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Redemption of the World
Created in Christ

This Gospel is a wonderful, wonderful Gospel. After many years I began to see why they call it Good News. This is good news; it's good news to everybody. I remember when Keith Green, a popular Rock/Gospel singer, several years ago came out with a song called "Bad News for Man". "Bad news for modern man, bad news for the human race, God's comin he's gonna judge this place", something like that, a very uplifting song anyway. He had a lot of those songs, a lot of judgment. Another case in point, not criticizing, it was also one that taught that if you did everything right, preached just right, and lived right, that God's protection was on you. He got in an airplane one evening, a number of years back and because the plane, I think was overloaded, went down. Everyone on board including Keith was killed. It was quite tragic accident, not to point that Keith had fault and failure; it's obvious that he did and we all do, but that is *not* what made the plane go down. It was overloading the airplane. No telling what the mindset could have been.

Wouldn't it be tragic though, if they over loaded the airplane, believing that God would protect them no matter what, so many people were suppose to go, we know we're overloading the plane, but it's God's will that we go there so everything's going to be alright. We don't know that but obviously the mentality in that doctrine was there for that to have possibly been. But there's no need in speculating about that. It's just the fact that modern day Evangelical Christianity struggles so hard to come up with the answers for why things happen. To the good and to the bad and it is virtually always placed in to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. I was thinking of the 'Columbine incident'. There was a young girl who confessed that she believed in God, was shot, and now of course has become a martyr. The fact of it is, they just asked if anybody there believed in God, which most Christians would normally say that's not good enough anyway.

She confessed that she believed in God, there was not a reaction, do you believe that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior of your life. It wasn't like she came to an alter call and denied Christ or confessed Christ either. It's funny because something I remembered about that story made me remember something I saw on the 700 Club. They were talking about if you had enough faith that God would protect you. You of course know all of those doctrines. They had a lady on, who was in a hostage situation in a clothing store. The man had a gun and he came through, she stepped out of the dressing room, trying on a dress, and was confronted by a man wielding a gun. She called upon the name of the Lord and the man tried to lift the gun, couldn't lift the gun. He was paralyzed, couldn't do anything and he was incapable of doing anything because of her belief. Her faith was so good that she was saved from a gun driven man. Yet, at Columbine they say that she was killed *because of her faith*. AAGGH!

It's like, *somebody* get some sanity here as to what's what. What we're going to look at is the Gospel that's in Ephesians. This Gospel of the redemption of the world is very clearly brought out in Ephesians. What we're going to do, since we can't cover the entire book is look basically at the introduction and then we are going to cover Chapter 2 of the book of Ephesians. Ephesians Chapter 1 beginning with verse one ¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are

at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: So where are all spiritual blessings? They're in heavenly places. That's important because a little bit later on he will reveal to us, how many people are in heavenly places. That is the issue of the teaching and what we're dealing with in this little series that we're doing.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: This is in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world... predestination teachers of course visit this verse and it says that God hath done what, he hath chosen us in him *before* the foundations of the world. Of course, without seeing that Jesus redeemed the entire world by the power of his blood, then predestination teaching would tell you that God chose whoever's going to heaven and who ever he didn't choose is going to hell, that that's all predetermined. It's obvious that something was predetermined before the foundation of the world. The consistency of this never varies all the way through this teaching. ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Wow.

This selection of being in Christ that was made, it says, before the foundation of the world would qualify you for being what, Holy and without blame before God in love. That's interesting because that is the characteristics of love. Love always sees the best and never finds fault. This is very, very conducive and in agreement of what we know about the love chapter that is taught, that we stand before God holy and without blame before him in love, ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will. There is the term, predestination, according to the good pleasure of his will. Now this predestination is based on what? Is it based on survival of the fittest? This predestination is based upon the pleasure of His will. Can anybody think of any verse that talks about how many people God wants to be redeemed? It is the will of God and we can visit so many places where it let's us know what God's will is and was about the redemption of the world, For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son.

This redemption was for the world. This predestination, to take this out of context and say some are predestined, it is obvious that term predestined is in predestination, but to divide the human race on this say some are predestined and some are not, you'd have to decide that the predestination was made according to the Will of God. It was not God's will that *any* should perish. I don't have the right to reduce the predestination to what I think would qualify before God for being predestined before God, for redemption. I must accept the premise for that predestination being that it's based on the pleasure of His will. There is no place that the prophets foretold of that God would be real pleased with redeeming part of the earth. There is no place that any prophets spoke of anything except the pleasure of God's will being fulfilled in the fact that Jesus was coming to this earth to redeem the world from the condition of sin.

⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, ... wow, this is what causes praise to His glorious grace. To the praise of His glorious grace, His perfect will was that none should perish, therefore he predestined that all would be in Christ. And this is to what? This is to the praise of his glorious, undeserved, unmerited favor toward man. This is good news. I'm already at that point to where it's like, okay, it's time to turn Pentecostal here and just stop and have a dance. This is "Good News". ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. *He made us accepted in the beloved.* We did not make ourselves accepted. There is no indication that man's will; man's active

participation was required for this to be done, for us to be accepted by God. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; who all did he say was predestined? Everyone was predestined according to the will of God.

We know His will. I hate to be redundant about this but this is such an issue for some people. They see the issue of predestination here but then because they cannot accept that Jesus could have done this for the whole world, they start saying that some are and some aren't. We were chosen before the foundation of the world to be in Christ. Good news, we were chosen before the foundation of the world to be in Christ and in Him then is where we find the acceptance in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. So far, can anyone see anyone left out of this redemption? There is not a list of who's left out and who's not. People say 'I read that list Paul gave. There's no liars, no thieves and no ...' they forget the one about people being in strife also aren't going to make it. All three lists in the New Testament are different. The one in the book of Galatians is completely open ended. It says and many such things.

So add whichever sin you want to add, there's nobody that by the law is going to qualify. That is the reason that God predestined to free us from the law, the entire world even though the law was only given to the Jews. The Gentile Paul said became a law unto themselves. They didn't even need it. It is such human nature. Guilt creates laws and eventually control, at least attempted control, certainly not self-control. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Amazing. ⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: Here we go in to this issue of His will. It is being defined even clearer, the issue of God's will. There's only one subject talked about here and it's predestination. What was the selection of predestination? It was done by God, it was done by His will and it was done according to the pleasure of Him who purposed it in *himself*. Whatever was going to happen all God had to do, how many of you believe that all God had to do was purpose it and that's the way it was going to be. It's obvious. If God couldn't purpose something and then couldn't do it, he wouldn't be God.

Can anyone think of any logical reason why God wouldn't purpose to redeem *part of* the human race, His creation? The human race was *his* creation why would He purpose in himself to redeem part. Whatever anyone would say, this redemption is based on predestination. That is what we've been reading through here. This redemption is based on predestination, predestination is based upon the will of God, the will of God is based on what he purposed in Himself to do. Whatever God decided in Himself to do became His will; His will then was applied to this issue to be predestined. What did He say? He said we were predestined to be in Christ. Wow, good news. What do we find in Christ, redemption. What else, forgiveness of sins. What does this cause from the human being, praise to His glorious grace. That's the result. We're trying to become a part of it and it's causing praise to go to men, not praise to His glorious grace. Even our testimony sessions wind up with praise to glorious man.

My whole "quote" ministry was built on me giving my testimony of just how bad I was and how much I changed. It's like a 'trophy' of God's grace. No human being is a trophy of God's grace. Jesus is the trophy of God's grace. There is nothing about me that will make me a trophy of God's grace. When we say that, what we're saying is not 'oh look he was redeemed without his works. We are saying 'oh look, how drastically his works are changed, that is the trophy of God's grace.' By the statement even being made, 'a person is a real trophy of God's grace', what we're saying is grace is

based on works, that it's a performance. Think of everyone that you've ever heard of that's said, 'that is a real trophy of God's grace,' it's based on how bad they use to be and how good they are now.

¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fullness of times ... the fullness of times, that's a very interesting statement ... he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: If this was all I knew about the bible, were these first introductory 10 verses, it so emphatically says that redemption is a predestined selection that God made. It very clearly says that that predestined selection was made based on what God purposed in Himself to do. Whatever He purposed in Himself to do became His will in predestinating whatever he was predestinating. It was God's choice, it was God's will, God's plan, God's predestination and only those predestined are in Christ. Whoever is in Christ has received redemption and forgiveness of since and results in an extreme thankful heart, to the praise of His glorious grace.

I don't know how you get half the world in hell, actually more than half, because the Christian world is very small. Then, of that, you can't go unless you're speaking tongues, and then of course you women who cut your hair, you can't go either and of course if you ever go out and do what you use to do then you never were really redeemed in the first place. If you go out and sin again, you've lost it. Even in the Christian community there's very few going to make it, according to the multitude of doctrines defining what qualifies us for redemption, based on thousands of different denominations and groups of Christianity just in America, all with a different view of it. This so far, we're relying not on a group or their definitions. We are attempting to rely on 'what was God's will'. What was God's will? Does or did God get His way? Can God purpose something in His heart, decide that it is His will and then not get His way? These verses are very, very profound.

I heard Rod Parsley say the other day on TBN that he got a great revelation from God. He said that the Bible says that Jesus is Lord. Therefore, he knows beyond a shadow of a doubt that at least 51% of the population of the world is going to heaven, because Jesus is Lord. If 50/50 went, it would be a tie between Jesus and the devil. If only 49% made it, the devil would be Lord. So, 51% makes Jesus Lord. Once he realizes that only about one tenth of one minute, one millisecond percent believe what he teaches, he's going to have a hard time believing that 51% of them is going to make it who don't even believe anything that Rod Parsley preaches as to proclaiming to the Gospel. I don't know how he's going to resolve that but bless his heart.

These verses are very, very profound. Do you know that even if what Rod Parsley said was true, the 51%, do you realize that even at this point in human history God would have had to redeem people who never heard the Gospel to achieve those percentages? God would have had to decide to take people to heaven who never heard the Gospel, who never changed enough to even meet *Rod Parsley's* revelation of this winner called Jesus. I think Jesus is Lord not because he gets 51% because this is not a ball game. This is not a political election. This is God. This is Jesus. Jesus being Lord doesn't mean 51% Lord, it is 100% Lord, brother Rod. I'm sure he would not want to disagree with me at all. I'm sure if he hears this tape, he would agree readily because if 51% means Jesus is Lord, he would surely want to agree with me about 100%, no doubt. Great Faith.

Ephesians Chapter 2 is where we're going. Isn't it that an amazing foundation for this book. God has predestined this. I've had this taken and taught excluded. It is either totally excluded by Evangelical Christianity or predestinationists hold it as some are predestined and some aren't. Otherwise it is totally free will religion, man's free will based on Evangelical Christianity.

Ephesians Chapter 2, ¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; When did he quicken whom ever he quickened? He quickened while they were in trespass and sin. I think it's interesting that it says trespasses and sins. Trespasses are what violate the law; this sin evidently is not a violation of the law. I'd like to look it up now that I'm looking at it. It would almost have to be the sin of unbelief; the sin, or sins being many people of unbelief. He says, ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: You walked in that, you walked in this trespass against the law, you walked in the sin of unbelief, in times past according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.

Remember he didn't say the spirit who works in the children who disobey, he said it's a spirit that was working in the children of disobedience. The children of disobedience, was the children born under Adam. Thank God we are now not the children of disobedience, we are the children of obedience. We are not the children who obey. It's a big difference. It's a vast difference of the emphasis as to who's disobedience is responsible and who's obedience is responsible for the condition of the human race, which we went through in detail in a very clear description that Paul gave us in Romans Chapter 5.

³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past ... our conversation in times past ... do you know virtually every time Paul says the term 'in time past' he's talking about back when we use to be under the law or they. In fact he states it very clearly in Galatians Chapter 1, he said, in time past when I taught in the Jew's religion.

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. We were children *of* wrath, even as others. When he's talking about 'we had our conversation in times past, based on the lust of the flesh', what is this conversation? Are people sitting around and talking about naked people and sex? What was this conversation about? Paul included himself in this. Paul said that we use to all sit around and have these conversations that were fulfilling the lusts of the flesh; the lusts and the desires of the flesh and the mind. What was the flesh, the mind, lusting after under the law? It wanted justification. It wanted through it's own obedience to be justified. Paul said, we all had our conversations in this in times past. I don't care what anybody says to me, there is no way that I will ever be convinced when he said, 'we all had our conversations in times past in the lusts of our flesh', you'll never convince me that he's talking about people saying ... 'Yeah man, I want to do this, Yeah man I'd really like to go out and do this, my flesh is just lusting after that woman' ... there is no way, there is no context of that.

The issue is law and grace. Paul said the flesh will never be justified by the law. The flesh has always wanted to be justified in itself. This conversation in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the lusts of the flesh and the mind, these are self-righteous conversations of being right with God based on their performances, under the law. There is something the flesh has always wanted much more than hot-fudged cake. The flesh has wanted justification. The flesh craves it; the flesh lusts after it. Still to this day this is no justification for the flesh. That is the reason that in God's eyes, the bible says that Jesus nailed your flesh to the cross. You're dead and your life is hid with Christ in God. A tremendous, tremendous thing has happened to us. Do you know that most Christian conversations, most Evangelical Christian conversations are this: They are conversations in the lusts of the flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind.

I didn't say conversations at the 'bar'; I said conversations at 'church', amongst Christians. Lustful conversations, the lust of the flesh, trying to quench the desire of the mind. Paul teaches on this very extensively in the book of Romans, especially chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 and tells us what that flesh is

wanting. The flesh has always wanted it, it has always wanted justification. It can't have it. It's time that the conversations about it, Paul says, it needs to be in times past. Thank God when that day comes huh? ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;). When were we quickened? We were quickened with Christ. When was Christ quickened, the term quickened literally means brought back from the dead, to be brought to life. We were brought to life when? When you went up for the altar call? You were dead in sin and whenever Christ was quickened was when YOU were quickened. Good news.

It didn't say that Jesus was quickened and then a quickening, quickening would be continued to quicken until this earth was quickened out. There's no progressive quickening. When Christ was quickened, the human race was quickened with him before God. Well what does 'believing' have to do with all of this? Folks, this is what creates believing; finding out you've been quickened, finding out you've been redeemed, finding out that you have the cleansing power of the Blood of the Lamb already in your life. Not because you believed but because of the faith of Jesus Christ. Even it was based on our belief, how good did you believe? Did you believe good enough? Did you believe in the right church, under the right doctrine? The reason most folks get so very defensive about questioning doctrine is because we have found our security in the group we belong to rather than in Christ. We're afraid, if we have found our security in our group, whatever our group is persuaded of, then to have another idea introduced is very, very frightening because it may mean that we could be wrong. You see, to the person who could be wrong who's found security in the group, if the groups wrong, they doubt their salvation.

It's been wonderful to be free to be wrong. If you're not free to be wrong, you'll always be wrong because you can't change your mind. If you can't be wrong, you can't change your mind. Proverbs says only a fool never changes his mind. Then I hear that the greatest glory that some of our teachers in the movement that I was in have preached the same thing and it hasn't changed for 60 years. To have learned nothing, I don't think I'd go around bragging about that. I've learned nothing in 60 years. The Gospel of the grace of God is so glorious, it's infinite, it is awesome, constantly learning more about it, growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To brag that we have taught the same thing for 60 years, I don't think deserves a Sunday school badge.

⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: In Chapter 1 it told us how many people were raised together in Heavenly places. Remember when I asked you to remember that term 'heavenly places' and we went through this predestination issue of Chapter 1, how many were predestined. How did they get predestined, it was by the Will of God. God purposed it in His heart and it's in those heavenly places in Christ Jesus that this revelation then comes to the praise of His glorious grace. By the time we get in to Chapter 2, we've already had told to us in Chapter 1 just how many people it was God's will to be in heavenly places. It was God's will for everyone. God purposed it that way. To say it's not that way is to say that God's will is not done in the earth. Well of course it's not done in the earth, look around. Now you don't look at things you look at Jesus to see whether or not God's will has been done on the earth.

Hebrews Chapter 10, Jesus said ... ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. ⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. It was God's will to take away the first covenant, which was the law which eliminated the entire human race to establish the second covenant which would include all of the human race. Folks, why would God establish a covenant that excluded everyone and then

create a new one that would include a few? The type and shadow is just not consistent. The first one was designed not to redeem anybody. What was the conclusion of the first covenant, there is how many righteous? There is none righteous, not one. If the first one brought the absolute conclusion that there is no righteousness, if there is a new covenant at all what did it bring? It brought righteousness. Do you think that becoming a Christian or becoming a believer makes you a better acting person than the people all the way through the old covenant? Of course it does not. Anyone who would admit, even after your conversion experience, thank God for conversion though that's not what we're talking about, we're talking about redemption, anyone who's gone through conversion knows you still have the same dirty thoughts you had before you got converted.

I'll tell you what, there's filthy conversation going on in the body of Christ and it has nothing to do with sex, drugs or rock-n-roll. There is vile communication going on. Paul said this use to be a part of our lives. He said that it shouldn't be around us anymore. He said this kind of communication should not be part of our lives. In context he's not talking about us talking about dirty things. He's talking about self-righteous fulfillment of justification for the flesh through the law. He calls it filthy communication, he calls it corruptness, he calls it wickedness. Thank God we're getting out of that filthy communication aren't we? Praise God. How many of you recognize how filthy it is now that you've gotten out of it? That self-righteousness, even the verse that says our righteousness is as filthy rags, and it's like we get together and brag about our filthy rags. Paul said it was dung. Here's my dung, what does yours look like? I know that's gross, but it's not biblical filthy communication. The filthy communication which he called dung was comparing each other's righteousness. Paul said the most foolish people on the earth are those who compare themselves with other men. If you're going to compare yourself to anybody, compare yourself to God.

That's not even a free will anyway. They call it free will, what's free will about that? There's nothing free will about that. If I knew that I clearly had the choice of heaven or hell just by believing in Jesus, guess how many doe doe birds would believe in Jesus. The fact of it is that's not even the way it's presented by Evangelical Christianity anyway. It's not just believe in Jesus. After it's believe in Jesus, then it's you've got to change, then it depends on which group you're in, whether you're really saved or not. And the beat goes on. And it just never ever, ever ends. Yes, and I say it again, the voice of Evangelical Christianity, to Gospel will silence the voice of Evangelical Christianity, because the Gospel is just the opposite to Evangelical Christianity. The Gospel that is taught by Paul was prophesied by the Prophets. How many prophets foretold of a time when man's belief would redeem him? Go read Isaiah, go read Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, read all of them, read all the prophecies about this redemption. Find one place where man's belief is included in God's redemptive power over the earth. If those things are a true doctrine, the prophets were not privy to them. The prophets were not privy to modern day Evangelical Christianity because the prophets never foretold of what we now preach.

In fact the prophets foretold that God would by His own arm, by His own salvation, by His own will, by His own right hand, by His own righteousness redeem the world. Who would He redeem? He would redeem the ungodly, the unbelieving. He said He would redeem everyone, all of these groups. In fact everything we say is required, the prophets foretold that God would redeem those people who didn't do those things that Evangelical Christianity says is required. Yeah but Mike it says in the New Testament that for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Yes, He sent his Son in to the world and gave the world one last chance to have a part, or prove actually that they have no part in redemption, including believing. As Jesus taught and preached and walked about this earth, it started out that throngs followed, the groups followed, and then one day He got up and said, you've got to eat my flesh

and drink my blood and some said, see you later Jesus. In fact it said many went their own way then. It said that he that believeth to the end shall be saved. How many believed right to the end? Not one.

Does it strike you strange there was no one rallying around Jesus; we are believers during the crucifixion? In fact, even the guy who said, I will never deny you, Jesus you'll deny me three times before the night is out. The fact of it is, if they could doubt with viewing all of the miracles, wouldn't we have a little room to doubt. Believing is a very powerful thing. They believed because they saw. Remember He said, bless those that believe who haven't seen all of these miracles? I think that the reason he said that is because the blessedness of people who were redeemed would get the revelation of it and believe. That's the reason He was excited about the believers who were coming compared to those who were saying they believed then. They were believing based on the works that they saw. A believer now, should believe because of the revelation of what Christ has done for them and has made them to be before they ever believed. Does my believing redeem me, or does my redemption make a believer out of me? That's the true question.

Continuing on from where I was. It's verse 6 because we were referring back to Chapter 1 again.

⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: ⁷ That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. How much of the world did He express this kindness toward? It was the whole world. But, if you don't believe, you're going to burn in hell forever. Wow, not a great expression of kindness there. It says, ⁸ For by grace are ye saved ... then the argument comes. I really do want to address the arguments for a moment. You had a free will to believe. You had a choice. Folks, if anyone presented the Gospel accurately, everyone would believe. If anyone had a personal visit from Jesus like Paul did, was Paul on the verge of conversion when Jesus showed up? He had letters in his hands, taking them to have those that did believe in Him, killed. If God is just, and it requires believing to be redeemed, if God sent someone to hell without going to the same extent to get Paul saved, God is not a just God. Or, is the fact that what Paul's experience was, was not redemption, it was conversion to believe the redemption already happened. Paul definitely went through a conversion.

We're not questioning redemption, we're not questioning being born again, and we're not questioning salvation. We are questioning Evangelical Christianity's order in which they say it must come. It becomes absolute ludicrous when light of the sacrifice of Jesus and what is prescribed as the will of God, to say belief has to come before redemption can come. The Bible does tell us that it's by faith, but whose faith. Paul repeated several times that it's by faith of the Son of God. And then there's 'other translations' and the other translations don't say the 'faith of the Son of God' they say 'faith IN Christ'. Well none of the other translations say that Jesus was the author and you were the finisher of faith though. So they can debate and argue about the translations about whether or not it's the faith *of* Christ or faith *in* Christ, it is conclusive, that Jesus is the 'Author' and 'Finisher' of faith. So, which translation are we going to believe? I'm going to believe the one that says it's the faith *of* Christ instead of faith *in* Christ because Jesus *is* the author and finisher of faith it is His faith. It His obedience, it's His redemption.

What about 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved? Those terms, you almost have to look them up, the term saved, to see whether or not it is talking about Paul's teaching of salvation, which is the salvation of the soul and the renewing of the mind or is it talking about redemption? Remember the last great requirement that God gave the earth for redemption was faith. He said, I'll give it to anybody that believes, no body believed so he turned around and gave it to the unbeliever, the heathen and everyone. Now to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and to be saved though, on this

side of the cross is the salvation of the soul because the work of the cross redeemed man as far as relationship with God without his belief. But, his belief can make his heart and mind conducive to the redemption that already completed by God, by Himself, without his belief. So, before the cross the requirement was 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ', that's all you had to do. It was the only work you had to do. Remember they asked Jesus what work they had to do. Do you know that Jesus described believing in Him as a work?

They asked, what work must we do that we might have eternal life? He said, believe on Him that God has sent. That's all you've got to do. Jesus described that as a work. They didn't say what work must we do, he didn't say, 'oh you don't have to work at all, all you have to do is believe.' They asked what work must we do and He said, this is the work you've got to do. In fact He said, this is the work, believe on Him. That's when they were still under the last and final great requirement for the human race to be a part of redemption and the human race failed. Peter, James, John, all of them failed to continue their belief in Christ. What did they say after He died? Let's go fishing. What did Jesus do, my goodness, what did he do, come back from the dead and say, 'you bunch of jerks; here I was trying to prove to the world that I was Lord and even you failed me. What's a Lord to do anyway.' He didn't come back derailing them, he didn't come back derailing Peter. Yet Peter knew that was never held against him in the first place. Awesome Lord, awesome Savior.

That brings up another thing, people say, you're saved as long as ... the indication is, that Evangelical Christianity is, if that girl would have denied that she knew the Lord, she would have gone to hell. That's the other side of that story at Columbine, at least in most of Evangelical Christianity, not all. But the fact of it is, the man who preached the first sermon, after the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and over 3,000 people came to the Lord, denied Jesus three times out loud in front of everybody. So, it sounds like the 'key' if we're going to follow biblical principle, the key to becoming anointed to preaching the Gospel is you first have to deny Jesus three times. Isn't that what everybody does to the bible? They look at see, well this happened to this person, this is what they did and look over here what happened after that ... that's the key, this is what we've got to do now. Well, Peter denied Him three times and then became the guy who preached the first sermon under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Great pope. He's going to go box at the Vatican I saw him.

This Gospel's great. For my mind to even think that I use to think, this cart before the horse Evangelical Christianity is just unthinkable to me anymore. Thank God. People have warned me, 'oh you're getting close to that doctrine that's going to cause people to not share the Gospel.' Why share with anybody then, if everybody's redeemed? My God what a selfish mentality. What else would you want to do more than people that were redeemed than to let them know about it? What good news we have. Not threatening news, turn or burn. He didn't say the Gospel was a threat, He says it's Good News. It's not a threat, it is Good News and news is something that's already happened. This isn't a good prophecy. The Gospel isn't a good prophecy. That's something that's going to happen in the future. This is Good News, it's something that's already happened and that's 'redemption'. Amen? Amen!

How could believing already do anything if you weren't already redeemed? We went through this principle about truth. The way that Evangelical Christianity preaches the cross, they preach that belief creates truth. Suddenly redemption becomes truth. But belief doesn't create truth in any other realm we know of. Truth can produce belief, but belief cannot create truth. That's when people wind up in mental institutions because they think what they believe is truth and it's not. It's not truth; they become delusional in thinking that what they believe is truth. Folks, truth when it is established, when you believe it, is then when you make progress mentally and emotionally. Do you know that it was a

doctrine of the church that the world was flat? It was a church doctrine and you were a heretic if you didn't believe that. Galileo almost lost his life, one of his fellow teachers did lose his life, but Galileo wound up in prison with his life restricted in his old age. When man finally accepted that the world was round instead of flat, did that make it round? It was already round, long before they believe it. What did it do once they believed the truth? Look at how civilization advanced. Fears dropped and look what it freed people to do.

Never has the belief of something to try to make it true, led to the advancement of any civilization. It has led to its total absolute inability to evolve mentally, emotionally, socially or in any other way. But when any society begins to accept truths that are already established, it advances that society. I don't care if it's spiritual truth, natural truth, physical truth, whatever it is, but if we try to establish truth with our beliefs we are paralyzed. Do you see why I'm excited about the future now? It's control, that is why the church didn't want that doctrine taught, they didn't want the control taken away, it's the same reason they don't want this preached, because they don't want the control taken away. My God, you may become so integrated with the rest of the world their system might not be needed. Do you see the logic of it? This is consistent all the way through the history of man; we're dealing with what has made the entire human race progress from one point to the next. Believing something trying to make it true is Voo Doo. Believing, trying to make truth out of it is Witchcraft. The Gospel is none of those things. Belief cannot establish truth, but truth can establish belief. But a belief that tries to establish truth is going to paralyze the heart, the mind, and the soul, instead of the other way around.

We've all had our experiences. You know, even if something is bad, a truth is bad, a negative thing, at least if you know it and except it, you can progress and go on from there. Even if your kid died, if you were in denial about that, you would become paralyzed for years to come and never progressing and going on. At least if you accepted the fact that your child was dead, I'm bringing this up because I'm being reminded of an aunt of mine who's only son was killed in a car wreck the year after I was born. I grew up knowing this woman as paralyzed, mentally and emotionally the rest of her life because she wouldn't accept it. She was setting place settings at her table for her son because he was going to come home. Even if the truth is bad, it's good to accept it. That's what Christianity also will not allow us to do with each other, is to accept the truth about each other. We have to judge each other, we have to pass judgment instead of accept the truth and let's deal with what ever we've got to deal with instead of becoming the judges of the entire world, even our brothers and sisters.

He says, ⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; ... now listen to what he says, and this again, proves to me that it is the faith of Jesus Christ and he says; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: What saves you? Grace and faith, are either one of them your grace? Is it your grace? No, and it is equally not your faith. It is what Paul said; it is the faith of Jesus Christ. He says, ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. My God if there is anything that typifies modern day Evangelical Christianity it's boasting, either that you believed or you warn somebody to believe. Or whatever the testimony may be. ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus ... Did we believe our way into Christ Jesus? We were created in Christ Jesus. That is an awesome statement. We were created in Christ Jesus. This is the new creation that is spoken of. Do you know that through the second Adam, there was actually a whole new creation that never existed before on this earth? God created one body, He created it in Himself, and He included the entire human race.

Even in my most Evangelical times in my life, I was evangelically persuaded as anyone, I burnt the bottoms of my feet off going out witnessing to people, I've knocked on doors until I about dropped

dead at the end of the day, I've done that for years and years of my life. It's not as though I'm trying to undo something that I didn't want to do I've done it. I qualified more than anybody that I know personally, I don't know how many people have ever done those things day after day, year after year for long, long periods of their life. I believed what Evangelical Christianity said. I thought it was foolish to hold a job while people were going to hell. I thought it was stupid to try to save enough money to try to buy a car when I could give everything that I had. I thought it was ignorant to try to get an education while people were going to *hell*. I believed it; I did it. It never ever satisfied my soul, it never ever gave me the confidence that I so desperately needed before God, even though I could compare my soul winning with anybody's soul winning who ever won a soul, of all the souls on the face of the earth. I'm glad I did. You might say, 'was it worthless'? Well no, it wasn't worthless. What did you lead them in to? Now, I just understand what I lead them in to. #1 I lead them in to a deception, because I made them think that their believing redeemed them from hell, so the beat goes on. But, I did convince them that Jesus Christ is Lord. So, it's not like it's a total loss, but I just created somebody that's going to reproduce the same doctrine over and over. In fact I would say, there might be none of them that ever evangelized the way that I did; possibly not any.

To think that we reason in our minds as Christians that there could be someone on the other side of this world, whose life so exemplary as what we would say, our good works, as loving as caring all the way down the line, every wonderful fruit of the Spirit, and these people do exist in other parts of the world who don't believe anything about Jesus whatsoever. If they do good and that person, because an Evangelical Christian didn't get to them, dies they're going to burn in hell forever. You say, but brother Mike, they've got to believe. Oh no, they have the wonderful opportunity to believe. Not the law to believe, but now the freedom in the one who's already redeemed them. This is a great gospel.

He says, ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus ... Amen, I'll tell you I just want to stop there every time I get to it, I was created in Christ. What an Awesome statement. 'Created in Christ unto good works,' you say, you don't believe in good works, of course I do, but it's what we were created unto. The fact of it is, to find out what even a good work is, you're going to have to get out of most Christian churches. To find out what it is, because most of what Christianity calls good works the bible calls 'dead works'. ...Which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ ... we've validated through verse after verse in two chapters who all is in Christ. It's those predestined. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off ... he's speaking not about in this life, he's comparing Old Covenant to New Covenant, not New Testament believer to New Testament unbeliever, ...who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, both what's ... there were only two groups of people on the earth in God's eyes; Jew and Gentile. There wasn't Caucasian, and black, Japanese, and Hindu, there were two groups in God's inventory; Jew and Gentile. That's all there was. What did Jesus do? For he is our peace that made both one ... whatever one is, the other is. God made Jew and Gentile one. ...And hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us and what happened? Modern day Christianity came along and built it right back again.

In fact the wall, now isn't just a wall, it's a maze of walls because the walls never end. ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; ... why did he destroy all of that? ... To make in himself of twain ... in himself, in himself, when the law was abolished what did Jesus do? He made in himself, of Jew and Gentile ...one new man, so making

peace; He made them that way. Do you see man's decision in this at all? There is none. Yeah but Mike it says over here believe on the Lord Jesus Christ ... Yes I agree, believe, believe, believe, but believe because of the redemption, don't believe to try to get it. Your belief cannot create anything, contrary to the 'word of faith's' doctrine, which I taught for 15 years. ... For to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; He didn't just make them one. He didn't just say, 'okay, Jew and Gentile, I see you as one.' Where did he make them one? In himself. ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. Did he come preaching redemption? He came and preached peace. Peace has been declared already, peace between Jew and Gentile and therefore unifying one, in Christ therefore, hey the Gospel of peace. ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

The only two groups of people on earth in God's eyes, were not believers or non-believers, they were Jews and Gentiles. And now both Jew and Gentile have what, access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹ In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: ²² In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit. I didn't expect to get that much out of this to be really honest with you. There are statements in here that are so emphatic they are not vague. All that we read in Chapter one and Chapter two is so conclusive. The questions always come, yeah but the Bible says you have to believe. Well that 'was' the requirement that everyone failed at. I'm so glad that everybody failed at believing. Do you know, it's just the same as the law? What if one person succeeded it becoming righteous through the law? What if one person would have succeeded at believing?

Actually if one would have done it, that would have been the only one who would have ever got it because God wasn't out grading on the curve. I am so thankful that Moses law eliminated everyone from redemption and God's requirement to believe in Christ that God had sent His only Son in to the world that that requirement was also complete failure on man's part. At that moment when the entire human race was concluded to be in complete disobedience and unbelief Christ died for the ungodly. Now on this side of the cross we have so much wonderful teaching about what Paul says believing will do. We believe to the saving of the soul, we grow in knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we grow in grace, our minds are transformed to the renewing of the mind and it is a process that absolutely is constantly liberating and freeing more and more and more and more and more and more and MORE. It's absolutely because of redemption, not because of belief.

I do believe that all of the parables that Jesus spoke were types and shadows of what he was about to do. I remember when I realized the Kingdom of God was not the pearl of great price. I freaked that it wasn't me. It says the Kingdom of God is like a man who found a pearl and that pearl was in a piece of land and that he wanted that pearl so much that he went and sold and gave up all that he had to buy the land so he could have the pearl that was found there. In the Evangelical Christian community we were taught that the pearl of great price is the Kingdom of God and you have to give up everything to really experience and have the Kingdom. As this Gospel came, I began to see those parables just turn upside down and I saw the pearl of great price was ME and the man who found the pearl was Jesus and the one who gave up everything he had to buy it and purchase it was Jesus. I'll tell you what; you talk about giving yourself a little bit different view of yourself when you realize that Jesus sees you as the pearl of great price, which he was willing to give up everything for to purchase you. Even in those

verses, you are the purchased possession. You're the purchased possession; there is nothing that says we've purchased the Kingdom. It says that *we* are the purchased possession.

The parable of the Samaritan is so powerful. We were all taught to be good Samaritans out of that. That's not the revelation that is in that. That incredible thing tells us that the religious man passed by, the man was bleeding and dying, the politician passed by and all the different ones but then the samaritan came (basically samaritan reads the 'rejected ones' where Israel was concerned anyway.) The samaritan picked him up and carried him in, poured in the oil and wine and fixed him up and carried him in to the Inn and guess what he said. He said okay, I'm checking him into this Inn and now every debt is acquired while he is here is to be charged to my account. That Inn is the Kingdom of God and Jesus picked us up. We didn't get there by ourselves. We were all bleeding and dying and he scooped up the human race, checked us in to the Kingdom of God and said now every debt ever accumulated by them is to be put on my account. Awesome!!

(In reference to a comment made in the audience Mike goes on to explain about the 'vessels' ... being unsure of exactly what the woman asked, I felt it necessary to put this brief explanation in here so as to not confuse you of the slight switch of subject.)

In Romans Chapter 9 I believe it speaks of the vessels of wrath. The vessels of wrath were under the First Covenant; the vessels of dishonor were the people of the First Covenant. The vessels of honor and the vessels of mercy are the people under the Second Covenant. In fact it says 'What is it any business of yours if God chose to reveal his wrath to the vessels of dishonor, but then to turn around and show his mercy to somebody else.' In fact, it says, "Is it any business of yours that he took of one lump of clay and made one vessel of dishonor and one a vessel of honor. One to experience wrath and judgment the other to experience nothing but mercy and grace.' Those are types and shadows of the two covenants, not good and bad Christians, or believing and unbelieving people. What ever they are, it says God made the lump the way he wanted it. So if they are unbelieving, then God made them unbelieving and they had no choice in it anyway.

It just so happens that God made everyone on this side of the cross vessels of mercy and everyone on the other side of the cross as vessels of wrath but based on the disobedience, remember it was the children of wrath and it's synonymous with the statement children of disobedience. It didn't say disobedient children, the children of Adam's disobedience. We are the children of the second Adam.

End of "Redemption of the World" Series by Mike Williams.

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