

TOPIC XXVIII

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A Diatribe - 2022

“GOD IS IN CONTROL...!?”

...is a phrase I really, really, really get tired of hearing. Why? Because I am not sure what people are thinking, meaning, or believing when they say this.

Now if they are saying that “I have entrusted my life and soul into the hands of God and believe Him to have full control over my destiny” then I can concur. If they are saying, “God has full control over how all of His creation will conclude its purpose as he designed it” then I can concur.

But, if they believe that God is the controller of all the thoughts, motives, and activities of mankind and everything that transpires on the planet, then I have a huge, serious problem with that. After all, Genesis 6:5 says, “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.” If one believes that God is in control of all this, then one must conclude He initiates these thoughts of the heart and all the consequences occurring when people transform those thoughts into actions. Therefore, God is both the source and initiator of all evil. This is the position of the Calvinists and one I totally reject. If this is true then the next verse in Genesis 6 makes no sense, “So the LORD was sorry that He had made mankind on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.”

But! This “belief” is so ingrained in most believers that even when God Himself states differently, His own words are rejected, and the “truth” is whatever people choose to believe.¹ If someone believes God is an animal such as a bull, or some Santa Clause, then that is the truth for them regardless of what the Bible says. There is a growing crowd of people believing that the earth is flat. There is no dissuading them. And there is no dissuading “Christians” who keep believing and saying things that are neither Biblical nor true.

It is my opinion that 65-75% of what Christians “believe” is neither true nor Biblical. What they believe has been ingrained in them by the church they attend, and what the churches teach is, for the most part, a mishmash of human theology and philosophy with the Bible picked and chosen from to support their “beliefs.” I have witnessed this so often I have reticence to even listen to so-called Bible teachers. As Paul said, “See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in

¹ See the appendix for the notes on “detective myopia” and “confirmation bias.”

accordance with human tradition in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.” Colossians 2:8

“Well Paul, with all due respect, we are not interested in what you have to say because we believe what we believe and that makes it the truth.”² Well, excuse me but just because someone believes something no more makes it “truth” any more than not believing something makes it “false.”

First, the phrase or any variation of “God is in control” is not found in the Bible. It sounds so pious and sweet as we repeat it. But the consequences of this are really something. When I ask people what God is in control of, most answer, “Everything.” Oh, really? So, if God is in control of “everything.” He is therefore the source and cause of all the most horrific evil the human race has ever experienced. He has to be, right?³

People also say all the time, that the misery they are experiencing, the horrors in the world, the pain, disease, cancers, murders, and all the evil in the world is a part of “God’s plan.” Hitler was God’s man and the torture, and mass murder of millions was part of God’s “plan.” How does this fit with “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all?” (I John 1:5), or “For God so loved the world?” (John 3:16), or “God is not willing that any should perish?” (II Peter 3:9) or “You shall not murder?” (Exodus 20:13) or “God is Love.” (I John 4:8,16) If what they believe is true then the holocaust is the darndest example of “God’s love” I can imagine. Yet millions believe this. No wonder so many reject the “Christian” faith. Excuse me!

This stupidity is based in the corrupt and twisted theology of John Calvin whose “Institutes of the Christian Religion” promotes the “doctrine of demons” in my opinion, and Christians soak it up. Most churches teach this, even hammering it home to their unsuspecting congregations who don’t really think about what is being taught but follow their teachers like sheep to the slaughter, lemmings over the cliff. Few ever actually become “Bereans” checking whether what they are hearing, or reading, is Biblically true. The reason these doctrines are so vicious is that Calvinistic doctrine makes God the source and cause of all the evil having ever existed in the history of mankind.

Those who glibly spout this idea about God “being in control” would deny they mean that He is the author and cause of all evil. But confronted, they walk away. Plus, most of the churches in the world that promote this will bring hostility immediately if confronted

² Sarcasm is used often in this paper, and it is intentional.

³ Because of the Calvinist teaching on “predestination” many have been deluded that what he has taught is the truth. A thorough discussion of this can be found on my website at: www.bibleclassroom.org. “Studies” – “Controversial Topics.” My point is simple. Why are interpreting Paul by Calvin? Shouldn’t we be interpreting Paul by what the first century Jews understood by what Paul said?

about it.

It is amazing to me how adamant Christians are to believe lies and reject the truth. I mean to the death they will defend the lies they believe and reject the truth and crucify anyone who disagrees with them. Really? Well, remember Jesus? Hmmm? Holding onto traditions rather than the truth of God's word was an accusation Jesus hurled at the Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees and they plotted to get rid of Him for this and then saw to it He was crucified.

Mark 7:6-9, 13 6: "But He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 7: 'AND IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' 8: "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." 9: He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition." 13: "...*thereby* invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that."

Yet, some actually desire to know the truth and replace what they have been taught with it. The number of these is startlingly few.

Along this same line of faulty thinking, we way too often hear the statement, "Why did God allow this," Or "God allowed this for a higher reason." Or "God allowed all of that for some higher purpose." This reflects the idea that "God is in control."

The phrases "God's allows", or "(Why does) God allow", or "God allowed" are not found in the Bible either. How about that? Yet, the majority of Christians use this phrase because they have been influenced by those who teach the doctrine of demons created by John Calvin whose teachings have saturated the minds of the majority of churches and believers in the western world. When I say "saturated" I mean cemented in so deep that God Himself cannot break in. Oh, sorry, if God is in control, certainly He can, can't He? But why doesn't He? Well one answer might be, "Because what I believe is the truth and I willingly reject any effort to change it." Another is that you are free to choose what you believe, and you have chosen this, and though God knows your choice, he does not force you to change it.

Well, based on this ignorant, and foolish thinking of most of His people, He either has a higher "unknown" purpose or, because he is a trickster and a devil who enjoys nothing more than bringing pain and misery upon people. Neither of these are true of course, but one or the other will be fought for to the death by most "believers." Don't tell Greg Laurie who lost his son in a tragic accident platitudes like, "Oh God always picks the

loveliest flowers first” or, “This was in His plan” or “God has a reason or a higher purpose in doing this” or “It was his time to go home to be with the Lord” etc. Saying something like this might prompt Greg to crucify you. I’ll be there to help him.⁴

I remember watching a video of Anne Graham Lotz teaching on human tragedy and used the massively destructive Haitian hurricane that took hundreds, if not thousands of lives saying, “God did that so that they would repent.” This imbecilic remark got the nods of the fools listening.

Please tell me, 1. How it could be that the thousands who died could repent? And 2. If evil and human tragedy is the way God gets people to repent then the apostle Paul is totally out of line when he wrote, “Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and restraint and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?” Romans 2:4

Try telling the parents of a six-year-old girl kidnapped on the school grounds, molested, raped, murdered and then butchered and cut into pieces that God did this for a “higher purpose” because “He is in control.” Or this was “God’s plan.” This type of comment is so prevalent that Christians don’t realize that they have just pretty much eliminated any chance of these people ever coming to the Lord and are the agents of the lies of Satan and doing his work, not God’s. Why? Because they are spouting lies and underscoring that God is a fiend. Who wants a god who is a fiend?

This is doubly true when people insist that the evil choices men make are of God’s doing and “control” though, again, He is not willing that any should perish, (II Peter 3:9 and that He loves the world, (John 3:16) and there is no evil in Him.

He apparently appointed Hitler as (His servant) and managed the torture and death of millions of people, mostly Jews and Christians. Oh, the Nazis, under a program entitled T-4 captured and killed people with a disability, blindness, deafness, mental or physical disabilities of any kind because they were not worthy to live and would corrupt the “master Arian Race.” Yet Jesus sought to heal and restore these same people. Why would the Lord do that if their torture and destruction was really God’s plan? No wonder the Jews and so many others hate Christianity.

But my response is always, “Those are the wrong statements and the wrong questions.” The real question is, “Why don’t WE allow God to enter our lives, our hearts and our minds with His actual truth and respond in faith?” The problem isn’t God, it’s us. Sorry to be so Biblical. I apologize.

⁴ Greg is, at this time, the pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in riverside California. We personally heard him speak about this at a conference some years ago.

But to begin to answer this question, could we not say that the one in control of this planet also determines how the planet and its people are managed? That the nation or nations under his or her control will normally reflect the values and policies of their leader? In other words, let's consider that it is the one in charge, (who has dominion and control) is the one who determines how those under his or her command are to be treated led and taught. Would not the characteristics of the planet over whom he has full control would reflect his teaching and purpose? Would that be fair?

Well, in our world do you see the entire population, especially the political powers, steeped in love, grace, care for others, truth, mercy, understanding, personal sacrifice to help the needy, and so on? Well, if God is in charge of this world, then He is indeed a failure and a fiend judging by what we see, yet that is what is proclaimed by the unthinking people who claim to be His and so no wonder the world says, "No thank you."

Well then, if not God, who is in control of our world??? Let's explore that and see what the Bible actually teaches if you are still here. With that in mind, it seems to me that in Genesis 1:26-28 we are told something like,

26: "Then God said, 'Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and **let them rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.'" 27: "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28: God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and **fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**'"

Now, maybe I can't read...or as people accuse me, I am just an idiot, but it looks to me like God gave total rule over the creation to mankind. The word "rule" in the Hebrew is "Radah" רָדָה. This word is used some 25 times in The Old Testament and always refers to individuals in charge. It is translated "rule," "dominate," "subdue," and even "tread on" (when speaking of the grapes crushed under feet – making only "grape juice" of course.) Yes, sarcasm is alive and well and is also employed often in the Bible to the consternation of some.

So, If God gave mankind dominion over the creation, would not that be consistent with the definitions above about who is in charge? And if it is the definitions above and He really did that, let's also notice He did not add a list of conditions such as "Only if you do as I say... yada, yada... or "I am really in charge and control so you are restricted to what I say and command and can do no other (as our friends of Calvin and his worshippers conclude), or, everything you do in terms of evil conduct will happen only because I have

made you robots and you have no choice but to do the horror and evil I have planned.” (Calvin again) “After all, though you think I love you and am good, merciful and gracious, the truth is that every horror and evil is planned by Me because my goal is to inflict evil and misery on all mankind because I AM IN CONTROL AND IN CHARGE (which everyone seems to think, but golly, the scripture says otherwise) and that is why the world is filled with all the tragedy and horror.

I have not found the phrase “God is in control” or “I am in control” anywhere there in the Bible either. The various words translated “control” are found 26 times in the Bible, but not once describing God.

(Note: God is in charge and control of the results and over how it all turns out, just so you know I have not gone completely over the edge.)

Further, other than see to it that His plan of redemption from before the foundation of the earth is not derailed, He does speak and direct specific people to engage in actions to assure that outcome. Once the New Covenant was instituted, those efforts were fulfilled. But other than that, He lets mankind freely run the show under the “lordship” of whomever he chooses to serve. There is nothing that says He manipulates, forces or twists people into doing things against their will. Unless you follow the teachings of demons of course. Paul said this,

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.” Ephesians 6:12

In my mind, it is like a wealthy landowner who builds a mansion for his children on a beautiful and vast property and gives it to them as a gift without condition or even demanding he run it. It’s theirs do as they wish. A real gift. (Corresponds to God’s gift in Christ if you follow). All he does is give them a manual on how to best succeed in their new enterprise that they may refer to when they need good counsel. It is noted that because he is not going to direct or control their lives, that they will either suffer or enjoy the consequences of their own choices. But the manual is there if they wish to consult it.

So off they go. And here we are. Or,

Let’s say you are a craftsman and build a beautiful dining room set for your children and give it to them as a gift. Is how they use it under your control? What control do you have if their children decide to use that table for a carving surface? Or paint it with graffiti? Or rip some of the chairs apart to use the legs to bludgeon each other to death? How come you are not in control? Everyone blames you when these things happen or offer platitudes like, well, dad allowed this for a higher purpose. As “dad” is this how

you want to be thought of? How many would love to have you as a “dad” if they thought of you that way?

Yeah, I know, I am being facetious. But.... If we are the rulers of the world, or even God, then why on earth would Jesus say, “Now judgment is *upon* this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.” (John 12:31)

WHAT? It was clear that mankind was given dominion and rule over the world. How on earth did Satan (as we know this is referring to) get that position???

Well, I hope you know the answer. Do you? To clarify, we gave it to him. How? It’s in Genesis 3.

To confirm, Paul said clearly,

“Do you not know that *the one* to whom you present yourselves *as* slaves for obedience, you are slaves of *that same one* whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?” Romans 6:16

So, Adam and Eve set aside obeying God and decided to obey Satan. That gave Satan power over mankind and that is how he became in charge. And that is why we, in our ignorance - thrust upon us by ignorant pastors, teachers and others - identify God with Satan.

Now, if Satan is the ruler of this world, then he is the one in control, right? But let’s be sure. Jesus said,

John 14:30 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in *regard to Me...*”

“Well, Jesus must be wrong because He disagrees with what I believe and what I keep saying.” (More sarcasm if you missed it) And how can He say Satan “has nothing in (*“regard to”* is supplied) Me?” When people identify the horrors of history with Him.

John 16:11-12, 11: “and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. 12: I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear *them* at the present time.”

John must be incorrect too.

And Paul,

Ephesians 2:1-2, 1: “And you were dead in your offenses and sins, 2: in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”

Wait! The “course of this world” is “according to the prince of the power of the air?” How can so many of these inspired writers of Scripture be so wrong when I am right?

II Corinthians 4:3-4, 3: “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4: in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they will not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

The “god of this world?” Come on Paul, we all know that God is the god of this world. Maybe the blind are the sheep of the “ruler of this world” and can’t see through this “angel of light.” (II Corinthians 11:14)

Colossians 1:13-14, 13: “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14: in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Wait a minute, the “domain of darkness?” That implies that darkness has dominion over this world. Can’t be true, Why can’t all you inspired by God get it right? Huh? How about agreeing and teaching what I believe to be the truth!

Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.”

I John 5:19, “We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.”

Oh, come on, I have about had it with all this contrary drivel that conflicts with what I believe, because what I believe constitutes truth regardless of what you or God has to say.

And many more. Is that enough??

So, the dominion of the world passed from mankind to Satan? We gave it to him. That is recorded in Genesis 3 as I pointed out. Notice God didn’t stop it. Why not???? Because we were given the dominion. God has (wisely) never taken it back. The mess humanity has made of His gift ought to be a strong indicator that we really need Him in “control.” But that is a personal choice. We can’t mandate that as a real, sincere choice for others. Constantine tried this and here we still are.

God knew from before He created us that this would happen and prepared a way back to Him if we chose and desired it. And even though it is a free gift, and people, love and

lust for free stuff, somehow only a very few avail themselves of His free gift while the rest reject it. Why? The Bible calls it pride. Self-exaltation. Genesis 3 does not speak of the “fall of man” (another phrase not found in the Bible) but describes self-exaltation - the desire to be God and push for this role even if it means killing and butchering others to accomplish it. It is clear in the Bible that “self” is the problem.

Many times, Jesus’ words, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me” are repeated in numerous ways, but we seem to blame others for the problems “self” creates. Especially God.

It is a simple truth. God gave us the free will and choice to do whatever we desire. In rejecting Him, here we are. Satan’s purpose is to bring before mankind the option just as in the garden, “trust God or trust me.” There is more to this, but you get the drift.

Now, the scripture **does not** lay the evil in the world at the feet of Satan or of God. It says,

“Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of mankind was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. (Gen. 6:5)

“This is an evil in everything that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for everyone. Furthermore, the hearts of the sons of mankind are full of evil, and insanity is in their hearts throughout their lives. Afterward *they go* to the dead.” (Ecclesiastes 9:3)

“The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9 (All else? Would that include Satan? Hmm.)

“For from within, out of the hearts of people, come the evil thoughts, *acts of* sexual immorality, thefts, murders, *acts of* adultery, deeds of greed, wickedness, deceit, indecent behavior, envy, slander, pride, *and* foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile the person.” (Mark 7:21-23)

Now, I have asked people to name one single thing in the Bible Satan has ever done we would call evil – with the exception of referencing the Book of Job few understand anyway, as it is a different “animal” with a different point.⁵

No one can seem to remember anything at all. Because all Satan does is tell clever lies as evidenced in Genesis 3. It is our choice to believe his lies or not and unfortunately, most do. In fact, I have found that “Christians” prefer to believe lies than know the actual truth. Not kidding. So, the ruler of this world has little to do except be sure his lies are promulgated through his other so called “angels of light” and then let the disasters fall

⁵ My commentary on Job can be found at my website, www.bibleclassroom.org under Book, Studies/Commentaries.

where they may.

But isn't God the one who created Satan to do what he does in lying and deceiving the nations through his gullible preachers, teachers and people? So wouldn't that put God "in control?"

The answer is a surprising "Yes." What? "Bob, you have just gone around the bend." Hang on.

The entire history of the human race is glittering evidence of what people choose to believe. Satan, who only lies – oh, and sprinkles a little truth in – in a way to support his lies (remember the temptation of Jesus?) offers to people the opportunity to be like God through their own power without God in their lives at all. God Himself just watches and acknowledges those choices as He has prepared a place in His kingdom solely for those who want to be there. Not only that, He makes the incredible sacrifice of His own beloved Son to take away all the sins of people and then offers the free gift of eternal life to any who would receive Jesus as their beloved Lord and Savior.

In other words, God has reproduced the "Tree of Life" once more giving mankind the opportunity to partake of that fruit now, and live.⁶ The issue is life or death. Which do people choose? Satan is here to do the same thing that he did in the garden. Unfortunately, way too many churches preach his "gospel" and way too many people believe him.

The scripture is crystal clear.

John 1:5 -6, "This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;"

Well, hello! How many do you think this describes? Read all of the next one.

John 3:16 -19, 16: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life. 17: "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. 18: "The one who believes in Him is not judged; the one who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son

⁶ See Revelation 2:7; 21:5-6; 22:1-2; 14; 19. And there are more such as John 15:1-5; Matthew 4:4; John 6:51 etc.

of God. 19: “And this is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the Light; for their deeds were evil.”

Jesus told Paul at his “conversion” episode,

“But get up and stand on your feet; for this *purpose* I have appeared to you, to appoint you as a servant and a witness not only to the things in which you have seen Me, but also to the things in which I will appear to you, rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.” Acts 26:16-18

You mean that the world is under the power of Satan and not God? Noooo. God is in control of this, I insist.

But the scriptures say,

“For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will see His face.” Psalm 11:7

“Your throne, God, is forever and ever; The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of justice. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your companions. Psalm 45:6-7

Well, this is apparently incorrect since most believe that God initiates unrighteousness and horrible evil for some “higher purpose” – which these idiots cannot explain.

“The earth is full of Your goodness, LORD; Teach me Your statutes.” Psalm 119:54.

“This is what the LORD says, *He who is* your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to benefit, Who leads you in the way you should go. If only you had paid attention to My commandments! Then your well-being would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.” Isaiah 48:17-18

Oh please, really? It can't be our choice or responsibility for what we do. It is all God's fault because He determines what we think, do, and say.”

Doesn't that sound a lot like what was said to God some time ago.

Genesis 3:12-13, 12: "The man said, "The woman whom **You** gave *to be* with me, she gave me some of *the fruit of* the tree, and I ate." 13: Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this *that* you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Well, we are still saying the same thing today, and even those who have received God's mercy and believed in Him because of the love he displayed in His Son. We still say the same thing Adam and Eve said. We blame anyone and everyone but ourselves.

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

A missionary told me recently that Joe Biden⁷ is "God's man" as president. I said, "That is debatable." He said, "No, it is not." He was adamant.

So, is Biden God's man? Or any ruler "God's man"?

The establishment of human government was God's decision, no question, but though He didn't like it, the people demanded it. Does that mean that everyone we elect is God's choice?

I have dear friends that believe, without reservation or any possibility they might be wrong that every miserable thing that they experience or that anyone experiences is God's doing and God's "plan." They are not open to discussing this at all. So, God wreaks havoc and misery and disease, and horror, and disaster, and evil and the slaughter and torture of people, murder, and every crime imaginable under the sun because he causes it, it is his "plan," and he is doing every unimaginable criminal and evil act because that is his "plan." That is our God? All of this, of course, isn't **our fault** as the scripture stresses over and over again? Nope, it is all God's fault. God the unfair fiend. His "plan" and so on. Oh, by the way, this is never said in scripture either.

But there is an important fact most people including their pastors, teachers and leaders don't know or refuse to admit. There is a difference between the provisions of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

First, under the Old Covenant God did indeed "plan" for the defeat and removal of anything that attempted to stand in the way of Him fulfilling His promise of a deliverer, a

⁷ President as of this writing.

messiah. Most of these obstacles were from Israel and Judah. A choice was given to the leaders by the prophets whether they would counsel or their own. Consequences were clearly laid out for these leaders. Most chose their own way and paid the price. God promised a Messiah and He did not permit anything to derail this plan.

Second, once that promise was fulfilled, there was no longer the need for these actions.⁸ Instead, His people were to proclaim the “good news” the “glad tidings” to the world. There is nothing said about that if they didn’t repent God would bring all the horrors of evil into the world. Well, we have all the horrors of evil in the world and always have yet the world has never “repented.” Quite the opposite. Oh, and don’t forget Paul’s words that it is the “kindness of god that leads to repentance.

What has happened is that what God planned for the ancients who were in the way of Him fulfilling His plan has been carried over into the New Covenant provisions and the two have been mixed ever since the first month of the existence of the church. So, we judge all the disasters in our world ever since Jesus paid the price for our sin and claim that God is still doing this stuff.

Peter refers to this previous plan in Acts 2:22-24,

22: “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a Man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— 23: this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death. 24: “But God raised Him *from the dead*, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

Third, what God can do if we (His children) can ever even come to grasp it is take the horrors of what we do under Satan’s direction and work to make them into something that can benefit us in due time. I like to say that only God can turn manure into lovely flowers. But He does not make the manure. We do.

Fourth, the “plan” God has for us who are in Christ is:

Ephesians 1:3-12, 3: “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, 4: just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy

⁸ See Galatians 4:3-7

and blameless before Him. In love 5: He predestined us to adoption as sons *and daughters* through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6: to the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He favored us in the Beloved. 7: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our wrongdoings, according to the riches of His grace 8: which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight 9: He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He set forth in Him, 10: regarding *His* plan of the fullness of the times, to bring all things together in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. 11: In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things in accordance with the plan of His will, 12: to the end that we who were the first to hope in the Christ would be to the praise of His glory.”

And (my favorite passage from Paul)

1: And you were dead in your offenses and sins, 2: in which you previously walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3: Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. 4: But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5: even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6: and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7: so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:1-7

So, if that is true, and God’s goal is, “in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” how can people possibly believe that all the evil and horror happening in the world to so many of us and our loved ones is attributed to our Lord and Savior? Couldn’t Jesus have caused terrible destruction to His opponents while here? But He came to serve, love, heal, raise the dead, do good and lovely works among men and even said,

Matthew 26:52-53, “Then Jesus said to him, [Peter] “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”

Titus 3:3-4, 3: “For we too were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to

various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. 4: But when the kindness of God our Savior and *His* love for mankind appeared, 5: He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6: whom He richly poured out upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7: so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to *the* hope of eternal life. 8: This statement is trustworthy; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed God will be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and beneficial for people. 9: But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and strife and disputes about the Law, for they are useless and worthless. 10: Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning, 11: knowing that such a person has deviated from what is right and is sinning, being self-condemned.”

Well, people, if Satan is really the ruler of this world, then he is in charge and Biden is Satan’s man in D.C. not God’s. You still want to debate this? Many will take what I have written including all the scripture I have quoted and discard it determined not to change their view regardless. The evidence before your eyes is not enough? God’s word is not enough? Then there is nothing anyone can do for you.

APPENDIX

CONFIRMATION BIAS.

This is theological/spiritual myopia defined as the human tendency to seek out information that confirms ones beliefs rather than to be open to other possibilities.

DETECTIVE MYOPIA

This is when law enforcement, usually due to extreme public or political pressure, picks up a suspect and then evaluates all the evidence with the predisposition that the suspect is guilty and then they stop looking for other suspects. They fail to follow other leads that do not back up their predetermined theories. So, all their work goes into proving that the person they picked as their suspect is actually guilty.

This is common as well to the theological predisposition of teachers and their followers. To be open to any change to their predispositions would require the admission that they were wrong and human pride resists this.