

## NEWTON'S THIRD LAW OF THEOLOGY

David W. Bercot

Sir Isaac Newton observed that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. Sad to say, Newton's law seems to apply as much to theology as it does to physics. For every heretic who moves away from true doctrine in one direction, there is an "orthodox" teacher who reacts to him by going to an equal and opposite extreme. Unfortunately, the "orthodox" teacher almost inevitably pulls the entire church with him. The end result is that the heretic succeeds in adulterating the church, but in an opposite way from what he intended.

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*"Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, yet I say to you that not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these."*

### **But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you?"*

### **But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"You of little faith! Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things."*

### **But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:24-34).*

### **But I have to work on Sunday!**

## CAN A SAVED PERSON BE LOST?

David W. Bercot

Since the early Christians believed that our continued faith and obedience are necessary for salvation, it naturally follows that they believed that a "saved" person could still end up being lost. For example, Irenaeus, the pupil of Polycarp, wrote, "Christ will not die again on behalf of those who now commit sin because death shall no more have dominion over Him... Therefore we should not be puffed up... But we should beware lest somehow, after [we have come to] the knowledge of Christ, if we do things displeasing to God, we obtain no further forgiveness of sins but rather be shut out from His kingdom" (Hebrews 6:4-6)

Tertullian wrote, "Some people act as though God were under an **obligation** to bestow even on the unworthy His intended gift. They turn His liberality into slavery... For Do not many afterwards **fall out of grace? Is not this gift taken away from many?**"

Cyprian told his fellow believers, "It is written, 'He who endures to the end, the same shall be saved' [Matthew 10:22]. So whatever precedes the end is only a step by which we ascend to the summit of salvation. It is not the final point wherein we have already gained the full result of the ascent."

One of the Scripture passages that the early Christians frequently cited is Hebrews 10:26: *"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice is left."* Our preachers usually tell us that the writer of Hebrews wasn't talking about saved persons. If that's the case, the writer certainly didn't communicate it very effectively to his readers. All the early Christians understood this passage to be talking about persons who had been saved.

Incidentally, some of the quotations from the early Christians might make you think they lived in eternal **insecurity**. But that's not the case. Although they believed that their heavenly Father could disinherit them if He chose to do so, the overall spirit of the writings show that obedient Christians didn't live with a constant morbid dread of being disinherited. Does an obedient son constantly worry and fret over the possibility of being disinherited by his earthly father?"

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

Men's & Ladies' Studies @ 6:20 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

**"Emotion is a wonderful servant,  
but it is a terrible master."**

– Keith Stoneheart

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**BUT I HAVE TO WORK ON SUNDAY**

Perry Hall

*"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."*

**But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*

**But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?"*

**But I have to work on Sunday!**

*"And which of you by worrying can add a single cubit to his life span? And why are you worried about clothing?"*

**But I have to work on Sunday!**

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