

# ANATHEMA MARANATHA

By: Phillip Hayes

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Anathema Maranatha.  
[1Corinthians 16:22]*

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Why these two words, one Greek and the other Aramaic, were not translated, is not known. "Let him be Anathema" translated into English is, "Let him be accursed." Maranatha means, "The Lord cometh," or, "will come;" that is, to take vengeance.

Anathema, *a curse!* And this curse coming from the lips of the great Apostle Paul. What could have provoked this great man of God to such strong language? We know Paul was commissioned by Jesus to preach the "glad tidings" of the Kingdom of God. He was sent to proclaim God's Grace and love for mankind. Paul had told the Roman church to, "*Bless and curse not.*" Yet here we find this great Apostle to the Gentiles cursing *any man* that did not love Jesus!?

When I realized the definition of just what Paul was saying in this passage it stirred me to investigate further

this *curse* Paul had placed on those that didn't love Jesus.

Although there are many curses found in the Old Testament, I will limit this article to curses found in the New Testament. I realize most everyone wants to hear about blessings and few desire to know about such things. However, if the New Testament contains curses that could impact our lives we should want to know what they are, and how to avoid them. Space will allow us to look at only a few of the examples, therefore I urge the reader to make a full study of this subject.

I pray every reader will examine himself by the light of this message and find deliverance from the curses contained in God's Word.

I want to emphasize the meaning of those two words. *"If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha"* [1Corinthians 16:22]. *Anathema* is a Greek word and *Maranatha* is an Aramaic word translated into the Greek. Translated into English, Paul is saying, "If any man doesn't love Jesus Christ, let him be cursed. Lord, come quickly!" One that is cursed is under a curse; that is they are damned. This is the strongest language one could use against another human being: to curse or damn a person!

All Bible students know that Jesus will bring judgement when He returns: *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the*

*presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power”*  
[2Thessalonians 1:7-9].

But what troubles me is not so much that Paul spoke this curse, but why did he do it? Did he feel that the end was so near that Grace had been lifted and there was no hope? Remember, the gospel had been preached in all the known world at that time. Also the great deception Jesus warned of in His parables of the wheat and tares had already begun. Paul referred to the deception in several ways; “mystery of iniquity; the other gospel; the other Jesus”. The Apostle John identified those that brought the deception as antichrists; *“there are already many anti-christs.”* Whatever the reason, it may be that the Apostle Paul felt that there was little time, and this frank warning from him to the Corinthian church was intended to awaken them to the seriousness of receiving or rejecting Christ.

In Paul’s second epistle to the Corinthians he was very bold and presented them with this penetrating command and question, *“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”* [2Corinthians 13:5].

Paul was certainly not “playing church” as we shall soon see! As a matter of fact, he was so certain that the gospel he preached was correct and divinely inspired that he considered anyone who preached another gospel as accursed by God; even if it were an angel from heaven. *“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I*

*now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed" [Galatians 1:8-9].*

These curses Paul pronounced was not a statement of Paul's viewpoint; but rather the sentence of God upon all that accepted or preached contrary to what God had given the Apostle.

Countless people have told me they love Jesus, but their life styles contradict what they say. Jesus believed if you loved Him you would obey Him. *"If you love me, keep my commandments" [John 14:15]. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" [Luke 6:46].*

The Apostle John wrote, *"For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments. . . ." [1John 5:3].* In First John 2:15, John compares the love of God and the love of the world as opposing emotions, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him".* John is clear, "If we love the world, we don't love God!" It is understandable that people who are lost are under the curse of death. However, Paul and John are warning the church!

God help me not to love the world, neither the things that are in the world! I want to be found loving Jesus! Because there is a curse on all that don't love Jesus! Truly, we cannot love Him without loving and being obedient to His Word!

It is truly amazing that only a few Christians today  
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realize they will be judged by what Paul and the other Apostles preached! Paul warned, *"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel"* [Romans 2:16]. We will be judged according to Paul's Gospel! We must live in obedience to what he taught. Preaching the Word is very serious business! I wonder if preachers understand they are under a curse if their teaching is contrary to the Apostles doctrine?

Let's take another look at the first chapter of Paul's letter to the Galatian church and we shall see why he was so vehement in his curse of men and angels!

*"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ"* [Galatians 1:6-12].

Amazing! These verses refutes the "once saved - always saved doctrine". The members of this church had been removed from Christ through a false gospel! You can say what you want, but it is extremely important what

you believe! Paul said this false gospel was actually not another, but some had perverted the true gospel he preached. Their message resembled his, but was perverted just enough to damn peoples souls!

In another place Paul cried out against those that were preaching *"another Jesus"* (See 2Cor. 11:4). Oh, I hope someone will be awakened by this message! That other gospel which is not another is the gospel now proclaimed by many in Christianity today!

Some will argue I am trying to bring them under the law; that they are saved by grace and not by works. Many use this scripture as an excuse to sin: *"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"* [Ephesians 2:8-9].

My reply to that argument is they are not rightly dividing the scriptures. God's Grace doesn't give anyone the right or permission to live ungodly sinful lives. Paul wrote the epistle to the Ephesians and also Titus. In Titus, he writes, *"They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate"* [Titus 1:16]. Clearly, if you know God and are saved, righteous works will follow you! James wrote, *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone"* [James 2:17].

In the second chapter of Titus, Paul describes the impact and function of Grace in a believers life. *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in*

*this present world"* [Titus 2:11-12].

The truth is our works of living a good clean moral life doesn't qualify us to be saved. We could never be good enough to be saved! But after we are saved, God's grace will be instructing us to live holy, godly lives and good works will follow you. That's the Truth!

Today the body of Christ is divided in many areas. The very Person of Christ is debated because some attempt to explain the "Mystery of God" which the apostles never tried to clarify or explain. We are told if we don't believe in the Trinity we are lost. Others tell us if we don't believe the Jesus Only doctrine we are lost. However the scriptures are plain what one must believe!

We are to "believe in the only begotten Son of God" not someone's theory of the Godhead! *"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also"* [1John 2:22-23]. Apostle John concluded the Gospel of John with this declaration: *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."* [John 20:31].

"Come as you are, join the church," they say, but we see the Galatian church members were lost. Joining and simply saying, "I believe in Jesus," didn't save them. They were deceived!

Most preachers today won't declare the whole

council of God as Paul declared it! Their modern "good news for modern man" gospel is similar, but a watered down version filled with part-truths. A little leaven, leavens the whole lump. Their part truths will only bring a curse! This is Paul's declaration. Look at Galatians 1, verses 8 and 9 again: "*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.*" And verse 9: "*As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*" Notice, "*That gospel which we have preached unto you.*" We, meaning the Apostles! We should never add to nor take away from what they have written.

I say to you all; today, multiplied millions across our planet are: *anathema! . . . cursed!* Why? Because most folks simply accept any old gospel and fail to search the scriptures, and make their calling and election sure. They have assumed they were saved, when the only Gospel that could save them had been clouded and polluted to the degree that it brought damnation rather than the salvation they had hoped for.

How sad it is to hear men and women declaring that it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe in Jesus. You can be a Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Charismatic or Catholic and still go to Heaven. Some are teaching that you can be saved without having a born again personal experience with God. And now we have others saying, "if you are a Jew you're going to Heaven anyway no matter if you believe in Jesus or not"! Lies, all lies! You must be born again!



*"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" [John 3:5]. "Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" [Luke 13:23-24]. Many would actually try to get saved and not be able to! The Lord also said, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." [Matthew 7:14]. The New Testament boldly declares there is no other way to Heaven but through Jesus Christ! "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" [John 14:6].*

Honestly, most people will find it difficult to find the straight and narrow way today! Amazing but true! Look around you! Where is the Truth taught? Finding real salvation today is compared to the proverbial, "looking for a needle in a hay stack!" Today there are very few preaching the same Gospel the apostles preached! A cursed generation! Cursed ministries and cursed carnal churches. Simply because men and women failed to believe the Word of God and be obedient to those things it has declared. Yes, there is salvation in its precious pages, but there is also the curse of perverting its divinely inspired words. It should be clear by now that we should check our belief system in light of what the New Testament writers have penned.

Jesus declared, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved and he that believeth not shall be damned" [Mark 16:16].* To be damned is to be cursed. Look at the

multitudes in this country alone that have rejected the message of repentance, water baptism in the name of Jesus, and being filled with the Holy Ghost. Jesus plainly said, if you didn't believe the gospel, you were damned! There is little fear of God any longer, but God is going to restore that fear through His great judgements.

Oh, this proud, pompous, church world! How will they ever find the truth? Multiplied millions of Christians are bound by pornography, prescription drugs and alcoholism. They lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, curse, fuss, hate and lust, yet they claim "the good Lord understands!" Their false preachers teach they can't live without sin and seemingly they do their best to prove it!

I tell you the truth, folks are just plain crazy in this generation! It is as if a spirit of insanity has possessed the people! Jesus said, *"You cannot serve two masters (Luke 16:13).* Jesus said, *"Go and sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you."* (See Luke 6:46; John 14:15; John 5:14; John 8:11). *John wrote, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" [1John 2:1].* He also said, *"He that committeth sin is of the devil . . ." [1John 3:8].* Clearly, professing Christians that are living sinful, ungodly, worldly lives have deceived themselves! They are *anathema* (cursed)!

Compromising Christians including Charismatic Pentecostals that refuse to teach and preach against sin are going to be shocked when they appear in judgment: *"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out*

*devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" [Matthew 7:22-23].*

Many prophesied in Jesus name! I can just hear some of them now, "Yea the Lord would say unto you, thou art my child, my son, my daughter, my precious jewel, etc., etc., etc." Some of you have probably heard them prophesying to drunks and sinners! Many cast out devils!? They may have believed they did, but I doubt it! Most folks today believe all this junk they see on TV, blowing on folks and them falling out, using electronic fakery, and a spirit of divination on people telling them their diseases and fortunes. And many did wonderful works?! But in reality, they are a cursed people! "Depart from me," Jesus said! "*Ye worked iniquity!*" Iniquity is sin, lawlessness, wickedness, unrighteousness! Without law! No convictions! No dedication, no discipline! They perverted Paul's gospel! These are the cursed ones! "*Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" [Matthew 25:41].* I hope you understand this! Jesus is prophesying of the Judgment! He foretells the future of many that will come to the judgment thinking they are saved but finding they were deceived. A horrible, horrible condition!

I'm talking to somebody in this message! You better wake up! Someone reading this message needs deliverance from the curse of Apostle Paul! I am warning you in this message! Have you laid aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets you? (See Hebrews 12:1).

The message of John the Baptist was repentance. He was sent to prepare the way for the First Coming of Jesus. Now, in these last days that same Voice in the wilderness is returning to prepare the way for the Second Coming of Christ. The message is the same, "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"!

I am crying in the wilderness of denominationalism for those that can hear me to repent and return to the Apostles doctrine. Make your calling and election sure! We must be restored to the "Faith once delivered"! *"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" [Jude 1:3].*

Don't be deceived, Jesus is stirring His bride to prepare herself for His coming and to *"Come out of her my people!"* And if you don't obey, you will die under the curse of Paul! Look at this warning to the church: *"A man that is an heretick (a heretick is one who brings division) after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself" [Titus 3:10-11].* The Apostle is speaking about those that bring division by perverting his gospel! He calls them subverters and sinners! Some of you have brought division by not living and preaching the Truth! And God is going to reject those that preach another Jesus and continue in a perverted gospel!

I come across people everywhere who believe they don't have to live by the standards of the New Testament. They say times have changed; that the social atmosphere of two thousand years ago doesn't compare to today.

Therefore, they believe the Word preached to early Christians doesn't apply to modern Christians.

Before closing I want to address some sensitive areas that are avoided entirely by most ministers that the Word of God is very clear about. Women today justify their worldly provocative attitude and attire because they live in a modern society. Granted, times and people have certainly changed, but the Word of God remains the same. Teaching outward holiness is avoided in most churches. When you look at the scriptures concerning this issue you realize the Apostles were not just dealing with that ancient society but with the conduct of the church throughout the ages.

Just look at these two verses concerning ones appearance and compare it to today: *"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering"* [1Corinthians 11:14-15]. Apostle Paul says *"nature itself"* teaches men and women how they should wear their hair! Many are going against the nature they were born with. They have become perverted, women desiring to look like men and men desiring to look like women! Although cultures do change, nature does not. Paul's teaching was the will of God for His people. It included how women should behave and dress. *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works"* [1Timothy 2:9-10].

I know most of you reading this don't like what I am writing. But Paul obviously thought it important and was bold enough to tell the women in the church how they should conduct themselves and dress! Dear sister, have you been told that it doesn't matter how you dress? Are you dressing modestly as a woman that professes godliness? Have you obeyed the Bible in these verses? If not, do you realize you are under a curse because you are disregarding the apostles teaching?

There is a new concern for many I should address. Is it ok for a Christian to get a tattoo? Thirty years ago this question would not have been asked. Why in the world would a Christian want a tattoo? Back then one might say, "that's for jailbirds and sailors". However, today we see Tattoo Shops even in small towns all over our nation. Apparently, it's the "in thing" to do.

To me and countless others, it is the most unsightly disgusting thing one could do. There is one scripture that should make it plain that God isn't pleased with you tattooing your body. *"Ye shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the LORD" [Leviticus 19:28].*

God gave this command to the nation of Israel, thus setting them apart from the neighboring heathens and infidels who marked their skin with the names or symbols of their gods.

Holy living can never be compromised! *"Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy" [1Peter 1:16].*