

Unpopular Bible Doctrines #1: The God No One Wants To Know

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Welcome to our program. I'm Larry Wessels, Director of Christian Answers. I want to thank you for being with us today. Today I'm kind of just going solo here and we're going to cover some Bible teaching that many people may not be aware of. In fact, I've decided to entitle this particular show "Unpopular Bible Doctrines." So what I'm going to try to do here today is to show you Bible teachings that are unpopular, that people don't like or they don't know about. I guess the main thing is they are unpopular in the sense that they don't mesh in with our modern politically correct culture and its idea of the way things should be. It would never fit in with some of these TV shows that might be out there, I don't really know what they call them now, but shows about angels or whatever it might be, where they are doing good deeds and all roads lead to God and it doesn't really matter what you believe, everything will be okay in the end as long as you just do some good deeds. You know, help a little old lady across the street and, you know, God will smile at that and in the end, you'll take you on that elevator up to the sky. But what we're going to do is look at Bible teachings and doctrines, things that I have not made up. I'm just going to go to the Bible itself and read these things and let our viewers see some of the things the Bible teaches, things that a lot of people may take offense at, may not like at all. I believe that they're unpopular and are fairly well unknown because a lot of preachers know that things are unpopular and they don't want to preach them in their church; they don't want to tell you about them because then you might get mad at them and then you might not send them money or a donation or support them or whatever. Of course, I don't do this show for money anyway so I'm totally unrestricted. I can tell people whatever I believe the Lord has said in the Bible and I don't worry about the consequences, I just like to give the whole counsel of God much like what Paul said in Acts 20.

So we're going to take a little look here during the time of this broadcast and look at unpopular Bible doctrines and I'll just be reading Scripture passages and you can follow along with me and make a decision whether you like that or not but whether you like that or not doesn't really matter. What matters is God said it and it's in the Bible. Now if you just want to pick and choose what you like and don't like, well, there's no reason to have a Bible anyway. If you don't like more things in the Bible than you like, why even bother with the Bible. I mean, if you're going to pick and choose what you want, there's no reason to bother with the Bible, just make up your own religion; just pull out some paper and a pen and start writing your own religion. At least then you'll be happy with it.

But the key here is, we're going to take a look at what the Bible says and just take it for what it is. What it is, is truth. It's the truth of God and sometimes truth is hard to take. In fact, you can get somebody more mad at you by telling them the truth than giving them baseless platitudes and falsehoods to make them feel better, or whatever you want to say. Sometimes you can get someone more mad at you by telling them the truth about themselves rather than to lie about them. That's really what I meant to say because the truth always hurts and lies, they don't affect people so much because they go, "Well, that's a lie and it's not true and it really doesn't bother me." But when something is the truth, that is the kind of thing that can really hurt.

So let's take a look at some of these things and see how badly some of my viewers might get hurt. Anyway, the first thing we are going to look at is: God is jealous and he sets the rules. Not you. Not me. He sets the rules. This first one may be familiar to you but maybe you've never really looked at it the way you should look at it. It's found in Exodus 20, verses 2 through 17, and basically what this is is the Ten Commandments. What I found about the Ten Commandments and people's knowledge of it is that they are familiar with the Ten Commandments but they couldn't name the Ten Commandments to save their lives, let alone some of the things that we find within the Ten Commandments. So let's take a quick look here and see if we can find some things that people won't like or we'll find to be very unpopular. This is Moses writing the Ten Commandments, Exodus chapter 20, starting in verse 3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Verse 4, already that's going to be unpopular with a lot of religious people and polytheists and Hindus and other people that like to have lots of gods but anyway, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." You can also cross-reference that with Leviticus 26:1. Verse 5, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." I bet you never noticed that stuff about the Ten Commandments before. I'll come back and do a little commentary on this. Verse 6, "And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." Verse 7, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Verse 8, "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it." Verse 12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." Verse 13, "Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Verse 17, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's."

That was the Ten Commandments. I read them all but what I want you to notice about this is a couple of things. First in verse 3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," and you can go to all kinds of other references from Jeremiah 25:6, Deuteronomy 32:16-18, Deuteronomy 6:4, 13, 15 and a host of others about God not liking people worshiping other gods. So right away we have a problem here that people will not say that you can believe anything as long as you are sincere, all roads lead to God, you can just believe in anything you want believe in any god you want, well, that's not true according to the Ten Commandments. God doesn't want you worshiping any other God. He wants you to worship him who is the true God. So get that down. And then no graven images. There are a lot of people in this world that build statues, idols, statues of the Virgin Mary or whatever and they pray to these things, saints, or whatever. You're not supposed to do that either and it's right here in verse 4, no graven images. You're not to bow down to any of these things but we know that in the world people are doing it.

But the main reason I'm bringing this up, this first one here in our little list of unpopular Bible doctrines, is the fact of verse 5. This is what I think a lot of people have missed when it comes to the Ten Commandments. Verse 5 and I'll read it once again, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God." Did you get that? Jealous God. And he so jealous that he goes on to say, "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me." So this is something that not just goes to the immediate generation, it goes on for generations and God is going to visit their iniquities upon them, upon them that hate him. And yes, people hate God. Everybody thinks, "Oh, as long as you are sincere. I love God and I believe in God." Yeah, but is it the God of the Bible? Is it this God? The one he's talking to us about? Is it some God you made up in your own mind? You may think you love God, but you really hate him and God even says people hate him. He says it right here. I'm just mentioning things that people never notice about the Ten Commandments but the main thing is, God is jealous. He is a jealous God. You can look also at Deuteronomy 4:24.

You can go to Nahum and then as a matter of fact I think I will go there next. Nahum 1:2, let me pull out my Bible here for that reference. It's in the Old Testament. He's one of those fiery Old Testament prophets and it says right here in chapter 1, verse 2, "God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries. " Those are the guys we were just reading about that hate him and he reserves wrath for his enemies. Now almost all these guys that made graven images, have other gods, bow down to other things, they all say they love God but what God is saying is, no, they don't really love him, they hate him and he's going to take vengeance on them; he's going to exert wrath on them; he's furious with them. If you read the rest of this chapter in Nahum, I don't have time to do it, he's going to destroy, he's going to do all kinds of terrible things to bring destruction upon these people and why? Why is he going to do something like that? It's because God is jealous. You see, people hate that. A lot of people don't realize God is jealous. They think God is like a big Santa Claus and he'll just buy into anything you feel like selling him. But no, God is jealous. He wants your worship. He wants you to worship him as he is but, you see, people don't want that. They don't want to worship God the way he is and the way he presents himself

as righteous and holy and true and just. They want a God that they make up in their own minds. They want a God like that but it doesn't work out that way. It doesn't work out that way at all.

Exodus 34, verses 14-17, "For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God." Notice right there, it's mentioned not once but twice. A name for God is Jealous and he emphasizes the fact that he is a jealous God. Verse 15, "Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods." Notice the "go a whoring," and then in verse 16, the same thing, "go a whoring after their gods, and make thy sons go a whoring after their gods." Verse 17, "Thou shalt make thee no molten gods." Notice the point here: God is jealous which is emphasized twice, it's a name for God and then he says that anyone who worships these other gods, molten gods, false gods are basically prostituting themselves, they are whoring after false and imaginary gods that do not exist except in the minds of these false worshipers and God hates that and that's the emphasis of this jealous God here in this passage.

Deuteronomy, chapter 32, verses 16-17. Verse 16 says, "They provoked him," that's God, "to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations provoked they him to anger." So here are some sincere religious people worshiping gods, idols, whatever, in a sincere fashion but all their sincerity won't help because what God says here is that he's provoked to jealousy because these are strange gods. These aren't the true living God, these are something else and what are they, verse 17 says. "They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not." So these sincere religionists who are worshiping their idols, practicing their religion to their gods, God himself who is jealous about this states clearly that they are not worshiping the true God, they are worshiping and sacrificing to devils and this is one reason that false religion can lead the sincere followers of religions astray in a most profane way. The cross reference is, if you will, to 1 Corinthians 10:20-21.

Now look at John 8, starting in verse 41. Jesus is confronting religious Jews and these Jews tell Jesus, "we have one Father, even God," so they are proclaiming that their father is God Almighty. Verse 42, "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me." Verse 43, "Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word." Verse 44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not." Notice this text, here are sincere religious Jews in Jesus' day, verse 41, proclaiming that God is our father and they are believers in him. Jesus begs to differ and he says, "No, God is not your father because if God were your father you would believe the truth but you believe lies and therefore your God is really the devil. Your father is the devil, not God." Even though these guys are sincere in their religion, Jesus plainly tells them, "No, your God is the devil, not the true and living God because he's a liar and you guys here believe in lies and falsehoods because your religion is false," and that's the whole point of this whole series on why God

is jealous. God is jealous because people are believing lies, false gods, believing in devils, sacrificing to devils and to the devil himself rather than the true and living God and that's why God is going to judge them. This is why we can find a place like this where Jesus says, "They are not believing the truth but lies. Your father is the devil."

Psalm 96:5 and following. It says, "For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth." Notice, all the gods of the nations are idols and we already know what God, the jealous God, thinks of these idols and we should fear before him because of his judgment and wrath. But unfortunately, most people have no fear of God and they worship their idols.

Let me go to another passage that ties in with this doctrine before we move to the next most unpopular doctrine. This is Zephaniah 3:8, "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy." You can go to all kinds of passages including the passages throughout the Scripture about God being jealous and he gets mad. When you are worshiping other gods, you are not worshiping him the way he should be. You make up fake and false gods and fake religions and he gets mad about it and he's going to bring fury and indignation on your head because God is jealous and this is a doctrine that is very unpopular.

That's point number 1. With that, let's go to point number 2. I think a lot of people are really going to hate this one. I'm almost positive they are going to hate this one. Why did God choose the Jews instead of somebody else? Did you ever think about that? You always hear about the Jews being the chosen people. Those are the ones that God chose and he led them out of Egypt and the ten plagues on Pharaoh and all of that. Well, God certainly did choose them: he's the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You get all those stories that are given to you in the Scripture but did you know Moses tells us why God chose the Jews and he didn't choose somebody else? Like how come God didn't choose the Egyptians? Why did God kill the firstborn of all the house of Pharaoh and of Egypt and put all those curses and plagues on them? Why did he do that to them? Why didn't he choose the Egyptians instead? But we find that he chose the Jews rather than the Amalekites, the Moabites, the Jebusites and all the other ites. Well, he gives us the answer in Deuteronomy 7:6 through 8 and I've had quite a few people get mad at me when I've read this and what's funny is I didn't even have to do an exposition on it. All I had to do was read it and they got mad. We'll see what your reaction is when I read these passages and you'll see it on your screen here and you can kind of follow along with me. Starting in verse 6, it says, "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." You can also cross-reference that to Deuteronomy 10:15. But anyway, he's telling you, he's chosen you above any of the other people that are on the face of the earth. It's you, the Jews. You are chosen. Verse 7, "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people." So numbers here don't make any difference.

Numbers had nothing to do with this. In fact, he says I chose you and it just turns out you were the fewest of all these people that are on the earth. So there are all these people, there are lots of them but God chooses this line of Jews coming from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Verse 8, why? Why does he do it? "But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt." Well, there's your answer, verse 8, Deuteronomy 7. Why did God choose the Jews rather than all these other people who were more in number on the face of the earth than these Jews? Why did he choose them? Verse 8, "But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep his oath which he had sworn unto your fathers." There is your answer.

Why did he choose the Jews? Because he loved them. Now I know that goes against a lot of people's sensibilities, they like to think of John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son," and all that is true, of course, that is true. God loved the world but who did he love in the world? And that's the whole point of the situation. Does God love everybody? Or does he just love some of these people down here? When you look at Deuteronomy 7:8 and you find that the reason he chose the Jews is because he loved them, then you have a serious question to ask yourself because we already know there are a lot of people that hate God but would God hate anybody in return? You know, people hate God but does God hate them? That's an interesting question and we always hear in our society and in our culture, "Oh, God loves everybody. That's the love everybody. God is love." There are Scripture verses that show that, especially in 1 John that God is love. There is no doubt about it, God has a tremendous love. In fact, there's no greater love than this that a man should lay down his life for his friends and that is exactly what Jesus did and the love of God that he sent his only begotten Son to die for us, that is divine love. But the question we have to ask ourselves here is: does God have that kind of love for everybody? Does he love everybody like that? Or does he only love some people like that? Well, obviously looking at Deuteronomy 7, he chose the Jews because he loved them. What does that mean about the Egyptians? What does that mean about the Amalekites? What does that mean about the Jebusites? Or the Moabites? Or all the other ones? You have to ask yourself these questions. I'm just simply reading the text of what the Scripture says.

But now, let's move onto this third point here about: does God love everybody? Well, we have some Scripture verses here I think that would be of interest to you. I'm not trying to answer this with my opinion, I'm trying to answer this from the word of God and I think a good reputable source for speaking on this subject is the Apostle Paul. He knows a lot more about the things of God than I do even though I've been trying to study it as much as I can over the last 20 years, I'll never come close to the men of God such as Paul. So let me go to the Apostle Paul in his epistle to the Romans, chapter 9, starting in verse 11 and let's see about whether God loves everybody or not. When we think of those passages like John 3:16, "For God so loved the world," does that world "world" mean every last man, woman and child? Does that mean Mao Tse Tung? Does that mean Joseph Stalin? Does that mean Adolph Hitler? Does that mean all the serial killers and the child murderers? Does that mean everybody that ever lived or does that word "world" mean

something else? Are there multiple uses of the word "world" in the Bible? Let's take a look here at what Paul says in Romans 9:11. He says, "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth; It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger." Verse 13, "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." Of course, he's taking that right out of Malachi, the Old Testament, chapter 1, starting in verse 2 and following. So right here we have a passage point blank from the Apostle Paul in the New Testament, Romans 9:11-13 and it says that there are these twins that haven't even been born yet; they haven't done any good or evil yet; they haven't done any works. Like I said, they're not even born yet, they are twins and yet God loves one of them, that's Jacob, and he hates the other one, that's Esau. It's not because of anything they did and he tells you why. Why? He said, "That the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him," that's God, "that calleth." You can try to say what you want, but I'm looking at a passage here and it says that before they've done any good or evil, any works, they're not even born yet and God loves one of them and he hates the other. Now, I know a lot of people try to get around that. I've been in quite a few debates with different people that say, "Oh, it can't mean hate. It has to mean something else." But now, the "love" means "love" to them but the hate? No, it can't mean hate.

Let's take another look at some of the other passages in Scripture that tie in with this idea of hate. I want to go back to the Old Testament now to King David. We're going to look at the Psalms. We're going to go to Psalm 11 and look at verse 5. What does David say here? Psalm 11:5, it says, "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." That's talking about God here. Verse 6, "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup." You often see throughout the Scripture like Psalm 75:8 and many other places about the cup and the wrath of God. "And they shall drink of the cup of the wrath of God" and "Their cup is not yet full. Wait until the fullness of time, that their cup of wickedness is full and then God will judge them." You get all this throughout the Scripture and even Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, I think it's in Mark 14, "Shall I not drink this cup?" and that's the cup of the wrath of God. He's going to take the wrath of God for us so that sinners, wicked sinners, might be saved.

But now look at this, look at it again: "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth." And what is he going to do to these guys that he hates, that do these things? He's not talking about how he hates their sin, he's talking about how he hates them. He's talking about how the wicked, he hates because they love violence and his soul hates them. What's he going to do? "Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest." It's funny, when you read about hell and that's another doctrine people hate, that's one of my points coming up later, I'll get into hell after a while, but when you look at the way Jesus could talk more about hell than he ever did about heaven and talks about hell and this fire and brimstone and the Prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament and Jeremiah and all those other guys, they talk about hell and you find this fire and brimstone coming down on people that are cast into hell where the false prophet and the beast are, Revelation 20:10. You find that these people are

going to be tormented day and night. The fire and the brimstone and all these things, God does that to people he hates but the people God loves, he doesn't do that. He chose them. He elected them. He loves them. He doesn't want them to go to be burned by fire and brimstone and tempests. You think a guy that God loves, if God really loves him, he's going to let them suffer like that? No way. He's going to save them through the blood of his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ and he'll redeem them through being born again by a renewal of their spirit and their spirit will be regenerated by the Holy Ghost and they will believe on the Lord Jesus Christ thus men shall be saved and escape the wrath of God. That's because God loves. God has this great love and he loves them. He doesn't want them to die a death like that and go to a place like that, like hell.

But what does it say in Psalm 11. It says he hates these guys and he's going to do all this terrible stuff to them. But now, let's take it a step further. Let's go over here to Psalm 5. Here it says, "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity." Now these are the ones he hates and just like any other passage, what happens to these guys? Verse 6, "Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man." Now look at this: it doesn't say he hates their sin. Now, God hates the sins of people, don't get me wrong. God hates their sins but it also says he hates them. It's not saying here that he hates their sins, he hates them. As it says, "hatest all workers of iniquity," and "the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man." He abhors that man. Why does he abhor that man, that man himself? Because he's bloody and he's deceitful. He's wicked and he's going to get it, basically, to use a common term in the American vernacular, in the end with this righteous judgment and the wrath of God, that cup of wrath where these people are going to face the winepress of the wrath of God. I don't know if you've ever stopped to think about it but in Revelation, get a concordance and a do word study on the word "blood" and look what John says in the book of Revelation about blood and you're going to see over and over and over again that God's wrath is going to pound the wicked and the sinners until their blood comes out and flows out and the blood comes up to the horse bridles. I mean, it's terrible stuff and people hate this. The only reason I'm talking like this is that I'm doing a show on what people don't like, what's unpopular, that you're not going to hear much about. Well, I just had to tell you these things because you're not going to hear them. Outside of this show, I don't know if you're going to hear much about any of the things that I'm talking about but I figure this is an opportunity to let you know what's in the word of God and see it for yourself and it's been coming up on the screen and you can read it and see it for yourself. And hell ties right into all of this.

Here we have Isaiah 63:3 and following. This is a truly terrifying passage. It reads, this is God speaking, "I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth." We all think of "I Love Lucy" when she's stomping on the grapes in that Italian "I Love Lucy" show. This is what God says he's going to do; he's going to

stomp on the wicked like a winepress guy stomps on grapes and the blood is going to splatter all over God's clothes. Remember this from Revelation 19 with Jesus.

So, these references to hell, I'm not going to read them all, I'll just give you some of the references. Everlasting fire, Jesus talked about that in Matthew 25. It's eternal punishment in Matthew 25:46. Out darkness, Matthew 8:12. Most of this is coming from the lips of Jesus himself. It's a lake of fire, Revelation 19. You've got it being a place prepared for the devil and his angels, the wicked, disobedient, fallen angels, beast and the false prophet, worshipers of the beast, rejecters of the gospel, Matthew 10:15. The punishment is described as eternal bodily with degrees of punishment, Matthew 23:14. And a host of other references that I could give you but for lack of time and most people being familiar with this doctrine of hell anyway, I'll just leave you with that. But see, the whole point of the matter is: if God loves a person, he has provided a way through his Son Jesus Christ so that that person that he loves may not have to go to a place like this for all eternity. God so loved the world and those that have been chosen before the foundation of the earth.

In fact, that brings me to another point I guess I might as well mention and that is: God has chosen certain people to be saved. All of this links together. I might as well just go there now. Ephesians 1. My Bible is totally falling apart on me. I don't know how many more years I'm going to be able to use this thing before it just totally collapses. Anyway, Ephesians 1. God said it himself, it's right there in verse 4, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," not your will, but God's will. As you go on, you see in verse 9, "Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself," his will and good pleasure being purposed in God and himself. Verse 11, "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will." Now, time is rapidly running on me in this show and I've got a list of things so I won't be able to go into as great a detail here as I started the program with but I want you to understand that God has predestined people, he's elected people to be saved according to his own will before the foundation of the earth as we read in Ephesians 1:4. There are many other passages that I could bring up here, but all this ties into the fact that God is jealous, God has a holy righteousness, justice and mercy. He will not tolerate the wicked. He abhors the wicked; he hates them. But he has a love for some that he has put his mercy on through a predestination by his own will for those people before the foundation of the earth and that would be Jacob as we think about Romans 9 as we went through, God loved them, they were saved from this unpopular place called hell.

One reason all these doctrines I've mentioned so far that are so unpopular are so unpopular is because a lot of people know in their hearts they were never born again, they have never been regenerated by the Holy Spirit of God. At the same time, they think they will be okay with God in the end and that it doesn't matter how they live, they don't have to repent of their sins, they don't have to really turn to the Lord Jesus Christ, give their

lives to Jesus Christ, they can live like they want to but they think in their mind, "Well, I'll believe in him and I'll be okay." You see, none of that works and they go that route and they hate what I'm saying here because they know it hasn't happened to them personally. They hate these doctrines I'm mentioning because they know they've never really experience that love of God. They don't know what that love of God is where they've been born again and they can escape the wrath of God and they don't know that fellowship with the Holy Spirit. And so it's easy for them to forget these doctrines that I am talking about and just think, "Oh, everything will be okay and these doctrines really don't matter and this isn't really true." Well, it is true according to Scripture and you can't just ignore it like that because if this Bible is true, then you're going to have to deal with it and like I said before, if it's false, or if you're just going to pick and choose what you want, well, then get rid of it anyway because it's no gift to you, it's worthless. You might as well just write your own Bible and try to live by that.

Anyway, with time flying, I'm going to go with some of these other doctrines in more of a fast-paced way because otherwise I'll never get through them all. Another doctrine that is very unpopular to people in all this ties in, I don't know if you noticed this, but all this ties in with the sovereignty of God. God is in control. You're not in control of God. He doesn't have to do what you say. You're supposed to be doing what he says and that's another reason people don't like these doctrines and most people hate God even when they say they think they love God. Let's take a look here at this next unpopular doctrine. Did you know that God sends evil spirits to men? I'll put the screen graphic up but I'm not going to have time with the time remaining to read all of these verses. I'll just expound a little bit on them while you read the screen graphic at home while I'm talking here. Anyway, 1 Samuel 16:14-16, also verse 23 you can cross reference that with 1 Kings 22:20-23, you have there where God sent an evil spirit to King Saul; he really was messed up by this evil spirit. In fact, David had to play his harp just to make Saul feel better as he's being tormented by this evil spirit being sent to him. Of course, in 1 Kings, that's a real and credible one because that's where God actually sends an evil spirit to Ahab so that he will be destroyed in a battle. He asks these spirits, "Who will go to him and persuade him to make the mistake of going to this battle?" One of the spirits spoke up and God said, "Go and you'll be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets." That was a direct ordination by God and God judged Ahab through these evil spirits speaking lies through his prophets.

Of course, another famous passage, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12, where it says, "God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie because they believed not the truth that God should send them a strong delusion and they should believe a lie because they have pleasure in unrighteousness and for this cause, God sent them that delusion that they all might be damned who believe not the truth but have pleasure in unrighteousness." You have here, once again, God directly determining whether someone believes the truth or not and it's directly related to whether they will believe the truth and do they love unrighteousness. This is a judgment of God and people hate that.

Did you ever think of why Jesus spoke in parables? Have you ever had any thought of why he spoke in parables? There is a reason why Jesus spoke in parables and he even

tells you the reason in the gospels. In fact, in Mark 4:11-12 and you can see it on your screen, Jesus tells you right there why he speaks in parables, it's so they won't understand him, so they won't understand what he's talking about and "they won't repent lest at any time the Father should forgive them." Look, it's there on the screen, you can read it for yourself. I'm not making this up. If Jesus wants everybody to be saved and God wants everybody to go to heaven, then why would Jesus speak in parables and why would he say such a thing as this? Are you seeing something here? Are you seeing the kind of power God has and why this would be so unpopular? But look, Jesus said it, it's there on your screen. That's a very unpopular doctrine.

Let's go to another one. Something that's very unpopular, especially among wicked and evil people that live among us and we're all sinners, Romans 6:23 says, "we've all sinned and fall short of the glory of God," so we're all sinners. Jesus said, "Men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil." So we naturally, in our natural state, hate God. We hate good and righteous things. It even says in Romans 8:7, Paul said that the carnal mind is at enmity with God. We in our natural state, we hate God and that's basically what the Greek says and so what doctrine would men hate a lot based on the fact that we're all evil and wicked and we don't like God that much anyway because we often think God's kind of a big bully because he comes out with these Ten Commandments, he wants us to live by that, we're supposed to do what God says, was supposed to do good deeds and we're not supposed to commit adultery and we're not supposed to steal and murder and all these things and covet our neighbors possessions. Who does God think he is? God? That's why we get upset with God because we don't like God telling us what to do because we want to be God of our own selves.

Anyway, another doctrine that's very unpopular with people is the doctrine of God's holiness. God's holiness. "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty," the angels cry in heaven. We get passages like Revelation 4:8. You have Exodus 15:11. The holiness of God is throughout the Scripture and God has a holy righteousness. God has a holy love. A holy justice. That holiness of God basically overflows over all those other attributes so we talk about the love of God and that's a holy love. We talk about the justice of God, that's holy justice. If we talk about the wrath of God, that's a holy wrath because God is holy and men hate that. A lot of times they don't even think about it. They know about the holiness of God but they don't really apply it to its logical conclusion. If we are wicked sinners, then we are living in a life that's unpleasing to a holy God. Well, what's going to be our final state? What's going to become of us? Can a holy God just let us off the hook? Just like that? We can be as wicked and as evil as we want and a holy God is going to let us off the hook no matter what we do or how we act or what we believe? You see, you've got to take this to a logical conclusion. If we really look at the holiness of God, that necessarily means then that we need to live in a holy manner ourselves and we don't want to do that. That's why we hate the holiness of God because that convicts us of our evil and wicked deeds. If God is holy, that just exposes our wicked and evil deeds all the more and that's why men don't like this doctrine.

Anyway, I could go on with that but time is flying. The next one and I mentioned this already and I won't spend much time on it, but the fact that God is sovereign and God is

in control. Men don't like that. They want to be in control themselves but check out passages like the one you see on your screen. Daniel 4:34-36. Lamentations 3:37. It just basically says that no matter what happens, God is in control. Whether a bird comes from the east or flies to the west, God is in control of what goes on. No man can raise his fist at God and say, "What doest thou?" because we're just men and God is running the show. Even as Jesus was getting ready to go to the cross on the night of his betrayal and the Last Supper, he was in control of everything because Jesus being God himself, of course, God in the flesh, John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God and the Word became flesh." That was Jesus. What does Jesus do? He's in control of this whole situation. He decides he's not going to get out of getting crucified. He's going to go to the cross; he's going to die. He's at the Last Supper and he tells Judas who he knows is going to betray him, he doesn't tell Judas, "Don't betray me, Judas. Don't do it." No, he says, "Judas, what you do, do quickly." And Judas gets right up, Satan enters into him and he goes out to lead the rabble back to Jesus and take him away with swords and staves. Jesus was in control of everything. Even as he was talking before Pontius Pilate, he's there with Pilate and Pilate asks him, "What is truth?" and Jesus says, "You can bring 12 legions of angels and things like that," if you wanted to but Jesus was in control of everything all the way to his last breath on the cross. That just shows you the sovereignty of God and men don't like that. They want to be sovereigns themselves. They want to be in control themselves.

I'm down to less than five minutes in this program but a few other things that I'd like to mention that are unpopular, people don't seem to want to look at or realize. Did you know that Jesus was rude and judgmental? Read Matthew 23. Look what he said to the scribes and Pharisees for the whole chapter, the whole chapter. He's blasting the scribes and the Pharisees and if that's not enough, read John 8. The scribes and Pharisees say, "Hey, we're of God, we're of our father Abraham," and Jesus said, "If you were of your father, you would believe me but you are not of God. You're of the devil. The devil is your father." Jesus is telling these most religious guys, these church guys these things. Now people don't like that. They want a meek and mild Jesus. They don't want a Jesus that will make whips and go into the temple and run the money changers out of there and violently turn over their tables and knock their money all over the ground and said, "You've made this a den of thieves and it's a house of prayer." Jesus was rude and judgmental and this is a biblical fact and people don't want to see that. They want to look at this meek and mild Jesus who has the hairdresser demeanor and he's not going to hurt a fly. And we get the same thing in the same sense where Jesus said in Matthew 10:34-39, that Jesus came not to bring peace but a sword and he said that he came and he is going to cause dissension even among your own household. A mother will be against a daughter. A daughter against mother. Father-in-law against sons-in-law and so forth. Your enemies will be those of your own household. Jesus said he came to bring a sword not peace and this is another thing that strikes against people.

Another thing that's unpopular and I'm going to run out of time before I get through all of the unpopular things but I think you've got a good idea already of what we're talking about here but another thing that is unpopular is Christians are to rebuke and correct people when they are wrong about either theology or morality and things of this nature.

We are commanded like in Titus 1:9. It says, "Exhort in sound doctrine and refute those who contradict." We have verses all over the place, in fact, to conclude I think I ought to just finish up with Titus here. Let me just go to Titus and there are many other places like Revelation 2 and you ought to see what Jesus says in Revelation 2:2, 9, 13-15. But here in Titus and there are many other places particularly in Timothy, passages like this, but in Titus 1:9, it says, "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." Verse 15 says, "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Verse 16, "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate." He's talking about people who say they know God. That's exactly what he's saying. And people say, "Oh, you're being judgmental and judge not lest ye be judged," and all this stuff. Of course, they don't read the rest of Matthew 7 there where Jesus says you are to judge but anyway, the key is, these unpopular doctrines, people say they know God but they don't know him and they are reprobates, the Scripture says. That's a very unpopular doctrine.

Jesus is the only way, Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Jesus is God Almighty. In the gospel of John 20:28, Thomas said, "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." Thomas said this directly to Jesus Christ ascribing to him the titles of Lord and God. Also, Romans 9:5, it says, "Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen." Christ is over all God blessed forever.

There is only one true religion and that is Christianity. Now of course, this is very unpopular among many people in the world but in Galatians 1:8, it says, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Otherwise in the Greek anathema be damned. Paul is saying if you don't believe this gospel and the way it's presented to you in the Scripture, as we have presented it to you, then you are teaching a gospel that will not stand and will result in damnation unto the wrath of God.

God's word, the Bible, not the Upanishads or the Vedas or all these other religious books in the world but the Bible is true for mankind. And to prove that and the gravity of it, God says in Psalm 138:2b, "for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." God magnifies his written word, the word he has given to man above even the names that he possesses. This is incredibly important. Also, in Acts 16:31, we find that according to the same word that God has magnified, it says, "And they said believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." So this is the key, this is the truth that God wants us to know that we can be saved by this Lord Jesus Christ which is presented to us in God's word which he has magnified above all his name.

Well, I'm out of time. Thank you for joining me. I'm Larry Wessels with Christian Answers. If you'd like to contact us for free literature, more information on this subject and other subjects, call the number at the end of the show or email us or contact our

website there. We do have newsletters and other literature available for the asking. Thank you for being with me. I hope you're not too mad at me about all this but just remember, I'm just a Western Union telegraph boy who is bringing you a message. You don't shoot him when he gives you bad news. I'm just bringing you what God already said in the Bible. Anyway, God bless you all. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Amen.

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