

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## **In This Issue:**

**The Pentateuch ..... 1-3**  
**Sermon Outline ..... 3**  
**Local News ..... 2**  
**Clips from Psalms ..... 4**

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*John C. Robertson*

## **The Pentateuch**

Continued from Last Week

### **The Consequences of Sin**

Man does not rebel against the commandments of God and get away with it. Miriam was struck with leprosy due to her sin (see Numb. 12:1ff). The entire rebellious generation that would not enter Canaan at God's command died (Numb. 26ff). Korah, the Reubenites, and 250 princes died due to their rebellion (Numb. 16:1ff). Fourteen thousand seven hundred died because they complained about the death of those involved in Korah's rebellion (Numb. 16:43-46). God brought snakes to bite and kill the complainers at Numbers 21:4-6. Twenty four thousand people died after joining themselves to Baal-peor (Numb. 25:9). Lastly, who can forget the deaths of Nadab and Abihu for offering "strange fire" that God had not commanded (Lev. 10:1-3).

The book of Deuteronomy reveals the consequences of man's sin. Moses warns Israel that their lives will be a living hell if they reject God's commandments and a paradise for their obedience (see Deut. 28 all). Likewise, the New Testament reveals that all humanity will suffer eternally for un-forgiven sins (Rev. 20:10) and experience eternal bliss for obedience (Rev. 21:1ff).

### **God's Mercy**

Studying Genesis through Deuteronomy brings one to a common denominator and that is God's promises to Israel and all nations throughout history. Sin was in the world, there was no end in sight, and man needed help (Deut. 31:16ff). God's Son would ultimately, "save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Abraham believed and looked forward to the coming of Christ (Jn. 8:56) as did the rest of those of hope (I Pet. 1:7-12). We find it fascinating that though Israel was identified as a rebellious lot of people God continued to offer them His promises (see Deut. 34:4). Likewise, even though all of mankind sins today God's promises remain (Rom. 3:23; I Tim. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9).

Seeing that God's promises remain; though man has been sinful, it stands to reason that man ponders whether salvation is conditional or

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Jim Summers** has received his orders and will be leaving for Saudi Arabia May 2, 2008.

**Robert Norris** has injured his arm and had x-rays to determine the damage. He will know more of the extent of his injury on Friday.

**Nell Hulsey** continues to regain her strength. She had her stomach scanned, blood, and thyroid test to seek out reasons for her resent weight loss. It has been determined that the medication for arthritis was the problem.

**Deirdre Wilson** has returned to Abilene to be with her ailing mother.

### Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings we are studying the book of James and Wednesday we are studying The Song of Solomon.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

unconditional. Some may conclude that God continues to provide our salvation due to some of our righteousness. Moses and the apostle Paul tells us that God's promises are not in place because of anyone's righteous acts but rather because God is merciful, patient, and keeps His promises (Deut. 9:4-6; Eph. 2:8). A grave mistake; however, is made when man views God's promises as unconditional. Such a conclusion militates and mutilates divine revelation. The apostle Paul said, "*shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid*" (Rom. 6:1-2). Time and time again we find through the Pentateuch conditions that were to be met in order to receive God's promises. Israel was told to "*contend in battle*" (Deut. 2:24), "*keep the Lord's commandments*" (Deut. 8:6-10), and meet "*God's requirements*" in order to receive His promises (Deut. 10:12-13). Likewise all today who would receive the blessings of salvation (Eph. 1:3-7) must keep the Lord's commandments (see Heb. 3-4; Rom. 4:1ff).

### Man's Part in receiving Forgiveness

A turning point in Israel's relationship with God came in the wilderness when they were being bit by snakes for their disrespectful complaining. The Israelites admitted that they had sinned and were willing to do what was necessary to remedy the situation (Numb. 21:7-9). The humble admission was what God was looking for. Those who humbly "*confessed*" their trespass and made their sacrifices were viewed as "*humbled*" by God and thereby regained His favor, fellowship, and promises (Lev. 26:40-42). God simply wanted the people to admit that they had sinned because through such confession they made it evident that they believed in His sovereign authority. The man who thereby truly loves God will keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15) and humbly call upon him for help in time of spiritual need (Acts 22:16). The man who truly fears God will keep His commandments (Deut. 5:29; 6:2; Titus 3:8; I Pet. 1:17). The man who truly believes in God will make that faith evident through acts of obedience (Gen. 15:6; Jn. 3:36; Rom. 4:3; Heb. 11:1ff).

Jesus has paid the price for man's sins and provided a blessing for all nations as God promised Abraham (Gen. 12:1ff; Matt. 26:26ff; Acts 2:38-39; 20:28; Col. 1:14, 20-22). Those today, who humbly submit to God's commands in obedience (see Matt. 18:1-4; Rom. 10:17) by repenting of sins committed (i.e., admitting and confessing them) (Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30), being baptized to remit the sins (Acts 2:38-39; 22:16), and living a life of obedience as did Abraham (Rom. 4 all) will not be disappointed. To understand the promises of the New Testament we must understand the Old Testament (Heb. 8:1ff). A study of the Pentateuch will leave one with greater conviction and determination to keep clean and undefiled from sin (James 1:27).

*John C. Robertson*

# Many Beliefs yet ONE Revealed Faith

## Introduction:

A Confused religious world is comforted by fleshly reasoning. Like the ostrich who sticks their head in the sand believing that danger will pass so man remains willfully ignorant of God's laws. The observation and acceptance of religious differences does not make all religions acceptable to God.

### I. Oneness of "Religion" (Eph. 4:1-6):

A. The terms "unity" and "one" are exclusive terms.

B. Ecumenism struck down ("A movement seeking to achieve worldwide unity among religions through greater cooperation and improved understanding" [AHD 438]).

### II. New "carts" will never be tolerated by God:

A. God gave instructions regarding the construction and carrying of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:12-15; Numb. 1:51; 4:15; 7:9). Latter, Uzzah violates the law of God (II Sam. 6:1ff).

B. Paul said, "*If we are faithless, he abides faithful; for he cannot deny himself*" (II Tim. 2:13).

### III. Bible Authority:

A. Consider the authorized law of God (James 2:8; Phil. 4:9; Col. 3:17 / The principle Deut. 4:12-16).

B. Note that these laws are not too difficult to know or follow (see Deut. 30:12; Rom. 10:6ff; Matt. 5:48; Acts 2:38; 8; I Jn. 2:8f).

### IV. A World View of Truth:

A. Truth is likened unto a language... "it makes little sense to say that one language is more perfect than another, for you can in your language (as well as in your religion) say all that you feel you need to say" (Each Religion Expresses an Important Part of the Truth / Raimundo Panikkar).

B. A shift from truth to human reason (Matt. 21:23-27).

### IV. Consider these "new carts" of our Day"

A. Institutionalizing the church (individuals and proxy [the authority to act for another ]):

1. Herald of Truth
2. Southern American Mission Society
3. Christian Coalition of America

B. Denominationalism ("A class of units having specified values, as in a system of currency or weights... the tendency to separate into religious sects or denominations" AHD 381). Denomination is pluralism defined (accepts the irreconcilable aspects of religions without being blind to their common aspects. Pluralism is not the eschatological expectation that in the end all shall be one... it affirms neither that the truth is one nor that it is many" (Each Religion Expresses an Important Part of the Truth / Raimundo Panikkar).

1. Religious groups holding to differing beliefs.
2. "It is estimated that more than 10,000 separate religions are being practiced in the world today. Within Christianity alone, there are said to be more than 30,000 different denominations" (Annual Editions / World Religions pp. iv.).

## Conclusion

Man seeks to comfort and justify their differences by words such as pluralism. Said supposition is contingent upon a belief that there may be differing gods and that these gods tolerate ecumenical practices among men. Today's religion seems more acclimated to satisfying man's inner emotional and physical needs in the here and now yet do not take into consideration a final judgment and eternal existence.