

## CHURCH ANEMIA

We hear much of John 3:16 and I myself have never heard of anybody who was brazen enough to complain of this Scripture being used, however so bountifully. This Scripture verse (and like natured verses) truly do supply us with the good sweet "sincere milk of the word". We ourself will never (as long as we keep our sound mind) complain of messages which are inspired by such passages no matter how common they may become.

On the other hand, we ourself should not have to suffer the discouraging effects of seeing negative reactions (especially from those who have been long in the gospel way) whenever we preach and teach divine election, without which "divine election" the unspeakably great provision expressly revealed in Jn.3:16 would be of no eternal benefit to us at all. This assertion can lead us on into the doctrinal relationship which exists between Jn.3:16 and Acts 13:48 which thing we think would be an unwelcome subject in most any Holiness church that we know of.

Spiritual anemia can be (symptomatically) diagnosed by the lack of appetite for the "strong meat" of the word in those especially, who have been long in the Christian way. The doctrines of divine sovereignty in its different spiritual dimensions provide some of the strongest elements of spiritual meat to be derived from the Scriptures. We are now more than ever convinced, that there is to be special eternal rewards for those who attain to a full and unfettered acknowledgment of these inestimably valuable truths while simultaneously holding the ability to pursue the lost, in the evangelical spirit prescribed in the New Testament and spiritually fueled especially by such passages as Jn.3:16, Jn.12:32 ect. or at least to fully support and approve those who are called into the great work of evangelism. Such a balanced spiritual perspective is laid out before us in the book of Acts and Luke himself is a perfect example of such wisdom.

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P. S. The doctrines of absolute divine sovereignty are (for the natural man) probably the most distasteful, hard to swallow, and hard to digest of all the doctrines which can be drawn from the Scriptures (we are speaking to supposedly advanced Christians) and we are persuaded that they are most always regurgitated by those who do initially attempt to ingest them.

God the eternal Father (through his absolute foreknowledge) is 100% sovereign over the eternal destiny of the souls of mankind, not 95%, not 99%, but 100%, and yet this total sovereignty does not leave us without an element of free-will concerning our destiny. As concerning the total sovereignty of God the Father, study deeply these Scriptures, Is.8:18, Mt.1:21, Jn.6:371<sup>st</sup> clause, Jn.10:27-29, Jn.17:2,6,9,11,12,24, Heb.2:13.

See also 1Pet.1:2.

P. S. Our purpose in our writings is not to mystify, but rather to edify, and that "according to the ability which the Lord giveth". Those who complain of not being able to understand are doing so to their own shame. As we have said before, if it was a tax form and the cost of misunderstanding was going to be several hundred dollars we would certainly apply the time and effort required to get it right even if we had to seek assistance from those more knowledgable than we, concerning the matter. It may be that our spiritual pride will not allow us to do that. Also we say that, our apprehending of these deeper things of God will acquire for us unique heavenly rewards, especially a right comprehension of sovereign election which we fully believe and understand will work for us an "eternal weight of glory" of a very special order.

We recently heard a young brother relate how that he and his wife had visited a home where there was a six year old boy whose mother (due to a problem of her own) had never given him anything to eat more than babyfood. This brother said that the boy looked terribly sick and malnourished. This is a pitiful case, but if we could see as the master sees, the church of today is probably full of such (spiritual) children. It seems that our preachers and teachers of this hour have a spiritual problem which is comparable to the natural problem the woman had with her son. Such spiritual under-nourishment will not keep us from making it in (provided we are under the blood when we depart this present life) but it will drastically affect our eternal reward. You may learn this truth for yourself, if you will study (in its whole intergrated form) the third chap. of 1Corinthians.

Some of our churches don't have any new (or even any intermediate) converts, and yet a strict diet of milk is dispensed Sunday in and Sunday out. We (the ministers) may try to excuse ourselves by saying; the people are not able to receive it, but one question which we must deal with is; are we able to deliver it, see 1Tim.2:15.

P. S. The Lords Church is a *spiritual* mother by nature. She (in her maternal love) breast feeds her younger ones ( and many times her older ones to) see Is.28:9, with the comforting consolations that derive from her Masters sweet savours of paternal love expressed in his equal opportunity "no respecter of persons" invitations into the full fellowship of the Divine Trinity, and his infallible promises of soul-rest to all who will come, Mt.11:28.