

## A Response to *The Purpose Driven Life*

Page 18: “The Bible says, “It is God who directs the lives of his creatures; everyone’s life is in his power.” The same text in the KJV (modified with God’s name reinstated, and a few punctuation transformations, as I will do throughout) states,

Job 12:9 Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of Yehovah hath wrought this, <sup>10</sup>in whose hand is the soul of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

This text has nothing to do with directing anyone.

Page 18: “You were made for God, not vice versa, and life is about letting God use you for *his* purposes, not your using him for your own purpose.” The whole concept of ‘letting God’ is Arminian in nature, showing that god to be very weak indeed; that god must be ‘actualized’ by the person!

Page 18: “The bible says, ‘Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life.’”

Romans 8:6 actually says, “For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit, life and peace.” Mr. Warren is using an extremely ‘liberal’ rendering. Since when is *death* equivalent to a *dead end* on a journey? Since when is *the mind of the flesh* (which indicates a mind a sin) equivalent to *obsession with self*? Since when is *the mind of the Spirit* equivalent to *attention to God*? Balaam paid attention to God; did he have the mind of the Spirit of God? Since when is *life and peace* equivalent to being *in the open* and a *spacious, free life*? What does that mean? Does that include ‘free love’?

Page 19: “The Bible says, ‘Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way,

my way, to finding yourself, your true self.’” What does the Bible really say in that text?

Matthew 16:24 Then said Yeshua unto His disciples, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

Since when is “whosoever will save his life shall lose it, and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it” the same as “Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self”? The Matthew 16:24-25 text is an End Times text, warning folks that those who will save their own lives, instead of doing what is both right and should get them killed, will certainly be killed, and folks who do what is right and likely lethal will find their lives. The Matthew 25:31 sheep/goat judgment is an example. Non-Jewish folks who give food, water, clothing, aid during sickness, etc. to the Brethren (Jews) during the Tribulation will be setting themselves up to forfeit their lives; but they will be called blessed and righteous, and will be granted everlasting life (Yehovah’s sovereignty permits no interference with His choosing whom He will save!). Folks who refuse to do so to the Jews when given opportunity will be damned.

Page 20: “The Bible says, ‘God’s wisdom ... goes deep into the interior of his purposes....It’s not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us.’” What the Bible actually states is:

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden that God predetermined before the ages for

our glory, that not one of the rulers of this age has known.

The writer never even suspected that *us* in this text refers to the Israelis. What is this, "It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest," doing in a supposed Bible? "More like?" "not the latest message"? What fool would use such a violently free-thinking 'rendering', Mr. Warren?

Page 20: Mr. Warren states, "To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God's Word, not the world's wisdom." Then why is he turning away from the Word of God to a worldly wisdom and Godless rendering of the Bible, what isn't even a translation? Will this man who has absolutely no discernment of truth take his followers to the truth?

He continued, "You must build your life on eternal truths, not pop psychology, success-motivation, or inspirational stories." What is the purpose of the rendering called *The Message*, that very liberal rendering that would make the *Living Bible* look like sound theology? Isn't its purpose for success motivation?

Page 20: "The Bible says, 'It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.'"

It actually says,

Ephesians 1:11 In Him in Whom also we obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will for us to be to the praise of His glory who have fore-trusted in the Messiah...

What equivalence is "what we are living for" to "we obtained an inheritance"? The text is about the Israelis in the End Times (*us, we* and *our* being contrasted to *you, ye* and *your* in verse 13). This is not only replacement theology in the sense that the Jews are ousted, but it is a new type of replacement theology in that the Scriptures are ousted!

Look at just how self-centered his choices of 'translations' are! The man states that it is not about self, then he uses the most violently self-centered renderings being printed! The focus is on applying the Scriptures to one's self, which makes man the center. (The opposite would be applying one's self to the Word of God, assuming a proper rendering, of course.)

How does "to the praise of His glory who have fore-trusted in the Messiah" match with "had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone"?

Page 20: "You discover your identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ."

Does a Buddhist who always remains a Buddhist discover his identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ? Did Judas Iscariot discover his identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ? If a person never discovers his identity and purpose, does that mean that he has no identity or purpose, or does it mean that he still has both an identity and purpose? Does one have to know his purpose in order to fulfill it?

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up that I might show my power in thee, and that

my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”

Did Pharaoh’s knowing his identity and purpose help him? Was he not still a vessel “of wrath fitted to destruction”?

Page 21: “God was thinking of you long before you ever thought about him. His purpose for your life predates your conception. He planned it before you existed, *without your input!*” What is this purpose was to be a vessel of wrath fitted to destruction? Will this help the reader find peace with God? What about Hitler?

Mr. Warren is assuming that each reader’s purpose will be very good!

Page 21, Point to Ponder: “It’s not about me.” Then why use a translation that underscores that it is all about me?

Page 21, Verse to Remember: “Everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him.” The actual text reads,

Colossians 1:16 Because all things were created by Him—the things in the heavens and the things upon the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or principalities or authorities. All things have been created by Him and for Him.

The expression, ‘got started’ goes along with the view that a god started up the universe, and let it go on its own. It does not refer to a creation. Finding ‘purpose’ is very different from being created by and for Him. If you, the reader, cannot see the great differences, you have as little discernment as Mr. Warren and Mr. Peterson (who did the ‘expanded paraphrase,’ *The Message*), and you need to go ahead and believe Mr. Warren’s pep talk.

Page 21: question to Consider: “In spite of all the advertising around me, how can I remind myself that life is really about living for God, not myself?”

What text states that life is about living for God? I haven’t seen a text that says this. The whole idea of ‘living for God’ minimizes the idea of ownership. One who is a slave of righteousness and who is owned by Yehovah the God of Israel doesn’t merely ‘live for God’; anyone who is invested into any religion ‘lives for God(s)’. A Roman Catholic priest lives for ‘God’ as much as a Buddhist monk. This is a man-centered theology. What greater benefit is in this? What about living to do justice, to love Grace, and to selflessly walk with Yehovah, the God of Avraham, Isaac and Israel? What about looking for the consolation of Israel?

If a person must remind himself about not living for self, the person truly is unchanged from any other ungodly individual.

Page 22: “I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born.” Isaiah 44:2a (CEV).

Isaiah 44:2 KJV: Thus saith Yehovah Who made thee and formed thee from the womb, Who will help thee, Fear not, O Jacob, my servant, and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

The Hebrew uses ‘made’; now this rendering uses ‘creator’! Why is Jacob cut out of this text, and it is broadened to include everyone? How dishonest!

Page 22: “The Bible says, ‘The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me.’” The Bible actually says,

Psalm 138:8, Hebrew: Yehovah will finish-off for my sake!

Who is the *my* in 'my sake'? This blatantly End Times text ("All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, Yehovah, when they hear the words of thy mouth," verse 4) is not for private interpretation; no Scripture is:

2 Peter 1:20 Every prophecy of Scripture is not of its own interpretation! For prophecy was not brought by the will of man at any time, but by the Holy Spirit being borne, the holy men of God spoke.

Using the Bible to prove or show one's own points demonstrates callous contempt for the Word of God. Of course, if you, dear reader, are satisfied to use the Bible in this way, and to read the works of others who likewise use it to found their own ideas, do so! Yehovah will bring to pass what He said to whom and about whom He said it, regardless of your willingness to place yourself in its center, as if you are so very important. The fearer of God in truth will demonstrate humility, not an insisting on self importance.

Page 20 has two 'texts' near the top: "You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit, how I was sculpted from nothing into something." "You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!" Now, look at the King James version:

Psalm 139:15 My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. <sup>16</sup>Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.

Next, look at a literal Hebrew rendering:

Psalm 139:15 My bone was not hidden from thee, that I was made in secret. I was variegated in the undermosts of land. Thine eyes saw my wrapping. And upon Thy scroll all of them shall be written. They will be fashioned days, and not one is in them and to me!

A thoughtful person might just get suspicious that this text has nothing to do with Mr. Warren's perspectives.

If Mr. Warren's proofs and evidences are failing in almost every case, what supports his ideas? He has sunk to a psychological pep rally leader.

Did God plan for some folks to live lives, then be burned to death? Did He plan for some folks to commit suicide? Is that how God decided when they would die? Did God foreordain murder victims to die? This book covers all the smooth, nice cases (so far); what about the terrible tragedies or violence? Is God's purpose for every person always good? This author states, "He planned it all for *his* purpose." Did God plan for the mother to watch her baby's head being smashed against the wall by a Nazi soldier?

Page 23: "The Bible says, 'From one man he made every nation,... and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.' What does it actually say?"

Acts 17:26 And He made every race of men from one blood to dwell upon all the face of the earth, having determined fore-arranged times and the boundaries of their dwelling to seek Yehovah, if perhaps they might feel after Him and mind find Him, though indeed being not far from each one of us.

This text isn't speaking of Believers, but of unbelievers. It isn't speaking of individuals, but of races. The author is failing to prove his points in every case! He doesn't seem to have a clue how to properly use a Biblical text. He is again making the text center on the individual, even when it is speaking of races!

Page 24: "God's motive for creating you was his love." Prove it. Is the same thing true of the creation of the Devil?

Romans 9:22 What if God, willing to show wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction?

Does it sound like He loved these vessels?

Page 24: "The Bible says, 'Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love.'"

The text actually reads,

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ <sup>4</sup>according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.

The text continues with the same pronoun until verse 13. I have boldened the pronouns so that you can consider what is being said:

Ephesians 1:13 In whom **ye** also, after **ye** heard the Word of Truth, the gospel of **your** salvation, in whom also after **ye** believed, **ye** were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise <sup>14</sup>that is the earnest of **our** inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The change from *ye* to *our* is very important. Don't overlook it. Had the *ye* been part of the *our*, the word *also* would not have been employed!

Carefully *contrast* the perverted rendering that Mr. Warren used with the rendering that is far closer to the Greek.

#### Chapter 4

Page 37: "The Bible calls your earthly body a 'tent,' but refers to your future body as a 'house.' The Bible says, 'When this tent we live in—our body here on earth—is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a house he himself has made, which will last forever.'"

Mr. Warren has made a fundamental error when reading this and other texts: he has ignored the pronouns' identities and numbers. The following is this text from the KJV:

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God—an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For we groan in this, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house that is from heaven <sup>3</sup>if so be that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked.

*Our* and *we* are plural; *house* and *tabernacle* are singular. This text would have employed all plurals, had it been referring to human bodies. The following is how the text might have appeared:

2 Corinthians 5:1 misquoted: For we know that if our earthly houses of these tabernacles were dissolved, we have buildings of God—houses not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup>For we groan in these, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our houses that are

from heaven <sup>3</sup>if so be that, being clothed, we shall not be found naked.

Failure to make distinctions is the first step to misunderstanding and theological error.

Page 37: “If you learn to love and trust God’s Son, Jesus, you will be invited to spend the rest of eternity with him.” Mr. Warren does not understand the Biblical faith or its means of Salvation. His formula has no basis in any text in the Bible. He is expressing errant pop-Christian theology with a bubbling lovey-dovey, sweet Santa God, but not the Biblical Deity Who commands men everywhere to repent, to fear Him, to believe. I don’t find invitations in the Bible regarding Salvation.

Page 37: “On the other hand, if you reject his love, forgiveness, and salvation, you will spend eternity apart from God forever.” Mr. Warren again demonstrated that he has never carefully read the Bible, instead using pop-Christian theology.

Revelation 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead or in his hand, <sup>10</sup>the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God that is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation. And he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup>And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever.

The text avers that this ‘any man’ will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of both the holy angels and the Lamb. Instead of spending “eternity apart from God forever,” the unbeliever

gets to spend it in God’s wrathful presence.

Page 38: Mr. Warren said of one who lives “in light of eternity”: “Keeping up with trends, fashions, and popular values just doesn’t matter as much anymore.” Doesn’t matter as much? Is that what his type of ‘Christianity’ does? It makes one somewhat less worldly? He continued, “Paul said, ‘I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.’” His text is the following:

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Look at the larger text around this verse to see whether Paul was speaking about keeping up with trends, fashions and popular values:

Philippians 3:4 If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews. As touching the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. <sup>7</sup>But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. <sup>8</sup>Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung that I may win Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in Him—not having mine own righteousness that is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness that is of God by faith.

Using this text to refer to diminishing one’s trivial pursuits trivializes Paul’s mission and work, and it trivializes the

change that takes place when one becomes a New Creation.

Page 38: “The most damaging aspect of contemporary living is short-term thinking.” Mr. Warren uses many superlatives, and he has been wrong in every case so far. Short-term thinking is not the most damaging aspect of contemporary living; the lack of the fear of the Biblical God, thus trivializing and even justifying sin is. Yehovah never destroyed a society for its short-term thinking. He destroyed whole cities because their inhabitants became vile:

Ezekiel 16:49 Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom: pride, fulness of bread and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters. And she did not strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. <sup>50</sup>And they were haughty. And they committed abomination before me. Therefore I took them away as I saw.

Page 38: Mr. Warren gives excellent secular, godless advice: “To make the most of your life, you must keep the vision of eternity continually in your mind and the value of it in your heart.” This, of course, does not require that one even believe in a god, let alone a true one. Man has desired to live forever, and Mr. Warren has taken good advantage of this aim.

Page 38: Another theological error of pop-Christianity is that *heaven* is the place where Christians will be with God forever. The New Earth is rarely considered in the picture, and if it is, the New Earth and heaven are considered the same. Mr. Warren wrote, “What is it going to be like in eternity with God? Frankly, the capacity of our brains cannot handle the wonder and greatness of heaven.” He then wrote, “The Bible says, ‘No mere man has ever

seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has read for those who love the Lord.” The very next verse, that he didn’t read, contradicts him:

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden that God ordained before the world unto our glory <sup>8</sup>that none of the princes of this world knew. For had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love Him. <sup>10</sup>But God hath revealed unto us by His Spirit! For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

The Isaiah text describes further:

Isaiah 64:1 If Thou hadst torn the heavens! Thou didst descend! Mountains were melted from Thy faces <sup>2</sup>as fire kindling the melted-ones, fire will boil water, to make Thy Name known to thine afflictors! Races shall tremble from Thy faces <sup>3</sup>in Thy doing terrors we will not hope! Thou didst descend! Mountains were melted from Thy faces! <sup>4</sup>And from hiding they did not hearken! They did not ‘ear’! An eye did not see, Elohim, besides Thee! He will do for the waiter for Him! <sup>5</sup>Thou didst meet a rejoicer and doer of righteousness in Thy ways. They shall remember Thee!

This text has nothing to do with pop-Christianity’s *heaven*. It has everything to do with what Yehovah will do toward the end of the Tribulation on behalf of folks waiting for Him, delighted in His coming!

What a dead faith Mr. Warren and all like him have! It is all a here-and-now faith, and the parts that look forward to the future are all tangled and erroneous!

His descriptions are boring! His heaven is useless! The Word of God describes the most exciting things that Yehovah will do, but holders of Mr. Warren's faith cannot see these things. They are incapable of understanding, their hearts being darkened by their unbelief. They don't and can't take the Word of God literally. It would be against their religion!

Page 39: Mr. Warren attempted to describe his view of the bliss of heaven. He wrote, "We *won't* lie around on clouds with halos playing harps! We will enjoy unbroken fellowship with God, and he will enjoy us for an unlimited, endless forever. One day Jesus will say, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'" Mr. Warren has no idea that this statement is made to folks who had no idea who Jesus is, but who helped the *brethren* (the Israelis) during the Tribulation. This is the great invitation to folks who don't know Yeshua (Jesus), the Messiah of Israel!

Page 40: "The Bible says, 'This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven.'" No, it doesn't. It says to the Israelis (Hebrews),

Hebrews 13:13 Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach. <sup>14</sup>For we have no continuing city here, but we seek one to come.

All Israelis who approached Yehovah had to go outside the camp once Moshe moved the Tabernacle outside of the camp because of Yehovah's anger over Israel's sinful uncleanness. The continuing city will be earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed, when he was called to go out into a place that he should after receive for an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing whither he went. <sup>9</sup>By faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked for a city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

This is the same city. It isn't in heaven!

Page 40: "We should be 'realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus.'" Is this a good justification for suicide, or am I missing the point? The fuller text has no such potential error:

2 Corinthians 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon—that mortality might be swallowed up of life. <sup>5</sup>Now He Who hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, Who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Therefore we are always confident, knowing that we are absent from the Lord whilst we are at home in the body. <sup>7</sup>(For we walk by faith, not by sight.) <sup>8</sup>We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>Wherefore we labour so that we may be accepted by Him, whether present or absent. <sup>10</sup>For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Messiah so that every one may receive the things in the Body according to what he hath done, whether good or bad. <sup>11</sup>We therefore persuade men, knowing the terror of the Lord!

This sounds more like very good reasons to remain here in our mortal bodies, labouring diligently. Mr.



Warren's Easy Believism is most shallow and deadly.

Page 40, Question to Consider: "Since I was made to last forever, what is the one thing I should stop doing and the one thing I should start doing today?" I have a suggestion for this answer: Stop reading pop-fiction-Christian books and perverted renderings of the Bible, and start reading a proper and faithful rendering of the Bible literally, abandoning all commentaries, using only proper lexicons of the Hebrew, Chaldee and Greek, and taking the time to carefully consider all texts.

#### Chapter 5

Page 42: "To fulfill the purposes God made you for, you will have to challenge conventional wisdom and replace it with the *biblical* metaphors of life." This twofold error presupposes the Bible to be made of metaphors, and is a strictly Arminian perspective, leaving the power of God and His bringing about His will out of the picture. Mr. Warren then quoted his perversion: "The Bible says, 'Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God.'" This contains a number of errors when contrasted with a stricter rendering:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world. But be ye transformed by the renewing of your [plural] mind [singular] that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

I added the bracketed words to show that this was commanded to a group, not to individuals. The following are not the same:

- (a) conforming to the standards of the world, and conforming to the world;
- (b) letting God transform and the command to be transformed;
- (c) a complete change of mind and a renewing of the mind
- (d) ability to know the will of God and proving what is the good, acceptable and perfect will of God.

Cheap translations produce cheap Christianity.

Page 42: "God tested Jacob when he had to work extra years to earn Rachel as his wife." Prove it. I see no evidence.

Page 42: "David failed his tests from God on several occasions." Tests from God? Does God test (tempt) a man with sin? Mr. Warren is more concerned with his views than with what the Bible teaches.

On page 43, Mr. Warren claims all of life to be a test, and implies that these tests are from God. He then states, "In my own life I have noticed that God tests my *faith* through problems." Mr. Warren cannot prove that God is testing him in these things; he is assuming this. Such a mystical view of life may give comfort, but has no basis in the text. Yehovah does test, but most of life's situations are not tests from Yehovah (unless one can show a text that they are).

Page 43: "Every day is an important day, and every second is a growth opportunity to deepen your character, to demonstrate love, or to depend on God. ... All of them have eternal implications." This is a call to mysticism. If one were to actualize the idea that every second is a

growth opportunity to deepen character, that person might decide to never relax, never be amused, never use humour. If every second is a growth opportunity to depend on God, one might determine to depend on God when that person already has the wherewithal to do what is needful. If every second of life has eternal implications, what about when a person sleeps? Mr. Warren is making statements that he does not back up using the Bible.

Page 44: Mr. Warren uses 1 Corinthians 10:13 to back up his view that God gives tests that are always able to be endured, and that all of life consists of tests. This text refers to idolatry, however, not general tests of life. Making this text into a 'fits all' text shows a contempt for the Bible's specificity.

He quoted this text from the book of James: "When they pass the test, they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." What does 'receive the crown of life' mean? What is the crown of life? Isn't this a rather important crown?

Page 44: "We never really *own* anything during our brief stay on earth." That is almost true! The Hebrew indicates something very similar. Avraham did own one thing: Yehovah said, "I am the God of Avraham." He declared Avraham's ownership of Him as God.

Page 44: "The Bible says, '[God] blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge.'" No, it doesn't!

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them. And God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it. And have dominion over the fish of the

sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Putting man in charge and giving man dominion are not the same! This is a prophetically future event (as Hebrews avers: "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him." Hebrews 2:8).

Page 46: "Let me ask you: Is the way you manage your money preventing God from doing more in your life?" My answer is that the Biblical God is sovereign; no act of man can prevent Him from doing all that He desires. If I can prevent God from doing anything, I am sovereign over Him.

## Chapter 6

Page 49: "Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cozy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul." The text actually states,

1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts that war against the soul, <sup>12</sup>having your conversation honest among the Gentiles.

This text is pointedly to Jews. Viewing it in any other way shows contemptible Replacement Theology.

Page 49: "Those in frequent contact with the things of the world should make good use of them without becoming attached to them, for this world and all it contains will pass away." I expect that some readers will realize the error of this writer. A man who uses whores would really appreciate this text. The Scriptures actually state,

1 Corinthians 7:28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned. And if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh, but I spare you. <sup>29</sup>But this I say, brethren, the time is short. It remaineth that both they that have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and they that weep as though they wept not, and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not, and they that buy as though they possessed not, <sup>31</sup>and they that use this world as not abusing it. For the fashion of this world passeth away. <sup>32</sup>But I would have you without carefulness. He who is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord—how he may please the Lord, <sup>33</sup>but he who is married careth for the things that are of the world—how he may please his wife.

This text has nothing to do with Mr. Warren's hypothesis.

Page 49: "The fact that earth is not our ultimate home explains why, as followers of Jesus, we experience difficulty, sorrow, and rejection in this world." No, this does not explain it. The fact that sin came into the world, and with sin comes sorrow and death, explains it. "It also explains why some of God's promises seem unfulfilled..." The reason why some of God's promises seem unfulfilled is because nearly all of them await a future fulfillment. Most of the Bible deals either with events to come or with events that picture or show miniatures of events to come.

Colossians 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in food or in drink or in respect of a holyday or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days, <sup>17</sup>that are a shadow of things to come.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law, having a shadow of good things to come, is not the very image of the things.

Thus, the first six books of the Bible picture things to come. All of the Psalms, Proverbs, Job and all the prophets almost entirely speak of things to come. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John almost entirely speak of things to come, though modern churchgoers and clergy almost never know this. No promise of God will be fulfilled in any other way than totally literally and completely down to every detail prophesied.

Page 50: Speaking of life on earth, Mr. Warren stated, "We're not completely happy here because we're not supposed to be." Mr. Warren did not consider the Israelis in the Millennium, because he apparently has no such hope. The Israelis will be very happy under the rule of Messiah Yeshua. Yet I also recognize that 'Christians' who rejoice in their own salvation (whether they have this or not) while Israel is spiritually dead and in exile are self-centered, not having the view of Paul:

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.

If anyone claims to be born of God, and does not have this as his heart's desire, that person has never understood the Gospel.

Page 50: Mr. Warren cited Dr. Lewis, "All that is not eternal is eternally useless." Dr. Lewis was wrong, if this statement has not been wrenched out of context. Esther's beauty was not eternal, but it was everlastingly useful to Yehovah.

Generalizations sometimes seem true and trivial, but they teach great error if exceptions exist and are not noted.

Page 51: "When life gets tough, when you're overwhelmed with doubt, or when you wonder if living for Christ is worth

the effort, remember that you are not home yet.” If a person is overwhelmed with doubt, as *doubt* is used in the Bible, the person needs to reexamine to see if he is in faith. If a person wonders “if living for Christ is worth the effort,” the person has not been born of God. Yeshua said,

Matthew 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Trying to be religious for a religious ‘Christ’ gets very burdensome at times, but when one has been born of God, living Godly is natural. Biblical ‘warfare’ texts deal with a different set of issues:

2 Corinthians 10:2 But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence wherewith I think to be bold against some who think of us as if we walked according to the flesh. <sup>3</sup>For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, <sup>5</sup>casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup>and having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.

This warfare has all the marks of total success. Paul had no thought that this warfare might fail.

The self-pitying, “Oh my, life is so tough, such a hard effort, and my life is so filled with weakness; Lord, carry me!” interjections of modern liberal pop-Christianity are not found among the Saints in the Bible. Elijah was frustrated, because he saw no response from the Israelis, and did not realize that the time for Israel’s turning would not be in his

lifetime. The wicked queen truly sought him to kill him. Yet when Yehovah told him to go and anoint Elisha, he did as he was told. He will personally make an announcement before Messiah’s return:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of Yehovah.

(Some folks who claim to be Christians don’t believe texts like these, not believing in the power of God to resurrect the dead; they think it will be someone else who will have similar powers to Elijah. They show their unbelief, the same unbelief that certifies that they have not been born of God.)

## Chapter 7

Page 53: “The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the glory of God.” Let me try replacing this with another word: “The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the grace of God.” “The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the righteousness of God.” “The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the love of God.” Because I could replace *glory* with so many other words and still seem correct, Mr. Warren is wrong about the ultimate goal of the universe. What text has he used to prove his point?

Page 53: “What is the glory of God? It is who God is.” Mr. Warren is wrong; no attribute of God is God.

Page 54: Mr. Warren asserted that God revealed his glory “now through the church.” He cited the following texts:

Ephesians 2:21-22 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord <sup>22</sup>in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.

Mr. Warren assumed that *us* refers to all Christians, never considering that it might refer to another group that differs from *you* and *ye*. The error of assumption leads to false conclusions.

Giving the light of the knowledge of the glory of God is not the same as revealing God's glory.

Page 54: "In heaven, God's glory provides all the light needed. The Bible Says, 'The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light.'" Mr. Warren apparently either does not believe in the New Earth or thinks that the New Earth and heaven are identical. What a profound series of errors this will produce! Will the Saints come back to earth from heaven to rule with Christ for a thousand years, then turn around and go back to heaven? What would be the purpose of coming in the first place?

Page 54: "Jesus came to earth so we could fully understand God's glory." So, tell me: who fully understands God's glory now?

Page 55: Mr. Warren inadvertently condemned all Christians of the worst possible sin (which means that it exceeds blasphemy of the Holy Spirit): "None of us have given God the full glory he deserves from our lives. This is the worst sin and the biggest mistake we can make."

Mr. Warren writes in superlatives much too often, and without warrant from the Bible.

"On the other hand, living for God's glory is the greatest achievement we can accomplish with our lives." Tell this to Pharaoh:

Romans 9:17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up that I might show my power in thee and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth."

Page 55: "God says, 'They are my own people, and I created them to bring me glory,' so it ought to be the supreme goal of our lives."

Isaiah 43:1 And now thus saith Yehovah Who created thee, Jacob, and He Who formed thee, Israel, Fear not! For I have redeemed thee! I have called thee by thy name! Thou art mine. <sup>2</sup>When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned. And the flame shall not kindle upon thee. <sup>3</sup>For I am Yehovah thy God, the Holy One of Israel thy Saviour! I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. <sup>4</sup>Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been important. And I have loved thee. Therefore I will give a man for thee and citizenries for thy life. <sup>5</sup>Fear not. For I am with thee. I will bring thy seed from the east and gather thee from the west. <sup>6</sup>I will say to the north, "Give up!" and to the south, "Keep not back!" Bring my sons from far and my daughters from the ends of the earth—<sup>7</sup>every one that is called by my name. For I have created him for my glory. I have formed him. Indeed, I have made him.

This is misusage of a text dealing directly with Jacob. It refers to the Tribulation, and has nothing to do with Mr. Warren's hypothesis. He makes the Word of God so boring! No wonder so many are leaving churches, dissatisfied with the contemptibly low standards of preachers! Folks are drawn by these types of 'Christian Psychological' teachings, but they will then seek another new 'high' when this one wears down, never being satisfied with the Word of God itself. "I can only imagine" how exciting would be the preaching and writing of one who exposed texts according to their contents!

Page 55: "St. Irenaeus said, 'The glory of God is a human being fully alive!'" Mr. Irenaeus had no concept of the glory of God. The Bible speaks when He will come in all of His glory, and it won't be equivalent to a human being fully alive.

Page 55: "Worship is our first responsibility to God." I thought glorifying God was! We have another case of extraneous superlatives.

I suspect that Mr. Warren does not know the definition of *worship*. He wrote, "We worship God by enjoying him." Since *worship* always means *prostrating one's self before another*, the concept of *enjoyment* is not part of the picture.

Page 56: "Paul said, 'Accept each other just as Christ has accepted you; then God will be glorified.'" The text states,

Romans 15:7 Wherefore receive ye one another as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

The perversion gives the impression that 'accepting' each other is Biblical, and this could include folks who are practicing sin. After all, whose to judge? Wording is everything, else the 'Word of God' becomes the opinions of

translators, paraphrasers and perverters.

Page 56: "Spiritual maturity is becoming like Jesus in the way we think, feel, and act." Most pop-Christians already figure that Jesus thinks, feels and acts like them! They are just like their Jesuses already! Who will mature to the point of thinking like Jesus, or feeling like Jesus? This really lowers their Jesuses down. Being *Christlike* is not the same thing. This is maintaining righteousness, doing justice, loving grace and selflessly walking with God; and it is being obedient to Yehovah's command *when and if* He commands something. It is not presumptive in nature.

Page 56: "The Bible says, 'As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.'" The text states,

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, beholding the glory of the Lord with open face as in a glass, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Is becoming "more and more like him" the same as being "changed into the same image"? The perversion makes it sound like an individual occurrence, whereas the text has *we* being changed into the same image ('face' is singular, as well as 'image'). This is a group phenomenon, and it has a timing. This *we* are distinct from *you* (to whom the letter is written) as the following text shows:

2 Corinthians 4:5 For we preach not ourselves, but Messiah Yeshua the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Yeshua's sake.

Page 57: "The Bible says, 'As God's grace brings more and more people to

Christ,... God will receive more and more glory.” The text actually states,

2 Corinthians 4:13 We, having the same spirit of faith according as it is written, ‘I believed, and therefore have I spoken’—we also believe and therefore speak <sup>14</sup>knowing that He Who raised up the Lord Yeshua shall also raise us up by Yeshua, and shall present us with you. <sup>15</sup>For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might redound to the glory of God through the thanksgiving of many <sup>16</sup>for which cause we faint not. But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

The Numbers Theology so popular in pop-Christianity is backed by “as God’s grace brings more and more people to Christ” when the original text does not say this. Assuming that the “abundant grace might redound to the glory of God through the thanksgiving of many” means that these folks will be brought to Christ is without merit, unless *thanksgiving* and *salvation* are equivalent.

Page 57: Mr. Warren asserts that Jesus struggled with choosing a difficult path instead of an easy one. Such is Mr. Warren’s Jesus, who decides at the last minute whether to “fulfill his purpose and bring glory to God” or to “shrink back and live a comfortable, self-centered life.” What a cheap, undecided, undetermined Jesus! How low can this Jesus descend before he is just another liberal Christian?

Page 58: “The Bible says, ‘Anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go,... you’ll have it forever, real and eternal.’” The Bible actually says,

John 12:25 He who loveth his life shall lose it, and he who hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

Is ‘holding on to life just as it is’ the same as ‘loving his life’? Is ‘destroying that life’ the same as ‘losing it’? Is ‘letting it go’ the same as ‘hating his life in this world’? Is ‘having it forever, real and eternal’ the same as ‘keeping it unto life eternal’ [another way of stating the guarantee of Salvation]?

No wonder Mr. Warren has sold so many books! He has constructed a formula that deletes the Word of God from Christianity, making it appear as if it were the real essence of the Christian faith!

Page 58: “God will give you what you need if you will just make the choice to live for him.” Besides the strong Arminian thrust, as if God is begging the person to make this choice, the construction ‘living for him’ is not at all equivalent to turning to God from idols, to repentance from sin and dead works, to humbling one’s self before God. Mr. Warren’s formula is more like what one does with a menu at a restaurant. There is no fear of God.

Page 58: “The Bible says, ‘Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God.’” The text reads,

2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup>according as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him Who hath called us to glory and virtue.

Since when is being 'invited' to God the same as *being called by God*? Since when is this the same as being called to glory and virtue? *Call* has an intrinsic command aspect.

Page 58: "Real life begins by committing yourself completely to Jesus Christ." Is this Mr. Warren's formula for salvation? *Commitment* is not inherently a salvific act; Judas Iscariot was committed to Jesus Christ; he made his money that way. Some others do the same today.

Page 58: "The Bible promises, 'To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.'" Texts taken in pieces rather than being quoted in full with consideration of the pronouns, timing and context will always be useful for teaching error. Consider this text:

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, He gave power to them to become the sons of God—to them who believe on His name <sup>13</sup>who were born—not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

He gave power to them who were born of God. Please observe that the erroneous rendering Mr. Warren used has *believed* and *received* in the same tense, whereas a proper rendering has *received* in a past tense derived from the second Aorist form, and *believe* in a present tense form. This type of sloppiness in translation and paraphrase completely changes outcomes, as if the Word of God is not infallible, but completely mutable according to man's whims. These paraphrases, and books based on them, are perfect for liberal churches and liberal pastors whose concerns are not for rightly dividing the Word of Truth, but for popular appeal and acceptability.

Page 58: "Believe God loves you..." What if He doesn't?

Psalm 5:5 The foolish shall not stand in Thy sight. Thou hatest all workers of iniquity! <sup>6</sup>Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing! Yehovah will abhor the bloody and deceitful man!

Perhaps you believe that this text doesn't mean what it says, or that God was somehow exaggerating. The Hebrew corroborates its strength. God does not love everyone; He hates and abhors some. Is the Truth hard to teach?

Page 58: "Believe that no matter what you've done, God wants to forgive you." Suppose the person has blasphemed the Holy Spirit; does God 'want' to forgive him? Not if the text is true. Generalizations are great ways to tell lies.

Page 58: Mr. Warren gives the crowning example of 'easy believism' that is always devoid of a new birth, a new creation: "Receive Jesus into your life as your Lord and Savior. Receive his forgiveness for your sins. Receive his Spirit, who will give you the power to fulfill your life purpose." Had Mr. Warren been considering the new birth, 'your life' would never have been the center. A much better wording would be "Turn to the Biblical Jesus Who is Lord and Savior. Call upon Him for forgiveness of your sins. He will give you the power to obey." Even this would be inferior, however, because unless one has the ability to hearken, which alone comes by the Word of God, faith will not be present. Very few take the time to read or hear the Word of God in its entirety (directly from a proper translation) so that they might hear. Most rely on some oversimplified 'easy believism' message



that makes the Bible superfluous to their faiths.

Mr. Warren then quoted from his heresy: "The Bible says, 'Whoever accepts and trusts the Son gets in on everything, life complete and forever!'" The text states,

John 3:36 He who believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. And he who believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.

If the wrath of God abides on this person, does the love of God also abide on him? If so, let us say that God loves everyone in the Lake of Fire and Sulfur. If we say this, let's also admit that the love of God doesn't mean anything, since God loves the folks being forever tormented in the flame just as he loves the folks that occupy the New Earth.

Since when is *accepting* and *trusting* the same as *believing*? Since when is *getting in on everything, life complete and forever* the same as *having everlasting life*? What does 'getting in on everything' mean? Does this mean that non-Jewish believers will inherit the Land of Israel promised to Avraham? Does it mean that non-Jewish Saints become 'God's chosen people', replacing Israel? What does this mean?

Page 58: If a person does what Mr. Warren proposes by asking him to pray, "Jesus, I believe in you and I receive you," does this mean that this "will change [the person's] eternity"? Jehovah's Witnesses believe in their Jesus. Seventh Day Adventists believe in their Jesus. Mormons believe in their Jesus. Shriners and Free Masons believe in their Jesus. If they pray this prayer after reading Mr. Warren's writings, continuing with their Jesuses, will they have a different eternity? *If it isn't the case, why say that it is?* Is this

the book that so many pastors have found so helpful to their congregations, a book that teaches the pop-Christian false salvation?

Page 59: "If you sincerely meant that prayer, congratulations!" Suppose the Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, Mormons, Shriners and Free Masons sincerely mean that prayer, are they to be congratulated?

Page 59, Question to Consider: "Where in my daily routine can I become more aware of God's glory?" It is always focused on *I, me, my!* Mr. Warren said it would be centered on his Jesus! He just can't break away from the self-centered gospel!

Page 61, Purpose #1: "You were planned for God's pleasure" "For God has planted them like strong and graceful oaks for his own glory. Isaiah 61:3 (LB)"

The text actually reads (modified from the King James),

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord Yehovah is upon me, for Yehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek. He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to them that are bound, <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the acceptable year of Yehovah and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn, <sup>3</sup>to appoint unto them who mourn in Zion—to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness so that they will be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Yehovah, so that He will be glorified. <sup>4</sup>And they shall build the old wastes. They shall raise up the former desolations. And

they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.

If it isn't abundantly clear about whom He is speaking, I will say it: the Israelis and all who have helped them during the Tribulation. They have come back to Zion during the last part of the Tribulation (as many other texts testify). This is no general text to apply to Christians in every time period.

### Chapter 8

Page 63: "The moment you were born into the world, God was there as an unseen witness, *smiling* at your birth." Yes, I am sure that Adolph Hitler will find that very consoling. Who is Mr. Warren, that he feels the right and the authority to declare when God smiles? Is he not only a prophet of God, but greater than a prophet? Does he speak infallibly? If he does, the renderings of Biblical texts that he uses must also be infallible! But if he writes what is false prophecy (saying that God smiles at an event *is* false prophecy), who will propagate such a damnable heresy, and claim that this book is a 'Godsend'?

Page 63: "Bringing enjoyment to God, living for his pleasure, is the first purpose of your life." I thought it was living for God's glory.

Page 63: "When you fully understand this truth, you will never again have a problem with feeling insignificant. It proves your worth." Thus, pop-psychology again has popped up its head! Never mind humility; let's all bask in our own importance! Where is being a slave? "You are a child of God, and you bring pleasure to God like nothing else he has ever created." I guess that means that you bring God more pleasure than the person next to you,

since each person is an individual creation! This is ruthlessly self-absorbed, self-centered megalomania!

Page 64: "Bringing pleasure to God is called 'worship.'" No, it isn't. *Worship* means *prostrating one's self before something or someone*. Mr. Warren didn't do his homework.

Page 64: "The Bible says, 'The LORD is pleased only with those who worship him and trust his love.'" No, it doesn't. It states,

Psalm 147:11 Yehovah taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His Grace.

When some ethereal concept of *worship* replaces the fear of Yehovah, the religion has nothing to do with the Biblical God.

When *love* replaces *Grace*, Salvation has been removed.

Page 65: "Every part of a church service is an act of worship: praying, Scripture reading, singing, confession, silence, being still, listening to a sermon, taking notes, giving an offering, baptism, communion, signing a commitment card, and even greeting other worshipers." He didn't mention building the biggest church building on a high place near the expressway, or putting a Starbuck's in; great acts of worship! The greatest would be putting in a Krispy Kreme! You can see the foolishness in these last offerings, but the first items do not seem foolish. Yet disconnecting *worship* from its Hebrew, Chaldee and Greek definitions is indeed *foolish!* Try replacing *worship* in the Bible with any in the following list:

- praying
- Scripture reading
- singing

confession  
 silence  
 being still  
 listening to a sermon  
 taking notes  
 giving an offering  
 baptism  
 communion  
 signing a commitment card  
 greeting other worshipers

You will see how poor a substitute they are.

Page 65: "Adam worshiped in the Garden of Eden." Oh, did he? Prove it.

Page 66: "We are told to 'worship him continually'. The text says to 'seek His Faces continually'. If everything means *worship* (in these perversions), using all the different terms was a waste and foolishness on Yehovah's part. Will you stand before Him with this theology?

Mr. Warren subtly switches from *worship* to *praise*, as if these are also the same! He has Bible readings that have no distinctions!

#### Chapter 9

Page 69: "May the LORD smile on you.... Numbers 6:25 (NLT)"

"Smile on me, your servant; teach me the right way to live. Psalm 119:135 (Msg)"

Numbers 6:25, literally from the Hebrew: Speak unto Aharon and unto his sons to say, "So ye shall bless the children of Israel to say to them, <sup>26</sup> 'Yehovah shall bless thee, and He has guarded thee. <sup>27</sup>Yehovah will illuminate His faces unto thee and He has favoured thee. Yehovah will carry His faces unto thee and He has put to thee shalom.' <sup>28</sup>And they shall put my Name upon the

children of Israel. And I, I will bless them."

Psalm 119:135 states literally from the Hebrew: Illuminate Thy faces via Thy servant. And teach me Thy statutes.

Since when is the illuminated faces of Yehovah the same as God's smile? Didn't Moshe come from Mount Sinai with an illuminated face? Why not take God's word literally? Is it because it is too wonderful to believe?

Page 69: "Since pleasing God is the first purpose of your life, your most important task is to discover how to do that." This assumes that the person is born of God. If the far more likely is true, the person is not born of God, and

1 Corinthians 2:14 The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Telling one who is not born of God to discover how to 'please' God is like telling one not trained in bridge construction that his most important task is to help in cable winding over the open expanse of water.

Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please, for he who cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

Establishing what constitutes the Biblical faith is far more important than determining how to please God.

Page 69: Mr. Warren continued, "The Bible says, 'Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.'" There is some damnable advice! Since when is the person responsible to figure out the mind of Christ?

1 Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we [identify this we!] have the mind of Christ.

The text from which Mr. Warren obtained his perversion actually states,

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth—<sup>10</sup>proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

These folks are Saints; they are not out to 'find their purpose', but to do righteousness and truth, and by that means they will 'prove' (demonstrate as genuine) what is acceptable unto Yehovah. Readers of *The Purpose Driven Life* will rarely be Saints (and if they are, they will be outraged by Biblical perversions enunciated in this volume).

Page 69: "The Bible says, 'Noah was a pleasure to the Lord.'" Actually, it says,

Genesis 6:8 Noah found favour in the eyes of Yehovah.

Finding favour and being a pleasure to anyone are not the same. Words have meaning!

Page 70: "The Bible tells us that for his entire life, 'Noah consistently followed God's will and enjoyed a close relationship with Him.'" It actually states,

Genesis 6:9 Noah was a righteous man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God.

Following God's will and doing right before God sound like the same thing, but they are not. The word *following* is not the same as *doing*. Righteousness has to do with *doing*, not just following. Enjoying a close relationship with God

can be said of the angels; it is not the same as walking with God.

Page 70: "God made you to love you, and he longs for you to love him back." Aw, that's sweet! Now, prove it! Show where God *longs* for folks to love him back! I see where it is commanded; since when is God such a lonely, love-hungry being? The Bible does not portray Him that way.

Page 70: "He says, 'I don't want your sacrifices—I want your love; I don't want your offerings—I want you to know me.'" It actually says,

Hosea 6:6 For I desired Grace and not a sacrifice and knowledge of Elohim from ascendings.

Should 'For by Grace are ye saved through faith' be changed to 'For by love are ye saved through faith'? Are the two synonymous? If they are, many teachings are false!

The actual Hosea 6:6 text does not state that Yehovah did not want the ascendings, but that He desires knowledge of Elohim *more than* the ascendings. Perversions are glad to abolish the Word of God (the 'law') in favour of their views.

Page 70: "This is why learning to love God and be loved by him should be the greatest objective of your life. Nothing else comes close in importance." I thought worshiping him was the most important thing. I thought glorifying him was the most important thing. Is Mr. Warren stating that doing all these things are each the most important? If this is the case, *most* makes no sense.

"Page 70: The Bible says, 'By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he

was told.... As a result, Noah became intimate with God.” No, it doesn’t. It says,

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah moved with fear, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Why did Mr. Warren cut out the part about Noah’s condemning the world by his obedience? Is there really no difference between becoming heir of the righteousness that is by faith, and becoming intimate with God?

Page 71: “The Bible says, ‘He takes pleasure in those that honor Him; in those who trust in His constant love.’” No, it doesn’t! It says,

Psalms 147:11 Yehovah taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His Grace.

Honoring God (whatever that means) and fearing Him (whatever that means) are not the same; trusting in his constant love is not the same as hoping in His Grace.

Page 71: “With no sign of rain year after year, he was ruthlessly criticized as a ‘crazy man who things God speaks to him.’” Oh? Prove it! The Greeks made stories (Greek Tragedies) of their gods to entertain each other; so is Mr. Warren and others like him. He never read these things in any Bible; they are fairy tales. The text speaks of Noah, but never mentions anyone speaking against his work. Noah preached righteousness.

How interesting I find such books as Mr. Warren’s! Somewhere in the middle, these writers write the truth, and do it very well, telling me they *knew* the truth

all along. Then they get back to their errors. Mr. Warren wrote, “God doesn’t owe you an explanation or reason for everything he asks you to do. Understanding can wait, but obedience can’t.” I would only find fault with one aspect. Yehovah will often give a command that has a timing for fulfillment. Were the person being commanded to begin to act at the time of being told, the results would be wrong. Yehovah always has a command *and a timing* for the command. If He has determined that it must be done immediately, He will give that as part of the command. Otherwise, the person must wait for the ‘Go!’ order. Joshua found that out the hard way when the Israelis and he proceeded to Ai. Joshua knew that Yehovah commanded to take the city, but Israel was not ready because of Achan. At least Mr. Warren knows that one does not have to know God’s purposes for anyone in order for that person to be obedient! But he will get back to the claim that one must.

Page 72: While Mr. Warren was giving examples of partial obedience, he said, “I’ll attend church but I won’t tithe.” He, like so many in the clergy, is unaware of Biblical tithing, its form, purpose and command. He is unaware that it is always in the form of an eating and drinking party, as described in the text below:

Deuteronomy 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed that the field bringeth forth year by year. <sup>23</sup>And thou shalt eat the tithe of thy grain, of thy wine and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks before Yehovah thy God in the place that He shall choose to place His name there that thou mayest learn to always fear Yehovah thy God. <sup>24</sup>And if the way be too long for thee so that thou art not

able to carry it, or if the place be too far from thee that Yehovah thy God shall choose to set His name there, when Yehovah thy God hath blessed thee, <sup>25</sup>then thou shalt turn it into money. And thou shalt bind up the money in thine hand and shalt go unto the place that Yehovah thy God shall choose. <sup>26</sup>And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after—for oxen or for sheep or for wine or for strong drink or for whatsoever thy soul desireth. And thou shalt eat there before Yehovah thy God. And thou shalt rejoice—thou and thine household <sup>27</sup>and the Levite that is within thy gates—thou shalt not forsake him, for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. <sup>28</sup>At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates. <sup>29</sup>And the Levite (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee) and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow that are within thy gates shall come and shall eat and be satisfied that Yehovah thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand that thou doest.

No other form of *commanded* tithing is found in the Bible. Avraham tithed what he obtained in war, and Jacob promised to tithe all that he obtained, fulfilling (or partly fulfilling) this by the tribe of Levi being Yehovah's property. Tithing was only commanded to Israelis, never to non-Jewish Saints. Mr. Warren does not know this.

Page 72: "James, speaking to Christians, said..." James never wrote to Christians; he wrote to Jewish folks, some who were born of God and most who were not:

James 1:1 James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve

tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

James 2:1 My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory, with respect of persons.

James 4.1 From whence are wars and fightings among you? Not hence of your lusts that war in your members? <sup>2</sup>Ye lust, and have not. Ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain. ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. <sup>3</sup>Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume upon your lusts. <sup>4</sup>Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Do ye think that the Scripture saith in vain, 'The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy'? <sup>6</sup>But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.' <sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. <sup>8</sup>Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse hands, sinners! And purify hearts, double minded!

Page 71: Another pop-Christian theological dictum is that Christ's sacrifice on the cross abolished animal sacrifices. "Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we don't offer animal sacrifices as Noah did." The following text has never been fulfilled, and will be fulfilled:

Isaiah 56:6 Also the sons of the stranger who join themselves to Yehovah to serve Him and to love the name Yehovah, to be His servants, every one who keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it and taketh hold of my Covenant, <sup>7</sup>even them will I bring to my holy Mountain. And I will make them joyful in my House of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their

sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar, for my House shall be called a House of prayer for all peoples.

Animal sacrifices were for instructional and typical purposes only, and will be the same in the future.

Page 75: "The Bible says, 'He has shaped each person in turn; now he watches everything we do.'" Besides being an erroneous translation, the context of this text should have given Mr. Warren pause. The following is a proposed literal rendering from the Hebrew:

Psalm 33:13 Yehovah peered from the heavens. He saw all the sons of the Adam. <sup>14</sup>From the establishment of His dwelling He gazed unto all inhabitants of the land. <sup>15</sup>Did the Understander unto all their doings form their heart unified?

If this rendering is correct, it is far from what the 'Msg' folks thought.

Page 75: "You only bring him enjoyment by being you. Anytime you reject any part of yourself, you are rejecting God's wisdom and sovereignty in creating you." What about the wicked uncircumcision of heart? Isn't that part of a person? Should not that foreskin be cut away, and thus be rejected?

Page 75: Mr. Warren made a profound statement for which I give him credit. He stated, "There are no *unspiritual* abilities, just misused ones." I start by referring to the excellent ability some have to lie, and be undetected; this could be used in spying. Spies must be able to lie, cheat, steal, slaughter, cuss, sexually compromise others, and do other things that can indeed be used for God's pleasure. On the other hand, I don't know how Mr. Warren would classify the misused spiritual abilities of folks who are expert in witchcraft,

sorcery, necromancy, etc. Once they come to faith, can they still use their God-given abilities (since, according to Mr. Warren, all abilities are God-given) for the service of the Kingdom of God? My, what a powerful point Mr. Warren has!

Page 75: "Every act of enjoyment becomes an act of worship when you thank God for it." He previously stated something about this not being the case when it came to sin, but I failed to find the text again. Without underscoring this, Mr. Warren is giving the rapist a very good spiritual response: "I thanked God for it!"

Page 75: Mr. Warren wrote, "In fact, the Bible says, 'God ... generously gives us everything for our enjoyment.'" The following is this text in its frame:

1 Timothy 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world that they be not highminded nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy <sup>18</sup>that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate, <sup>19</sup>laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

In case you may have missed the pronoun change, verse 17 has *us*. This pronoun should seem unnecessary if *us* actually referred to *they* and *them*. How you identify *us* in a text will make all the difference in the world concerning its meaning. Being sloppy when identifying pronouns shows contempt for them. They are placed in the Bible for a purpose. Assuming *us* refers to Christians is a great error and very presumptive. Readers can identify most Biblical pronouns without too much difficulty. Some take thought, however.

The above text shows the purposes of the enjoyment of the things richly given:

1. that they be rich in good works;
2. that they be ready to distribute;
3. that they be willing to communicate;
4. and by so doing, they are laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come;
5. and curiously, that they may lay hold on everlasting life.

Unless the timing of this text and the events going on are determined, this text would make it sound like everlasting life is a function of these good works. Once the timing and events are rightly determined, this theological error is dissipated.

Page 75: "When you are sleeping, God gazes at you with love, because you were his idea. He loves you as if you were the only person on earth." This sentimentalism has no evidence in the Scriptures (that I have found). Mr. Warren has a Santa Claus conception of his god. The Bible shows God in a different light:

Psalms 7:11 God judgeth the righteous. And God is angry every day.

Why didn't the text read that God is in love with the righteous every day? Couldn't God bring Himself to say what Mr. Warren seems to know to be true?

Mr. Warren's error is evident. He sees how he looks at his own children, then he assumes that God looks at all his children (meaning everybody) the same way. Thus, Mr. Warren has determined that God is like himself.

Page 76: "Parents do not require their children to be perfect, or even mature, in order to enjoy them. They enjoy them at every stage of development. In the

same way, God doesn't wait for you to reach maturity before he starts liking you. He loves and enjoys you at every stage of your spiritual development." I congratulate Mr. Warren on knowing a difference between *perfect* and *mature*. He seems to be unaware of Biblical perfection, however, erroneously assuming it is part of *spiritual development*. When Yehovah commanded Avraham,

Genesis 17:1 "Walk before me and be thou perfect"

He wasn't saying, "Walk before me and be developing into a perfect person", but was commanding Avraham to be perfect *while* Avraham walked before Yehovah. If anyone finds fault with such a command from God, it is because that person has no conception of the power of God. Biblical perfection is not hard to achieve or maintain, but if it is misunderstood, it is impossible! Noah and Job did not find it difficult.

Would Yehovah have *enjoyed* Avraham had Avraham walked before Him without being perfect? Mr. Warren is not speaking from the Word of God, but from his own opinions.

Page 76: "You may have had unpleasable teachers or parents as you were growing up. Please don't assume God feels that way about you. He knows you are incapable of being perfect or sinless." Mr. Warren then quotes a text supposedly in support: "He certainly knows what we are made of. He bears in mind that we are dust." What does being dust have to do with being perfect or not? Was not Messiah's body made of dust? Was He therefore incapable of being perfect or sinless? Anyone who is incapable of being perfect needs a change of gods. Anyone who is incapable of *consistently* refusing to sin



needs to be born of God. As I earlier stated, if a person cannot obey, even being aided by the power of God, the problem is with the power of God, not with the person. This does not describe the God of Avraham; He has no trouble empowering folks to be perfect if they desire to be.

Page 76: "What God looks at is the attitude of your heart: Is pleasing him your deepest desire?" I have never seen a Biblical judgment of God in which *attitude* played a role. Every person is always judged for what was done, as Paul states:

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ that every one may receive the things in the Body according to what he hath done, whether good or bad.

Paul desired to please God when he sought to slay Jewish followers of Yeshua. Messiah asked him, "Why persecutest thou me?" He *didn't* say, "Paul, I know thine attitude was one of pleasing me, but behold, thou wast in error; turn, follow me; I will show thee what great things thou wilt accomplish."

Page 76: "When you live in light of eternity, your focus changes from 'How much pleasure am I getting out of life?' to 'How much pleasure is God getting out of my life?'" This is an arrogant question with a fictional answer. Who will determine how much pleasure God is getting out of his life? This is a very self-focused question. A better question might be, "Do my life, works, righteousness, justice, Hope for the restoration of Israel and love of Grace fit the pattern of all Biblical Saints?" One must know the Bible in order to answer this question, however.

Page 76: A ludicrous quote supposedly from the Bible is given after stating, "God is looking for a people... willing to live for the pleasure of God": "The Lord looks down from heaven on all mankind to see if there are any who are wise, who want to please God." Why didn't Mr. Warren finish the quote? It continues,

Psalm 14:3 They are all gone aside! They are together become filthy! None is who doeth good!--no, not one!

Thus, if Mr. Warren is using this text correctly, what he is asking is hopeless! God never finds anyone wise or who desires to please God!

Page 76: "Will you make pleasing God the goal of your life? There is nothing that God won't do for the person totally absorbed with this goal." Nonsense! There are many things God won't do! Paul desired to please God, and God refused to remove his thorn in the flesh! Mr. Warren is making the promises of a dishonest used-car salesman!

Page 76, Question to Consider: "Since God knows what is best, in what areas of my life do I need to trust him most?" No one who sectionalizes his life in this manner belongs to God. Ownership is either complete or it is not present. The person who thinks in terms of 'my life' shows who owns!

## Chapter 10

Page 77: "We give ourselves to him, not out of fear or duty, but in love, 'because he first loved us.'" This is nonsense. No person comes to God out of the person's love of God; if the person had loved God already, the person would have already come! This is like saying, "I loved God while I was deep in sin;

then I decided to come to God, loving him very much.” A person who comes to God does so because of a need and a command, not because of a love for God. The love of God was present before the person was born of God, but the discussion is about ‘fear, duty and love’, referring to the person’s fear, duty or love, not God’s!

Page 78: “After spending eleven chapters of the book of Romans explaining God’s incredible grace to us...” What? Is Mr. Warren Jewish, or has he never read Romans? As early as chapter 3, the discussion turns to the Jews, and continues through chapter 11, though in chapter 11 Paul does excoriate some Gentiles for thinking they supplant the Jews. The incredible grace being shown is toward the Israelis.

Page 78: “True worship—bringing God pleasure—happens when you give yourself complete to God.” The text does not use *worship* (though perversions do). What if one gives himself incompletely to God? This makes no sense, but it fits pop-Christianity to a tee. Pop-Christianity allows for stages of ‘surrender’, and for stages of everything else, including a progressive diminution of sinning!

Page 78: “Notice the first and last words of that verse are the same: *offer*.” This is only true in his perversion.

Page 78: “This act of personal surrender is called many things: consecration, making Jesus your Lord, taking up your cross, dying to self, yielding to the Spirit. What matters is that you do it, not what you call it.” Words apparently have no certain meaning to Mr. Warren. *Consecration* is very different from ‘making Jesus your Lord’, since the latter is an act of idolatry. (If Jesus is

God, and if God is sovereign, making God *anything* is not possible. If one becomes a servant of God, it is because of an act of God, not of a servant. Do folks go around and say, “I am making you my master!”? I don’t think so! But if a master purchases a servant, the servant didn’t bring about a transaction, but the master did. If a servant could assign someone as his master, the servant would be ruling over the master. If, on the other hand, the servant requested that a non-master redeem the servant, thus making the servant the master’s property, this would fit the Biblical pattern. The other terms that Mr. Warren cites are all very different; he may blur them, but it is because of his ignorance.

Page 78: “God says he loves you.” He cites the following text:

Psalm 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

I somehow failed to see any evidence in this text. I expect that he was using a perversion to ‘prove’ his point as is his wont, but that does not justify error.

Page 78: “He forgives you.” He cites the following text:

Psalm 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Just because He is *ready to forgive* does not mean that He universally forgives.

Page 78: “The greatest expression of this is the sacrifice of God’s Son for you. ‘God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.’” Who are *us* in this text? If the proposed answer is ‘all Christians’, a careful reading of Romans will show that this

makes no sense. Look at the following text:

Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

The Romans were identified with the pronouns *ye*, *you* and *your*. God has shown His love for the Israelis, and Messiah's death and shedding of blood for the Israelis is a good example. Messiah Yeshua did die for the sin of the world, but He first came for the Israelis. The very term 'Messiah' has no pertinence among Gentiles; who is the Gentiles' 'anointed one'?

Page 79: "If you want to know how much you matter to God, look at Christ with his arms outstretched on the cross, saying, 'I love you this much! I'd rather die than live without you.'" If this is not hypersentimentalized blasphemous mush and a false quotation (false prophecy) of the Messiah, I don't know what it is!

Page 79: "God is not a cruel slave driver or a bully who uses brute force to coerce us into submission." No? Look at the following text:

Psalm 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron! Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

This doesn't sound like a description of a sweet, loving pussy cat. It sounds very forceful and coercive! By the end of the Millennium, the majority of the world's population will want to be rid of this tyrant who insists upon righteous behaviour!

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison <sup>8</sup>and shall go out to deceive the nations that are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog,

to gather them together to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup>And they went up on the breadth of the earth. And they compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

These folks who desire unrighteousness will hate His rule! They will also be slaughtered (a form of coercion, I would say). Even before the Millennium, folks will want to throw off the coercive ropes of God and His Messiah:

Psalm 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against Yehovah and against His Messiah saying, <sup>3</sup> "We shall break their bands asunder and cast away their cords from us!"

Page 79: "When we completely surrender ourselves to Jesus, we discover that he is not a tyrant, but a savior; not a boss, but a brother; not a dictator, but a friend." Yehovah is a tyrant to those who love sin; He is the boss, being King of kings; He is a dictator who will rule with an iron rod. Viewing the Biblical 'Jesus' as a brother-friend removes all fear of God; this is the wrong god Mr. Warren is describing!

Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

Will these knee bowings and tongue confessings/swearings of every person be done out of love and adoration, or will the majority do it out of terror?

Page 79: “Life is a struggle, but what most people don’t realize is that our struggle, like Jacob’s is really a struggle with God! We want to be God, and there’s no way we are going to win that struggle.” This implies that Jacob didn’t win his struggle with God, and it also implies that Jacob wanted to be God.

Hosea 12:2 Yehovah hath also a controversy with Judah. And He will punish Jacob according to his ways. According to his doings will he recompense him. <sup>3</sup>He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God. <sup>4</sup>Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed. He wept and made supplication unto Him. He found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us—<sup>5</sup>even Yehovah God of hosts. Yehovah is his memorial.

Verse 3 recounts Jacob’s personal history. By Jacob’s strength he had power with God. Jacob had power over the angel, and Jacob prevailed. Jacob wept and made supplication unto Him. Mr. Warren is apparently unaware of this. Jacob’s name became *Israel*, literally meaning ‘He will prince El’ (referring to part of a coronation). Jacob never wanted to be God. Biblical Hebrew declares that Jacob was a perfect man dwelling in tents (Genesis 25:27).

Page 79: Mr. Warren quoted Mr. Tozer: “The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven’t yet come to the end of themselves. We’re still trying to give orders, and interfering with God’s work within us.” Anyone who can interfere with God’s work in any location is stronger than God. Mr. Tozer’s god is apparently quite limited. He is also wrong on a number of other

points. *Many* are not seeking. Few seek. Most are satisfied with their rollers (their false gods). Coming to the end of one’s self won’t aid anyone in seeking and finding the Biblical God, and it won’t stop one’s troubles or bring about more ‘forward progress’ (whatever that means). One’s willingness to receive the love of the Truth so that one might be saved is the Bible’s perspective, and I suspect that Yehovah knows best.

Page 80, again quoting Mr. Lewis: “The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become—because he made us.” If we have to ‘let God’, we are superior to him in strength and will. I don’t find this ‘letting God’ in the Bible. Yehovah did as He willed. No human can stop him. If a person resists, that does not stop the plan of God in any way. Salvation is not a ‘take over’ issue; it is a new birth issue, being taken from death to life. A person calls; Yehovah has the means. Even a human lifeguard has more power than this conception of ‘God’! A lifeguard knows that a drowning person may grasp to such a degree that it is a strong form of resistance, so the lifeguard is trained to sock the person with the fist in order to obtain compliance, in order to save a life.

Page 80: Continuing a quote of Mr. Lewis, “It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own.” This is ludicrous. Unbelievers have real personalities; God gave them those personalities. Nothing is inherently evil about an unbeliever’s personality. No person will be judged and condemned for lacking a personality, nor will anyone be rewarded for his personality.

Page 80: “You know you’re surrendered to God when you rely on God to work

things out instead of trying to manipulate others, force your agenda, and control the situation. You let go and let God work.” Mr. Warren apparently did not read the inspired and infallible book of Esther. Manipulation has always been a tool of the righteous, as well as the unrighteous. Any pastor who is not involved in manipulating his flock to righteousness is doing nothing (that is good). Because Eli did not ‘control the situation’, Jehovah removed him and his seed!

Page 81: “The Bible says, ‘Surrender yourself to the Lord, and wait patiently for him.’” Applying a piece of a text personally shipwrecks all texts. Psalm 37:7 has a timing, shown in the following text:

Psalm 37:10 For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be! Yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be! <sup>11</sup>But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

This is only true during the Tribulation; for only after the Tribulation will the meek inherit the earth and gain an abundance of peace, and only then will the wicked not be!

Page 81: A perverted ‘quotation of Jesus’ occurs on this page: “Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.” From this perversion, Jesus is apparently attempting to avoid and evade his suffering and death. He is reluctantly willing to go through with it, but desires that he won’t have to. How strange for God to become a coward at the last minute, when he voluntarily went to the garden to be arrested! How strange for the book of Hebrews to lie!

Hebrews 5:6 As he saith also in another, “Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec” <sup>7</sup>Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him Who was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared, <sup>8</sup>though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things that He suffered, <sup>9</sup>and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.

If He was heard, a Biblical way of indicating that His request was answered affirmatively, He was not asking to avoid the suffering or death of the cross. He was willing to drink the cup rather than to pour it out:

Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, Thy will be done!”

What cup did He drink? Was it not the cup of wrath that Israel had filled? Did not Israel escape unharmed during and after the crucifixion? Messiah drank that cup. Messiah loved and loves Israel.

Mr. Warren wrote blasphemy when he continued, “Genuine surrender says, ‘Father, if this problem, pain, sickness or circumstance is needed to fulfill your purpose and glory in my life or in another’s, please *don’t* take it away.’ This level of maturity does not come easy. In Jesus’ case, he agonized so much over God’s plan that he sweat drops of blood.” He accused Jesus of not having that level of maturity, because Jesus said, “if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, Thy will be done.” He never did say, “Please *don’t* take it away!” And if Jesus did agonize over God’s plan, Jesus was not God. If instead He agonized over the

destruction that was ready to be poured on Israel, determining to drink that wrath so that Israel would escape at this time, if His agony was because of His love for Israel, Mr. Warren has no clue.

Page 82: Mr. Warren quoted Eliphaz to attempt to prove a point (though Yehovah's own testimony was that Eliphaz did not speak rightly of Him): "Stop quarreling with God! If you agree with him, you will have peace at last, and things will go well for you." Eliphaz was dead-wrong, and so is Mr. Warren.

Page 82: After quoting Eliphaz's lie, Mr. Warren continued, "Next, you experience freedom: 'Offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits.... [his] commands set you free to live openly in his freedom!'" This is supposedly a quote from the following text:

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. <sup>18</sup>Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

This perversion seems to like to grant 'freedom' to its readers. This text does not speak of freedom, but of slavery: 'servants of righteousness'. Freedom to do right is the only one that is guaranteed.

Page 83: "Put Jesus Christ in the driver's seat of your life and take your hands off the steering wheel." What? Is this 'Jesus Christ' an idol? Has he no ability to move into drivers' seats without help of past drivers? Does this 'Jesus Christ' *surrender* this steering wheel until the past driver lets go? How impotent in this god! The Bible describes no such being who is truly deity.

Page 83: Mr. Warren quotes another of his perversions, as if Paul wrote it: "I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him who infuses inner strength into me, that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency." The text is the following:

Philippians 4:12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound. I am instructed everywhere and in all things both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

The above text rings humility, whereas the 'Amplified' version sounds arrogant. Paul only mentioned two situations: his rank and what he has or lacks. He made no declaration that he was 'ready for anything', nor that he was 'equal to anything'. The statement "I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency" is nonsense. He was denying that he was self-sufficient, whether in Christ or out of Christ, but rather that Messiah's strengthening enabled him to do all things regardless of his rank or what he needs.

Page 83: "Paul's moment of surrender occurred on the Damascus road after he was knocked down by a blinding light." Mr. Warren apparently never read the Book of Acts:

Acts 22:10 And I said, "What shall I do, Lord?" And the Lord said unto me, "Arise! And go into Damascus. And it shall be told thee there of all things that are appointed for thee to do." <sup>11</sup>And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. <sup>12</sup>And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews that dwelt there, <sup>13</sup>came unto me and stood. And he said

unto me, "Brother Saul! Receive thy sight!" And the same hour I looked up upon him.

Acts 9:8 And Saul arose from the earth. And when his eyes were opened, he saw no man. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.<sup>9</sup> And he was without sight three days, and neither did eat nor drink.<sup>10</sup> And there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias. And the Lord in a vision said to him, "Ananias!" And he said, "Behold, I am here, Lord."<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said unto him, "Arise and go into the street which is called Straight. And enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus. For behold, he prayeth<sup>12</sup> and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him that he might receive his sight."<sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard of this man by many, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints at Jerusalem."<sup>14</sup> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on Thy Name."<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said unto him, "Go thy way. For he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel."<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.<sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way and entered into the house. And putting his hands on him, he said, "Brother Saul! The Lord Yeshua Who appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest hath sent me that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."<sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales. And he received sight forthwith. And he arose and was baptized.<sup>19</sup> And when he had received food, he was strengthened.

Paul's moment of surrender was not on the road, but while waiting for Ananias.

Page 83: "Regardless, surrendering is never just a one-time event. Paul said, 'I die *daily*.'" Was Paul referring to Mr. Warren's concept of 'surrendering' when he wrote this?

1 Corinthians 15:29 "Else what shall they do who are baptized for the dead if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?<sup>30</sup> And why stand we in jeopardy every hour?<sup>31</sup> I protest by your rejoicing what I have in Christ Jesus our Lord: I die daily! If I have fought with beasts at Ephesus after the manner of men, what advantageth it me if the dead rise not? 'Let us eat and drink! For tomorrow we die!'<sup>33</sup> Be not deceived. Evil communications corrupt good manners!"

I rather think that Paul had long ago 'surrendered'.

Page 83-4: "The problem with a *living* sacrifice is that it can crawl off the altar, so you may have to resurrender your life fifty times a day." This is tauroskatology. It denies the New Birth.

Page 84: "Jesus said, 'If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want. They must be willing to give up their lives daily to follow me.'" If this is a quote of any 'Jesus', this 'Jesus' has no sense. Look carefully at the foolishness: "If people want to follow me, they must give up the things they want." So they must give up wanting to follow him! The text actually says,

Luke 9:23 And He said to them all, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me.<sup>24</sup> For whosoever will save his life shall lose it, but whosoever will lose his life for my sake—the same shall save it."

Denying one's self is not equivalent to giving up things a person wants; they

are unrelated actions. Daily giving up one's life is not Biblical, and is not the same as taking up one's cross daily. A cross was an instrument of death used by an enemy, not a self-inflicted suicidal instrument. Being willing to give up one's life daily isn't the same as taking up the instrument of one's death (a cross) daily. The differences are not minor, but major.

Page 84: "Through Crusade staff around the world, the Four Spiritual Laws tract, and the *Jesus* film (seen by over four billion people), more than 150 million people have come to Christ and will spend eternity in heaven." Mr. Warren may believe these statistics, but that doesn't make them true. The 'Four Spiritual Laws' tract misuses Biblical texts supposedly to support the idea that four spiritual laws are in effect. Using error to support truth doesn't work. The 'easy believism' that nearly all of the 150 million people have adopted will not benefit them Salvationally. Absolutely none of them will spend eternity in heaven, since the Bible speaks of new heavens and a new earth, the present heaven being abandoned when Messiah comes with all His Saints and all His angels. Calling such things 'matter of semantics' minimizes the importance of semantics in the infallible Word of Truth. Mr. Warren does not understand the Bible.

## Chapter 11

Page 85: "Since we were restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by his life. Romans 5:10 (NLT)" Look at this text:

Romans 5:10 For if we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son when we were enemies, much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The two versions are not the same. Being "restored to friendship with God" is not the same as being reconciled to God. The Greek word *καταλλάσσω* means *to change according to*, indicating no restoration of a previous condition, but an absolute change that is in accordance with God.

The pronoun *we* must not be overlooked in Romans. This is not the pronoun *ye*, as if it were referring to the Romans, but instead refers to the Israelis.

(End of Document)