

DON'T PASS OUT!

(THERE'S POWER IN THE BLOOD)

ser5028 The Boundless Breadth of Atonement, Pt 2

March 27, 2022

E & L

(HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. I'd like to address a phrase I often hear that really bugs me.

That phrase is, "Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship." **Although true, it is not accurate.** Let me say that again, "Although true, it's not accurate."

Let me explain. If you recall last weekend Pastor Lucas gave us three definitions for "religion." They come from Noah Webster's dictionary and are:

1. A personal set or institutionalized system of religious attitudes, beliefs, and practices
2. The service and worship of God or the supernatural (a power higher than our own)
3. Commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance

B. Tell me, where does Christianity not qualify?

1. It is clearly a belief system which demonstrates itself in one's attitude, beliefs, and practices.

2. It certainly requires service and worship of God—those are the first and second great commandments.

3. Good Christians are devoted to observing the commands of our Lord.

Again, tell me how Christianity does not qualify as a “religion?”

I say it not only qualifies, but it eclipses all other religions.

C. Where Christianity differs is this:

1. What qualifies us to be a Christian is not the rules, behavior, or system—it’s Christ. (The point of Pastor Lucas’ message.)

2. What separates Christianity from all other faiths are fake gods and a true God.

3. How can one have a relationship with a god that does not exist? How can a person have a relationship with a god who doesn’t hear, cannot speak, cannot walk, or cannot respond to our petitions?

You can’t!

D. Therefore when a person says, “*Christianity is not a religion, it’s a relationship*” – that is true, but it’s not completely accurate.

Christianity is a religion and in that religion we have a God who is alive, who hears, who answers, who speaks, who loves, and who acts in accordance with His nature.

Furthermore, it's not what we do that qualifies us for membership, it's what He has done.

Our part is to sign the agreement by receiving Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour and the propitiation for sins.

That's the whole of the matter.

II. INVITATION

A. With that in mind, let me ask you:

Have you received Christ for the forgiveness of sins? Have you received Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour?

It's as easy as ABC:

Admitt – your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

B. To those of you who prayed with me—I'll be in front of the platform after service and would love to give you a Bible, sign it, and help you get started in your new walk with the LORD.

Today is your spiritual birthday. Let's record it! (591)

III. (LOOK) PRIORITIZING GOD AND THE THINGS OF GOD

A. On February 27th we looked at the patriarch Isaac, focusing on the value of “plodding,” that is sticking with something and not giving up.

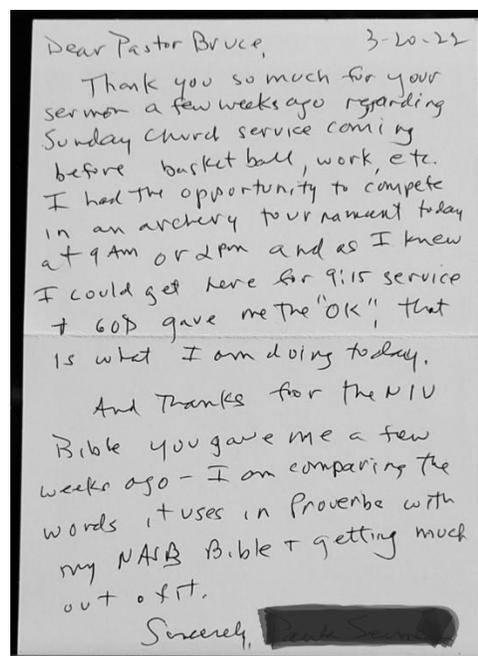
In so doing we saw that “plodding” is an act of faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God. Furthermore, although not a dynamic personality—in fact, he may have been what we would call “dull,” Isaac was inducted into God's Hall of Fame. What qualified Isaac above all else was his immediate obedience to God when God asked something of him. Jacob, one of Isaac's sons refers to the LORD as “The Fear of Isaac.”

Note that Jacob does not say “the Fear of Abraham;” he says, “the Fear of Isaac.” Abraham is dead; Isaac is alive. He’s speaking in the present tense. He’s saying that his father understood the consequence of disobeying God (that’s the fear of the LORD) and walked in obedience. That is wisdom. As a result, Isaac is protected and blessed.

In that context I gave examples of putting God first and the rewards of doing so—whether we see them as bad or good. By good or bad I mean putting God first could cost you a job, a grade in school, a marriage, and the list goes on. It could also mean a promotion, a scholarship, a successful marriage—whatever the case, putting God first will render everlasting dividends.

Let me read you a letter I received last Sunday through the offering plate, or maybe it was under my study door. ([show letter & read letter](#))

Matthew 6:33 finds no exception to any situation, ever: “Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.”



Dear Pastor Bruce, 3-20-22
 Thank you so much for your sermon a few weeks ago regarding Sunday church service coming before basket ball, work, etc. I had the opportunity to compete in an archery tournament today at 9am or 2pm and as I knew I could get here for 9:15 service + GOD gave me the "OK" that is what I am doing today.
 And thanks for the NIV Bible you gave me a few weeks ago - I am comparing the words it uses in Proverbs with my NAB Bible + getting much out of it.
 Sincerely, [Redacted]

B. Where is God asking you to put Him first?

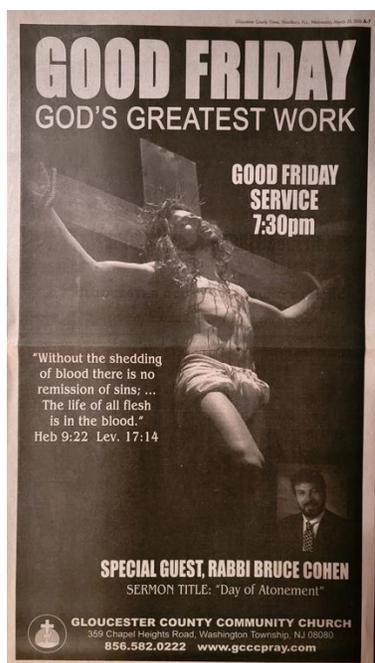
Do it! You'll never regret it no matter what the outcome appears to be in the flesh, it's what counts for eternity—and that may never be seen in our lifetime.
(937+93=1030)

IV. (BOOK) DON'T PASS OUT!

A. Have you ever met someone who passed out at the sight of blood?

Blood has different effects on people. Some can't look at it. If they do, they can experience dizziness, nausea, or even pass out. If you're a vampire, you gain energy and life. (That was supposed to be funny!) If you're a highlander, taking one's head will add hundreds of years to your life.

There's a Scottish tradition that says if you bath in goats' blood, your youth will be preserved. (I hope you're not so desperate to retain your youth that you give that a whirl. LOL!) Horror movies and books capture people's attention with the shedding of blood.



Could this fascination come from this simple yet profound truth? ([show photo](#)) **Hebrews 9:22** tells us, “Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.” And **Leviticus 17:14** tells us, “The life of the creature is in the blood.”

The songwriter penned these words:

1) Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's power
in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

Chorus:

There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the blood of the Lamb.

There is power, power, wonder-working power
In the precious blood of the Lamb.

2) Would you be free from your passion and pride?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide;
There's wonderful power in the blood.

[Chorus]

3) Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow;
There's wonderful power in the blood.

[Chorus]

4) Would you do service for Jesus your King?
There's power in the blood, power in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful power in the blood.

[Chorus]

What is the poet referencing in the last verse? If we're blood washed, blood bought why not render service to the One who set us free. *Ephesians 2:8-10* tells us,

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are God’s workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

B. As we have entered this most holy season, let us hold sacred, not only the resurrection of our Lord, but His crucifixion.

For it is in His shedding of blood we are released from our sins, and it is in the resurrection that we are promised eternal life. If you're washed in the blood of Jesus, you're promised EVERYLASTING life.

NOTE! I can honestly say that while crafting this message it was not my intent to mention or ask you to attend our Good Friday service. However, at this juncture I would be remiss if I did not. (Friday, April 15, 2022) Let's say to a world where very little is sacred, other than that which doesn't count for eternity, that God has first place in our lives. Now, if you have a more effective way of saying, “The death of Christ is sacred and cherished,” by all means do it. If not, join us and bring an unsaved friend ... or enemy. (1589)

IV. (TOOK) TIME TO WRAP IT UP

A. This is one of my favorite DNA passages in the Bible.

2 Kings 13:20-21 (NKJV)

²⁰ Then Elisha died, and they buried him. Now the *raiding* bands from Moab would invade the land in the spring of the year. ²¹ So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of *raiders*; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

EDEN, OUR YOUNGEST GRANDDAUGHTER, thinks it's funny when she can scare us with a "Boo!" She's not very successful. I don't know about you, but this is a "Boo!" that would freak anyone out. Ok, to the point.

Elisha may have died, but his DNA, his blood, was still alive and performing miracles.

B. Think about this!

If a dead man's blood can bring another dead man to life, ... do I need to spell it out? Think of the power that lies in you through Christ Jesus our Lord.