

# Expository Files 19.2

Feb., 2012

Co-Edited by Jon Quinn and  
Warren E. Berkley



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Front Page 19.2 - Excerpt From FC Lecture, Berkley](#)

[Jeremiah, The Heart Of The Prophet, by Warren Berkley](#)

[Not The Prayer of Jabez, Perry Hall](#)

[Beautiful Attitudes, Jon Quinn](#)

[Sinning Against Wisdom, Jonathan L. Perz](#)

[Special Series, Rehoboam, Jon Quinn](#)

[Plan of Salvation](#)

[Final Page 19.2 - Call No Man Unclean, Jon Quinn](#)

[Letters To Young Preachers](#)

---

## Front Page, 19.2

### By Warren E. Berkley

*From the Florida College Lecture, 2012 - The Grace of God, Warren E. Berkley*

We really need two basic things: Forgiveness and Transformation. Sinners need some means outside themselves (since pardon cannot be self-conferred), to be relieved of the guilt of their sin. Then sinners also need information with motivation that provides transformation (to walk in newness of life after baptism; see Romans 6). God provides both for us through Jesus, “who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

A man said to a preacher one time, “why are you people always talking about the death of Christ.” He said, “why not talk about His life. Talk about His teaching and His great Example. Why all this interest in His death. Just give us His example and teaching. That’s what we need!”

The preacher said, “really? That’s all you need. You will follow Him and be a Christian, without all this morbid death history?” The man said, “yes, that’s it.” “All right,” the preacher said, “let’s take the first step. The first thing you need to know about Jesus is that He never sinned. Can you do that?”

“Of course not,” the man replied; “I sin every day.” The preacher said, “sounds to me like you not only need an example and teaching - you need a Savior! Then the preacher quoted John 1:29. “Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

He is the author of eternal salvation to all who will obey Him (Heb. 5:9). And you can obey Him and have eternal salvation because “...we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone,” (Heb. 2:9).

What in your life can be traced back to the grace of God? Everything good (Acts 17:25; Jas. 1:17; 1 Cor. 15:10; Rom. 8:32). We display the grace of God, not by continuing in sin, but by continuing in obedience to God (Rom. 5:21-6:18). In fact, apostles were divinely chosen and empowered by the Spirit to tell the world of God’s grace “for obedience to the faith,” (Rom. 1:5).

God loves for us to cheerfully reflect His grace through our giving to others, of all we have to give (Rom. 12:3,6; 1 Pet. 4:10).

Grace, Mercy and Peace to you - from God the Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord.

{Warren will speak at the 2012 FC Lectures at 9 am, Tuesday morning.}

[Back to Table Of Contents](#)

\*\*\*

## Jeremiah - The Heart Of The Prophet

Jer. 8:18-22

Warren E. Berkley

*"I would comfort myself in sorrow; My heart is faint in me. Listen!  
The voice, The cry of the daughter of My people From a far country:  
Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her? Why have they provoked Me to anger  
With their carved images With foreign idols? The harvest is past,  
The summer is ended, And we are not saved!*

*For the hurt of the daughter of my people  
I am hurt. I am mourning;  
Astonishment has taken hold of me.  
Is there no balm in Gilead,  
Is there no physician there?  
Why then is there no recovery  
For the health of the daughter of my people?"*

What is to be said of this Old Testament book and this man, Jeremiah? You may have discovered, reading the book of Jeremiah is not a joy. You may even find some of this book to be difficult to understand. Well, this man was called by the Lord to deliver bad news!

Being people oriented to the New Testament, we are well acquainted with the apostles of Christ, who were charged to deliver good news. The good news of the New Testament is - you can leave sin, come through Christ to God, live right and go to heaven, and even take people with you! There is no better news! But in the Old Testament, there were prophets who were charged to deliver bad news.

They were communicators, delivering to the people the bad news from the Lord - that they were destroying themselves by their continued sin! This theme is repeated over and over and Jeremiah was sent to Judah, some 500 years before Christ to tell the people this very thing: They were destroying their lives by their continued sin.

This ruin of sin had many dimensions. Idolatry and Immorality; listening to false teachers and false prophets; trusting in human strength instead of divine grace; and refusing to give heed to many appeals to repent - appeals that were issued over approximately 40 years!!

And it is clear in this passage, Jeremiah took it personally! He was not like the messenger who is indifferent, and who simply says: "OK People, Here's the bad news; it isn't my problem, you deal with it, I don't care!" NO - Jeremiah took on the pain of his people; he is sometimes called "the weeping prophet."

**(1) JEREMIAH WAS PAYING ATTENTION.** When he delivered God's message to Judah about their sin - he knew what God was upset about because he was paying attention. The Lord told him to "see and know," according to Jer. 5:1. God chose a man who was paying attention to what was happening; who was sensitive to the crisis among his people. He became - not just a messenger, but a keen observer who knew what was happening to Judah, and knew it wasn't good. He not only spoke against lying and believing lies - He heard people lying, and saw people believing those lies, and living as deceived people. Jeremiah was a man who paid attention.

What about Christians today? Do we need to look around and pay attention and see what is happening to people? Can we isolate ourselves inside our own little worlds? Does God expect us to pay attention to what's happening to people? Do we refuse to accept the reality of what a free reign sin has over people?

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, Peace and safety! Then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. - 1 Thess. 5:1-8

There is some parallel historically - comparing the time of Jeremiah with the times and conditions of the Thessalonians. People were being deceived, living in moral darkness, distracted from focus of heart on God. Paul said, in response to the times and seasons: "...let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober." Today, we can't just look the other way, or pretend that everything in our nation and culture is fine! That's not watchful and sober. And, to whatever extent we don't pay attention to the ruin of sin, we are vulnerable to its' destruction, and ill-equipped to serve others.

Around us today in our modern culture: We are being lied to. People are believing lies and false promises. Various forms of idolatry capture the hearts of our children. Churches play to the culture to gain numbers. Families and marriages are falling apart. And many who consider themselves to be Christians are just not paying attention. "Too busy," they say. So, they are not "wearing the breastplate of faith and love," nor "wearing the helmet of hope." Too busy to pay attention to what is happening.

Look around - see what is happening - and it will prompt prayer. It will cause you to be defensive about your own spiritual condition. It will add urgency to your concern about your marriage and your children. It will compel genuine evangelism.

**(2) Jeremiah was tender-hearted;** he addressed the people of Judah: “My Dear People.” There was not only truth in his message, there was love and care in his heart. Because he cared, he was disturbed, seeing people ruining their lives by their continued sin. It hurt him. There was no common indifference in this man - that thinks, “It’s not my problem; it’s not my concern; I don’t care.” He cared . . . he wept . . . he wrote the book called Lamentations.

Are we tender hearted, like Jeremiah? Could be, we are keenly aware of the ruin of sin, we are paying attention. But our reaction is bitterness or hatred of people; so we convey disgust, not concern. That will do us no good - and will do sinners no good.

1 Pet. 3:8

*“Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous.”*

Look at these words, which convey attitudes God’s people ought to have: compassion, love, and being tenderhearted. Look at just part of this: “having compassion,” or, “Be compassionate.” What does that require of me? The word depicts feelings that come from the heart and reach out to specific people who need what God can supply through us. Compassion is what causes you to stop and help someone having trouble. Compassion is what causes you to contribute to someone’s need. Compassion is what causes you to spread the word about some charitable need.

NOW if compassion should be active when people are suffering physical need - how much more should compassion operate, when we pay attention, and we see people lost in sin - and ruining their lives by their disobedience to God!

Jeremiah illustrates paying attention to what’s happening, but also, he hurt and he acted, out of compassion. One reason I’m on Facebook is, I learn a lot about people. My primary purpose is communication. But I’ve discovered, on Facebook, you learn a lot about people. I thought I knew some people very well - but I’ve been disappointed. Some people I thought I knew well turn out to be selfish, vulgar, brutal and exhibit an absence of compassion for people. Impulsive remarks are made about people who are lost as idiots, to be criticized, not saved. There is a heartless, impersonal, abusive, hateful attitude, very easy for people to express, typing on their computer, in the privacy of their home, office or car. Some of these people claim to be children of God, followers of Christ! Yet, they show by their words they are neither, certainly not having a heart like Jeremiah.

It should break our hearts that people ruin their lives and sin against God. That compassion should compel us to teach and preach and influence and reach out. Not just speak against people, but speak to people - of our concern, in ways guided by wisdom.

**Gal. 6:1 speak to this with divine clarity:**

*“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself, lest you also be tempted.”*

**(3) Jeremiah Asked The Tough Questions.** In the Bible, compassion never rules out being clear and truthful. Compassion, in the Bible, doesn't keep you from saying what is true and should be said. Compassion doesn't compel silence - it is truthful. So Jeremiah asked the tough questions: He repeats the appeal of the Lord:

“Why have they provoked Me to anger,” and then follows up . . .

“Is there no balm in Gilead?”

“Is there no physician there?”

“Why then, is there no recovery  
for the health of the daughter of  
my people?”

[See previous study of this in EF at <http://www.bible.ca/ef/expository-jeremiah-8-22.htm>]

If we are paying attention to the ravages of sin around us in the world and we really care, we should find opportunity to raise the tough questions without being hateful - like these:

If there is a God, isn't there a response to Him that we should give?

If Jesus is who He claims to be, shouldn't we follow Him and obey Him . . . consistently and with joy?

If He died for us - what should we be willing to do for Him, and for each other?

If the Bible is the most valuable book in circulation - should it be, not just owned... but read and studied and obeyed?

If God ordained that there be local churches, should every Christian be a full participating member?

If we know there will be a judgment day, shouldn't we be ready - all the time, since we don't know when the end will come??

Faith - of the genuine sort - will not back away from the tough questions.

**(4) Jeremiah's primary concern was, THE LORD.** See, it was not compassion generated within Jeremiah - separate from God!! It wasn't just that his people were hurting themselves, or that they weren't listened to him, the prophet. He said, “Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her?” All of this we have studied about Jeremiah is based on all his fear of God and his primary interests that God be glorified.

You will hear preacher's say - It is all about God! It is not just that I can have a better life here by applying the wisdom of the Bible. It is not just about man's social unity and peace here. It is all about God: So the prophet spoke for God - statements like this:

Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty manglory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight, says the Lord. - Jer. 9:23,24

Understanding and knowing God - serving Him through the activity of our faith in Christ - Are you doing that with your life right now? Is there some compelling change you need to make? Is there some choice you need to announce? Is there a response to God, that is urgent? [Back to Table Of Contents](#)

## Not The Prayer of Jabez

1 Chron. 4:10

Perry Hall

This is not about the prayer of Jabez, but rather the pray-er Jabez. This is about the man. What can we learn about him - the pray-er, by looking at his prayer?

1 Chronicles 4:10 NASB Now Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that You would bless me indeed and enlarge my border, and that Your hand might be with me, and that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me!" And God granted him what he requested.

Yes, Jabez exhibits imitable faith and vision. He envisions God as his provider and protector. But did you notice his pain? Can you see that Jabez lives in hurt everyday? If you can't see his pain, go back to verse 9:1 Chronicles 4:9 NASB Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother named him Jabez saying, "Because I bore him with pain."

Daily Jabez lives with the verbal reminder that his mother suffered pain...because of him. Everyday when his mother calls his name, she reminds him. Yet bitterness against his mother does not seem to occupy his mind. He is described as honorable - more so than his brothers.

Although honorable, we can see that Jabez does not escape totally from the thought of pain. Pain permeates his prayer to God: that You would keep me from harm that it may not pain me. The man whose name means pained prayed that he would not suffer pain.

While I might be reading between the lines too much, I doubt it. Look at the facts: his name means pain, and he prays not to be in pain. Pain, grief, sorrow are part of his life. And yet....he lives in honor.

What wonder from the Word is there for us to learn? Parents, let's be careful what we say around our children. We can cause them pain all their lives. Children, don't let our parents' mistakes shape our lives. Yes, their words can wound, but we can be honorable despite the pain.

More from Perry Hall - <http://www.perrydox.com/>

## **Beautiful Attitudes**

### **Matthew 5:3-10**

**By Jon W. Quinn**

Think about this: “What attitudes would Jesus' ideal disciple have?”

Well, he/she would have a strong spirit that would rise above all and would always be joyful and life would be filled with unceasing laughter. One would always confidently and loudly insist on his or her way since the Lord depends on his/her wisdom so much. One would be so full of righteousness that he/she would be absolutely satisfied. One would show disdain for people who would degrade themselves in sin and would be conspicuous in appearing righteous before others, so they could be impressed with godliness. One would be admired by all.

Well, the fact is that the above description is just as opposite of how Jesus describes the ideal disciple as one can get. Early in His ministry Jesus tells us what He wants in His disciples as far as attitudes. The Man of Galilee pronounced as “blessed” those who would acquire these qualities. To be “blessed” means to be fortunate, favored or happy. And Jesus lists qualities that few would expect to find in a treatise on “What it takes to be happy.”

Essentially, Jesus contrasted true righteousness in His kingdom with the false righteousness of the Pharisees and their traditions. The Pharisees would have agreed with the attitudes listed back in the second paragraph. Sadly, many today would tend to side with the Pharisees on this one. Consider the beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10).

#### **Blessed Are The Poor In Spirit (Matthew 5:3)**

One who has this attitude is willing to say, “Lord, I will become what you want me to be.” The haughty or proud in spirit are unwilling to make this kind of commitment. It is only when we realize our spiritual poverty without Jesus that we are happy to accept His grace. The proud, the highborn, the wealthy and the privileged do not have priority in God's kingdom (James 1:9,10; 2:1-7; 5:1-6). Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

#### **Blessed Are Those Who Mourn (Matthew 5:4)**

Mourning and sorrow is not a sign of weakness. The ability to be moved because someone is sensitive, compassionate and caring is a good thing. There are both things

to cry about and things to laugh about in life for God's faithful ones. It is important to understand which is which. Jesus wept at others' grief (John 11:30-37) and also at the spiritually lost (Matthew 23:37). The Scriptures teach that it is proper and necessary to have godly sorrow for our own sins (2 Corinthians 7:10). Blessed are those who have such sorrow, for they shall be comforted.

#### **Blessed Are The Gentle (Matthew 5:5)**

To be “gentle” is to be meek, humble and considerate. It is the opposite of arrogance. It does not seek its own advancement at others' expense. In a “dog-eat-dog” world where many elbow their way to the top, Jesus pronounces as “blessed” one who is not so caught up in the rat race that he is behaving like a rat.

Jesus was meek, but not always soft spoken, not unspirited, and never weak. It does not mean that we allow ourselves to be abused without a word. Jesus even addressed His accusers at His trial by challenging them, “Why did you strike Me?” (see John 18:19-23; cf. Acts 16:35-39). Those who are gentle are blessed because they will “inherit the earth” which is a figure of speech suggesting that they will “gain everything.”

#### **Blessed Are They That Hunger After Righteousness (Matthew 5:6)**

This beatitude suggests that hungering after righteousness is an ever present part of a disciple's life. We are confident and at peace within, we do not stop growing in the Lord, and we do not stop filling ourselves up with His righteousness. We are never satisfied with mediocrity. We have developed an appetite for doing His will. Jesus promises that those who have this drive are blessed “because they will be filled” (cf. John 4:13,14; 6:27-40; 7:37-39).

#### **Blessed Are The Merciful (Matthew 5:7)**

Mercy and compassion are traits which bring their possessors' blessings. Mercy shows itself in seeking to restore the fallen and to save the lost. The most merciful thing one can do for a sinner is to seek to impress upon him the need for a Savior. Mercy is also seen in our willingness to forgive. It is seen in helping those who need help. (Matthew 9:10-13). If one is not prepared to extend mercy, then let him also be prepared not to receive any (Matthew 18:23-35). One is blessed if he is merciful because he shall receive mercy

#### **Blessed Are The Pure In Heart (Matthew 5:8)**

Being religious can involve only outward appearances, but being right with God involves the heart as well. Obedience of the gospel is necessary, but let it be from the heart (Romans 6:17). Jesus is not saying anything new here. Contrary to opinion of

the day, God had never been pleased with empty ritual (Proverbs 15:8; 21:3; Isaiah 1:10-20). Our obedience must always be from the heart else it is vain (1 Peter 1:22-25; Matthew 15:8,9). The end result of pure heartedness is to one day see God and share eternity with Him.

### **Blessed Are The Peacemakers (Matthew 5:9)**

Most of the Jews of Jesus' day were looking for a warrior to lead warriors against Rome. Instead, Jesus was leading an army of peacemakers. The advancement of true peace among men is the job of Jesus' peacemakers. This does not mean that there are not risks and conflicts. Seeking to bring reconciliation between God and men and/or men and men can get one into trouble. Are you willing to assume the risks, wage war against Satan, and proclaim the gospel of peace (Ephesians 6:10-17)? Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

### **Blessed Are The Persecuted (Matthew 5:10-12)**

There is no room in the kingdom for the cowardly. We ought not to expect any better reception than the faithful of old received from the world. There is no dignity nor nobility in avoiding persecution by compromising faith. All who desire to live godly will be persecuted (2 Timothy 2:8-10). One not willing to stand side by side with Jesus and face persecution for righteousness sake will never know the blessing of possessing the kingdom of heaven. [Back to Table Of Contents](#)

## Sinny Against Wisdom

### Proverbs 8:35-36

By Jonathan L. Perz

Using the literary device of personification, Solomon describes wisdom in some of the strongest terms possible—he speaks of wisdom in terms of life and death. He writes, “For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death” (Proverbs 8:35-36).

Ensnared within this life and death concept of the importance of wisdom, Solomon also sets forth the idea of “sinning against” wisdom as a wrong against our own soul. Have you ever imagined wisdom in those terms? Have you ever considered whether or not you have sinned against wisdom? Do you wrong your own soul?

If any man could speak of the value of wisdom, Solomon could. The annals of Israel’s history say this of Solomon: “And God gave Solomon wisdom and exceedingly great understanding, and largeness of heart like the sand on the seashore. Thus Solomon’s wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the men of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men...” (1 Kings 4:29-31a).

This, of course, adds all the more significance to his evaluation of wisdom. So important is wisdom, that the language he uses almost makes you think that he is speaking of finding or hating God, and not merely wisdom. Yet, he is eloquently exalting the value of wisdom.

How is it that one sins against wisdom? In the simplest of terms, to sin is to transgress, or to fall short of or go beyond. It means to miss the mark (cf. 1 John 3:4—KJV). To sin against wisdom suggests the idea of wandering from the way of wisdom.

When it comes to wisdom, one of the greatest contrasts we must learn as Christians is the difference between the wisdom of God, which Solomon extols, and the wisdom of men, which is often shed in a foolish light in comparison. One consistently leads to eternal life, whereas the other is rooted in the ways of this world, which are despised and condemned by God.

The Holy Spirit tells us through the apostle Paul, “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God” (1 Cor. 3:18). This suggests that those who are so enamored with the wisdom of this world will inevitably be blind to the wisdom of God. By failing to see the difference, they sin against wisdom. The only remedy is for one to become a fool in the ways of this world so that he may become wise in the ways of God.

This same sin against wisdom can be seen in those who reject, or even mock, the cross of Jesus. Earlier in the same epistle Paul wrote, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those of us who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men” (1 Cor. 1:18-25).

Not only does the wisdom of God render foolish the wisdom of men, its fruit is righteous whereas the fruit of the wisdom of men is sinful. Consider the inspired words of James who writes, “Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace” (James 3:13-18). This also manifests how we can sin against the wisdom of God, by attributing the fruit of God to the wisdom of men and the fruit of men to the wisdom of God.

While there is much more that written about wisdom, the basic fact of the matter is that a fool will have no heart for wisdom (Prov. 17:16; 24:7), whereas an understanding man will not only seek it, he will find it, keep it and live by it. “He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good” (Prov. 19:8). In another place, the wise man writes, “Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding” (Prov. 23:23). [Back to Table Of Contents](#)

# Rehoboam - “So the King Did Not Listen to the People”

*Special Series*

**By Jon W. Quinn**

After the death of Solomon in 930 B.C., the kingdom divided. The northern tribes rebelled against the house of David and established a new nation which continued to be called “Israel”. The southern kingdom continued to acknowledge the authority of the house of David; they were called “Judah”. It all happened during the reign of Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. The split of the nation into two smaller nations left both much weaker. We often refer to Rehoboam's bad decision to follow the counsel of his young friends rather than that of the wiser counselors of his father as the reason for the division of the nation. And it is true that Rehoboam is responsible for his decision and the consequences of it, but it was not there that the division had begun. The wheels had been set in motion during the reign of his father, Solomon. Ironically, the name “Rehoboam” means “he who enlarges the people” - a misnomer if there ever was one.

Rehoboam was forty-one years old when he began his rule and reigned for seventeen years in Jerusalem. His time as king is described in 1 Kings 12; 14:21-31 and in 2 Chronicles 10-12. In the 5th year of Rehoboam's reign Shishaq king of Egypt, brought a huge army and took many cities of Judah. When they laid siege to Jerusalem, Rehoboam gave Shishaq all of the treasures out of the temple as a tribute. Judah became a vassal state of Egypt for a time. An account of this invasion from the Egyptian perspective can be found in the Shishaq Relief near the Temple of Amun at Karnak in Egypt today.

Rehoboam had 18 wives and 60 concubines. They bore him 28 sons and 60 daughters. When he died he was buried beside his ancestors in Jerusalem. He was succeeded by his son Abijahn.

## **The Division of the Kingdom Had Been Prophesied**

God had spoken to Rehoboam's father, Solomon, and told him of consequences that would result if he became an unfaithful king. The Lord said, “As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked, even to do according to all that I have commanded you, and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, then I will establish your royal throne as I covenanted with your father David, saying, “You shall not lack a man to be ruler in Israel.’ But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will uproot you from My land which I have given you, and this house which I have consecrated for My name I will cast out of My sight and I will make it a proverb and a byword among all peoples.” (2 Chronicles 7:17-20).

Also, the prophet Ahijah had prophesied to Jeroboam “He said to Jeroboam, ‘Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, “Behold, I will tear the

kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and give you ten tribes (but he will have one tribe, for the sake of My servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel), because they have forsaken Me, and have worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the sons of Ammon; and they have not walked in My ways, doing what is right in My sight and observing My statutes and My ordinances, as his father David did. Nevertheless I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand, but I will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of My servant David whom I chose, who observed My commandments and My statutes; but I will take the kingdom from his son's hand and give it to you, even ten tribes. (1 Kings 11:31-35).

### **The Ultimate Cause of the Division Was Solomon's Apostasy**

Two independent kingdoms were formed. Jeroboam was king over Israel (10 tribes) in the North (1 Kings 12:20) and Rehoboam was king over Judah and Benjamin in the South (1 Kings 12:21). While we understand that Rehoboam was not simply an innocent bystander, we see that his reign is adversely effected by his father's spiritual failures. This did not relieve Rehoboam of the responsibility for his own decisions (1 Kings 11:9-13). But the actions and attitudes of his father adversely effected Rehoboam.

Solomon was a very wise man. He was a good governor and the nation prospered under him. But during the middle of his reign, he began to compromise his faith and convictions. His many political marriages undertaken to cement alliances with other nations brought great influence upon him from his pagan wives, and they influenced him to turn to idolatry. It was in that failure that the seeds of division had been sown.

After Solomon's death, the people, led by Jeroboam, were concerned that Rehoboam would continue to tax them heavily - as had his father Solomon. Jeroboam and the people promised their loyalty to Rehoboam if he would reduce this load. The older men who had been Solomon's advisors counseled Rehoboam, "If you will be a servant to this people today, and will serve them and grant them their petition, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever." (1 Kings 12:7). However, the new king sought the advice from the people he had grown up with as well, who advised the king to show no weakness to the people, and to tax them even more, which Rehoboam did. He proclaimed to the people, "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions." The Scriptures explain "So the king did not listen to the people; for it was a turn of events from the LORD, that He might establish His word, which the LORD spoke through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. (1 Kings 12:14-15).

### **Will We Effect Our Children As Badly as Solomon Effected His?**

Parents will effect their children's futures, sometimes in ways completely unforeseen. Rehoboam, though responsible for his own errors, needed faithful parents to look up

to. Rehoboam did not get that from his father Solomon. I do not know how to make the message any plainer than that.

I doubt that Solomon planned on having such an adverse effect on his son. His moral and spiritual failures slipped up on him. That happens when proper attention is not given to the Lord and his will in our lives. Solomon had given such matters their proper place at one time, but somewhere along the he had lost his way (1 Kings 11:9-13).

Why did Rehoboam listen to the unwise counsel of his friends to increase the tax burdens of the people instead of the wise counsel of his father's counselors and decrease the tax burden Was it pride? Was it greed? Was it a lack of respect of his father, perhaps due to his father's own spiritual failures? Whatever it was, the end result was the same. National disaster and civil war.

So that was then, and now is now. We fill the roles of parents and children. We are now the ones living our lives before God. It is our children who are being influenced by us. They are seeing in us examples of strong faith and commitment, or spiritual weakness and failure. The Bible says, "For He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments." (Psalm 78:5-7).

In the New Testament we read, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). We also read of the good effect godly parents (and grandparents) can have on their offspring. Paul wrote to Timothy, "You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 3:14,15; cf. 2 Timothy 1:5).

Parents! Will we live for the Lord as the examples of faith we ought to be before our children and all, or will we conceal the wonderful things God's grace has provided us in compromise and neglect? "We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done." (Psalm 78:4). Let us prepare our hearts and be faithful to our God! "And not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to God." (Psalm 78:8). It does not take a "Solomon" to clearly see what our choice ought to be.

[Back to Table Of Contents](#)

## The Plan of Salvation

### Plan #1 - God's Plan

Announced by the apostles, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to new believers in Christ who asked what they must do:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ -- this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."  
(Acts 2:36-38).

### Plan #2 - Man's Doctrine

On the back page of a tract, sinners were urged to pray this prayer to be saved. This prayer is not found in the Bible; nor were alien sinners commanded to pray for their forgiveness.

#### The Sinner's Prayer:

"O' Lord, I accept that I am a sinner and that Jesus died for my sins. I now accept Him into my heart as Lord and Savior asking for your mercy and forgiveness in His name. Amen."

*The editors of Expository Files are happy with plan #1 and thankful to the God of all grace for it. We cannot recommend Plan #2 at all, but will change our minds when this prayer can be shown to us in the Bible.*

[Back to Table Of Contents](#)

**Call No Man Unclean**  
**The Final Page**  
**By Jon W. Quinn**

Sometimes we may think that we are the only society to ever have had to deal with prejudice and the strife it causes. But history shows that such has adversely affected human society from almost the beginning. The source of prejudice is human pride and ignorance. It is Satan himself that deceives people into thinking that they are somehow worth more than other people because of differences in color, race, nationality, gender and so forth.

In fact, the Christian more than anybody ought to realize that value of each human being. If he or she understands the gospel at all, it is understood that all humanity is on the same level as far as God is concerned. The Bible says that God “gave His only begotten Son” because He “so loved the world”... that is, He loves all the people of the earth (John 3:16).

And while Christians have been forgiven of their sins by the grace of God through their own faith, they understand that redemption was not given to them because they especially deserved it. As Paul said, “You were once just like them...” so it is silly to think that we are inherently special... we are not. Christians have been forgiven in Christ... but this means that they have been just as guilty of sin as anyone else.

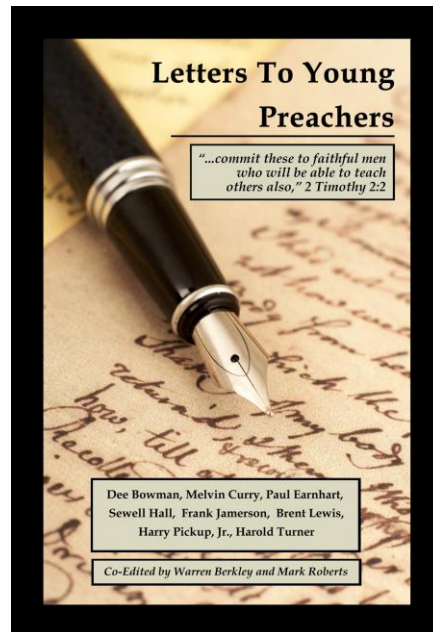
The Bible also shows that God “made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth” and that we are all therefore “the offspring of God” (Acts 17:26-27). Yes, we are all brothers and sisters because we do all have a common ancestor... no, not an ape-like creature, but Adam who was created in God’s image. Ironically, if it were true that we are merely descendants of lower life forms, then it may well be that some of us could claim superiority, just as Hitler thought, based on our descendancy. A more highly evolved master race might be workable in a naturalistic perspective, but not in a godly one framed in the Creator.

Peter, who had difficulty with this because of his own prejudices, had to overcome and defeat such feelings (Acts 10:28). He did, and so should we all. God blesses men and women of all nations through Jesus, His Son, by grace through faith.

[Back to Table Of Contents](#)

# Letters To Young Preachers

Co-edited, Warren Berkley & Mark Roberts



*With a chapter by Jon Quinn*

Now Available From Your Book Outlet  
& in both Kindle and Nook format through  
your device connection

[Back to Table Of Contents](#)