


A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM



A large, ancient tree with thick, gnarled roots growing over stone ruins. The tree's trunk is massive and textured, with roots spreading out across the ground and over the stone structures. The background shows more stone ruins and lush green foliage. The scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

**PRINCIPLES
FOR
BIBLICAL
EVANGELISM
FOUND IN
JOHN 4, “THE
WOMAN AT
THE WELL.”**

TAKE

- TAKE THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9

OFFER

- OFFER GOD’S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14

IDENTIFY

- IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10

CONFRONT

- CONFRONT SIN JN! 4:16-18

REJECT

- REJECT FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24

REVEAL

- REVEAL CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26

IF GOD BE FOR US, THERE IS NO *OPPOSITION!*

- Someone has said that God plus one equals a majority. ***THE TRUTH IS THAT GOD ALONE MAKES A MAJORITY.*** If every creature in the material and immaterial universe combined to oppose God together, still He would not be defeated. He is *infinitely greater, holier, wiser,* and *more powerful* than the aggregate of all His creation.
- Notice (Rom. 8:31) ***“WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO IS AGAINST US?”***
- The argument is simple: If God is working to save us, *nothing will thwart* that work. Whatever God undertakes will most certainly be accomplished. And if God is on our side, *it doesn't matter who is on the other side.* God's side will be victorious. **IF GOD IS FOR US, NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST US.**

- So, the fact that He is working to save me makes the outcome certain. If my salvation were ultimately up to me, I would have much to fear. If my redemption hinged in any way on my abilities, I would be lost. Like any sinner, I'm prone to **disobedience**, **unbelief**, and **weakness**. If it were up to me alone to keep myself in the love of God, **I WOULD SURELY FAIL**.
- Someone might point out that (Jude 21) does say, **"Keep yourselves in the love of God."** Does that mean we're dependent on **our own staying power** to remain within the purview of God's love? **OF COURSE NOT**.
- Notice what JUDE says just **three** verses later, **"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,"** (Jude 24).
- **WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE, PAUL SAYS, NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST US.**

- This echoes a recurring theme of the *psalms*. **DAVID** wrote, *“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread?”* (Psa. 27:1).
- Psalm 46 says, *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold”* (Psa. 46:1–2, 11).
- The repeated refrain of Psalm 80 suggests that when the Lord causes His face to shine upon us, *“we will be saved”* (Psa. 80:3, 7, 19). No doubt about it, when the Lord sets out to accomplish something, **WHO CAN OPPOSE HIM?**
- If anyone could rob us of our salvation, that person would have *to be greater than GOD HIMSELF*. God is for us. He has set His love on us. No *human*, no *angel*, not even *Satan* himself can alter that. **SO, IF GOD IS FOR US, IT MATTERS NOT WHO IS AGAINST US.**

- Yes, someone says, **but can't Christians put themselves *outside* God's grace?** What about those who commit ***abominable sins***? Don't they ***nullify*** the work of redemption in themselves? Don't they ***forfeit*** the love of God?
- ***ABSOLUTELY NOT.*** That kind of thinking posits an impossible situation. Remember that we did not gain salvation by our own efforts, so it's preposterous to think that we can forfeit it ***by anything we do.***
- We did not choose God in the first place; ***HE CHOSE US, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain..."*** (Jn. 15:16).
- We are drawn to Christ only by God's redeeming love (Jer. 31:3). His love continues to draw us and hold us. This is ***PAUL'S*** very point in **Romans 8.**

GOD'S LOVE GUARANTEES OUR SECURITY.

- That same love also **GUARANTEES OUR PERSEVERANCE**. *“We love him, because he first loved us”* (1 Jn. 4:19, KJV).
- Notice (2 Cor. 5:14), *“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died.”*
- And we continue in the faith because **we are protected by His power**. Notice (1 Pet. 1:5), *“who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*
- **THUS, HIS OWN LOVE ENSURES THAT WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING TO REMOVE OURSELVES FROM HIS AMAZING GRACE.**
- We can no more forfeit the love of God than the **PRODIGAL SON** could destroy his father’s love for him. Like the father of the prodigal son, **GOD LOVES US constantly**. He *forgives eagerly, loves lavishly*, and *does not deal with us according to our sins*, or *reward us according to our iniquities* (Psa. 103:10).

- Moreover, He does something the prodigal son's father could not do: ***HE SOVEREIGNLY DRAWS US TO HIMSELF***. His love is like a cord that draws us inexorably to Him (Hosea 11:4).
- Notice (Eph. 1:4-7) ***“just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love. 5, He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will. 6, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7, In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.”***

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- Notice (Rom. 8:28-31) *“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29, For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren. 30, and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. 31, WHAT THEN SHALL WE SAY TO THESE THINGS? IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO IS AGAINST US?”*

- He sees the process through to the end. Our salvation is the work of God. God is ***“FOR US,”*** and no one can deter Him from accomplishing what He has determined to do.