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Dear Associates and Friends,

July 2022

The article this month is titled “[The Case for a Thursday Crucifixion](#).” It presents information Dr. Martin first published in 1983 and updated (in a Commentary by the same name) in May 2001, some 9 months before he died, which contained his latest research and comments on the subject.

In this “extended” Newsletter (6 pages) I include most of what Dr. Martin wrote in his May 2001 Newsletter. It is informative and covers a wide range of topics he was concerned about regarding the biblical teachings of churches around the world today.

Dr. Ernest Martin, ASK Monthly Newsletter from May 2001

Dear Associates, Students and Friends:

There are well over 20,000 Christian denominations on earth and almost all of them claim to have received their teachings of Christianity from the Bible, or at least, when their denomination was started the originators supposedly gave heed to the central teachings found in the Scriptures. The doctrines now promulgated by most of them show them drifting far from those basic scriptural teachings, and some (like the Roman Catholic Church) candidly admit that the Scriptures are not their principal guide. Biblical teaching is now rated as inferior to that of the opinions of the Church Councils of the past or the beliefs of the present hierarchy.

Even the denominations that claim to be following the Bible are far from doing so. What is the problem that makes people accept so many different and contradictory doctrines from one book called the Holy Bible? It is not that most Christian laymen are insincere and are deliberately trying to deceive people into believing their ways. No, laymen are normally not at fault. But when it comes to trained professionals (the ministers and priests), they know enough of the Scriptures that they find themselves having to compromise almost daily their denominational beliefs with the teachings of the Scriptures. To keep their jobs, they must instruct what the denomination has authorized, not what the Scriptures actually teach.

In many cases the errors are prompted by a lack of perspective. There is nothing more important than having a proper perspective (within a surrounding context that can be understood) in comprehending anything, and this especially applies to the Bible. Let me give you a humorous, but truthful example of what I mean.

An Example of Perspective

About thirty-five years ago when space travel was really getting under way in America, a cousin of mine by marriage became interested in such things. He took pride in “knowing more” than his peers in matters of astronomy — and, by the way, he did know more.

He had a favorite story about himself that helps to explain that having a proper perspective is essential to understand any subject. He told about going to a filling station where he normally bought gasoline. The owner and he began discussing various subjects, then my cousin suddenly pointed to the southwestern part of the early evening sky and said:

“*Jim, do you see those two stars up there?*”

“*Yes, I see them,*” was Jim’s reply.

Then my cousin with great seriousness said: “*Well, Jim, you have heard all the talk about space travel*

lately, and I have been given the opportunity to be a part of it. You know what I am going to do?"

"No, George, what are you up to?"

"I got an official notice that I am scheduled for a space flight to go right between those two stars within the next six months."

"You plan to do what?" was the response of his astonished friend.

"That's right, I am going to fly in space in a direction right between those two stars and when I accomplish the task I'll come back and tell you how I did it. Do you want to go with me?"

The station owner retorted very quickly, "Listen George, I am not going anywhere with you, I am staying right here on solid earth where the Good Lord put me in the first place."

George was delighted with the station owner's answer. The reason was because he had just succeeded in pulling off a practical joke on someone who did not have a proper perspective of our solar system and the movements of the planets. The fact is, those two "stars" that George was going to "fly between" were the planets Venus and Mars. What the station owner was not aware of was the fact that the whole earth (including George, the station owner and everyone else on earth, including our globe itself) was going to "fly between," or "journey between" those two planets within the following six months. The earth does this every year or two in its normal orbit around the Sun.

What this shows is that George had a perspective on the motions of the solar system while the gas station attendant did not. What does this illustration have to do with the Bible and its teaching?

The Bible and Proper Perspective

The truth is, most people in the world view the Holy Scriptures in about the same way the service station man looked at the solar system. They do not approach an understanding of the Bible with the proper perspective.

It was about 500+ years ago that all intelligent people finally realized that the earth was not flat and that the Sun was the center of our celestial system and not the earth. But when it comes to the Bible, almost all people (even biblical scholars) are as much in the "Dark Ages" today as they ever were. This false perspective is often the same that guided ecclesiastical leaders in late antiquity. They were judging doctrinal matters of the Bible by using non-biblical parameters.

As an instance at how far afield they are from comprehending the simplest of biblical teachings, and in a context of modern education that ought to be of paramount importance, the preachers and theologians are still following the order of the scriptural books that Jerome imposed upon the world in the 5th century AD.

They avoid the arrangement of the books in about 97% of the proper Greek New Testament manuscripts. They adopt a provincial version that completely destroys the proper manuscript context. It is no wonder people are so mixed up. Theologians have jettisoned the manuscript order which left the hands of the canonizers and they have adopted an arrangement of the biblical books that literally tears apart the literary contexts established from one book to another.

Almost everyone today is viewing the biblical books and their arrangement in about the same way people viewed astronomical matters in the "Dark Ages." This world needs to have the Original Bible of those who officially canonized the Scriptures. But still to this day, preachers, ministers, and even biblical scholars are seemingly unaware of what the real Manuscript Order of the Scriptures happens to be. They desperately need to read my book [*Restoring the Original Bible*](#) that will give the truth of this vital issue. Look at the matter closely.

Though the books which make up the King James Version represent the proper Bible, the original prophets and apostles designed those books to be 49 in number and with the five central books being those that describe the actions and teachings of Christ (while He was on earth and also in heaven) as told in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. Not only that, the other books of the Old Testament and the rest of the New Testament were originally arranged differently than hardly anyone realizes today.

It seems that preachers, theologians, and religious leaders are almost always the last people on earth to

change their attitudes even when proper research is shown to be true. The theological world needs a big shaking to its very foundations. They need to get back to viewing the Bible in a correct way — with a proper perspective. Typically speaking, they are still arguing their points like people in the “Dark Ages” who viewed the earth as “flat” and that the earth is the center of our system rather than the Sun. They need to adopt the original order of the Bible books that gives the proper perspective.

That is not the only error being perpetuated today. In the United States there are five major Christian television networks turning out 24-hour programming all over the country and there are hundreds upon hundreds of separate television and radio stations. There are also churches galore in town after town. Preachers and priests are so powerful that they can influence governments. Even the Bible itself can be found in almost every home and hotel room. It is the best seller in bookstores. But truthfully, there is today more illiteracy about what the Bible teaches than at any time in history. In fact, the Bible makes statements on many important topics, but we find many preachers often teach the opposite of what the Scriptures say.

A Biblical Perspective About Christ's Crucifixion

Notice a few points concerning the crucifixion of Christ.

- Five times in the New Testament it records that Christ was crucified on a tree (Christ referred to it as a living tree — a green tree — Luke 23:31), and yet almost everyone today says He was crucified on a cross made up of dry wood planks, or others teach it was a dry pole. [Note: “[Chapter 21: The Manner of Jesus' Crucifixion](#)” in Dr. Martin’s [Secrets of Golgotha](#) gives evidence about “a green tree.” DWS]
- But it does not end there. John 19:31 shows that the two thieves as well as Christ were crucified on one *stauros* [Greek], that is, on one instrument of execution (not on three separate crosses), but professional theologians do not teach this truth today. Indeed, most don't even realize that is what the Scriptures say. Here are some other points:
- The Bible shows that Christ was killed by being stoned by the people of Jerusalem after He was nailed to that tree (and the Jewish authorities have maintained records showing this).
- The New Testament shows plainly that Christ was executed near the summit of the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem, but theologians for the past 1600 years have placed His crucifixion in the exact opposite direction.

Three Days and Three Nights in the Tomb

To reconcile the “**three days and three nights**” of Matthew 12:40 with “**the third day**” of Luke 24:21, the Bible shows Christ was crucified on a Thursday, but most preachers say it was on a Friday. Count it for yourself.

- Since late on the afternoon of the first day of the week, Sunday, was reckoned “**the third day**” since events involving the crucifixion of Christ had taken place.
- Then the previous day (it would have been on the afternoon of Sabbath, the seventh day of the week) would have been “the second day.”
- Then, of course, the day before that “second day” (Sabbath) would have been the afternoon of Friday.
- Friday, then, was “the first day” since those things had taken place.
- So, one day before Friday is Thursday. It is obvious that the afternoon of Thursday is the only time that properly fits (and this would allow for three night periods and three day periods of time).

Only by inclusive reckoning can Friday be sustained. Luke 24:21 will not allow Wednesday for the crucifixion. See “[The Case for a Thursday Crucifixion](#)” [the July 2022 Doctrinal article. DWS].

- If that were not enough, there are thousands of pictures and statues of Christ that have been created over the centuries and almost everyone of them shows Christ with long hair. In no way was this the case. And errors are not limited to Christ having long hair. In paintings such as Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper, the Bible says they were reclining on their sides, while da Vinci has them all sitting at a table.
- Not only that, the New Testament says it was the time of Unleavened Bread, and the great artist da Vinci had hot cross buns on the table. Some might say these are only minor errors and that they make little difference to the message of Christ. The fact is, if professional men and women make mistakes like these on obvious matters, how can one be sure they are right when it comes to those so-called "important" issues?

If one wants to find out what the Bible teaches on any subject, the easiest way is to recognize what preachers and theologians believe today, and then look for the Bible to teach the exact opposite of what they say. Really, it has become that bad.

- For example, the Bible teaches the law of tithing. But the Scriptures say that Israelites were to pay ten percent of their agricultural produce to the Levites and the Levites were to pay ten percent of this tithe to the priests.

But what do preachers do today? They tell people that it is a law for all Christians to pay tithe to the preachers (not to the Levites). In fact, it is not possible to pay the biblical tithe today because there are no official Levites available to receive the ordained tithe. Though Jews today pay money for the upkeep of the synagogue, they do not pay the biblical tithe because it is illegal for them to do so. It is a sin to pay a tithe to any but true Levites. And Christian ministers are not Levites! Preachers are sinning by demanding and accepting tithes. True, churches need funding to operate, but using the tithing command is illegal. My booklet [*The Tithing Dilemma*](#) (free online) clearly explains this.

But more importantly, the ones who deviate the most from the teachings of the Scriptures — and ironically they happen to be the ones who claim to adhere faithfully to the Holy Scriptures — are those who rely on what they call “the Holy Spirit” to guide them rather than the biblical *texts*.

- They claim that speaking in tongues is a sure sign to them that the Father and His Son are working with them.
- They believe this gives them the power to proclaim prophecies.
- They say they can give a supernatural “word of wisdom” or a “word of knowledge” even from God himself (I Corinthians 12:8).
- They also think that the sick can be healed when they lay hands on them.

These factors prove (to them) that they are in personal and intimate contact with Almighty God through His Spirit and that these supernatural attributes they possess give them authority to set aside teachings in the written Word of God (if necessary) to support their ministries.

But, if any spirit informs a person that he or she can put aside the teachings of the Scriptures, one can be certain that that spirit is not the Holy Spirit. We are told by John to test the spirits because “*many*” (not the few — but “*many*”) false prophets have gone out into the world (1 John 4:1). Many who speak in tongues (which they say is a sign of having the Holy Spirit) are gross violators of biblical teachings.

Indeed, vast numbers of “Pentecostal” preachers and advocates of charismatic phenomena are guilty of violating the written teachings of the Scriptures on many important subjects. To many of them what they call the present teaching of the “spirit” is more authoritative than the written Word of God in the Bible. Let me give a few examples.

- It is normal for many Pentecostals (as the majority of TV and radio evangelists are) to put up banners at their meetings saying: “Come Expecting a Miracle.” Where the problem lies is the fact that they do not tell the whole story. Their emphasis on signs and miracles is not what Christ had in mind for His people. Indeed, Christ Jesus countered this belief by saying **“an evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and no Sign shall be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah”** (Matthew 12:39).

Christ did not advocate the seeking of signs or miracles. He taught just the opposite. Preachers who put up banners saying: “Come Expecting a Miracle,” should place a statement underneath their banner of Christ that says: **“An Evil and Adulterous generation seeks after a Sign.”** The people would then be given the full teaching of Christ on this matter and not be led astray by those who claim to have the Spirit of God and know more than the Scriptures.

- Signs and miracles should not be emphasized today, except the one sign that Christ was resurrected from the dead (after the three days and nights) to provide a salvation for all mankind.

Today, some of the most prominent of evangelists speaking in what they call “tongues” have no interpreter around (except on rare occasions) to inform what these evangelists are supposed to have said. They praise the Lord, yet they think nothing about violating the scriptural teaching on these matters. They simply believe they have an intimate and personal relationship with God through the Spirit, and this gives them authority to change Paul’s teaching.

Christ, however, had some words to say to such people — and they are a warning to all of us.

“Not everyone that says unto me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter in to the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in your name done many wonderful works?’ And then I will profess unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me you that work iniquity.’”

• **Matthew 7:21–22**

There is only one person you can absolutely trust and believe in, and that is our Savior, Christ Himself. What we of ASK want to do is to point you (and everyone else in the world) to the only source of help and salvation known in the world today. He is the Messiah Christ Jesus who died for us on the tree of crucifixion. But just because men or women may “Praise the Lord” and exhibit good works is no criterion for following them. Even good works can deceive. Note what Paul wrote:

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good works and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

• **Romans 16:17–18**

Of course, performing good works and having kindly words are of themselves perfectly fine and to be recommended, but when preachers use such things to get people to believe contrary to the Bible, then Paul would have nothing to do with them no matter how good they looked on the surface. This especially applied to preachers in Paul’s day who were trying to get the Gentiles to become observers of the Mosaic Law as a means to salvation:

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

• **2 Corinthians 11:13–14**

The biggest mistake people make is to imagine that Satan looks ugly and that he is always advocating outward evil (such as war, murders, moral and ethical crimes, etc.). Of course, Satan may have a hand in such things, but his greatest activity is in the churches — to deceive those who claim to follow the Father and His Son.

The central doctrine of deception that Satan has spawned off on an unsuspecting Christian public (and most “tongues speakers” believe) is the heathen doctrine of the inherent immortality of human beings, often called the teaching of “the Immortality of the Soul.” That doctrine comes directly from Babylon, and it took up its roots in Hinduism and early Greek philosophical thinking. So entrenched is this non-biblical doctrine in modern Christianity that it is simply taken for granted among about 95% of Christian people today.

Though the Scriptures make it plain that only Christ (at the present) has immortality (1 Timothy 6:16), preachers deny this biblical teaching and proclaim that when a Christian dies he or she goes immediately to be with Christ in heaven or to hellfire. This error voids the scriptural doctrine of the resurrection of the dead.

When this false doctrine is used in its fullest, it means that Christ did not die on the tree of crucifixion (because, if His soul was immortal, as everyone’s supposedly is). Then how could the real Christ ever die? He couldn’t, if the soul (or a part of the person) is truly immortal. However, the Bible states consistently that **Christ did in fact die**. If He did not die, you and I (and all people on earth) have no savior! This is the teaching that Satan the Devil is out to promote, and it is where he has the people deceived the most. The majority of preachers and Christian believers are thoroughly deceived on this issue. True, we Christians need to have an open mind, but no one should accept that the soul is immortal.

Some have thought that I make too much of asking for contributions each month to keep the work of ASK going out to the world. OK, I will not make an issue of it this time, but it is still a fact that we desperately need your offerings to keep the research going out to the world. We appreciate YOUR help. If you profit from our research and you benefit from its teaching, then you should cheerfully support it. May God bless you in your giving to the work of ASK.

Ernest L. Martin, May 2001 Newsletter

July 2022, More DVDs Available for Sale

We have produced more DVDs of my presentation *[Elohim and the Son of God](#)*. We sell them for \$9.95. I gave this lecture at a “One God Conference” put on by Ken Westby in June 2007 in Albany, NY, where I was invited to be the “contrarian speaker.” In my presentation I rejected their concept that Jesus did not exist until He was born of Mary. It got somewhat contentious during the Question-and-Answer period.

This DVD is the PowerPoint presentation to a live audience. It addresses issues of interest to all Christians. It presents basic biblical facts of Scripture on the subjects of:

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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is God? • Who were/are the Sons of God of Genesis 6? • Who were the Nephilim? • Jesus as THE Son of God • The nature of Eternity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship of Christ • Christ’s existence before He became flesh • Christ as the <u>first</u> creation of His Father • Christ’s role in God’s subsequent creation • The nature of the Godhead (not a “Trinity”) |
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Later in 2007 converted the video into three print articles online: “[Elohim and the Son of God Part 1](#),” “[Elohim and the Son of God Part 2](#),” and “[Elohim and the Son of God Part 3](#).”

Thank You

The theology of ASK is solid. The prophetic perspective and understanding are more reasonable than most others because we stick to the plain teachings of Scripture avoiding additions to the prophetic texts. Nor do we receive “messages” from spirits. Thank you for reading, studying, and helping us continue to do this work.

What attracted me to Dr. Martin’s teaching was he avoided adding his private opinions into his biblical analysis. He did not use “eisegesis” to explain biblical texts. *Dictionary.com* defines the term: “***eisegesis, an interpretation, especially of Scripture, that expresses the interpreter’s OWN IDEAS, BIAS, or the like, rather than the meaning of the text***” (caps mine, DWS). With your help we will continue to exegete (and not eisegete) Scriptures for years to come. Thank you all for your support in the many ways you give.

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