

Focus on the Kingdom

Vol. 15 No. 6

Anthony Buzzard, editor

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22nd Theological Conference May 2-5, 2013

Simpsonwood Conference Center, Norcross, GA

Once again we urge all of our readers to join us in beautiful Georgia (the weather is spectacular in May) for the 22nd annual Theological Conference. Do not be alarmed at that particular title. This is a gathering of fellow biblical unitarian and Gospel of the Kingdom believers, many of whom will not before have encountered each other face to face. These are Christians of the “radical reformation” belief system. Your presence there, and your personal faith story, have provided the highlights of this event for the past 22 years. You will bless others immensely by your presence at this conference. There will be more formal presentations to instruct and encourage. We plan to have Kermit Zarley with us, author of the significant book on *The Restitution of Jesus Christ*. I am hoping that he will share his very interesting insights on prophecy. We are hoping that Ray Faircloth of the extensive website biblicaltruthseekers.co.uk will be with us. We hope for updates on the growing number of scattered brothers and sisters who are now in contact with each other, thanks to the tireless work of Robin Todd. If there is a demand for this, we will offer a post-conference two-day extra Bible instruction with Anthony. Just let us know at 800-347-4261, please, if this would be of interest to any of you.

To register for the conference please call Atlanta Bible College at 800-347-4261 or 678-833-1839 or mail the form on the back page by **April 19**. The non-refundable deposit is \$50 per individual or couple.

Registration deadline: April 19
Conference Cost

Includes 3 nights, all meals, snacks, conf. fee, and tax

| Single | Couple Rate | Double (per person) | Triple (per person) | Quad (per person) |
|--------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| \$357 | \$550 per couple | \$285 | \$262 | \$235 |

Transportation (Judy: 678-485-8492)

We will provide transportation between Atlanta airport and Simpsonwood for \$25 round-trip or \$15 one-way, at the following times:

| Airport to Simpsonwood | | |
|------------------------|---------|---------|
| Thurs, May 2 | 1:00 pm | 3:30 pm |
| Simpsonwood to Airport | | |
| Sun., May 5 | 1:00 pm | |

Please arrange your arrival time on Thursday early enough to catch one of the two shuttle runs. On Sunday, May 5, we will provide 1 shuttle run. In order to allow you enough time to catch your return flight, we suggest you **not book your return flight prior to 3:30 p.m.**

The conference begins with registration at 4 pm on Thursday and ends with lunch on Sunday. Driving directions to Simpsonwood Conference Center are at www.simpsonwood.org The address is 4511 Jones Bridge Circle NW, Norcross, GA 30092.

Who Is Who? A Great Muddle Over Identity

The dedicated people who arrive at your door in pairs, the loyal adherents of the Watchtower, or Jehovah’s Witnesses, can be greatly helped if you will ask them a number of direct questions. This will enable them perhaps to reconsider and correct some of the more amazing things they have accepted (uncritically) from their “system.”

We all need faithful friends to pose us searching, gently challenging questions. These can serve as the lever for much needed correction of our thinking. Here is what the JW’s will *not* tell you. (It might even scare themselves if they were to say it openly!) They will not tell you that their belief system means that they (the ones at your door) are 1) not saints in the NT sense, 2) not born again, 3) not part of the body of Christ, 4) not anointed.

This almost never publicized self-(mis)identity must rank as one of the most astonishing features of religious misunderstanding of Scripture ever! Yes, the JW’s at your door have put themselves, in their own thinking, outside the pale of the NT. Everyone, I suppose, knows that the NT is addressed to the followers of Christ, Christians, born again believers and saints (holy ones), members of the Body of Christ. Paul definitively said that if someone is not anointed, does not have the spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ, is not a believer. Jesus made the easy, categorical statement that unless a person is born again he cannot be saved (John 3:3).

How do the approximately 7 million JW’s arrive at this astonishing misunderstanding? It is based on a passage in Revelation 7 which describes a list of believers as 144,000 in number drawn from the tribes of Israel, in connection with a great crowd of others drawn from all the nations.

The important thing to grasp here is that this part of the vision of Revelation deals with people who “come out of the Great Tribulation” and have been purified by that great trial. Since that Great Tribulation (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21) has not yet happened it would be impossible to imagine an application of this special text to any believers from the first century until now! **The Great Tribulation** lies in the future (no dates are known for its beginning) and it will be triggered, Jesus said, by the appearance of “the Abomination of Desolation standing where HE ought not to” (Mark 13:14). Jesus warned his followers that they should flee with all urgency to the mountains, if they are living in Judea. Jesus announced the appearance of the Abomination as the key sign of the impending end of the age.

The admonition by Jesus that believers in Judea are **to flee to the hills** eliminates of course any possibility of a PRE-Tribulation rapture/resurrection to heaven! You don’t advise someone to head for the hills, if the real escape route is to be taken up to heaven by the secretly returning Jesus! Neither Jesus nor Paul believed that Jesus was going to come back in two separate stages separated by 7 years. It would be most unwise to rely on a pre-Tribulation rapture/resurrection which is not going to happen!

The JW’s at your door believe, by taking a single passage describing an event which has *not yet even happened*, that there are only 144,000 anointed true believers. Further they are convinced — the ones at your door — that they are not personally part of that special elect group, Rather they belong to a “great crowd” of second-class believers (but not born again!).

We are faced then with the amazing situation that 7 million sincere people take on themselves the task of teaching the Christian faith to the public worldwide, while believing that they themselves are *not* Christians in the NT sense, as anointed, born again or part of the Body of Christ! The facts unspoken are therefore like this: “Let us come and study the Bible with you, persuade you of our teachings and eventually baptize you into the Watchtower, but we ourselves are not within the NT definition of a Christian. Only that special 144,000 are. Those special ones alone will go to heaven. The rest of us will be on earth when Jesus comes. Only the 144,000 will rule the earth with Jesus.”

How incredibly bizarre all this is. But it signals the amazing fact that whole, huge, international blocks of very sincere and committed human beings can be *completely* taken in by teaching which could not possibly be rooted in Scripture. No one in the history of serious commentary on the Bible has ever imagined that one can be a Christian in the biblical sense if one is not born again, and has not received the spirit of Christ, and is not

a “holy one,” saint — not a member of the Body of Christ.

The destiny of *all* the truly faithful in the Bible is to inherit the earth (Matt. 5:5; Rev. 5:10) and live in it and help to rule that renewed earth with Jesus, when he comes back to the earth to take up his destined position on the throne of David. According to the men and women at your door, the elite group, the 144,000 will go to heaven. The problem is: Jesus will not be there! He will be on the earth. After all did he not promise to come back?

A further fundamental belief of Jehovah’s Witnesses is that the Second Coming happened in 1914, invisibly! That too is an astonishing mistake. Jesus described his future Parousia = arrival as a spectacularly visible event, like lightning flashing from east to west!

Jesus instructed all his followers to take the wine (symbol of celebration) and bread of the communion “as often as you do it.” Jehovah’s Witnesses first confuse this with an *annual* event (like the Jewish Old Covenant annual Passover) and then require that only members of the elect 144,000 anointed class may take the communion! This mistake involves not only misunderstanding the meaning of the “Lord’s supper,” but also directly refusing Jesus’ clear instructions to “do this in remembrance of me.” The NT church certainly did not restrict the Lord’s Supper, commanded by Jesus for all believers, to an annual event! Not to be allowed to take the communion means a flat-out rejection of and disobedience to Jesus.

What are *you* doing to try to rescue your fellows from the almost incredible beliefs which they have espoused with zeal? The task is very great. And you may want also to consider assisting your Mormon friends to abandon their convictions that 1) God was a man before becoming God; 2) Mary Magdalene and Jesus were married; and 3) God currently has several wives. Can such beliefs be healthy? They also think that Yahweh is Jesus and Elohim is GOD!

And while you are at it, what are you doing to convince some of your friends and acquaintances that Mary is not the “mother of God”? Then there are a billion other human persons who need your help. They have swallowed the amazing fiction that Jesus did not die on the cross, and that God was not his Father, because God cannot have a Son. This amazing set of beliefs afflicts some billion human beings.

You may want also to help Christadelphian friends not to eliminate from the Bible the whole dimension of supernatural evil. They have been taught to think that “the Devil,” “the Satan” is human nature! This is fundamentally false. Demons in the Bible spoke to and recognized Jesus as Messiah, and Jesus spoke to them. The Greek word *daimonia* never designates a human being. It never means a mental illness.

No wonder Jesus told us to pray, “Your Kingdom come,” and long for the day when the Devil (who is not your human nature!) will be bound “so that *he* can no longer deceive the nations” (Rev. 20:3). At present he is the “deceiver of the whole world” (Rev. 12:9). Jesus doubted that the faith would be surviving when he returned (Luke 18:8). He knew that our human tendency to believe what is false is a chronic sickness. And giving up false beliefs requires major spiritual surgery. Some abandon wrong belief only after much kicking and screaming!

Will anyone gently challenge Dave Hunt of *The Berean Call*? Are you suitably provoked by his attempt to define God? He writes in his tract on the Trinity that *elohim* in Genesis 1:1 has a plural meaning, and thus “it literally means ‘gods.’” So then, “In the beginning gods created...”? He tells us that the *Shema* reads in Hebrew “Jehovah our *elohim* [gods] is *echad* [one] Jehovah.”

Christians are those who obey Jesus (Heb. 5:9; John 3:36, etc.). Are we getting busy with the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20), which is to announce “this Gospel about the Kingdom” to all the nations (Matt. 24:14)? “And then [and only then] will the end come.” ✧

Note the correct translation of Daniel 9:26: The evil prince comes to “**his** end.” This is not true of Titus in the first century (70 AD). He died naturally. The reference in Daniel 9:26 is to the future antichrist from the Middle East. See our article at restorationfellowship.org “A Close Look at Daniel 9:26-27.”

Note the correct translation of Matthew 1:20. The activity of God was to bring into existence IN Mary, the unique Son of God. The Son did not come INTO Mary from outside! The power which effected this miracle was “holy spirit” — not an imagined “Third Person.” The activity was that of the Father “begetting” His Son. The Son had a beginning in time and in the womb of his mother. To be a human person one must begin in the womb of one’s mother. Visitors from outside the womb cannot qualify as human.

“But while he was considering these [things], an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream and said to him, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for he that is **fathered** in her [is] from the Holy Spirit’” (Magiera Peshitta NT).

“While he was mulling over the whole situation, Yahveh’s messenger surprised him by appearing and speaking in a dream: Joseph, descendant of David, do not be apprehensive about accepting Mary as your wife, for that which is **spirit-generated** in her is holy” (MacDonald Idiomatic Translation).

Luke 1:35: “The angel answered her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come to you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, **the holy child**

developing inside you will be called the Son of God’” (God’s Word to the Nations).

“The angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Because of this, **the one who is begotten in you will be holy and will be called the Son of God’**” (Magiera Peshitta NT).

“The messenger replied: ‘Holy spirit will envelop you; the highest one’s power will overshadow you. **Consequently, your offspring will be holy; he will be called God’s son’**” (MacDonald Idiomatic Translation). ✧

Tradition, Religion and Theological Politics

by Keith Relf, New Zealand

In matters of faith, don’t be misled by cunning argument or clever rhetoric. Take time to prove all things for yourself. Even the ancient Bereans didn’t swallow everything the Apostle Paul said, but they “searched the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11).

A professor of logic made the following astute statement regarding what is required for the logical interpretation of the Bible:

“Selecting texts to give a one-sided presentation of the truth is a widespread method of propagating erroneous views [like “heaven” when you die or the Trinity]. Out of the Bible can be drawn phrases or verses that justify everything under the sun, including contradictions. Read in context, the Bible may be a liberal document, but it is not that liberal. What we need to know is if the Bible as a whole supports a given position.

“The disciplines of logical reasoning are fast becoming a thing of the past, an artifact of a classical education. Feelings, emotions and rhetoric are most often the basis of what passes for ‘reasoning’ today. But, if we are ever to ‘correctly handle the word of truth’ (2 Tim. 2:15), we are going to have to learn to think correctly.”

Some have said Christianity is a philosophy, not a religion. “To properly study the discipline known as philosophy, it is not enough just to learn what great thinkers believed. You must learn to think yourself. Accept something only if, after you have thought about it, it seems correct to you. Then you will be doing and not just learning about philosophy; you will be a philosopher.”¹ This excellent advice applies equally to the study of theology.

For 1700 years the church has been smitten with heresy and division. Earnest saints, caught in a morass of theological and philosophical gobbledygook, fumble with

¹ Rogers and Baird, *Introduction to Philosophy*, 1981.

impossible mathematics and confused grammar. Certain experts exhibit the arrogance of their unrecognized ignorance, and in earlier times piously acted with pagan brutality in defense of a deception. Truly, knowledge without wisdom and the baubles of education paraded as intelligence.

Isaac Watts, the great hymn writer (“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” etc.), said of those espousing the Trinity doctrine: “But how can such weak creatures ever take in so strange, so difficult and so abstruse a doctrine as this [the Trinity], in the explication and defense whereof multitudes of men, even men of learning and piety, have lost themselves in infinite subtleties of dispute and endless mazes of darkness? And can this strange and perplexing notion of three real Persons going to make up one true God be so necessary and so important a part of that Christian doctrine, which, in the Old Testament and the New, is represented as so plain and so easy, even to the meanest understandings?”²

Here is another comment which, although addressing a different subject, defines a principle by which doctrine is enshrined and enforced in theological training establishments:

“His listeners perpetuate his bigotry which he wrongly received from others before him, to this day, just as students repeat their classroom instruction and scientists parrot the ‘expert.’ We should be able to do better...By and large seminary trained theologians oppose or are indifferent to biblical and scientific creationism. But it does not take a seminary degree to know that the Bible teaches creation...In fact it probably takes seminary training to accept the [popular] perversions of Scripture.”³

Sincere and noble persons once believed the earth was flat. Saintliness and sincerity are not proof of enlightenment. And how often are the majority right?

“We will have to be honest enough to admit that majority opinions are not automatically the correct ones and that tradition, uncritically accepted, may have gone far in burying the original faith as Jesus and the apostles taught it. It may be that we should take seriously the observation of Canon H.L. Goudge when he wrote of the disaster which occurred ‘when the Greek and Roman rather than the Hebrew mind came to dominate the church.’ It was ‘a disaster in doctrine and practice,’ according to Canon Goudge, ‘from which the Church has never recovered.’”⁴

² William G. Eliot, *Discourses on the Doctrines of Christianity*, Boston: American Unitarian Association, 1877, pp. 97, 100.

³ John Morris, *The Young Earth*, Master, p. 120, 124.

⁴ Anthony Buzzard, *Who Is Jesus?*

Today eminent scholars will say this doctrine of the Trinity is a “cornerstone of our faith” and it must be believed for one to be saved. How can one believe in a “mystery” that cannot be understood or explained? It was something neither Jesus nor the Apostles ever mentioned. We are told by some preachers to “take it by faith” — faith in whom? How can one trust any mere human’s opinion in these matters when Almighty God Himself has not said a plain word about it?

Also, interestingly, how often do you hear the Trinity mentioned in an evangelistic appeal? How can the “seekers” be counted “saved” if no mention has been made that they must believe three equals one and three minus one equals three and a lot of stuff about the Savior, God’s “only begotten Son” being “eternally begotten”? The creed says one must believe the Trinity to be saved. It seems Jesus, the Apostles and most evangelists are very remiss not to mention something they are supposed to believe is so vitally important.

“No responsible New Testament scholar would claim that the doctrine of the Trinity was taught by Jesus or preached by the earliest Christians or consciously held by any writer of the New Testament.”⁵

Look to the pit from whence it was dug. Read of the brutality, superstition and ignorance that surrounded the compiling of the Trinity doctrine. Read *The Jesus Wars* by Philip Jenkins. Learn of the chaos and bigotry which ruled the early church councils where these ideas were “cooked up.” Ask if the behavior of the bishops could be considered “Christian.” Learn how a pagan emperor decided on and enforced the Trinitarian doctrine.

“My inclination is to avoid all assemblies of bishops because I have never seen any council come to a good end nor turn out to be a solution of evils. On the contrary it usually increases them” (Gregory of Nazianzus, 4th century, quoted in *Jesus Wars* by Philip Jenkins).

John Calvin, “the great reformer,” was responsible for murder. He saw to it that a young, brilliant Spanish doctor/theologian was burned at the stake because he wouldn’t confess the doctrine of the Trinity. Now an unrepentant Calvin is a source of theological inspiration to a large section of Christendom. But do men pick grapes from a thorn bush or figs from a thistle? See what Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?” (Matt. 7:16; Luke 6:44).

Experts speak of Scripture being destroyed or altered, to give support to orthodox doctrine (see Bart Ehrman, *The Orthodox Corruption of Scripture*).

Great minds like Isaac Newton, whom Einstein admired, denied the Trinity. Newton said, “In disputable

⁵ Dr. A.T. Hanson, Professor of Theology, University of Hull, *The Image of the Invisible God*, SCM Press, 1982.

places I love to take up what I can best understand. 'Tis the temper of the hot and superstitious part of mankind in matters of religion ever to be fond of mysteries and for that reason to like best what they understand least."

John Milton, acclaimed poet and author of *Paradise Lost*, wrote a book refuting the idea of the Trinity (*Last Thoughts on the Trinity*). The book has hardly seen the light of day. Isaac Newton's writings on this subject are nearly impossible to find. Other great thinkers such as John Locke were unable to reconcile the idea of God as a Trinity with either reason or logic.

Dr. W.R. Matthews (1940): "It must be admitted by everyone who has **the rudiments of an historical sense** that the doctrine of the Trinity, as a doctrine, formed no part of the original message. St. Paul knew it not, and would have been unable to understand the meaning of the terms used in the theological formula on which the Church ultimately agreed."⁶

Dear reader, would God make the way of salvation an inscrutable "mystery"? If Jesus came to show us the way, why did it take another several hundred years of bitter argument until that "way" was declared at Chalcedon (451 AD) in impossible and illogical language? The Gospel is Good News and what good is news that cannot be understood? Take time to pray, study and think about the words of Moses, of Jesus, or Paul, Peter, John without trying to make them say something other than the plain meaning of the words. What is the clear sense that you get from their teaching concerning the identity of God and of Jesus?

And don't fall into the trap of allowing an odd verse to be "interpreted" to say something clearly in conflict with the rest of Scripture. God has spoken plainly, not in riddles or mysteries, and He has declared Himself to be ONE divine Person. Jesus' creed, citing the Hebrew Bible, is the creed to be clung to.

"Hear, O Israel: **The Lord our God is one Lord**" (Deut. 6:4).

"Jesus answered him, 'The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord**'" (Mark 12:29).

"This is eternal life, that they know You, the **only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent" (John 17:3). The Father is the "**one and only true God.**"

Jesus is the man Messiah, God's agent and the second Adam (1 Tim. 2:5; Mal. 2:10).

"Jesus said, 'I am ascending to my Father, and your Father; and to **my God, and your God**'" (John 20:17). **Jesus has a God.**

"But to us there is but **one God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we in Him; and one Lord Jesus

Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him" (1 Cor. 8:6). **One God — the Father.**

"The **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who is blessed forever" (2 Cor. 11:31). **Jesus has a "God and Father."**

"Blessed be the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (Eph. 1:3). **Jesus has a "God and Father."**

"**One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:6).

"For there is **one God**, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**" (1 Tim. 2:5). **Jesus is a "man," "Son of God" and "Son of Man"** (Luke 1:26-35).

"Blessed be the **God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ** who...has caused us to born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Pet. 1:3). **God could not die.**

The following is an attempt to "explain the Trinity" by Robert G. Ingersoll from 1897:

"So it is declared that the Father is God, and the Son God and the Holy Ghost God, and that these three Gods make one God. According to the celestial multiplication table, one times one is three, and three times one is one, and according to heavenly subtraction if we take two from three, three are left. The addition is equally peculiar. If we add two to one we have but one. Each one is equal to himself and the other two. Nothing ever was, nothing ever can be more perfectly idiotic and absurd than the dogma of the Trinity. How is it possible to prove the existence of the Trinity? Is it possible for a human being, who has been born but once, to comprehend, or to imagine the existence of three beings, each of whom is equal to the three? Think of one of these beings as the father of one, and think of that one as half human and all God, and think of the third as having proceeded from the other two, and then think of all three as one. Think that after the Father begat [brought into existence] the Son, the Father was still alone, and after the Holy Ghost proceeded from the Father and the Son, the Father was still alone — because there never was, and never will be but one God. At this point, absurdity having reached its limit, nothing more can be said except: 'Let us pray.'"

Those who dis-fellowship believers and claim one must believe the doctrine of the Trinity to be saved mount an attack against the One "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," who nowhere in the inspired Scriptures said a word about a Trinity. The word "three" occurs in no Bible verse in connection with God.

"There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**" (1 Tim. 2:5).

"Do we not all have one Father? Has not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers?" (Mal. 2:10). ✧

⁶ W.R. Matthews (Dean of St Paul's), *God in Christian Thought and Experience*.

Prayer to Jesus is nowhere forbidden. One can appeal to the man mediator, Jesus (John 14:14, not KJV). According to the apostle Paul, New Testament Christians were everywhere praying to Jesus. “Paul...to the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ — their Lord and ours” (1 Cor. 1:1-2). It appears that Paul includes himself among those who called upon the name of Jesus. These prayers directed to Jesus were universal. And the present tense of “call” suggests that the prayers were ongoing.

“Call on” means to address, or to pray to, as in 1 Peter 1:17: “And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear” (NKJV).

Another place where “call on the Lord” is used is in 2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

The Greek word here, ἐπικαλουμένοις (*epikaloumenois*) is in the present tense, which in this case gives the verb “to call” a durative sense. The nature of the verb “to call” accords with this use, and nothing in the context or the grammar suggests otherwise. These Christians were likely frequently (continually) “calling” on the Lord. Other texts that describe believers as calling upon the Lord include Acts 9:14, 21; 22:16.

Comments

“I cannot tell you how much I’ve enjoyed listening to you on all of the various youtube and audio files available on the net. I am one of the 7 billion you have effectively reached and enlightened. I will forever be thankful for your commitment to the Lord and your conviction to a unitarian, Kingdom ministry. I was truly alone and felt very lost.” — *email*

“I have visited your site and even seen the debates on youtube that you have been on, but with all due respect I cannot buy it. For me all evidence, not just Scriptural and spiritual but also intellectual, points to there being the Trinity. I won’t argue the point because I’m sure you have heard them before. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?” — *email*

“I continue to follow your work and appreciate your fearless efforts in the body of Christ, especially in the category of refuting the Trinity. I have been active in the home church movement for over 40 years and have been joyfully unitarian all the while. I have received your newsletter for several years. A quick thought I had this morning was that if the Trinity is true then Jesus was involved in his mother’s conception before his own birth. Bizarre. God bless your work.” — *Ohio*

“I’d like to thank you for sending me every month a copy of *Focus on the Kingdom*. It helps me a lot regarding my questions about the Trinity, a doctrine which I believed for so long; but now I was enlightened by your teaching and continually growing in faith in our Lord God and his Son Jesus the Messiah. May you include me in your prayer that I might be able to speak this truth to my family and friends. God bless you always.” — *Philippines*

“It makes me happy to be getting the *Focus on the Kingdom*. It was from 1st to 3rd February when we had an interdenominational seminar. During the session there was a talk saying that Jesus is God and almost the entire group agreed with it. I and five pastors opposed, and I was lucky that I had the August 2012 *Focus* by Carol Siders, Montana: ‘If Jesus Is God, What Does This Say about God?’ All the pastors were surprised by the chapters and verses. I photocopied the article and gave it to them. This shows most pastors do not know who Jesus is. With these teachings I would really love to instruct pastors so that they can learn the truth.” — *Malawi*

“Please know that I enjoy receiving and reading each and every issue of *Focus on the Kingdom*, and appreciate so very much that you make it available to us. There is nothing like knowing truth and I hope it will be available to me and all others for a long, long time.” — *Canada*

“Thank you ever so much for the *Focus* magazine that you are very kindly sending to my son. I’m sharing it with him to save your mailing expense. I owe you my understanding of the Gospel. No one ever writes like you regarding the Gospel. You have enlightened me so much so that I owe you an everlasting gratitude. I share all your writings and books with my friends who are pastors.” — *Philippines*

“You work it out Anthony – because your little hips are going to toast throughout eternity in HELL if you think Jesus is not GOD!!!” — *email*

“Another great *Focus*, Anthony. I liked that ‘Why Do You Believe in the Trinity When Jesus Didn’t?’ Another part of the paper I really enjoy is the comments sent in. God has given you a great ministry. Your books are making a big impression on the people. I was glad to see the piece by the Atlanta Bible College student.” — *South Carolina*

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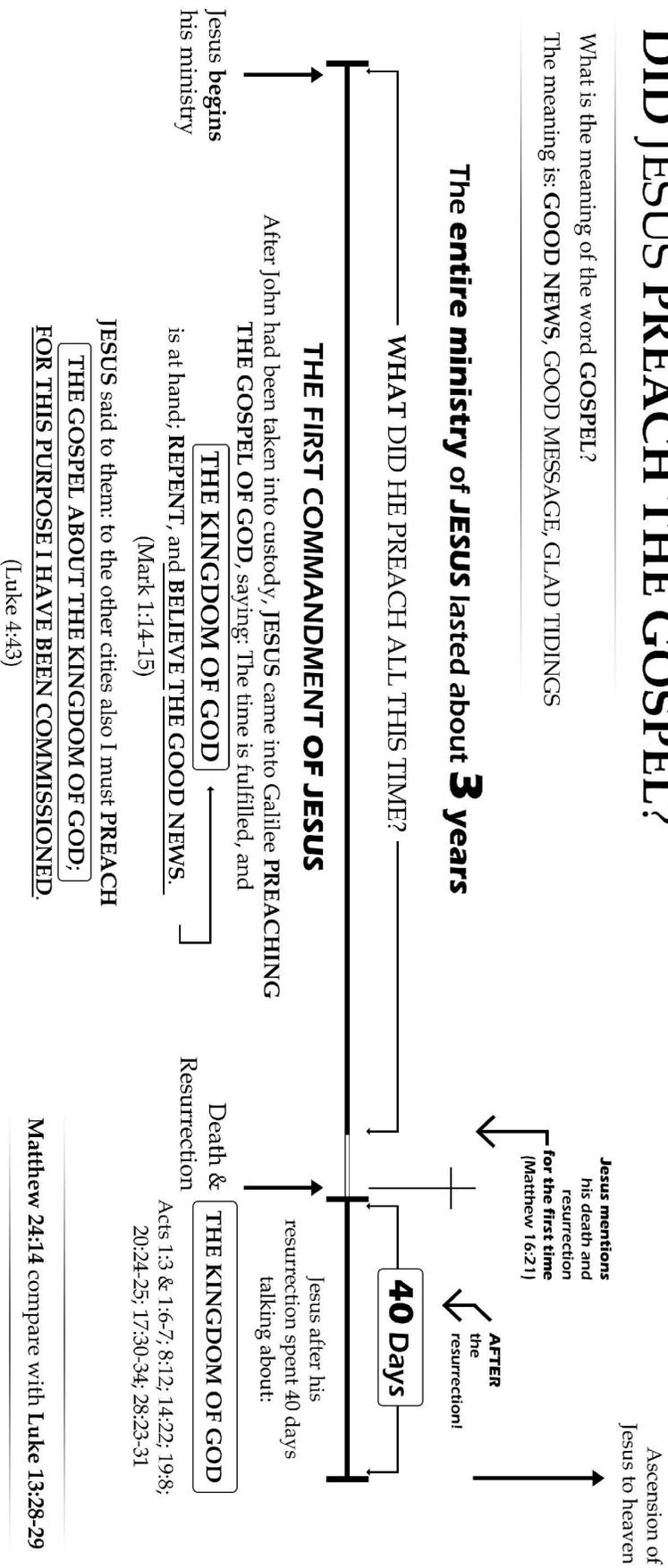
The chart on the next page is from our talented brother Alex Davila in Nicaragua. It makes the point that the Gospel without the Kingdom of God as its base, directly from the words of Jesus, is really not the Gospel at all!

DID JESUS PREACH THE GOSPEL?

What is the meaning of the word GOSPEL?

The meaning is: GOOD NEWS, GOOD MESSAGE, GLAD TIDINGS

The entire ministry of JESUS lasted about **3 years**



WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The kingdom is firstly **THE AGE TO COME** (Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 19:28-29; Luke 18:29-30), **THE WORLD ORDER TO COME** (John 18:36-37; Hebrews 2:5) in which **David's throne will be restored**. That throne was removed by God (Ezekiel 21:25-27; Daniel 2:44). The restored throne will belong to Jesus, the King of the coming Kingdom of God (Luke 1:31-33; 19:11-27; Daniel 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27 Acts 1:9-12; Psalm 2). It will be a **WORLDWIDE PERFECT GOVERNMENT** based in **Jerusalem**, which will be the capital of the world to come (Matthew 5:34-35); **JESUS WILL COME TO ESTABLISH IT AT HIS SECOND, VISIBLE COMING** (Luke 23:42; Matthew 24:21-22; 29:31; 25:31-34; Mark 13:19-20, 24-27; Luke 21:22, 27, 31, 36; Acts 19:8; 20:24-25; 28:23-31; Romans 4:13; Galatians 3:29; Philippians 3:13-14, 20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 9:11-12; 11:8-16; 13:14; 2 Timothy 2:13; 2 Peter 1:11; 3:13-17; Revelation 3:12; 20:4-5; 21:1-5, 10-11).

The kingdoms of **THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE** are under the dominion of the **Satan** (Luke 4:5-7; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4). For this reason, **THIS PRESENT EVIL AGE** (Galatians 1:4) is chaotic and decadent, full of misery, wars and destruction (1 John 5:19), **THE END OF THIS PRESENT SYSTEM** will come when the Kingdom of God is introduced. This future Kingdom will not be subjected to angels but to Jesus Christ the Son of God, the human being who is now immortalized (Hebrews 2:3-16; 1:13 cp. Psalm 80:17), and to his church (Daniel 7:18, 22, 27). The church will be given immortality at the second coming of Jesus **THE CHRIST** (1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 2 Peter 1:2-4; Galatians 1:3-5; Rev. 11:15-18).

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March, 2013

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