A WORD FITLY SPOKEN

CHRISTIANS WHO BEG!

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

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1

Traditional Interpretations

Let's start with a shocking statement. There is a force more powerful than the Word of God, a power that affects every born-again Christian. That force is your tradition.

... you are nullifying and making void and of no effect ... the Word of God through your tradition....

Mark 7:13, Amplified

Do not make the mistake of thinking the Church does not oppose traditions, for there is an aggressive resistance against them. Should we count beads (the Rosary) when we pray? Is it proper to burn incense in church? How about candles? Are they okay for the dead? Make no mistake about it. Protestants firmly resist these ancient Christian traditions.

Strange as it may seem, Jesus is not speaking of ceremonial traditions in the above verse. He is speaking of traditional interpretations. The Church has often accepted misinformation as the truth because of tradition.

In World War II, the Allied forces used the weapon of misinformation most effectively in the Normandy invasion. Through a number of strategic releases of false information, the Allies caused the enemy to believe something that wasn't quite true. They convinced the Axis powers that they were going to focus their invasion north of Normandy. Because their enemies accepted and believed this deception, the Allies were able to shorten the war considerably.

Satan also uses the weapon of misinformation. He uses it to deceive the whole world.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, *which deceiveth the whole world....*

Revelation 12:9

This verse explains why some churches spend so much time arguing with each other. We are deceived by the misinformation of our traditions.

In this booklet, I will attempt to expose one of these deceptions, and replace it with biblical truth, for it is time to restore proper understanding of the Word of God.

... repent ... and return [to God] .... that He may send [to you] ... Jesus, Whom heaven must receive [and retain] until the *time for the complete restoration of all that God spoke* **by the mouth of all His holy prophets ....**

Acts 3:19-21, Amplified

There can be no question about it. The end of the age is at hand, and we are seeing the fulfillment of Simon Peter's prophecy of complete restoration.

2

God’s Seed Begging Bread?

There is a verse of Scripture that most Christians seem to misunderstand. Not only that, but misunderstanding this verse causes several other scriptures to lose their intended meaning.

The verse I speak of is from the Book of Psalms. Hear King David as he speaks of an observation he made.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalm 37:25

How reassuring these words sound when hard times come. I can remember a number of times when they sounded like music to my ears. In the early years of my Christianity, our young family (my wife and five children) went through some very tight years. It was a time of going to Bible college and establishing a fledgling church. During those years, the soup was always thin.

I regularly received encouragement from preachers who would say, "Remember, God will see you through. You can count on His Word" Many times they would add this Bible quotation to their encouragement. "I was young, and now I'm old, and I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."

I cannot count the times this verse comforted me. However, there came a day that it condemned me. It happened at a time when we were vacating a house we had rented. The moving van of the new tenants was parked at our front door. They were all set to move in the next day at noon. I remember confidently waiting for the mailman, convinced God would not let me down. After all, His Word plainly stated that His seed would never have to beg!

Much to my surprise, the mailman came and went without delivering the money I needed for the move. Finally, out of desperation, I called my brother-in-law. It was hard for me to speak those words. However, I finally asked, "Can you please lend me $250 to rent a trailer so we can move?" You guessed it. His answer was an apologetic but firm no! I even pleaded with him, but he was not able to help me.

All of a sudden, deep depression rolled over me as I realized I was begging. How could this be when Scripture plainly stated that His seed would never beg? My next thought almost floored me, for now the devil started talking. "John, don't you get it? You must not be saved. If you were a child of God, you

wouldn't be begging for money."

I honestly believe if there had been more time, I would have fallen apart. However, desperation drove me to dial the number I least wanted to call. It was my father's house. I had been employed by him before leaving for Bible college. He was the one who had spoken to me so strongly before I left for school. He had encouraged me to carefully count the cost of my decision, for I had a wife and children. He repeatedly emphasized that the job I was leaving behind was a good one. He felt my actions might be irresponsible. Even as I dialed his number, I could recall saying with confidence, "Dad, you don't understand. God will provide. The Bible says you will never see the children of the Lord begging bread." Now, out of desperation, I was calling for help.

As soon as I heard his voice, an unexplainable peace came over me. After a short greeting, I reluctantly came to the purpose of my call. "Dad, can you help me? I need $250 to rent a trailer and pay the fuel for our move to Amarillo. And Dad, I need it right away."

The next thing I heard brought even more peace. Dad said, "Why, John, if you are driving your family and furniture all the way to Amarillo, Texas, you will need more than $250. Why don't I send you $500? By the way, let's not make it a loan. It will be a gift to you and your family from Mama and me. We love you so much and want only the best for all of you. The money will be at the Western Union office in your city first thing tomorrow. God bless you, and get a good night's sleep. You will need to be rested for your journey."

3

Uncertainty Increases

I could not stop thinking about this series of events! The very Word of God that had comforted me was now condemning me. Something was very wrong. Not only was Psalm 37:25 speaking against me, but Satan brought up another verse to torment me. It was Paul's word to the Philippians.

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

What was going on? Did God's Word mean what it said or not? Did it work only part of the time, or every time? Needless to say, the termites of doubt were quickly eating away what was left of my faith. It became obvious that the same scriptures that previously built my confidence were now dismantling it.

Then I noticed something ugly begin to happen. I was taking on a new mentality. Now don't misunderstand. I didn't stop believing God's Word. However, I did stop putting my full confidence in it. A paradox was forming. I still believed with all my heart the Bible was true. However, I began to feel it was risky for me to depend totally upon it, especially when it came to supplying the everyday needs of my family. I had slipped into a soulish walk with God, one that was half faith and half reasoning. I fully trusted God for my salvation, but when it came to supplying my day-to-day necessities, I believed I was basically on my own.

I am sure some of the things you are reading are bearing witness with you. How can the Word of God say that you will never see the seed of God begging bread? How can it say God will supply all of your needs, especially when you frequently see Christians begging and doing without? Worse than that, many times your own needs go unmet. Oh yes, I know your bumper sticker says, "My God Shall Supply All My

Needs." However, down in your heart you know for a fact that all of your needs are not met.

Please don't throw this book down. It will have to get a bit worse before it gets really good.

The next thing that happened to me was even more confusing. It took place as I was reading about the beggar named Lazarus. All of a sudden, there it was in black and white! Read with me and see if it doesn't affect you the same way.

There was a certain rich man.... And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid

at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the *beggar died,* **and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom....**

Luke 16:19-22

How could this be, a child of God begging? Didn't King David say you would never see God's seed begging bread? Then

Jesus tells us that a beggar dies and is carried by angelic escort, right into heaven. It was obvious that this heaven-bound beggar did not have all his needs supplied according to God's riches in glory. Why, he didn't even have bandages to protect his sores from the rude interruption of passing dogs.

Don't despair. There is a simple answer to this dilemma. *The Bible does not contradict itself.* If it did, it would not be the Word of God, for God is perfect. Therefore, His Word must also be perfect. Always remember, *If the Word of God seems unclear or contradictory, there is a good possibility that the traditional interpretations of men are causing the confusion.*

4

The Seed of the Righteous

There is always a starting point for every error. This one begins with the erroneous interpretation given to the statement King David makes.

I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalm 37:25

To find the real meaning of this verse, let's divide it into its several parts so we can look at them one phrase at a time.

David begins by saying, ”I have been young...." This statement is easy to understand. David is saying he experienced a time in life when he was of few years.

Next he says, **”... and now am old....”**

David says he passed through his youth, and has now become old.

Then David says that during all the years of his long life, he has never seen the righteous forsaken. **”... yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken....”** Not once during those many years has he ever seen the uncompromisingly righteous go unnoticed by God in their time of trouble.

He completes his observation by saying, **"... nor his seed begging bread.”** Please notice that when he says "his seed," David is not referring to God's seed. He is speaking of the seed of the righteous person. David is not making a promise that God's children will never beg. It is a promise that the children of the righteous will never have to beg.

Now let's hear it again, but this time, let's hear it paraphrased and emphasized. King David says: I was young (of few years), and now I am old (of many years). Yet, during this long time of observation, I have not seen God forsake the righteous. Not only that, but I have never seen the seed (children) of the righteous having to beg for bread.

Notice that the church's traditional interpretation of his statement falsely concludes that during the many years of King David's life, he never saw one of *God's children* begging. Please notice that the context of Psalm 37:25 proves this interpretation to be wrong. The very structure of the sentence shows it is the *children of the righteous man* that David has never seen begging bread.

No doubt, King David discussed with his son, Solomon, the observation he made of the well-being of the righteous and their seed. Hear Solomon as he expands on David's observations.

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

Proverbs 13:22

Notice that after Solomon's long life, he draws the same conclusion his father did. However, he sees even further. Solomon sees that the provision of a good man not only extends to his children, but it reaches to his grandchildren as well. Solomon says the righteous (good) man leaves an inheritance to two generations. Even his grandchildren will never beg bread.

With this much said, we can conclude there is no contradiction between Psalm 37:25 and Luke 16:19-22. David said he never saw the seed of the righteous person begging bread. He was speaking of the *extent of the blessing available to a righteous man,* one who walks in the fullness of his covenant *of* supply with God. Jesus told of a man named Lazarus who was a child of God, even though he was a beggar. He was speaking of one who somehow missed manifesting the provision of abundance God promised in His covenant.

The beggar Jesus spoke of was a product of the pure grace of God, while the righteous man David told about applied himself and became all that the transforming power of God allowed Him to be.

5

Obedience, Not Need

There is a scripture I like very much. It simply says, **"... let God be true, but every man a liar..."** (Romans 3:4).

Yes, you may see Christians begging. You may even see them go without their basic needs met. However, you must never allow yourself to be tricked into believing that insufficiency is God's plan for any of His children. Neither must you believe that their lack of supply makes God's promise of abundance null and void. Supply does not come to the children of God *because they need it.* It comes to them when they are *obedient to God's Word and have faith to receive the promises* He has made to them.

Pay close attention to the following scriptures.

... [God's] divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, *through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

2 Peter 1:3

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, *according to the power that worketh in us.*

Ephesians 3:20

... no good thing will he withhold from them *that walk uprightly.*

Psalm 84:11

Each of these verses holds a promise of God's complete supply. However, you must carefully notice that none of these promises depends on your *need to* find its manifestation. In 2 Peter 1:3, Peter says all things pertaining to life and godliness come to the child of God *through the knowledge of God,* or better said, through knowing what God requires of us. It doesn't say God supplies all things through our need. The things we need come to us through the knowledge of Him. That's right, *supply conies through knowing God's will and walking in it.*

The Apostle Paul goes even further in his description of the abundant supply God has for His children. He says your supply has the potential of being exceedingly, abundantly, above and beyond all that you can ask, or even think. However, once again, the release of this generous promise of supply doesn't come because of your need. It comes through the degree of His power you allow to work in you; or better said, the degree of His power you are putting to work to accomplish His purpose for your life.

King David repeats this same truth when he makes God's promise of supply in Psalm 84. He says God will withhold nothing from those saints who *walk*

uprightly. Once again, we see that the release of the good things David speaks of is not triggered by your need. God gives them to those who walk uprightly. It goes without saying that walking uprightly means doing all the things God requires of you.

The next four verses hold the primary requirement for receiving the abundant supply God promises. *Coming into compliance with it will open the treasure house of God to you.*

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Luke 6:38

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

But remember this—if you give little, you will get little. A farmer who plants just a few seeds will get only a small crop, but if he plants much, he will reap much.

2 Corinthians 9:6, TLB

... whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord ....

Ephesians 6:8

Throughout the Word of God, the theme of sowing and reaping repeats itself. It promises that when you generously give your money into the ministry of the gospel,

God will always abundantly return it to you.

6

Making This Truth Work for You

To put the truth of this booklet to work, you must put the truth of God's Word to work in your life. I have faithfully taught you God's Word in this matter. God's Word says if you receive a benefit from one of God's teachers, you should give into the ministry of that teacher. Hear it from the *King James Version.*

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

Galatians 6:6

Now see it again, this time in the explicit language of *The Living Bible.*

Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.

Galatians 6:6, TLB

Let's look at the same verse one more time. However, this time I want you to hear it from *The Amplified Version.*

Let him who receives instruction in the Word |of God| share all good things with his teacher [contributing to his support].

Galatians 6:6, Amplified

No matter which translation you read, it comes out the same each time. When you learn a truth from God's Word, you are supposed to financially bless the one who has taught it to you. Now that's not where it all ends, for when you have been obedient and given to your teacher, God faithfully multiplies back to you more than you gave. See it from God's own Word.

... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:7

The biblical way to end shortage and insufficiency in your life is to generously sow finances into the ministries of those who teach you. I am convinced there would be much greater abundance in the hands of the children of God if they were obedient to this command.

Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.

Galatians 6:6, TLB

I have been faithful to God's Word by teaching you. Now the question is, will you be faithful and obey the Word, or will some deception from Satan hinder you and keep you from following God's clear instructions?

... be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, *deceiving your own selves.*

James 1:22

It will take you only a few moments to be obedient in this matter.

"Why, Brother John, aren't you ashamed of yourself for asking for an offering?"

Please hear me. I do not write to make friends. Neither do I write to raise money. I write to teach the Word of God, not just part of it, but all of it. I have carefully documented everything in this booklet with the Scripture. I can only answer those who criticize with the word of the great apostle.

... let God be true, but every man a liar....

Romans 3:4