

## **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THESE TRAGEDIES.**

It is a chubby baby. 2 months old. Always smiling. Goes to anybody. Doesn't cry much. Fair, beautiful. Everybody likes this baby. Creates an atmosphere of happiness and joy.

When I entered the house, the atmosphere was tragic. All under shock... sad... I hugged the father; with tears in his eyes he hugged me. I said something like peace be upon you. Slowly I asked what happened. With a broken voice the father of the baby explained... The mother and baby were sleeping. The mother breastfed the baby at around 3 a.m, then both slept. The mother got up around 7 a.m, found the baby blue...no movements. She took the baby.. ran out, helped by a friend to reach the hospital. The doctor examined, declared the baby dead.

Within minutes everything in the lives of these young couple changed. The baby is gone. Just slept away to a place, where every body believes God lives. In to the hands of it's creator. ....The sweet aroma...smile... of the baby just vanished and the house is now filled with some thick ...sad. smell.

We were about 7, one person started talking... trying to pacify the father..." you know brother...these all are God's plan, in which we cannot do anything ". Everybody in the room replied yes, and every body seems to be comforted by this fact. But truth with its loud but pleasant shout rose from my abdomen. I wanted to shout and say "NO ...This is not God's plan. Definitely this is not MY God's plan. My God never does things like this nor allows. He never plucks a baby from the hands of its mother at the tender age of 2 months and takes that baby to heaven. ". I just kept quiet, with a feeling of guilt.

I do understand the feelings of human beings. I am one. But simply to pacify them I cannot let down my God, who was, is, and will ever be.. "LOVE". People who doesn't know much about their God, when they make such statements, we may not care much. But it is a common belief among millions of believers also. It is a common practice to simply say, " Oh.. you never know what will happen... These all are God's plans, ..you cannot do anything... God sometimes takes somebody... Some things just happen, God does or allows.. etc.. ". These statements do not have a sound scriptural support, and when people follow this kind of doctrines they simply fell in to the trap of the Devil.

In my life, once, because of these doctrines I hated God. I don't want to love or be under a God who does or allows all these killings, destructions, disasters, rape, murders, wars, poverty, sickness...etc. But all those times, I could hear that sweet, small voice of God, saying, " No my dear, I am not like that ". But the thunderous, roaring, power packed, continuous, religious talks, and the noise of the world

suppressed the voice of my loving God. But the question was always there. Everywhere... Anywhere.

One day by the Grace of our loving father, God led me to these articles of Andrew Womack, which shed much light, and gave the answer. It cleared the thick scum caused by the religious doctrines, from my mind, so that I could study and meditate the Bible verses properly and found the truth. Yes my God is right. He is always love. He never does are allows such things, especially in the New covenant, and to a believer who believes in the atonement of Jesus.

**Please read these articles, you will not be the same again....** *Again all the religious doctrines, wordly care, devil's deceptions may try to prevent you from reading and understanding these articles. But stand firm in the victory which Jesus purchased for you.*

If you have any doubts, further queries please feel free to ask me. I have gone further deep into all these scriptures and meditated and practiced them in my day to day life. Oh....it really works, and makes us to shout, "My God is Good God".

Lovingly yours,  
Bro. D.VERGIN KUMAR.

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## The Sovereignty Of God

*By Andrew Wommack*

My heart was really stirred this last month. I attended a meeting where an old friend of mine was ministering. He had been through some terrible things that nearly destroyed his faith. He became bitter and angry at God for the things that had happened. When I heard him, he had humbled himself and was again loving the Lord and excited about the future. Praise the Lord! However, in the process, he had come to believe that it was the Lord that caused all his problems. He had resigned himself to the "sovereignty of God."

I believe this is the worst doctrine in the church today. I know that this is a shocking statement and is near blasphemy to some people, but the way sovereignty" is taught today is a real faith killer. The belief that God controls everything that happens to us is one of the devil's biggest inroads into our lives. If this belief is true, then our actions are irrelevant, and our efforts are meaningless. What will be will be.

If we believe that God wills everything, good or bad, to happen to us, it gives us some temporary relief from confusion and condemnation, but in the long-term, it slanders God, hinders our trust in God, and leads to passiveness.

### *THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD*

The word "sovereign" is not used in the *King James Version* of the Bible. It is used 303 times in the Old Testament of the *New International Version*, but it is always used in

association with the word "LORD" and is the equivalent of the *King James Version's* "LORD God." Not a single one of those times is the word "sovereign" used in the manner that it has come to be used in religion in our day and time.

Religion has resulted in the invention of a new meaning for the word "sovereign," which basically means God controls everything. Nothing can happen but what He wills or allows. However, there is nothing in the actual definition that states that. The dictionary defines "sovereign" as, "1. Paramount; supreme. 2. Having supreme rank or power. 3. Independent: a sovereign state. 4. Excellent." None of these definitions means that God controls everything.

It is assumed that since God is paramount or supreme that nothing can happen without His approval. That is not what the Scriptures teach. In 2 Peter 3:9, Peter said, "The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." This clearly states that it is not the Lord's will for anyone to perish, but people are perishing. Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat" (Matt. 7:13). Relatively few people are saved compared to the number that are lost. God's will for people concerning salvation is not being accomplished.

This is because the Lord gave us the freedom to choose. He doesn't will anyone into hell. He paid for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2; 1 Tim. 4:10), but we must choose to put our faith in Christ and receive His salvation. People are the ones choosing hell by not choosing Jesus as their Savior. It is the free will of man that damns them, not God.

People virtually have to climb over the roadblocks that God puts in their way to continue on their course to hell. The cross of Christ and the drawing power of the Holy Spirit are obstacles that every sinner encounters. No one will ever stand before God and be able to fault Him for withholding the opportunity to be saved. The Lord woos every person to Him, but we have to cooperate. Ultimately, the Lord simply enforces the consequences of people's own choices.

God has a perfect plan for every person's life (Jer. 29:11), but He doesn't make us walk that path. We are free moral agents with the ability to choose. He has told us what the right choices are (Deut. 30:19), but He doesn't make those choices for us. God gave us the power to control our destinies.

Typical teaching on the sovereignty of God puts Jesus in the driver's seat with us as passengers. On the surface that looks good. All of us have encountered the disastrous results of doing our own thing. We desire to be led of the Lord, and teaching that nothing happens but what God wills fits that nicely. However, the Scriptures paint a picture of each of us being behind the wheel of our own lives. We are the one doing the driving. We are supposed to take directions from the Lord, but He doesn't do the driving for us.

Man has been given the authority over his own life, but he must have the Lord's direction to succeed. Jeremiah 10:23 says, "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." God created us to be dependent upon Him and our independence is at the root of all our problems. As if it wasn't bad enough for man to try to run his affairs independently of God and His

standards, it has been made even worse by religion teaching us that all our problems are actually blessings from God. That is a faith killer. It makes people totally passive.

James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." This verse makes it clear that some things are from God, and some from the devil. We must submit to the things that are of God and resist the things that are from the devil. The word "resist" means, "Actively fight against." Saying "Whatever will be will be" is not actively fighting against the devil.

If a person really believed that God is the one who put sickness on them because He is trying to work something for good in their life, then they should not go to the doctor or take any medicine. That would be resisting God's plans. They should let the sickness run its course and thereby get the full benefit of God's correction. Of course, no one advocates that. That is absurd. It is even more absurd to believe that God is the one behind the tragedy.

Acts 10:38 says that Jesus healed all those who were oppressed OF THE DEVIL. It was not God who oppressed them with sickness. It was the devil. It's the same today. Sickness is from the devil, not from God. We need to resist sickness and, by faith, submit ourselves to healing, which is from God through the atonement of Christ.

I know someone is thinking, *What about the Old Testament instances where God smote people with sickness and plagues?* There is a lot I could say about that if I had the space, but a simplified answer to that question is that none of those instances were blessings. They were curses. God did use sickness in the Old Testament as punishment, but in the New Testament, Jesus bore our curse for us (Gal. 3:13). The Lord would no more put sickness on a New Testament believer than He would make us commit a sin. Both forgiveness of sin and healing are a part of the atonement Jesus provided for us.

Deuteronomy, chapter 28, should forever settle this question for all who believe the Word of God. The first 14 verses of Deuteronomy 28 list the blessings of God and the last 53 verses list the curses of God. Healing is listed as a blessing (Deut. 28:4). Sickness is listed as a curse (Deut. 28:22, 27-28, 35, 59-61). God called sickness a curse. We should not call it a blessing.

Knowing that God is not the author of my problems is one of the most important revelations the Lord has ever given me. If I thought it was God who killed my father when I was twelve, and some of my best friends before I was 20, if it was God who had people kidnap me, slander me, threaten to kill me, and turn loved ones against me, then I would have a hard time trusting God, if He was like that.

On the contrary, it is very comforting to know that God only has good things in store for me. Any problems in my life are from the devil, of my own making, or just the results of life on a fallen planet. My heavenly Father has never done me any harm and never will. I KNOW that.

I am not saying that there is nothing to learn from hardships. Most of you reading this article have come to the Lord because of something in your life that overwhelmed you and caused you to turn to the Lord for help. That situation was not from God regardless of the results. It was you turning to the Lord and the faith you placed in Him that turned your life around, not the hardship.

If hardships and problems made us better, then everyone who has had problems would be better for them. Those who have the most trouble would be the best. That simply is not so.

Let me illustrate this with a story about my son, Joshua. When he was only a year old, I was loading lumber on a large truck in the heat of a Texas summer. I had Joshua with me, and he was having a big time playing in the lumber yard. By mid-afternoon, he was tired and sleepy and started to lie down in the dirt for a nap. I knew his mother wouldn't like that, so I put him in the cab of the truck to lie down and take his nap.

He had been wanting to get into that truck all day, and when I put him in there, he revived. I had to roll the windows down because it was hot, and Joshua was leaning out the windows and waving at me in the side view mirrors. I told him to lie down and even gave him a spanking, but he didn't take heed. He leaned out the window too far, fell out of the cab, hit his eye on the running board and landed on his head.

I ran up to him, prayed over him, and held him until he quit crying. Then I told him that was why I told him to lie down and go to sleep and not lean out the window. I used that situation which caused him pain, to teach him, but if Joshua would have been like the sovereignty teachers of today, he would have gone out and told all his friends that his father made him fall out of that truck to teach him to obey. That's not so. I did what I could to restrain him. I would be very hurt if that's the way Joshua thought I was.

Likewise, I don't believe it blesses our heavenly Father for us to blame Him for all the problems that come into our lives. Sure, He will comfort us when we turn to Him in the midst of our problems, but He doesn't create the negative circumstances that hurt our lives.

God is sovereign in the sense that He is paramount and supreme. There is no one higher in authority or power, but that does not mean He exercises His power by controlling everything in our lives. God has given us the freedom to choose. He has a plan for us. He seeks to reveal that plan to us and urge us in that direction, but we choose. He doesn't make our choices for us.

In many instances, it is our wrong choices that bring disaster upon us. In other cases, our problems are nothing but an attack from the devil. In some cases, natural forces of an imperfect world cause us pain. Our tragedies are never the judgment or correction of God. Jesus came to give us abundant life. The devil came to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Don't ever get that confused. If it's good, it's God. If it's bad, it's the devil.

This is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity that must be understood properly if you want victory in your life. Believing that God controls everything renders a person passive. Why pray and believe for something better? Whatever God wants will come to pass. That simply is not true.

The Lord is the answer to all our problems. He is not the problem.

If you would like more ministry on this pivotal point, please order my teaching entitled, "The Sovereignty of God." There is much more detail on the teaching than I was able to put into this article. This teaching will change your life.

I suggest that after you listen to it that you share it with someone else. I really believe that confusion on this subject is how Satan pushes his will off on most people. This teaching could change someone's life.

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## **The True Nature Of God**

*By Andrew Wommack*

**God is a good God! He isn't mad at us. He not only loves us, He likes us! He will never leave us nor forsake us, no matter how badly we miss it. His mercies are new every morning! Our sin does not affect His opinion of us nor cause Him to withhold His blessing! Great is His faithfulness!**

Those are radical statements! Just think about the typical Christian teaching concerning God today. Usually, God is represented as stern, angry, and ready to get us for the slightest misstep. Or at least He certainly won't answer our prayers if we sin. That's wrong, and it leads to wrong conclusions and attitudes toward God that hinder an intimate relationship with Him.

So why is the Lord represented so harshly? The answer can be found in the lack of understanding of the harmony between the Old and New Testament. In the Old Testament, the Lord vented His anger and judgment often, and in devastating ways.

There was Noah's flood; the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah; a death angel killed all the firstborn of Egypt in one night; another angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night; and on and on the list goes. There is no doubt our God is a holy God who hates sin and demands justice.

However, there is also the portrait of God that Jesus painted through His teachings and actions. He showed mercy to the worst of sinners, associated with publicans and harlots, loved the unlovely, and His ultimate action of dying for our sins proved beyond any doubt that He came to save the world, not condemn it.

How does this fit with the Old Testament view of the harshness and severity of God? **Is God schizophrenic? Does He sometimes love us and other times hate us?** How can we have a healthy relationship with someone who changes His moods frequently?

These questions present a dilemma that has kept many people at arm's length from the Lord. **The vast majority of people KNOW there is a God; they just don't know how to relate to Him.** They are confused because mixed signals have been sent to them, often by the church.

A minister will say that it was the Lord, in His sovereignty, who killed a baby; and in the next breath, the minister will ask if anyone wants to serve this GOOD GOD. We are told that God won't answer the prayer of anyone in sin, and yet we are told that we all sin. Where does that leave us? Without a prayer!

There is a simple answer to these questions, and a harmony between the wrath and mercy of God. **God is not schizophrenic.** There is one, true nature of God clearly represented in the Word, and that is LOVE!

First John 4:8 says,

*“God is love.”*

He doesn't just love at times. Love *is* the nature of God! Jesus gave us the greatest representation of the true nature of God ever presented.

God placed our sins on Jesus and punished Him in our place. God satisfied His own demands for justice, not by punishing us, but by punishing His Son in our place. This wasn't a partial payment which required adding our holiness; it was a total payment that leaves us with nothing to do except believe and receive, or doubt and do without.

Jesus' payment for our sins forever changed our relationship with the Father. If Jesus had made His sacrifice for sins in the Old Testament, then we wouldn't have seen the wrath of God vented as recorded in the Old Testament scriptures.

Here's an example. In 2 Kings 1, Elijah called fire down from heaven and killed 102 soldiers who had come to arrest him. Jesus' disciples asked to do the same thing and cited Elijah as their example. Jesus rebuked them for even thinking about such an act and said,

*“Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them”* (Luke 9:55-56).

Jesus rebuked His disciples for trying to follow Elijah's example. This shows that if Jesus had been present on the earth in His role as Messiah, this act of judgment wouldn't have happened. There is a difference between the way God dealt with mankind under the Old Covenant and the way He deals with mankind under the New Covenant.

Before the sacrifice of Jesus, there was judgment. But it wasn't because the Lord desired to punish us. His nature has always been love. However, a price had to be paid for sin, and until that sacrifice was made, there had to be consequences.

It's similar to training children. If you wait to begin disciplining your children until they are old enough to fully comprehend exactly what you say, you and the child will be in big trouble. A child has to be restrained from doing wrong from a very young age.

At one or two years old, they may not understand that it's the devil tempting them to take their sibling's toys. However, they can understand, “If you do that again, you are going to get a spanking.” They may not comprehend heaven and hell issues, but when the devil tempts them with covetousness, they will say NO, because they fear a spanking.

Likewise, before the new birth, people were sinning and that sin was destroying their lives. God didn't want to punish them. He was willing to show them mercy on credit, in a sense, looking forward to the sacrifice of His own Son for their sins. People began to take the lack of God's judgment as approval.

This can be clearly seen with Cain and his descendants. Cain killed his brother Abel because of jealousy (Gen. 4). Instead of punishment, God extended mercy toward Cain, even putting a mark on his forehead to warn others that God was protecting him.

Cain's great-great-great-grandson, Lamech, interpreted this as approval of murder. He killed a man in self-defense and, therefore, felt more justified in his killing than Cain. He said that if God would avenge Cain sevenfold, then He would avenge Lamech seventy and sevenfold.

God didn't say that, Lamech did. Lamech was presuming on God because of His grace toward Cain. Therefore, mankind began to move so far away from a proper standard of holiness that if God hadn't intervened, there wouldn't have been a virgin left to give birth to Jesus.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 10:12,

*"But they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."*

This has always been the case. If one person gets by with sin, others will take that as an approval of sin. So before the Lord could produce the new birth, where He lives within us and guides us through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit, He placed external restraints on sin that even lost people could understand. "You sin and you die." That's the way it was.

That wasn't the way God really wanted it to be, but sin had to be restrained until Jesus' atoning sacrifice was made. God's withholding of punishment for sin had led to a total loss of a true standard of right and wrong. Mankind had compared themselves with others so often and for so long that no one knew what God originally intended. Something had to be done.

Sin was destroying the human race and needed to be restrained. Therefore, God gave the Law. **But why didn't He give the Law to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden 2,000 years earlier and prevent these problems?** Because of love. The Law had serious side effects of condemnation and guilt. God didn't want us running from Him out of fear but to Him because of love and grace.

The Law was never God's plan for salvation. It was God showing us that we could never measure up to His holy standard. It was given to drive us from self-righteousness and toward receiving the sacrifice of Jesus by faith.

Amazingly, the church has interpreted it in the opposite way. Most Christians think the Law is wonderful, that God expects us to keep it, and that His response to us is based on our compliance. That's just not true!

The Law was given for two main purposes. First, the fear of God's punishment constrained sin in people's lives, thereby diminishing Satan's inroads. Second, it totally took away all hope of being saved by any virtue of themselves. The Law made everyone guilty before God with no hope of justice. We needed mercy.

Those were the main purposes of the Law. It was not God's list of steps one through ten thousand of what you must do to be right with Him. It was God's list of all you have done wrong, proving that you can never be right with God unless He provides another form of payment. It was not to set you free. The Law was to bind and destroy you. It was a severe spanking for the whole human race to turn us from sin and self-salvation.



This is one of the most radical teachings I've ever done with an abundance of Scripture references for every point. I've not included all the references in this teaching, because they are too numerous and need some explanation. But it's imperative that you understand these truths.

I have made this teaching, *The True Nature of God*, available in book form or a three-part tape or CD album. In it I harmonize the judgment of the Old Testament with the grace and mercy of the New Testament to reveal one, true nature of God. This is a life-changing teaching.

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## **The War Is Over**

*By Andrew Wommack*

There is a lot of tragedy in this world. Besides life's personal hardships that come to all of us, the world has been hit with tsunamis and hurricanes of biblical proportions. Many people are reeling from the blows they've received and are trying to make sense of why all of this happens.

Sadly, many Christian leaders haven't been much help. As a whole, they've said these things are the judgment of God upon our sins. Even a very well-known televangelist was quoted recently as telling people that because they voted "intelligent design" people off their city council, God's judgment was going to strike their city. And when it happens, don't cry out to God, because they deserve what they get.

**This rationale for why bad things happen grieves me, and I believe it grieves the Lord too.** It's totally missing the point of why Jesus came. Jesus forever changed the way God relates to mankind. Sure, there are scriptural examples of God's judgment on sin in catastrophic ways. But God's greatest act of judgment was when He placed all of His wrath for our sins upon Jesus. This forever satisfied God's wrath. Since that time, God hasn't been judging our sins (2 Cor. 5:19). **God's not angry at us. He's not even in a bad mood.**

Look at the angels' joy at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. Luke 2:13-14 says,

*"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

This scripture is very familiar to us, and yet there is a lot of misunderstanding about what it's saying. Some translations say they were proclaiming "good will among men" or "peace to men of good will." Basically, this passage has been interpreted that Jesus was bringing peace on earth among men. That's not why these angels were praising God. If that interpretation were true, then Jesus' own words in Matthew 10:34-36 would contradict this. He said,

*"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."*

Jesus Himself said He was not sent to bring peace on the earth among men. The peace that the angels of Luke 2:13-14 were praising God for was peace BETWEEN God and man. **They were announcing the end of God's war on sin. Peace now reigns between God and man.**

Prior to Jesus' coming, there was wrath from God against mankind for his sins. It wasn't total wrath. Even in the Old Testament, we see God's mercy and grace. Yet the Old Testament Law was a ministry of wrath (Rom. 4:15 with 2 Cor. 3:7 and 9), and men's sins were held against them. But when Jesus came, God quit holding men's sins against them. This is exactly what 2 Corinthians 5:19 and 21 says,

*"To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation...For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

The word "reconciliation" is talking about making peace. He was no longer holding us accountable. Instead, He imputed our sins to Jesus, making Jesus accountable for our sins. **Jesus became what we were so that we could become what He was—the righteousness of God.**

Jesus was like a lightning rod that drew all the judgment of God unto Himself. He not only bore our sins, He actually became sin (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus said this in John 12:27-32:

*"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."*

Many have thought this thirty-second verse means that if God is properly glorified in our preaching, then He will draw all men unto Himself. But that is not what this scripture is saying.

If you look in the *King James Version* Bible, notice that the word "men" in verse 32 is italicized. That means it wasn't in the original language. The translators put this word in italics to let you know this was their addition, but it wasn't a part of the text. If you take this verse in context, I believe the Lord was saying that He would draw all JUDGMENT to Himself. Jesus, like a lightening rod, attracted all of God's judgment for all of mankind's sins for all time unto Himself.

All the murder, all the perversion, every vile and rotten sin imaginable, all sickness, all disease ever known to mankind actually entered into His physical human body. Isaiah 52:14 talks about the crucifixion of Jesus and says that He was marred more than any man to the point that He was unrecognizable as a human being.

That could not just happen from physical beatings, especially since the Word says that not a single bone was broken in His body (Ps. 34:20 with John 19:36). I believe His

body was completely disfigured from the cancers, tumors, diseases, deformities, and anything else that human beings have ever suffered.

Jesus didn't ask for the cup to be taken from Him just because of the physical pain He would suffer but because He did not want to become sin. He hated becoming what He came to redeem us from. And the worst part of all Jesus' sufferings was total rejection from His Father. Matthew 27:46 says,

*“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My god, my god, why hast thou forsaken me?”*

God the Father forsook Jesus so that you and I would never be forsaken. All that you and I would have suffered through billions of years in eternity—the grief, the pain, and worst of all the complete separation from the presence of God—Jesus experienced. And He experienced all of this for us. **When we say that God is judging our sins as individuals or corporately as a nation, we are voiding what Jesus did.** That would be “double jeopardy.”

Some of you may not like this, but it's true. **Sin isn't a problem with God anymore. It's the church that has made it a major deal.** Neither past, present, nor future sins can separate us from God. The only people who will go to hell are those who have spurned and rejected the greatest sacrifice that has ever been made. **In heaven, we won't answer for our sin, Jesus already has; we will answer for our acceptance or rejection of Jesus.**

You might now be thinking, *You're just giving people a license to sin.* Well, it seems to me that people are doing a pretty good job of that without a license. What I'm saying will not free you to sin; it will free you from the condemnation and the guilt that comes when you do sin.

**To continue in sin is just stupid.** You'll be opening the door for Satan to have an inroad into your life (Rom. 6:16). If you do, then you will suffer the natural consequences of sin, but it will not be because of the judgment of God. If you commit adultery, you will probably lose your family, but it was you that caused it, not God.

These natural disasters are just —natural disasters. We live in a corrupted world where bad things happen, but God isn't the cause of them. If He were, why would He stop at New Orleans and the Gulf Coast of America? Surely all of us deserve the judgment of God. But praise God, we don't get what we deserve.

Before I learned that the war was over, I used to say, “If God doesn't judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.” Now I say, “If God does judge America, He will have to apologize to Jesus.” Thank God for Jesus!

If you don't fully understand the sacrifice that Jesus made for us and what that means, you will never be able to relate to God in the way that He intended.

This message really is the nearly-too-good-to-be-true news. Until you understand this, many things in the Bible will not make sense, and you will remain defeated because of your inability to earn the blessings of God.

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