

How Very Rich, How Very Ignorant

Today, the [New York Times ran an article about one Michael Bloomberg](#), former mayor of New York City and a very wealthy man. Unfortunately, Mr. Bloomberg has decided that he can play nanny to everyone and decide for them what is best for them. To that end, Mr. Bloomberg opposes firearms ownership, the use of tobacco, and the consumption of certain foods, holding that all are bad for the rest of us.

In the final paragraph of this puff piece, Mr. Bloomberg had this to say about the end of his efforts:

But if he senses that he may not have as much time left as he would like, he has little doubt about what would await him at a Judgment Day. Pointing to his work on gun safety, obesity and smoking cessation, he said with a grin: "I am telling you if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close."

Let it never be said that Michael Bloomberg runs short on pride. However that may be, Mr. Bloomberg missed the standard by which one gains entrance into heaven:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (*John 14:6*)

The reason it is by the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone, is because He, and He alone meets the standard of righteousness the Father demands. Hence, through the Lord Jesus Christ and His work of redemption, salvation is, always has been, and ever will be by grace, and grace alone:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of

yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (*Ephesians 2:8-9*)

And again:

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. (*Romans 11:5-6*)

Thus, the Scripture is quite plain that you will do it by grace and grace alone, as works and grace are mutually exclusive. But, it is quite evident Mr. Bloomberg has chosen works for his justification before the LORD God, which is to his condemnation:

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (*Revelation 20:11-15*)

Moreover, poor Michael misses the boat altogether in that he thinks being wealthy and powerful are what might qualify him in the first place. However, had he read the following, he would have known the LORD God has no use for him in his present state:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence. (*I Corinthians 1:26-29*)

And he compounds his error in that he stated “I am telling you if there is a God,…” which is a blatant insult to the LORD God, and shows how very far away Mr. Bloomberg is from ever pleasing the LORD:

Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD. (*Jeremiah 9:23-24*)

Pray for the poor man. He needs all the help he can get. He is wretched, naked, poor and blind, and doesn't even realize it.

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (*Mark 8:36*)

Thank You for Your Service? – An Open Letter to Laurence

Vance

The following is in response to a column by Laurence Vance, dated 19 July 2011, and titled "[Thank You for Your Service?](#)" in which Mr. Vance excoriates the U.S. Military and those who support them and thank them for their service to America. This response is written and published publicly because of one outstanding feature of the column: overt and blatant bitterness.

And four, what is a Vietnamese man – who most certainly has relatives, or friends or neighbors of relatives, that were killed or injured by U.S. bombs and bullets during the Vietnam War – doing joining the U.S. military where he can be sent to shoot and bomb foreigners like the U.S. military did to his people?

And aside from these four things, I'm afraid I must also say: Sorry, soldiers, I don't thank you for your service.

- *I don't thank you for your service in fighting foreign wars.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in fighting without a congressional declaration of war.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in bombing and destroying Iraq and Afghanistan.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in killing hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and Afghans.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in expanding the war on terror to Pakistan and Yemen.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in occupying over 150 countries around the world.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in garrisoning the planet with over 1,000 military bases.*
- *I don't thank you for your service in defending our freedoms when you do nothing of the kind.*
- *I don't thank you for your service as part of the*

president's personal attack force to bomb, invade, occupy, and otherwise bring death and destruction to any country he deems necessary.

*Thank you for your service? I don't think so.
((<http://lewrockwell.com/vance/vance250.html>))*

Everyone needs to know: *This is not a Christian spirit and attitude. It is not a Scriptural spirit and attitude.*

Mr. Vance,

Have we just a bit of bitterness? I see NO justification for your attitude and spirit anywhere in the New Testament.

I don't find it in John the Baptist:

And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse *any* falsely; and be content with your wages.
(*Luke 3:14*)

I don't find it in the Lord Jesus Christ:

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, ((An officer in the Roman military.)) beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this *man*, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth *it*. When Jesus heard *it*, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and

west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. (*Matthew 8:5-13*)

I don't find it in the apostle Peter:

And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius ((Cornelius was a Centurion in the Roman Army.)) met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*. But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. Therefore came I *unto you* without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? And Cornelius said, Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, And said, Cornelius, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of *one* Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. The word which *God* sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, *I* say, ye know, which was published throughout all

Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (Acts 10:25-48)

I don't find it in the apostle Paul:

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must

be cast upon a certain island. But when the fourteenth night was come, as we were driven up and down in Adria, about midnight the shipmen deemed that they drew near to some country; And sounded, and found *it* twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found *it* fifteen fathoms. Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off. And while the day was coming on, Paul besought *them* all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take *some* meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat. Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took *some* meat. (Acts 27:21-36)

In fact, I do not find your attitude and spirit among any of the apostles, or in Christ, or in John the Baptist. Your spirit is bitter and hateful and not conducive to ministry or presenting the gospel to anyone, let alone a member of the military. What? Are members of the military not worthy to be presented the gospel? Instead of trying to reach them, you preach hate. Are you kin to Fred Phelps? You must be spiritually, because you share [a common spirit](#). ((Note: Phelps use of the passage is out of context. However much he would like it to be so, America is not ancient Babylon.))

Wouldn't it be so much better to have the spirit and attitude presented in the following passage?

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications,

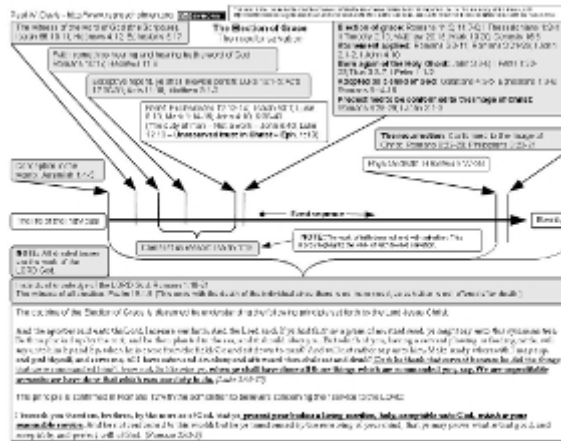
prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. (*I Timothy 2:1-6*)

Next time you see a member of the military, present them with the gospel. I guarantee you – they need it. Unless of course, you hate them so much that you want to keep them on the road to Hell. But what kind of person would that make you?

In Christ,
Paul W. Davis

The Election of Grace: The road to salvation

Beyond doubt, the doctrine of the election of grace has been hijacked and misconstrued by certain persons into a false doctrine of “election to belief.” An honest study of the Scriptures demonstrates clearly that there exists no “election to belief,” but a very clear election of grace by the LORD God. The following graphic, and Adobe Acrobat link below the image, illustrate the path which one walks to salvation in which, if one ultimately believes, the LORD God will of His own volition, elect them to salvation by bestowing grace upon them in Christ Jesus.



[The Election of Grace: The road to salvation](#) – Adobe Acrobat document.

I pray you find it profitable in Christ.

What must I know to be saved?

This post arises out of a study that I am doing, and is tied to one of John Locke's books, which is *The Reasonableness of Christianity*. In this book much argument is made of what one must know to be saved or born-again, and become a Christian. At the time I read the book (which was quite some years ago), I had not really considered what one MUST know to be saved. However, as time has passed and I have studied the Scripture, there are some things that everyone MUST know before one can have even the hope of salvation. The following questions are not concerned with the attributes one must have to be saved, (i.e. faith, and repentance), rather they are focused on KNOWLEDGE, or what one must KNOW with surety to be saved.

With the foregoing in mind, here are the questions:

1. *Who is Christ?*
2. *Who is God?*

3. *Who is man? (Who am I?)*
4. *What is righteousness, and why am I not righteous?*
5. *Why is God righteous? (What does mean to be righteous?)*
6. *What is sin, and why am I a sinner?*
7. *What can I do about my sin?*
8. *What has (will) the LORD done (do) about my sin?*
9. *What does it mean when the Scripture says I must "believe?"*
10. *How can I know for certain that all the Scripture tells me is true?*
11. *What am I really believing or trusting?*

The questions leave considerable room for exploration of the Scripture and explanation of the answers. However, they are well worth answering, and by the time you are done, you will know all that is NECESSARY to know to be born again in Christ Jesus and have eternal life.

Now if you wish to argue about the questions, please take the time to answer them first BEFORE raising objection. Also, please use the King James Version of the Bible to do your study. Otherwise, you will get some very skewed and incomplete answers.

As far HOW the questions are to be answered, here is a hint:

When we ask "Who is God?" we do not speak of defining His ability, but rather examining His CHARACTER and NATURE.

May you find it profitable.

In Christ,

Bro. Paul

The LORD rebuke you, Barack Obama.

Yesterday, President Barack Obama spoke in Minneapolis, MN and decided to invoke the name of God to support his contention that we all should have government mandated and managed health insurance forced upon us. Fundamentally, I disagree, Moreover, I have major problems with him invoking God in any way to support his socialist cause. The passage where he mentioned God follows:

*In the last 12 months alone, 6 million more Americans lost their health insurance – 6 million more. Today, we received more disturbing news. A new report from the Treasury Department found that nearly half of all Americans under 65 will lose their health coverage at some point over the next 10 years. Think about that. (Boos.) More than one-third will go without coverage for longer than one year. We've got to do something. (Applause.) We've got to do something because it can happen to anyone. **There but for the grace of God go I.** It could happen to anyone. ((http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-Rally-on-Health-Insurance-Reform/))*

Mr. President, nice of you say it is the grace of God that gives us health insurance and by implication, it would be the grace of God that gives us a government mandated health plan, as if your health plan were somehow equal to the grace of God.

No Mr. President, you do greatly err, the grace of God brings salvation of the soul, not a cheap, two-bit, government mandated "health plan," as it is written:

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, . . .(*Titus 2:11*)

The LORD rebuke you, Barack Obama.

Ephesians 1:3-6 (King James Version) – Pt. 2

This article has been combined with another article and moved to the following location:

[Ephesians 1:3-6 \(King James Version\)](#)

Unwanted Answers – Part 2

NOTE: In dealing with Calvinist/Reformed doctrine, there are some questions the proponents of that theology like to throw at people to silence them as the Calvinist believes there is no legitimate answer to the question. However, as I, and many others have found out, the Calvinist doesn't actually want a valid answer, and will either try to shut down any proper response, or belittle the answer given. The following questions and attendant answers are a continuation of such examples:

3) If Christ paid for this sin of unbelief as all others, then why must this sin stop anyone from entering heaven more than any other sins (murder, adultery, homosexuality, etc.)?

How obvious does this have to be? Since the requirement for salvation is "Believe the gospel" it is obvious that the sin of unbelief would be, and is, the greatest hindrance to salvation. The very nature of our sin is that it is engaged in periodically, except for the sin of unbelief. Though one is a murderer, or an adulterer, or even a sodomite, one is those things because one once thought of engaging in, or actually carried it through and engaged in the behavior at one time, and thus they carry that label. A murderer is not continually murdering people, or even continually thinking about murdering people. This is not so with the sin of unbelief. Before anyone and everyone who is saved comes to Christ and believes the gospel, they are in unbelief, and they remain in unbelief unless and until they actually believe the gospel. Thus, the only time they are not in unbelief is when they decide to trust Christ for their salvation. The apostle Paul made this plain:

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. (*1 Timothy 1:12-13*)

Thus, if one continues in unbelief, then it is patently obvious they can never be saved.

Though all sins are the same with respect to penalty (all warrant death), not all sins have the same effect. Consider this: stealing a pencil is a sin; however, the effect is very limited. Nonetheless, it will still send someone to Hell. On the other hand, thinking about pushing a button that you know

will kill millions, and following through with the act, is also a sin, and will send someone to the same Hell as the pencil thief. However, the effect of that sin is far more egregious than simply stealing a pencil.

It is the same when comparing unbelief to every other sin out there. The reason people sin is because they do not fear God, because they do not believe there is a penalty that will be levied against them by God or anyone else. Hence the root cause of all sin, beginning even before the Garden of Eden, is unbelief. The effect of unbelief is far greater than any other sin, and is the root of all sins. The very reason Lucifer fell was because he did not believe that God was truly greater than he, and that God truly was his Creator. (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28) Hence, Lucifer disbelieved the truth and believed a lie – which is the very definition of unbelief. Therefore, this sin is plenty sufficient for condemnation.

We must then understand that a single sin is sufficient for condemnation, and it is plain in Scripture that this is the case:

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. (*Ezekiel 18:4*)

Since both angels and men have souls, and the word “sinneth” means simply “to sin” it is clear that a single sin, committed by anyone, warrants damnation to Hell. We are also expressly told in Scripture that no sin warrants any greater or lesser penalty from God, than any other sin:

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. (*James 2:10-11*)

Hence, the PENALTY for any sin is not different than the

penalty for any other sin, but the EFFECT of any particular sin may be greater or lesser than the effect of any other sin, due to the scope of influence of that sin. It is plain that all sin springs from the sin of unbelief, hence the sin of unbelief has a much greater effect upon the individual than all other sins springing from it.

Therefore, continuing in the sin of unbelief, whether it is of unbelief of the existence of God, (which would necessarily include unbelief of the truth of the gospel), or unbelief that salvation is not of works but by grace through faith alone, in Christ alone (which is a particular truth of the gospel) even though they believe in God and that Christ came as Saviour, and persisting in that unbelief until the day of one's death, is sufficient to consign one to Hell. On the other hand, though one be a murderer, adulterer, sodomite, or thief; if one believes the gospel and departs the sin of unbelief, then one is saved {i.e. the thief on the cross (Luke 23:39-43), the woman at the well (John 4:1-41), etc.} though they still be a murderer, thief, etc.

Part of the problem here is that Calvinist doctrine does not sufficiently distinguish between things spiritual and things physical, and certainly does not view sin the way the LORD God does.

4) Furthurmore (sic), if Christ did not die for the sin of unbelief, then one cannot say that He died for all the sins of all men.

Since the Scripture hath before proved that unbelief is a sin,

then by Calvinist/Reformed logic, Christ did die for all men.

To be continued . . .

Tis the Season . . .

. . .to understand the frailties of this flesh.

I know, the title sounds like something else that happened a couple of months ago. However, that particular time of year is pretty unremarkable to me. Rather, it is this time of year, and the next two to three months that will so personally remind me of the truth of the following passage of Scripture:

The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. (*Isaiah 40:6-8*)

Why?

Allergies. Yes indeed, allergies. And, bad enough where I cannot even concentrate to write. My allergies are utterly effective in reminding me of just how fragile we are as creatures. We really do have some very narrow limits in which we can live, and even narrower limits in which we can function effectively and accomplish things.

You know, we really do think we are something. We think we are

strong, able to adapt, and highly intelligent creatures. However, we are really no more able to withstand the ravages of this world than the grass of the field and flowers of the meadow.

You don't think so? Allow me to prove it to you.

What happens when, like the grass and flowers, we don't get enough water? How long can you survive without water?

What about air? How long will you survive without air?

What about clothing and shelter? How long will you survive in 40 degree F. weather with just a light clothing? How long will you withstand 160 degree F. weather? (By the way, the grass survives 40 degree weather just fine)

What about food? How long will you survive without food?

What about companionship? How long before you cannot stand it, and have to have someone there to fellowship with?

In survival training they give a rule, it's called the "**Rule of Threes**"

A person can live for:

Three minutes without air.

Three hours without shelter.

Three days without water.

Three weeks without food.

Three months without love.

With only minor variations, it is a pretty hard and fast rule. In short, we are fragile creatures. And here I have not even broached the subject of those little things called bacteria, viruses, and prions (which are rogue proteins that give us the spongiform diseases) which can all kill us, even though we cannot see them, or even detect an infection by them until

well after we are infected.

The reality is that we forget just how fragile we really are, as we stay relatively secure and safe most of the time. When this occurs, we forget that we are subject to death at any given moment, and begin to believe we are stronger and smarter than we actually are. We forget from whence we breath air, eat food and drink water. We become just like Belshazzar:

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: . . . *(Daniel 5:23)*

And we are further reminded in Job:

Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment. Who hath given him a charge over the earth? or who hath disposed the whole world? If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust. *(Job 34:12-15)*

All of which is to remind us of that oh-so important truth we seem to never remember:

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. *(Deuteronomy 8:2-3)*

Which, though spoken to the children of Israel, is applicable to us all by the word of the LORD:

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)

So, what is it that I should take from all this? A clear reminder of the truth spoken by the LORD. It is indeed true that all flesh is grass, and as the flower of the field – here today and gone tomorrow. But look at the last part of the passage from Isaiah:

but the word of our God shall stand for ever

And:

man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

If then, my nourishment is the word of the LORD, shall not I also live forever?

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. (*John 6:32-35*)

Isn't being beset by physical frailty an excellent reminder that our physical life and health is not what is important; and is to keep us humble so that we may ever remember from whence true life comes?

I should think so . . .

The Short-sightedness of Man

Yesterday, I wrote an open letter to Vladimir Putin that, quite literally could have been written to any number of individuals. All one would have to do is take out the specific references to Putin's activities and substitute the activities specific to whoever you were writing to. The fact is, everyone is in need of salvation, and the only people who would not need to receive the letter are those who have already heeded the message to repent and believe the gospel.

The idea of an open letter is not a new thing, even in Scripture. Nebuchadnezzar wrote an open letter to all the earth after the LORD humbled him and he repented and believed (*Daniel 4*). Darius wrote an open letter to all the earth as well admonishing them to fear the God of Daniel – which is the LORD God (*Daniel 6:25-27*). Of course, that was also a time when people weren't so "rational" and could consider that an event was indeed of God.

There is also another open letter in Scripture, and it is the one that I was reminded of yesterday when I was composing the letter to Vladimir. It comes from Psalms , and is a reminder to every person in this world of how short-sighted each of us are. I would that you read it in its entirety and consider what it states about us, individually and collectively. After all, there is one end appointed unto man – the grave, and then judgement:

Hear this, all ye people; give ear, all ye inhabitants of the world: Both low and high, rich and poor, together. My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding. I will incline mine ear to a parable: I will

open my dark saying upon the harp. Wherefore should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity of my heels shall compass me about?

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption. For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought is, that their houses shall continue for ever, and their dwelling places to all generations; they call their lands after their own names. Nevertheless man being in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts that perish. This their way is their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah. Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish. (*Psalm 49*)

Oh blind and foolish man. ***Repent and believe the Gospel.***

Dear Vladimir,

I am well aware that this letter could be written to virtually anyone on this earth and be equally applicable. However, since I have been observing your antics as the leader of the Russian Federation, I am constantly reminded of how short-sighted man really is. In all your machinations to openly reassert communist rule in Russia, you have proved that you know little and understand less about how you will be judged for the things you do. Beyond doubt, you did not think twice when you gave the word to have those opposing you murdered. Never mind that they performed an actual service to you in checking your aberrant behavior. Instead of listening to them, you unceremoniously got rid of them. How very sad for you.

You see Vladimir, you are not the end all, be all, and neither is the communist doctrine you believe in. I am certain that you either know the truth, or could easily find it out concerning Karl Marx and what he really was. After all, it is no secret that he was a bum who depended upon everyone else to support him while he whined about the social and economic order of the day. He doesn't sound like much of an authority to look to for one's ideas on how things ought to be done in this world.

But Marx's problem was actually much bigger than that. Like you, Karl Marx did not believe that God exists, despite all evidence to the contrary. Now, I can kind of understand why he would have problems in that arena, as the state churches in Europe really do not present Christianity as it actually is. Instead, the Christianity they present is warped and twisted so that the leaders in those churches can ride the gravy train on the backs of all those duped by such a system. And that, all with the permission, blessing, and support of the government they are in bed with. So much for the Lord Jesus Christ being the head of those churches. No, instead of them being administered by the Holy Ghost, they are administered

under the auspices of the State which coddles and supports them. So, I can kind of understand why Marx had the problem he had.

However, now, like then, the word of God is easily available to virtually everyone who wants it. Moreover, it really is not man that seeks after God, but God who seeks after man to bring man to the right way, and an acknowledgement of the instinctual knowledge the LORD God has put in all of us: that God is real, our Creator, and that He rules over us. It is quite plain in the Scripture that this is the case:

The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. (*Psalm 14:2-3*)

Which is why the LORD seeks us:

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (*John 4:21-23*)

Of course, as I referenced above, we all do know that God is real and He exists. That is why you atheists fight so hard against God. You are trying to rid yourself of an instinctual knowledge. Let me assure you, you will never make that knowledge go away:

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,

even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (*Romans 1:18-21*)

Now I know that you, like many others dismiss this and say that you cannot see any evidence of God. However, you must understand that God responds to you based upon whether you are really interested in finding out the truth of who you are, and what you are about. The Lord does work to show you who you really are, but there is a point where He will let you go. After all, the LORD God is not worried. You are of absolutely no threat to Him. In fact, you are not even a threat to the one who influences and controls you – the Devil. To put it bluntly, you are simply a pawn in the game. Unfortunately, you are on the “short end of the stick” as it were, and like your master, you also will lose. You would do well to be mindful of the following admonition about how the LORD presents Himself to man:

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down. (*II Samuel 22:26-28*)

Again, this is based upon what is in your heart:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. (*Jeremiah 17:9-10*)

Now, I need not explain what the words say as I am certain your grasp of English is better than most Americans. Nor need I explain the following as pertaining to your accountability

before God:

Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save. Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. (*Isaiah 45:20-23*)

And again:

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2:9-11*)

It doesn't matter whether you believe this or not Vladimir, it is true. Moreover, it has always been true, and will remain true for all eternity. No one can or will change that, no matter how much they want to. What you have to look forward to is simply this – one day you will die, just like the folks you have had put to death. When you draw your last breath, all you have to look forward to is an eternity of suffering beyond your wildest imaginations. I would say that it would be unbearable, but the LORD God is able to ensure that you will bear it. If you think you will merely “wink out of existence” you are sadly mistaken.

There is one thing though: you will have a short break in your suffering: just long enough for your trial before the Lord

Jesus Christ whom you have thus far rejected:

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. *(Revelation 20:11-15)*

You know, it is sad that you allow your position in this world to stand in the way of saving your own life. No, it seems to me that your pride is such that you could not come to terms with the fact that you must repent and believe just like everyone else. There is no "other standard" existent for you and those in your position. That simply is not the way the LORD God operates. No, the standard the LORD God set for man has been the same from the Fall of man and will continue until the last man on earth dies:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. *(John 14:6)*

Vladimir, like so many others, you are in a sad case. ***Repent and believe the Gospel.***