

A brief discussion about Straight To Heaven Theology

The concept of straight to heaven theology is part of the license to sin religion taught by most modern churches. What poses as modern Christianity is about 10% gospel and 90% religion. In the writings of Paul you find examples where false teachers infiltrated the church. One of the things that I see often is the misconception that studying books written by “supposed” bible scholars educates a person about the scriptures. It is possible to learn from commentaries and things of that sort but often a person inflates his own ego and becomes a detriment to the cause of Christ. That wrong thinking is similar to what I heard a football coach address once when he said that people say that practice makes perfect but in reality **RIGHT** practice makes perfect. If you study the same old wrong thinking and perpetuate it, then you are not accomplishing anything. The scripture is revealed by the Holy Spirit who is the paraclete, house keeper, teacher, and power within Christianity. The soul is quickened by the Holy Spirit. (To quicken means to preserve.) Without the Holy Spirit, things purported to be Christianity are nothing more than a form of religion, denying the power thereof. Salvation comes from the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. How can a person be saved if the word they are hearing is not truth and isn’t accompanied by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit?

My personal opinion is that this study and others like it showing the contradictions in handed down tradition will be ignored and never accepted. I also don’t think that the proponents of these traditions know God nor the Holy Spirit. They are indoctrinated by traditions and truth doesn’t have a place in their lives. There is not a one of them whom I have found that can answer the challenges to their false doctrine. And most of them don’t have a clue where the articles of faith originated or the proof doctrines for them. Nor do they have a clue as to the falseness and twisting of the scripture that created these doctrines. Furthermore, they don’t care and don’t want to hear about the problems. How can you claim to be a preacher or a deacon of a church when you don’t have a clue what the articles of faith are nor their origin?

One of the objectives of my study into the origin of Baptist religious doctrines was to see the “supposed” proof scriptures for these doctrines. Actually, most of the doctrines are correct but they have that little tidbit of lie that Satan puts in things to nullify the working of the Holy Spirit. One thing I was focusing on was the often quoted straight to heaven theology. But that isn’t only false doctrine in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. The concept of predestination was a false doctrine misapplied and causing the split of free will Baptist churches versus Primitive Baptist churches.

The most common “supposed” proof text pertaining to straight to heaven theology is that to be absent is to be present **AS IF** those words somehow prove that a person goes straight to heaven upon death. The irony is that this verse wasn’t the original supposed proof text for the theology as evidenced when you read the 1689 London Baptist Articles of Faith. The **PROBLEM** is that those words don’t say absent from where or present to where or **WHEN** the “to be absent is to be present” happens. The assumption is that immediately at death Paul’s statements apply **BUT** that assumption contradicts as many as 100 different scriptural references. Not only that but Peter contradicts the theology when he says that David is dead, in his grave, and has not ascended to heaven. Peter’s statement alone is sufficient to render the doctrine invalid.

I found so many contradictions that I quit counting and listing them. Paul contradicts straight to heaven theology in multiple places in his writings. **BUT** if you take Paul’s statement “to be absent is to be present” and apply it **AT THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION**, then it fits. At that time, we become absent from the earth, are present with the Lord, and then are taken to the judgment **AT WHICH TIME** the Book Of Life is important because it contains the names of the saved **AND** the judgment is important because it is the filter that sends the unclean to the lake of fire and the saved to the presence of God. This is also important because accountability for sin is important. Straight to heaven theology is just another part of the license to sin theology which bypasses accountability for sin. The immortal soul doctrine is another false doctrine, the purpose of which is to invalidate the accountability for original sin. Satan said that Adam would not surely die and the Satan lie is **STILL** being taught by people today via the immortal soul doctrine. **IF** the soul **NEVER DIES**, then the person **NEVER DIES** and the accountability for sin by the event of death does not

occur. **HOW** can there be a **SECOND DEATH** if a person's soul **NEVER DIED**? The idea that death is limited and applies only to a physical body is a Catholic doctrine lie. That is the origin of many of the pagan superstitions about ghosts and other paranormal events.

The straight to heaven theology incorporates multiple invalid assumptions. One is that a person goes straight to heaven and is present **LIVING** with the Lord. The other is that the selfsame body will come from the grave. Another is the immortal soul theory in that the soul never dies, just goes straight to heaven, and doesn't go through the judgment to get there. This theology invalidates the accountability for sin denoted as death, per the scriptures found in Genesis. Then they make the assumption that Jesus will **BRING THE SOULS BACK** from heaven, resurrect the selfsame body, and stick the souls into that and **THEN** change them into a new spiritual body.

The original version of straight to heaven theology twisted the scripture by a quotation taken from Ecl. 17 vs 7. They deliberately ignored Ecl. 9 verse 7 which contradicts their theory. Ecl. 17 vs 7 is saying that the spirit (breath of life) of everyone departs from a person and death and returns to the creator. This universal statement applies to both saved and lost and references the state of death. The devil and his servants twisted the truth and substituted the word "soul" in place of the word "spirit" which is actually the breath of life if used in the context of Ecl. 17 vs 7. Detailed discussion and proof of the invalid substitution can be found in the appendices of this book.

In Appendix V there is a copy of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith" and a copy of the Southern Baptist Articles Of Principles. Both were downloaded from internet sites which have copies of the original documents. The Articles Of Principles was taken from the Southern Baptist Seminary in Kentucky. IF you examine it you will find that I marked it back to the sections in the London Baptist Confession Of Faith from which it originated. To prove that it came from the earlier document, you will find some sections of the Articles of Principles which are exactly the same as the original document. The probability that it came from the 1689 London Baptist Confession Of Faith is almost 100% because of the quantity of exactly copied words.

Within this book are contained the proof texts and logical argument for the statements made in this brief discussion. But be warned that study of these problems and issues is time consuming **AND CONFUSING**. And take note that if **ONE SCRIPTURE** contradicts an interpretation or doctrine, then that doctrine is false because the bible cannot contradict itself.

It is not relevant whether you say selfsame body or just that the bodies of the dead are raised. It means exactly the same thing. The problem and scriptural contradiction is that the scripture says that the dead will be raised in a **NEW SPIRITUAL BODY**. The selfsame body **CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**. The "selfsame body" OR simply "body" is **CARNAL**. It **HAD TO DECAY** because of the consequences of sin. It cannot coexist in the presence of God. The carnal man is enmity with God, meaning that God **HATES** the **STATE** of the carnal man. (not the soul) And the scriptures **DO NOT SAY** that the body is raised and then changed.

It is important that it is the **SOUL** which is raised and not the body. The scriptures state that the dead know nothing. Ecclesiastes Chapter 9 verses 1 through 5 directly discusses this with verse 5 stating "For the living know that they shall die but the dead know not anything" The straight to heaven doctrine is putting the dead directly in heaven **WITHOUT** going through a judgment. The issue is partly that they bypass the judgement and accountability for sin, even the accountability of death as God's judgement against Adam. The issue also is that you can't resurrect someone who is **ALIVE IN HEAVEN**. Whatever happened to common sense and using the English Language to mean exactly what it says? **CULTS** twist the English language to create their false doctrines. Cult leaders claim to have a direct revelation from God which supercedes the scriptures. For the **TRUE** Christian, it is the scriptures that are the blueprint and the authority for our doctrines and beliefs. How can you preach under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and preach something that contradicts the scriptures? The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth. **GOD** cannot lie. Preaching mixed with a falsehood disqualifies and puts into doubt **ANYTHING** else that is said by a preacher, even though some of his statements are true. It comes back to the part truth and part lies method used by

Satan.

One focus scripture is written by Paul in Hebrews 9 vs 27. These two verses by themselves are adequate contradiction to the straight to heaven theology and nullify it from being valid.

27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; **and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.

IF you read verse 28 it also contradicts the idea that the person went straight to heaven because how can you LOOK FOR HIM (meaning look for Jesus) if you are ALREADY WITH JESUS in Heaven? Paul states that man has to die once and after that be judged. This is consistent with everything else said in the bible. To take Paul’s statement “to be absent is to be present” and say it means to go straight to heaven is an ABSOLUTE contradiction of what Paul said in verse 27 because he said that the JUDGMENT is the next event. Do you think that Paul was so stupid he contradicted himself or that he was so spiritually ignorant he would say one thing at one point and another at another point in time?

The Southern Baptist Articles of Principles taught by their seminaries states:

XIX. The resurrection.

The bodies of men after death return to dust but their spirits return immediately to God – the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day the **bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.**

The origin of this doctrine is: Chapter 31 sections 1 and 2 of the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith which says:

CHAPTER 31; Of the State of Man after Death and Of the Resurrection of the Dead

1. The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having and immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgement of the last day; besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.
(Genesis 3:19; Acts 13:36; Ecclesiastes 17:7; Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:1,6,8; Philippians 1:34; Hebrews 12:23; Jude 6,7; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23,24)

2. At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the **selfsame bodies**, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever. (1 Corinthians 15:51,52; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Job 19:26,27; 1 Corinthians 1:42,43)

3. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit unto honour, and be made conformable to his own glorious body.
(Acts 14:15; John 5:28,29; Philippians 3:21)

The scripture reference used to prove that the SOULS go straight to heaven is Ecc 17 vs 7 which says that the spirit of man returns to the creator at death. This spirit is the breath of life and the statement is a universal statement. In Appendix III there are proof texts that show that the spirit is NOT the same as soul. Ecc 17 vs 7 is the earliest example that I could find where the scripture was intentionally altered to support the false statement that the soul goes straight to heaven upon death.

To summarize, there are multiple problems with this flawed theology. One problem is that nothing unclean can enter heaven and therefore entry to heaven must be filtered by a judgment which is described as happening at the end of the world when Jesus resurrects all and they go to the judgment described in Rev. 21 vs 1-8. They have substituted the soul in place of spirit and then maintained that the body will be resurrected, which had to decay because of the sin. But the scriptures say that the resurrected person will have a NEW SPIRITUAL body. And the scripture states that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. One original version of this flawed theology states that the body will be resurrected and then changed. The scriptures do NOT state that the selfsame body will be resurrected and then changed to a spiritual body. Another MAJOR problem with straight to heaven theology is that the dead are RAISED, not lowered.

There is an oxymoron of language in straight to heaven theology as well. If the dead are living in heaven, then

you cannot resurrect someone who is NOT DEAD. The very word to resurrect means to bring the dead back to life.

The supposed predisposition of souls to heaven at death violates the description of the Book Of Life as the filter that determines whether a soul goes to heaven or the lake of fire. The book isn't opened until the end of world judgment so that alone is sufficient to contradict and invalidate straight to heaven theology. It is false doctrine to predispose souls before they have gone through the filter of the judgment. Of course God has the power and authority to do that but HIS WORD is saying he is not going to do that.

Very damning to the straight to heaven theology is Paul's words in Hebrews chapter 9 vs 27 in which he states that it is appointed to man once to die and after this the judgment. This is a universal statement that ALL men must die (with the exception of those who are living when Jesus returns). And more importantly it states that the next event which they will perceive is the judgment. The scriptures clearly teach in Rev. 21 that the judgment happens after the resurrection. So those who teach straight to heaven theology are cherry picking from Paul's statements and their interpretation contradicts Paul's statements elsewhere.

When you read closely the Genesis account of human creation you find that man was formed from the earth into a body and the breath of life was breathed into the body and man became a living soul. Other scriptures teach that after the spirit (a.k.a. breath of life) departs from the person he is dead. (Refer to Appendix II for specific scriptural references) One scripture proclaims that the "dead know nothing" therefore the soul is at rest in the grave (quickened/preserved by the Holy Spirit) and the soul is that which must be resurrected. This flies directly in the face of "straight to heaven" theology that contradicts scriptures in almost every chapter in the Bible.

The scriptures indicate that the true sequence of events is at death the spirit (a.k.a. breath of life) returns to the creator. The dead know nothing, per direct scriptural statements. Then the body returns to the earth or sea. The soul is at rest until the resurrection at which time the scene described in Revelations 21 states that it is retrieved from the earth and sea or wherever it is at rest. Then the soul is united with a new body and brought to the judgement at which time the disposition of the souls is accomplished exactly per the description in Revelations Chapter 21.

Those who practice and teach the "straight to heaven" tradition are so locked into their own doctrine that they discard all the scriptures which invalidate it. They miss the important thing in that man dies, is resurrected, is judged, and then goes to either heaven or hell. No learned bible scholar has yet explained to me how they can resurrect someone who is NOT DEAD because that is diametrically opposed to the definition of a resurrection. There is no other place for eternal life than in heaven or hell. There is no scripture that says the dead simply go to the grave and remain there forever as the basic elements

from which they were created.

The atheist maintains that there is no God and that the dead simply die and that's it. So the issue becomes one of faith or lack of faith. The scriptures teach that before the time of Jesus people were saved by faith looking for the coming of Christ. Then after Jesus they are saved by faith in him as the sacrifice and the way of life.

There is one other important thing to be considered. Had Jesus not come to earth and lived his life without sin, then there could have been no accountability for sin because the claim could be made that no one could live a life without sin. A just God couldn't hold anyone accountable for not living a type of life that no one was capable of living. (There are scriptures which state this fact but in slightly different paraphrase.) So the life of Jesus served to both condemn man and be the salvation for man. His life was a condemnation for man because he proved that a human could live a life without sin. Then he was the salvation of man because he provided the one time sacrifice to cover man's transgression by confession, faith, and following the lordship of Jesus.

It was also an important fact that Jesus was a flesh and blood person and subject to all of the temptations of a human. If not, then the argument could have been made that Jesus wasn't human, therefore no one could be accountable because a human can't live a life without sin. But since Jesus as a human did live a life without sin all humans are accountable when they don't. All of these details are important to the plan of salvation and the principle of judgement and accountability.

A person is therefore ultimately faced with a choice. He can be an atheist and deny the existence of heaven or hell or of God. In that case he will get a rude awakening when he discovers that his opinion was wrong and that there is an accountability for his actions. Or he can believe that there is both heaven and hell with which comes conviction and a confrontation of choices. He can either confess his own unrighteous state and accept the lordship of Jesus through faith in Jesus. Or he can be faced with the ultimate eternal disposition described in Revelations 21 where the unrighteous whose names are not in the "Book Of Life" are cast into the lake of fire as the second death. The scriptures teach this is eternal torment reserved for the wicked. There is no love and no compassion, only eternal loneliness and separation from God.

In a physical life on earth the unsaved person has contact with Christian people and shares the overflow of their love. But that won't exist in the lake of fire.

And the simple membership in a religious organization means nothing. You might as well join the Lion's club or some other human organization. The same ministers in the local church that spoke the words you wanted to hear will probably share eternal hell with you. Those racists who profess to Americans that they are Christian ministers will get to spend eternity with the political tyrants of history who were also racists. It could be that the black racists in America will spend eternity with the white racists of the NAZI party of Germany. Will they forever be in confrontation with each other? This is just a thought and there's nothing in the scripture to support it other than conjecture. I personally think that their misery will be too great for them to care about the misery of anyone else.

The scriptures teach that God is not a respecter of persons and that includes posturing racists who take God's name in vain in their pulpits and hate those of other races. So no one will get a free ride from God because of the color of their skin.