



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IN GOD WE TRUST

The motto "In God We Trust" first appeared on a coin of the United States in 1864. It was on a two-cent piece, and two years later, it was placed on the nickel, quarter, half, and silver dollar. It was added to the penny in 1909, to the dime in 1916, and having been dropped from the nickel in 1883, it was restored to that coin in 1938. Originally it was used because of high religious sentiment during the Civil War. The Secretary of the Treasury authorized it after receiving a number of appeals from devout citizens urging that Deity be recognized suitably on our coins. (copied)

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Sunday School 10:00 AM
Morning Worship 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study . . . 7:00 PM
(Bible Club Meets)

The Baptist Defence

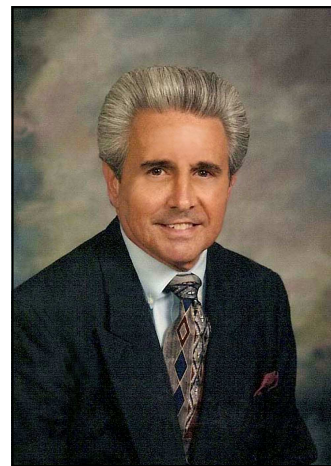
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First Baptist Church Harrison, Ohio



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