

Bible Based Ministries

Postbox and Inbox

*A sample of correspondence received
January 2015*

Our purpose in publishing a sampling of the correspondence we have received, in the words of Arthur W. Pink:

“...the time has again arrived for us to indicate to our loyal supporters before the Throne of Grace something of the manner and extent to which the Hearer of prayer has been pleased to grant their requests.”

“Our object in compiling this...feature is to evoke praise and thanksgiving on the part of those who are most deeply interested in this work, by quoting excerpts from some of the letters at hand telling of help and blessing received, under God...”

“Our purpose...is to evoke praise unto the Lord, that in this cloudy and dark day He is still ministering to His own, giving seed to the Sower, and then blessing the same unto the eater. We know not why the mighty God should condescend to use one so feeble and unworthy; sufficient for us that He is pleased to do so. Our longing is to be used more widely, in sending ‘portions’ to a large number of Christ’s scattered and hungry sheep. Will you not pray more definitely, dear reader, that *this* may be so; and that God will graciously fit and furnish the writer.”

This is so true [the pamphlet *Computers: Their Use and Abuse*]! I have just finished reading it, and I know it has also affected my life - I was aware that it was starting to trap me as well, but somehow could not break free – you have described it in an excellent way and I want to turn away from this “hypnotizing” evil – it is really a time-stealer. Thank you for bringing this information over so clearly, it is a snare and I want to break free from this “abuse”. It is useful, but we need to be so careful not to let it become a snare to us.

Thank you for sharing this article with me, I am also going to share with others.

South Africa

Thank you for your article on computers [the pamphlet *Computers: Their Use and Abuse*]. Yes, indeed a lot need be said and you have said it. I will forward it. Thankfully I have never gone onto Facebook or Twitter and do not intend to do so either. Just do not want any of those things. Let the world do what they want.

Parents so need to be warned. It must be so hard to be parents of young children today with so many enticements. The Lord bless and keep you.

England

A very timely and excellent article [*Computers: Their Use and Abuse*]...

United States

Many thanks for the new publication [*Computers: Their Use and Abuse*]. Very true. Very well written.

England

[After receiving our article *Computers: Their Use and Abuse*]:

I am [a] church leader and I am deaf. The last Deaf Church meeting, I was a bit troubled with one of my friends. She kept her watchful eye on her mobile which she put on the table while I was signing (for hearing, speaking) what the Bible was saying. She interrupted my signing several times when the mobile vibrated. She looked at a message from her husband on the screen. I told her to put it away and switch it off just for a couple of hours. She refused, saying what if it was an emergency! I asked her how she managed 30 years ago when there was no mobile about.

I find it very difficult to teach these days when their minds focus on something else when they should be paying attention to what I am saying. They were more interested in their mobile to see if they got any message!

England

(The email above highlights a problem, even in church services, as a result of people's addiction to their mobile phones, text messages, email, and social media sites. In times gone by, ministers would occasionally have to contend with the odd person – usually a child – furtively reading a book or writing a note to someone during a service; but today the problem is often far worse, with adults simply unwilling to switch their mobile phones off during service, “in case there is an emergency”. It is shockingly disrespectful to the minister, and to the Lord most of all, and every true church must insist that all mobile phones are *switched off* during services. – *Shaun Willcock*)

Bible Based Ministries??? It is funny how you claim to be full gospel and you have “holy trinity” in your “about you” page... You are even claiming to use only the King James Bible but cannot accept the exposure of deceit done by Gail Riplinger... have you made your own study about the subject - new age Bible versions????

Do you even know that THERE IS NO holy trinity?? and that THERE IS ONLY ONE... HOLY ONE -GOD... All the testimony that there is ONLY ONE GOD ALMIGHTY IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION... DO YOU KNOW THAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS GOD ALMIGHTY...

If your church is one of those “pre - tribulation churches”.... well, I'm telling you right now THAT YOU ARE DECEIVED!!

Country unknown (by email)

(It is astounding how there are those who love to attack Biblical truth, but cannot even do it with reasoned arguments or in a proper spirit – and yet they are always so convinced that they are the true believers. This person rejects the biblical truth about the Holy Trinity, and anyone who does this proves that he is not a true Christian: 1 Jn. 5:7-13; 2 Jn. 9-11. And just for the record: we certainly are not “pre-tribulation” in doctrine, as anyone who has perused our materials would know. – *Shaun Willcock*)

Thank you very much for your “non-Christmas” message [the pamphlet *Why I Cannot Put Christ Back into Christmas*]! I cannot for the life of me understand how people who have excellent discernment about Catholicism and other forms of paganism are completely blind when it comes to Christmas! Many, even while knowing the pagan roots of the 25th of

December festival, continue to celebrate Christmas, and they believe that people are more open to hear the Gospel at this time of the year. But I for one know no of one who came to Christ through a Christmas celebration! The Lord went to great lengths to show how He hates mixtures of holy with unholy things, and I cannot believe that He is pleased with this festival. He never asked us to celebrate Jesus' birthday, even if we had known when it occurred, and for 400 years no Christians celebrated it.

May the Lord bless you richly.

France

Dear brother Shaun, I duly sent out your *Pagan Festivals* Flyer to a Christian man who lives very local to us, and he was the Elder in a small fellowship... I attach his response:

"This really is legalistic, not to mention pharisaical nonsense. It is as the apostle puts it Col. 2:20, 'Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.'

"Christmas is a national holiday in western culture and may be celebrated as such. It is to all intents and purposes a secular holiday. Only people like Willcock reflect and give credence to historical things from the past in this way which have no bearing on contemporary society and thankfully they themselves are insignificant and of no account, although I imagine he may find supporters among radical Islamists.

"Being of a legal spirit many years ago we as a family did not celebrate Christmas for the reasons Mr Willcock adumbrates. It was a miserable and sterile time and we all went down with heavy colds. A never to be repeated experience. Jn. 8:36: If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed...

"Tragically Mr Willcock *et al* have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. The cause of God and truth is not served by this form of legalism. Christianity should be characterised by what we believe and do, not what we don't do because the latter is how the unbeliever views the Christian. Last time I attended a carol service some unbelievers were there and the preacher took opportunity to present Christ to them. Who is so bold in his error as to say a Carol service is wrong? Some people attend church at such times for reasons of tradition and occasion should be seized upon to present Christ as Saviour. If they would permit it Christ and free grace should be preached in the Vatican!...

"It is as I said, they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. It's possible to dot all the 'i's' and cross all the 't's' and be lost at the end.

England

(In reply)

Greetings dear sister, and thank you for passing on the flyer for the book, and then also passing on to me the replies you had from -- . You asked for a response from me to his unbiblical emails... The book itself, I believe, adequately answers various objections people may have, so I won't be able to spend further time in replying to his arguments, if he has more in the future, particularly as the ones he has come up with are so weak and feeble.

It is strange, his indignant and angry response to you, when all you sent him was a flyer for the book. Clearly it touched a nerve! He felt the need to fire off not one, but two emails in response! One is left wondering if he actually knows, in his own heart, that the celebration of Christmas cannot be justified by Scripture, and this knowledge troubles him; hence his own weak arguments. It is as if he is attempting to justify, to himself, why he does what he does.

Firstly, he writes, “This really is legalistic, not to mention pharisaical nonsense.” This simply shows that – – does not properly understand the term, “legalistic”; nor what Pharisaism really was all about. “Legalism” is defined as “adherence to the Law as opposed to the Gospel; the doctrine of justification by works, or teaching which savours of it.” As I have never taught adherence to the law as opposed to the Gospel, and as I utterly repudiate and reject the doctrine of justification by works, I am not a legalist, nor teaching legalism. This kind of sloppy response is very typical of those who have nothing better to say, so they hurl the accusation of “legalism” at anyone who desires to “observe all things whatsoever Christ has commanded”, not in order to be justified but because we love the King of Zion and want to live in such a way as pleases Him. Astounding that he could make the assertion that obedience to Christ’s commands and rejection of men’s traditions is “legalistic nonsense”!

The term “Pharisaic” is defined as “laying stress upon the outward show of religion and morality, and assuming superiority on that account; hypocritical; formal; self-righteous.” And “Pharisaism” is defined in pretty much the same way. Again, he is thus using a term in a very incorrect manner when he applies it to those who reject the celebration of Christmas! His understanding of these terms is quite abysmal.

Secondly, he quotes Col. 2:20-23 and applies it to myself for writing against Christmas. Yet this verse has absolutely nothing to do with the subject at hand! He has probably never read my book, but in it I comment on Col. 2:16,17 as follows: “Now, the important thing to note here is that both these passages of Scripture [Gal. 4:9,10 and Col. 2:16,17] refer to the *Jewish* holy days under the law of Moses. If Christians are not even commanded to observe the *Old Testament* holy days – days which *did* have divine sanction, for an appointed time – but are free from any obligation to observe them, they are certainly not to observe *pagan* holy days!” The point of mentioning this is that the verses he quotes – Col. 2:20-23 – follow just a short while later, and are referring to the Old Testament ceremonial law, and to the commandments and doctrines of the Jewish traditions. What Paul taught here was not about pagan holy days at all.

Thirdly, he writes, “Christmas is a national holiday in western culture and may be celebrated as such. It is to all intents and purposes a secular holiday.” A most interesting justification for keeping Christmas, and frankly very sad. What then would his response be when and if, say, Halloween ever became a national holiday? If many people then kept it as a secular holiday, would this make it right? Would Christians be free to celebrate it, because the pagan aspects of Halloween are “historical things from the past” and “have no bearing on contemporary society”? (to quote the next part of his email). If he would not go so far as to say this, then he should not say it about Christmas either – for this holiday was born in heathenism just as Halloween was. Or what would his response be when and if the Hindu festival of Diwali became a national holiday? Or how about a Muslim festival? Would it be all right to celebrate these when society accepts them as “national holidays” and many people view them as “secular holidays”? It is easy for a man in a western country to make such foolish claims about Christmas; I wonder what he would counsel Christians living in oppressive Hindu or Muslim societies?

Fourthly, he writes, “Only people like Willcock reflect and give credence to historical things from the past in this way which have no bearing on contemporary society”. I did not write the book because I felt these things have bearing on contemporary society; I wrote it for the purpose of showing the Lord’s people – true Christians – the pagan and Romish origin and nature of this festival, and that it is contrary to the biblical account of Christ’s birth, without sanction in God’s Word. For this purpose, then, the historical things most certainly have bearing. I am not concerned with contemporary society, I am concerned with the true Church

of God. It is for them that the book was written; and I thank God that many throughout the world have cast off this human tradition and pagan holiday.

Fifthly, he writes of me and those “people like” me, “thankfully they themselves are insignificant and of no account, although I imagine he may find supporters among radical Islamists.” Apparently, then, we are only to pay attention to those who *are* significant and of some account. Perhaps he wants people to be significant and of some account in his “contemporary society” before listening to what they have to say, which would be odd, since society’s blessing is not what believers seek. Perhaps, then, he wants people to be significant and of some account in the Church before he will pay any attention to them, which would be very sad indeed, as this would be contrary to the very spirit of the Christian, but certainly a very common thing amongst many professing Christians today, including those in the ministry, who only seem to want to hear what some “famous” or “popular” preacher has to say. Unlike him, being “significant” in either the world or the Church is not what I aspire to. I am not star-struck by titles, education, degrees, importance, but seek to ask and know simply: *what does the Bible say?* With this attitude, I doubt that he would have felt too comfortable among the apostles, or the early Christians; and for that matter he surely can’t feel too comfortable when he reads 1 Cor. 1:26-29.

As for his comment about me finding supporters among radical Islamists, this is truly pathetic. It doesn’t even make sense, given the context; furthermore it is childish, not to mention offensive...

He would (I hope) know that Christmas was rejected as Popish and pagan by Puritans and many others in times past; were they too, in his opinion, “insignificant and of no account”? Would they too, in his opinion, in some strange way have found “supporters among radical Islamists”?

Sixthly, I could not help laughing when I read that he at one time did not keep Christmas, and that “It was a miserable and sterile time and we all went down with heavy colds.” Exactly *what* is he even trying to convey by this absurd statement? That people who don’t celebrate Christmas come down with heavy colds? That the Lord sends some kind of judgment upon those who don’t observe Christmas? If this is the best he can do to make people see the “importance” of celebrating Christmas, the members of his church (and anyone else he tries to convince) are in big trouble. Furthermore, does his happiness and joy derive from a Christmas celebration, so that he is miserable when there isn’t one? Then the source of his joy is not the Lord, but this celebration. How sad. Christmas is part of the world. The Lord’s people are called out of the world. They delight themselves in the Lord and His truth.

Seventhly, he writes, “Christianity should be characterised by what we believe and do, not what we don’t do because the latter is how the unbeliever views the Christian.” Wrong: Christianity should be characterised by what we believe, what we do, *and* what we don’t do. Two simple examples, beginning with Eph. 5:3,4. Christians are not to let such sins be named among them – these are things they *don’t* do. And the unbelieving world should *know* that we don’t do them. And a few verses later, Eph. 5:11: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” We reprove the works of darkness – this is what we *do*. And we have no fellowship with them – this is what we *don’t* do. A thousand other examples could be found, without any difficulty, throughout the Bible. This statement by him is more than just foolish, it is shocking.

Eighthly, he says we should preach the Gospel at any opportunity, including a carol service or even (if we could) at the Vatican. It is true that the Gospel should be proclaimed wherever we can; but although a Christian in India could take the opportunity presented by a Hindu

festival to go where such large crowds are gathered and preach to them, he certainly would do wrong if he held a Hindu service, or advertised his Gospel meeting as in any way participating in the festival, just so that crowds could come and he could preach to them! If Christmas is not of God (and it isn't); if it is a heathen and Romish festival (and it is); if it has no sanction from the Word of God (and it doesn't); then we must leave it alone. Preach Christ by all means, on any day of the year, including this one; but that is not the same thing as holding a "Christmas service", and offering the lame excuse that this is done so as to "reach the lost". Holding a Christmas service is compromise; it is catering to the world and its tastes. Preach the Gospel on Dec. 25, as on any other day; but point out that the true Christ of God is *not* the "Christ-child" of the Christmas tradition. This would be preaching Christ on that day, and not catering to the tastes of the worldly.

He writes: "It is as I said, they ["Willcock et al"] have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. It's possible to dot all the 'i's' and cross all the 't's' and be lost at the end." While I have to agree with him fully on the last part – it most certainly is possible, and in fact is true of multitudes – he implies that "Willcock et al" might be lost in the end, based on the fact that we "dot our i's and cross our t's" with regard to rejecting the observance of Christmas! A strange leap to make. The Scripture he quotes is Rom. 10:2. Paul said this of unconverted Israel, who ignorantly acted contrary to the Word of God even while they thought they were doing God service. It is then quite clear that he actually goes so far as to question the very salvation of those who reject Christmas! Imagine: a person studies the Scriptures, sees that Christmas has no divine sanction there, rejects it – and in so doing he, in the judgment of – –, just might be lost! And why? – because he loves the Lord and does not want to be guilty of adding to, or taking away from, God's Word!

What he calls "legalistic and pharisaical nonsense" is nothing but the truth of God's Word. Thanks be unto God for delivering us from the celebration of this pagan and Popish festival, which is an abomination to the Lord.

Joyfully one of the "insignificant" ones, of no account
Shaun Willcock

The Lord has (over the last few years), opened our eyes to all the pagan aspects of Christmas, and we thank Him for that. We also used to be Roman Catholic, and in His mercy He brought us out from that diabolical system. I used to think Christmas was all ok, but have to confess I still struggle with dealing with it.

Our Church says it's ok to keep "Christmas" as long as we don't lie about Santa, and that we use the time to promote Christ, Carol outreach services etc., and they have a Christmas day service. They say it is about exercising Christian liberty, as long as we are not a stumbling block to other brothers and sisters and are sensitive to them. We don't use it as a time to "party", eat excessively or drink lots of alcohol. I send cards but don't put "happy Christmas", they are blank, and I use them for a gospel message or tract. Each year, I am more and more conscious that I don't want to do anything that would be displeasing to God. I [received this from] a Christian lady who attends our church:

"How many of our non Christian friends... will think that Christians are complete crackpots.... What a dreadful witness! Immanuel ... God with us! THAT, and only that should focus our whole thinking about Christmas. It is a time to remember the most amazing sacrifice that God gave us in Jesus Christ as we celebrate the gift of His birth with our eyes firmly fixed on Easter!..."

I get confused when this happens - Christians who try and say anything against "Christmas" get so much flack. How is the best way to respond when "other Christians" say these things,

that we are to use it as a time to evangelise? Do they have a point?

England

(In reply)

Thanks for your email. It is wonderful that your eyes have been opened to much of the evil that is Christmas. The fact that you still struggle with dealing with it is not surprising: it is very invasive at this time of year and every Christian I know who takes a stand against it, still finds it difficult for all kinds of reasons in seeking to be totally separate from it...

The argument that it's a matter of "Christian liberty" has no basis in Scripture. The issue of such liberty is restricted to matters which are indifferent in themselves; whereas Christmas day is a pagan holiday and thus is not an indifferent matter which can be forsaken or not as one sees fit. This is an old argument in favour of keeping Christmas, but it is a very false one.

Regarding sending of cards, even blank ones: the recipients of such will still assume you are sending a "Christmas card" even if it's blank. They will always associate your card-sending at this time of year with Christmas. It is better to simply tell them that you won't be sending any more cards and ask them not to send any to you either, and tell them why. Gospel tracts can be sent at any time in the year.

The lady who attends your church and who wrote the way she did is very typical of the majority who will do anything to justify their observance of Christmas. You will hear this kind of response throughout your life. Once one knows the truth about this festival, however, one can brush off such nonsense, because one knows it is error to take such an approach.

Many have said that we should use the Christmas festival as a time to evangelise. Let me repeat here what I have recently written to another Christian on this matter, who sent me an email she received from a man who justified Christmas-keeping [see the email above].

It is a difficult time of year for those who reject this holiday, but we have the truth of God's Word on our side; the "other side" has nothing except human traditions, paganism, and Romanism! – *Shaun Willcock*

Thanks for the reply [the reply above regarding Christmas], it is much appreciated, I keep reading more and more about it and am trying to have reasons ready for people who say different things.

I had people say the following too. Some of them are really sound Christians, that's why I get confused when I see that seasoned mature good solid Christians, can't see anything wrong, and then that's when I think that I am being stupid and ridiculous!

Here's one comment I had: "It is a matter of Christian liberty, let no one judge you whatever you decide to do (Colossians 2:16)... If you decide to do Christmas, then do it unto the Lord, not the world, not with wanton materialism. But you must decide for yourself and not let others bully you with false guilt etc. The one thing we must avoid is giving the impression that we belong to a cult. The JW's shun all to do with Christmas, and they make their children suffer as a result, they grow up resentful and bitter. It can be done in a way that honours the Son of God and for witness. But whether we observe it or not we are no better off, it is Christ and Christ alone that matters. It will not add or subtract from our salvation."

Here he (this man is a mature Christian, and a preacher) is comparing people that "don't do Christmas" with JW's, but that doesn't make it wrong to keep away from it all, just because they don't celebrate it, does it?

Another comment: "I think it's unavoidable in our society and personally I love Christmas - a special time when we have loads of opportunities to talk about the very name of Christ. And yes, we can give presents to those we love at any time, so why not at Christmas too? Also the whole issue of Santa has never been an issue for us as a family. But we still love

Christmas and as for attending church on Christmas Day- if Christians can't celebrate the Incarnation then who can? We know it's not the actual day of His birth, but we should be celebrating the Incarnation. I think it's amazing that the God of the universe should come to live on earth - God with us- so I think we should take the opportunity to celebrate and remember and remind people that Christ came and lived among us, it blows my mind!"...

Another one: "The issue is...so many of our 'traditions' are pagan...and we have a liberty to do all things, so long as they are done to glorify Him. The tradition of gift giving we always attribute to the gifts of the wise men who visited Jesus to give Him honour and praise. As with all things it is why you are doing what you are doing, and your heart behind it, you can never go wrong if you put Him first in all things. The wise men gave gifts to Jesus and not each other, I see nothing wrong with giving gifts to each other and telling our children about the greatest gift of all that was given to mankind, what we must avoid is becoming like the other cults that segregate themselves from the world, for the wrong reasons. Ultimately, Christmas or celebrating the birth of Jesus as a yearly tradition is not mentioned in the bible, it is not something we are commanded to do, neither is it something we are prohibited from, it is an area we have liberty in, and as I have said, if we putting Jesus first then nothing else matters....what we must be careful of is legalism, we must ensure that we do not become pharisaical in that we create so many hedge laws to protect us from breaking laws, that we lose sight of who we worship and the freedom He has given us to do so."

And then another who talks about applying it to "Christian liberties", and a few have said that to me. Here's what he said: "I now know that Christmas is celebrated by US who believe in the birth of Christ. All of my life I have believed this. There are Christians who try to find fault with our worship are doing so religiously. They mean well but they need to search scripture on what we are allowed to do and not. I have recently been reading 1 Cor 8, and Romans 14 on our liberties. Also Colossians 2. In other words what these scriptures tell me is this: If what I do is done in faith, it is not sin. If what I do bothers the weak in faith, I should not do it. Okay, now I am allowed to worship my Lord every day and any day I so choose, and I do on December 25th. I don't care if that was the actual day of His birth. That is not an issue..."

What is the best way to respond to the argument about Christian liberties in relation to the scripture references he quotes from? I really want to respond to him, and make him think more about it...

I really want to "get my head around this" this year, and I want to honour God and please Him, not just go along with things. It's when Christians who I consider to be sound and solid do it, that's when I think, maybe I could be going "overboard" by not celebrating it.

England

(In reply)

It's true as you say, that there are "seasoned, mature Christians" who keep Christmas; and this has confused some of the Lord's people. But there is a simple answer to this apparent puzzle: just because a true, and even mature Christian keeps it, does not make it right! All Christians, even the most mature ones, are still far from what they should be, and have much to learn. Not one Christian has perfect knowledge of everything. In the same way, there are people who are true Christians, but who nevertheless still believe certain doctrines that are unbiblical, and still do certain things that they should not. This is the simple answer when one is confronted with Christians who keep it.

I'm assuming you've read my book on the subject, and if so you will know that there are answers to some of these objections in it. You quoted the person who said it's a matter of Christian liberty, and they used Col. 2:16 to justify this. This Scripture has absolutely nothing to do with Christmas, as it is a pagan holiday that was never sanctioned by the Lord, and that

verse is speaking of the Old Testament holy days. As for “liberty”, a Christian never has liberty to sin. The observance of Christmas is not a merely indifferent matter. This person says “you must decide for yourself.” No, this is incorrect: we are not at liberty to decide for ourselves how to worship the Lord; we are bound to His Word and that is all that matters.

Mentioning the JW’s is an old tactic but is worthless. Just because some cultists do things Christians do, does not make Christians cultists! As for their children suffering and growing up resentful and bitter, this argument is plain nonsense. Children do not “suffer” because their parents do not keep Christmas, and it is far too sweeping a statement to say those who don’t keep it grow up resentful and bitter. This would be like saying people in India who don’t keep the Hindu festivals grow up resentful and bitter. It’s ridiculous.

The person who says it’s “unavoidable” to keep it is also talking nonsense, as is proved by all those who don’t keep it. All this person’s other arguments are invalid too, because “love for Christmas” is utterly unacceptable as a reason. What if a Christian in a Muslim country once “loved” the Muslim festival of Eid? Would he then be doing right in continuing to keep it, out of some misguided “love” for it? And yes, we are to remember the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ – but nowhere does He command us to remember it in this way, by “christianising” a heathen festival.

As for what to do on that day, the only correct and sensible approach is to make a “clean break” with it. It is not a matter of seeing how much one can still retain, while getting rid of other bits of it. A stand has to be taken, firmly but lovingly, with relatives and friends. Many will not understand, some will get angry, but then so be it.

The person who uses the argument that it is “legalism” does not understand what legalism is, biblically; and once again there’s all the usual justification: we have “liberty”, etc. – even while admitting Christmas is not in the Bible, is not commanded, and so on. Just how free and loose do people dare to be? They will justify anything they want to do. Bottom line though: the Word of God is not their sole authority, regardless of what they say.

We live in the age of the “instant religious expert”. Everyone has an “opinion” and is convinced his opinion is the right one. Very few are subject to proper teaching, everyone thinks they know best. This is the spirit that animates the quotes given in your email: these people who wrote to you all seek to justify what they do, and each one acts like a teacher of God’s Word when it’s clear they are very ignorant of that Word, or how to rightly divide it.

I do deal with this matter of Col. 2 and Rom. 14 in my book.

It is important to take a stand. The moment we compromise, then we have opened the door to permit all kinds of other compromises, using the same silly arguments the people you quoted have used. It’s not easy, I know. It’s always difficult to swim against the tide. But love for the Lord demands that we obey HIM, and not the fashions and festivals of this fallen world. – *Shaun Willcock*

Thank you for your pamphlet on Predestination! It’s a wonderful truth and humbles me to think the Lord would grant me new life and the gift of Salvation. He, the Holy Spirit, convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment to come. I’m so thankful He convicted me and drew me to the foot of the cross where Christ saved me from my sin, is still saving me from sin, and will finally save me on that glorious day! God bless you.

United States

Thanks for a good article about predestination! [*Predestination* by Shaun Willcock]. But how do you explain the apostasy – falling away? Can we not fall from grace? Gal 5:4: Christ is

become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

1 John 2:15-17: Love not the world. If we do, we don't love the Father (cf. 1 Cor. 16:22). Why warn us, if it is impossible to be guilty? Revelation 2:10: Be faithful until death and receive the crown of life. So you mean that "once saved, always saved" is right?

Sweden

(In reply)

Thank you for your email, and I hope what I'm about to write will help you understand this important matter still further.

1. Regarding apostasy: this means the "falling away". However, it does *not* mean that a true child of God can fall away, and lose his salvation. There are those who come right up to the very threshold of the door, so to speak – and then fall away. They were never truly saved from their sins in the first place; but they *appeared* to be, to men; they professed to be Christians, although they weren't; and then in time they fall away from the faith they *professed*, but did not have in the *heart*.

2. No, a true child of God cannot fall from grace. This is the false teaching of Arminianism, which claims that one can be a child of God today, and a child of the devil tomorrow. If this were true, then the Lord is ultimately defeated by Satan. The work of grace in the soul is a divine and miraculous work, an almighty work, which none can overthrow. As you pointed out, Gal. 5:4 is often used to try to claim that those who are children of God can fall away; but this is to interpret the verse incorrectly. Paul says in the verse that those who tried to be justified by their obedience to the law – by their own works, in other words, and specifically circumcision (see the context) – had fallen from grace; and the meaning is not that they had been saved and now had lost their salvation, but simply that they had fallen from the true doctrine of the grace of God in salvation, to embrace the false doctrine of justification by their own works. They had rejected the Gospel of grace in favour of the false "gospel" of works.

3. As for 1 Jn. 2:15-17: this is said for at least two very important reasons. For one thing, there are always true churches in which, sadly, not all are truly converted; and so we have this and many other warnings in Scripture, for every professing child of God must examine himself, whether he is in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). In the second place, it is precisely BY such warnings as these that the true children of God – the elect – are preserved throughout their lives. The Bible is full of warnings to Christians, for as they take heed to the warnings they are preserved. The Holy Spirit uses the very warnings in Scripture to keep them on the narrow way that leads to life. It is true that no genuine child of God can be lost; but this is one of the ways the Lord uses to preserve them. The heart is very deceitful, and many are convinced they are true Christians when they are not; and warnings such as these cause them to examine themselves, and to give diligence to make their calling and election sure (2 Pet. 1:10).

4. Rev. 2:10: the same. And there are many similar exhortations throughout the Bible. It's true that the true Christian will be faithful unto death; but even so, such exhortations to be faithful are very needed, to stir him up, to encourage him in his Christian pilgrimage through life.

5. Yes, absolutely, this is the doctrine of God's Word. Once a person is in Christ he is in Him forever. On this the Scriptures are clear, e.g. Jn. 10:27-29. This is the only logical conclusion when the doctrine of election is true. If the Lord has elected some to obtain salvation by Jesus Christ (and He has), then He will keep those chosen ones their whole lives long. I am attaching another of my pamphlets, which goes into the doctrines of grace in more detail than the one you received. – *Shaun Willcock*

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