

## Doctrine of the Natural Man Wrong Premises and Erroneous Illustrations

1. The natural man wants to be saved.

Vs

- *Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

2. The natural man has a free will that is the determining factor in salvation.

Vs

- *John 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- *Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

3. The natural man has the ability to reach out and receive the gift of God which is eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Vs

- *1 Corinthians 2:14 But 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.*

4. The natural man can grab hold of the gospel lifesaver of salvation.

Vs

- *Titus 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.*

5. The natural man can see the gospel coins of salvation cast upon the ground.

Vs

- *2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

6. The natural man can love God.

Vs

- *2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*
- *Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

7. God has not failed if a soul for whom Christ has died is lost.

Vs

- *Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.*

8. God wants to save all men and so is not responsible if souls are lost for they would not eat for a gospel meal that has been paid for. In other words, Christ does not save, He only makes salvation possible.

Vs

- *Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*
- *Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,*

9. Faulty premises. Divine love does not "force" or "drag" a soul to the Saviour. The Greek word for draw is helkuo (hel-koo'-o); to drag (literally or figuratively):

Vs

- *John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*

10. A person can teach either what is true, or what is not true. The premise should be rejected that it is permissible to teach God's people one's private opinions nor is it necessary.

Vs.

- *2 Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

11. Because God does NOT want teachers teaching their own private interpretations as per 2 Peter 1:20, the command comes in James 3:1.

- *My brethren, be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation [judgment].*

12. If a number of faulty premises have been laid down and then elaborated upon then there will be faulty conclusions.

13. If the Biblical premises of Genesis 1:1 is embraced then the following is true.

- God exists,
- God has plainly spoken,
- God is clear about who He is and what He is doing with humanity in general and individuals in particular,
- Individuals can know the mind of Christ.
- There is a sure word of prophesy (forth telling, i.e., teaching).
- The heart is encouraged.

14. But, if we are left to our own private understandings, all is lost. We should always want to know what God thinks and what God has spoken. We may struggle with understanding God's thoughts, but that is far different than believing we cannot know God's thoughts and must ultimately rely upon ourselves and our opinions. God is not so cruel to do that to us.