



# Program 18

## Four Indispensable Truths: 12 Reasons Why I Believe in the Doctrine of Penal Substitution

**The doctrine of penal substitution simply put, means, someone choosing to take my punishment and thereby setting me free!**

The following is the story of Maximilian Kolbe (known in Poland as the “Saint of Auschwitz”):

Maximilian Kolbe was a Catholic Priest interned in Auschwitz Concentration Camp, better known as an extermination camp. In order to discourage escapes, Auschwitz had a rule that if any man escaped, ten others would be killed in retaliation. In July 1941, a man from Kolbe’s bunker escaped. The Kommandant, Karl Fritsch, screamed, “Ten of you will be locked up in the starvation bunker, without food and water until you die!”

The ten were selected, including Franciszek Gajowniczek. “My poor wife,” he sobbed, “my poor children, what will they do?” Maximilian stepped silently forward, took off his cap, stood before the Kommandant and said, “I am a catholic priest; let me take his place. I am old, and he has a wife and children.” Astounded, the icy-faced, heartless Kommandant asked, “What does the Polish pig want?” Kolbe pointed with his hand to the condemned Franciszek Gajowniczek. “I would like to take his place, because he has a wife and children.”

The Kommandant took considerable time before answering, “Alright, you can take his place.”

Gajowniczek later recalled, “I could only thank him with my eyes. I was stunned, and I could hardly grasp what was going on. The immensity of it: I, the condemned am to live, and someone else willingly and voluntarily offers his life for me – a stranger. Is this some dream? I was put back into my place! I was saved! And I owe to him the fact that I could tell you all this.”

**T**he reason why today’s subject is necessary!

- There are many charismatic, evangelical teachers who say God does not pour His wrath out on sinners.
- These teachers also claim that God the Father did not pour out His wrath on His beloved Son Jesus at Calvary.
- They further claim that The Father did not abandon His Son on the cross!
- They even pose the question as to whether Calvary was absolutely necessary!
- They try to separate the doctrine of penal substitution from the bible and place its introduction to the time of the Reformation.
- They refer to it as an idea rather than truth!
- They try to make the recorded words of Jesus more important than the rest of Scripture writers, forgetting that the only written words of Jesus were never recorded. All it says is, “Jesus wrote on the ground.”
- They claim that Jesus only said loving, forgiving words.
- Some of them seriously question whether we should take the gospel to people of other faiths.
- Most of them are not very comfortable with God requiring a blood sacrifice.

Let me give you some words of Jesus that contradict these claims:

Matthew 25:31-33 *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”*

Matthew 25:41 *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”*

Matthew 23:33-34 *“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?”*

Jesus had obviously never read “How to Win Friends and Influence People!”

Matthew 18:32-35 *“Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you? In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.”*

Matthew 18:5-6 *“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone (lit., a millstone turned by a donkey) hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”*

John 14:6 Jesus answered, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

# 12 Reasons Why I Believe in the Doctrine of Penal Substitution...

## 1. Overwhelming evidence of God's judgements on Israel

Numbers 25:1-9 *“While Israel was staying in Shittim, the men began to indulge in sexual immorality with Moabite women, who invited them to the sacrifices to their gods. The people ate and bowed down before these gods. So Israel joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor. And the LORD’s anger burned against them. The LORD said to Moses, “Take all the leaders of these people, kill them and expose them in broad daylight before the LORD, so that the LORD’s fierce anger may turn away from Israel.” So Moses said to Israel’s judges, “Each of you must put to death those of your men who have joined in worshiping the Baal of Peor.... Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; but those who died in the plague numbered 24,000.”*

## 2. The state of the unredeemed sinner

Ephesians 2:3 *“All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”*

John 3:19-21 *“This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”*

John 3:34-36 *“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

### 3. The scape goat and the sin offering

Leviticus 16:9 *“And Aaron shall bring the goat on which the LORD’s lot fell, and offer it as a sin offering.”*

Leviticus 16:21-22 *“Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man. The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities.”*

Type and shadow of Christ’s substitutionary offering at Calvary:

Isaiah 53:6 *“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”*

*“The innocent was punished as if guilty, that the guilty might be rewarded as if innocent. This verse could be said of no mere martyr.”*  
*(Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary)*

*“Having undertaken our debt, he underwent the penalty. Solomon says: He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it. Christ, being surety for us, did smart for it.”*  
*(Matthew Henry’s Commentary)*

### 4. Without blemish and without spot

Leviticus 1:3-4 *“If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the LORD. He is to lay his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.”*

1 Peter 1:18-20 *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*

## **5. Jesus spoken of as the Lamb both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament, including 32 times in Revelation**

### **6. Jesus the Lamb from eternity to eternity**

1 Peter 1:18-20 *“Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”*

Ephesians 1:4 *“He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.”*

Revelation 22:3 *“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”*

### **7. The words of Jesus**

John 12:27 31-33 *“Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour’ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”*

Mark 10:45 *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

### **8. The words of Caiaphas**

John 11:49-52 *“But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, “You know nothing at all, nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish.” Now this he did not say on*

*his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad.”*

## **9. The words of John the Baptist**

John 1:29-30 *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”*

## **10. Saved from the wrath of God through Christ**

Propitiation refers to the removal of God’s wrath by providing a substitute. The substitute is provided by God Himself. That is why John the Baptist cried out, “Look! The Lamb of God!”

The substitute, Jesus Christ, does not just cancel the wrath; He absorbs it and diverts it from us to Himself. God’s wrath is just, and it was spent not withdrawn!

An illustration: spent fireworks!

The explosive material has been used up! In 1 Thessalonians 5:9, Paul writes, “For God has not destined us for wrath.” Why? Because it has all been spent! It has all been used up!

1 John 4:10 *“In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the (wrath-absorbing) propitiation for our sins.”*

Romans 5:9: *“Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”*

1 Corinthians 5:7 *“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”*

Hebrews 9:22 *“Without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”*

## 11. Overwhelming evidence from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:14 *“Just as there were many who were appalled at him--his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--”*

Isaiah 53:4-54:1 *“Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

*Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.*

*After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

*Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*

There are some bible teachers who dismiss this passage by claiming that it simply refers to Israel. Here is the biblical answer to that erroneous teaching:

Acts 8:32-35 *“The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: ‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent.’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?’ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.”*

## **12. The covenant meal**

Luke 22:20 *“In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’”*

## **C**onclusion

Revelation 5:6,9 *“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne. And they sung a new song, saying, You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”*



# Program 19

## Four Indispensable Truths: The Strength of Unity

**On Saturday, November 12, 1966, I was ordained into the ministry and inducted into Basingstoke Baptist Church as its pastor.**

That morning, full of apprehension, I asked the Lord for a word that would set the course for the rest of my life. God showed me 1 Samuel 10:26-27, *“And valiant men went with him, whose hearts God had touched.”*

The church had a reputation for getting rid of their pastors. In fact, over 70 years, the average tenure of a pastor was 18 months. In comparison, the church secretary had held his position for over 40 years. It was full of division. One Sunday I said to the church, “The next time someone comes to me with a complaint against another person, I expect you to also repeat it to them.” Within a few months we began to experience what could only be described as a visitation of the Holy Spirit. The presence of God was powerful!

During this time we were very aware of any elements of disunity. Such was the case one Wednesday evening at our prayer meeting and bible study. We began to worship the Lord in song as usual, but there was no life. The heavens seemed as brass. Finally I stopped the worship and said, “There’s something wrong. Are there any of you who are at odds with each other.” At this point two couples started to blame each other,

and an argument broke out between them. I asked Bruce Blow, one of our elders, to take them into a little room that we called “the vestry” and try to help them. As soon as they left, we began to experience an open heaven. Oh, what a relief!

*“They said, ‘Come, let us build for ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will reach into heaven, and let us make for ourselves a name, otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth. The LORD said, ‘Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.’” (Genesis 11:4-8)*

*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity!*

*It is like the precious oil upon the head, coming down upon the beard,  
Even Aaron’s beard, Coming down upon the edge of his robes.*

*It is like the dew of Hermon coming down upon the mountains of Zion;  
For there the LORD commanded the blessing - life forever.” (Psalm 133)*

I saw a video that made quite an impression on me. It was a herd of buffalo being chased by a pride of lions, and them being spread out in several directions. It was now wide open for the lions, acting in perfect unity, to attack one of the baby buffalos. They attacked, and the baby buffalo backed toward a watering hole with the lions gripping its back and throat and any other part of the terrified creature. Eventually, the animal’s back legs were in the water, where upon a crocodile grabbed one of the legs and began pulling in the opposite direction!

Finally, the rest of the herd gathered together and turned their heads toward their common enemy. They began to stomp their hoofs on the ground and suddenly in a billow of dust they charged the lions. The video showed one lion being flung through the air and landing in the water. Finally, the lions realized they had lost the battle and ran away.

The final scene is the baby buffalo rejoining the herd and trotting along as though nothing had happened.

The University of Southern California's football team won the Rose Bowl January 1, 2008. The winning coach was Pete Carroll. The quarterback was John David Booty. I met his father, John David Booty, in April at a conference in Gatlinburg, where John was also one of the speakers. John, a former professional football player in the NFL, told the conference that seven years ago Pete Carroll was appointed head coach of USC Trojans. The media were highly critical of his appointment. One newspaper said it would take 5 years for the team to recover from the disaster that was awaiting them.

They have won the last two Rose Bowls, and John David Booty has won the MVP award each time. John Booty asked Pete Carroll, "How did you turn the team from a bunch of losers into champions?" Pete Carroll replied, "I summoned every player, every coach, every grounds man, every administrator, secretary, ball boy, ticket sales person, food and beverage server, team doctor and medical staff, and scouting staff to the grounds at Midnight. I ordered all the stadium lights to be switched on after everyone had arrived. We marched out to the center of the field where everyone noticed a long rope stretched out. I divided them all into two teams of equal strength for tug of war! Neither side were able to move more than a few feet. Then I instructed all those on my left to line up with those on the right. Of course it was a big laugh. Then I said, 'From now on, we stop playing for ourselves and start playing for each other. No criticism, only encouragement. No blaming anyone for dropping the ball, only empathy. Gossip, blame shifting, putting each other down, is forbidden. We are all on the same side! Everybody, secretaries, administrators, every player we are one team!'"

*"That they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even*

*as You have loved Me.” (John 17:21-23)*

*“And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them. And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.” (Acts 4:32-33)*

*“And they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart.” (Acts 2:45-46)*

“Is it true?” “Is it kind?” and “Is it necessary?” ~ Arthur Wallis

“Least said, soonest forgotten.” ~ Willie Burton

“Big people appreciate, little people criticize” ~ Smith Wigglesworth

*“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood, A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers. It is an abomination unto the Lord.” (Proverbs 6:16-19)*

*“Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)*

## **Five Pearls of Wisdom**

1. **Walk in the light!** 1 John 1:7-9 says, *“If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

2. **Forgive one another!** Colossians 3:13 says, *“Bearing with one an-*

*other, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.*”

**3. Encourage each other!** Hebrews 10:24-25 says, *“And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”*

Is it true? Is it helpful? Is it inspiring? Is it necessary? Is it kind? THINK

**4. Serve under!** Philippians 2:22 says, *“But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.”*

The curse of egalitarianism! *“Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”*” (Matthew 16:22-23)

**5. Watch yer mouth!** Psalm 141:3 says, *“Set a guard over my mouth , O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.”*

## Conclusion

The tongue is like an arrow sharp,  
And like a razor keen,  
It utters many kindly words,  
And many that are mean.

It has the healing power of oil,  
The burning power of fire,  
It is possessed by friend and saint,  
By enemy and liar.

It wounds, and heals, and lies, and prays,

And blesses, curses, sings;  
It has the healing power of salve,  
With bitterness it stings,

It prays long prayers to God above,  
It curses man below,  
It heals the wounded, bleeding heart,  
It strikes the stinging blow.

No man can tame the wicked tongue,  
No man his soul can save,  
Only God can cleanse the heart,  
And make the tongue behave.

~ Author Unknown



# Program 20

## Four Indispensable Truths: Svea Flood & A Kernel of Wheat

*“Jesus replied, ‘The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.’”*  
(John 12:23-26)

In 1921, a Swedish missionary couple named David and Svea Flood, together with another couple, the Ericksons, settled into N’dolera, a remote village in the heart of the Belgian Congo.

They lived in primitive mud huts. Their contact with hostile villagers was limited to a young lad who sold them chickens and eggs twice a week. Their only success was the conversion of this young boy who was led to Christ by Svea Flood.

Apart from this one bright ray of encouragement, everything else was dark and depressing. After repeated bouts of Malaria, the Ericksons had had enough and returned to the main mission station. The Floods were now all alone and somewhat weakened by repeated bouts of Malaria! Then Svea became pregnant. Nine months later, a little girl was born. They named her Aina. The exhausting delivery was too much for

Svea's frail body, and within seventeen days, she was dead.

That was too much for David Flood. Deeply scandalized with God, he buried his twenty-seven-year-old wife, and took off for the Ericksons. Handing over his children to them, he bitterly remarked, "I'm going back to Sweden. I've lost my wife and I can't take care of this baby. God has ruined my life."

Abandoning his children, his God, and his calling, he returned to Sweden a broken man. Eight months later disaster struck again: both the Ericksons were taken ill and died. Baby Aina was turned over to some American missionaries who adjusted her Swedish name to "Aggie" and eventually brought her back to the United States where they decided to remain.

Years passed until as a young woman, Aggie fell in love with and married Dewey Hurst. In time, Aggie's husband became president of a Christian college in the city of Seattle.

One day, an unsolicited Swedish religious magazine appeared in her mailbox. Unable to read the words, she nonetheless scanned the pages. Suddenly a photo stopped her cold. Set in primitive surroundings was a grave with a white cross on which was inscribed the name SVEA FLOOD.

Aggie's heart began to quicken with excitement. She found a Swedish-speaking faculty member and requested to know what it said. The instructor translated: missionaries had come to N'dolera long ago, the birth of a white baby, the death of the young mother, the one little African boy who had been led to Christ, and how he had grown up and finally persuaded the chief to let him build a school in the village. Gradually he won all his students to Christ and the children led their parents to Christ, even the chief. Today there were six hundred Christian believers in that one village... all because of the sacrifice of David and Svea Flood.

For the Hursts' twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, the college sent them

on vacation to Sweden where Aggie sought out her real father. David Flood had remarried, fathered four more children, and generally dissipated his life with alcohol. He had recently suffered a stroke. Still bitter, he had one rule in his family: “Never mention the name of God because God took everything from me.”

She walked into the squalid apartment littered with liquor bottles and approached the seventy-three-year-old man lying in a dirty, rumpled bed.

“Papa?” she said tentatively.

He turned and began to cry. “Aina,” he said, “I never meant to give you away.”

“It’s all right Papa,” she replied, hugging him gently. “God took care of me.”

The man instantly stiffened. The tears stopped.

“God forgot all of us. Our lives have been like this because of Him.” He turned his face to the wall but Aggie continued undaunted.

“Papa, you didn’t go to Africa in vain. Mama didn’t die in vain. The little boy who you led to the Lord won that whole village to Jesus. The seed you planted just kept on growing and growing. Today six hundred Africans are serving the Lord because you were faithful to the call of God. Papa, Jesus loves you. He never hated you.”

The old man turned back to look into his daughter’s eyes. His body relaxed and by the end of the afternoon David Flood had come back to the God he had hated for so many years.

A few weeks later at an evangelism conference in London, England, the Hursts listened to a report from the nation of Zaire (the former Belgian Congo). The superintendent of the national church, representing some 11,000 baptised believers, spoke eloquently of the gospel’s spread in

his nation.

Aggie approached him afterwards and asked if he had ever heard of David and Svea Flood. “Yes, Madam,” the man replied, “It was Svea Flood who led me to Christ. I was the boy who brought food to your parents before you were born. In fact, to this day your mother’s grave and her memory are honoured by all of us.” He embraced her in a long sobbing hug, and then said, “You must come to Africa to see, because your mother is the most famous person in our history.”

And that is exactly what Aggie Hurst and her husband did. They were met by cheering throngs of villagers as the pastor escorted Aggie to her mother’s white cross where she knelt to pray and give thanks. Later that day in the church, the pastor read from John 12:24: *“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat fall into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”* He followed with: Psalm 126:5: *“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”*

## **Story of Cyril and Margaret Coombs and Geoffrey**

Forty-three years ago, late one afternoon, there was a knock at our front door. Standing in the entrance was my brother Cyril and his wife Margaret.

I could tell immediately that they were heavy hearted. They had just come from Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital where they had taken their 3 year-old boy Geoffrey. They had been told that the little chap had an inoperable tumour in his brain.

Cyril was the night superintendent of Willesborough Hospital Kent as well as the lay pastor of Aldington Village Chapel with a congregation of about 20 people. They were devastated!

The consultant at the hospital changed his mind and decided to perform surgery. For several months Geoffrey seemed to be making progress. But quite suddenly, the cancer returned with a vengeance and it

was only a short while before he died.

The evening following Geoffrey's death was the occasion for a half night of prayer for that region of Kent. It was also Cyril and Margaret's turn for the prayer meeting to be held in their home. They chose to go ahead with the meeting. At about 2am, a group of about a dozen all stood to sing the doxology.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above the heavenly hosts,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

On the day of the service for Geoffrey, I handed a card to Margaret expressing our love and in it I also added the words from John 12:24, *“Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and dies, it abides alone, but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit.”*

The population of Aldington was about fifteen hundred at the time. The whole place was deeply moved. Margaret worked at the local medical clinic, so everyone knew what had happened. People were impacted by the uncomplaining spirit they observed in the grieving family. They opened their hearts wide. The funeral undertaker refused to present them with a bill. In the following years that little village chapel had to be enlarged to accommodate all the people.

I remember conducting an evangelistic mission during which quite a number gave their lives to Christ, including Hilary Deeds (wife of Bill Deeds, a member of parliament and who was in Prime Minister Harold MacMillan's cabinet). Later on, their daughter Juliet also became a committed Christian. The Deeds lived next door to Cyril and Margaret and had themselves suffered the tragic loss of their only son to Leukemia.

A few weeks after Nicholas died, Hilary went over to see Margaret. “Can I come in” she asked. “Of course you can Hilary,” was Margaret's immediate response.

Hilary was lonely. All her friends were getting on with their lives. There was no one she could talk to who would understand what she was suffering. She and Margaret became close friends.

The corn of wheat that died was bringing forth much fruit. Geoffrey did not die in vain.

At Easter, 2008, my brother Cyril passed into the presence of the Lord. He was 84. Seven years before, he had suffered a severe stroke and was expected to die on the day I visited him. After several attempts at speaking, he finally managed to mumble, "I'm going to prove them all wrong yet." And he did!

I had the privilege of speaking at his Thanksgiving service. Over 350 were present and over two hundred had gathered around the grave as his body was buried.

Today there are hundreds of people who came to Christ as a result of Cyril and Margaret's ministry, and out from that little chapel there are now four congregations. To God be the glory!

*"He, who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him."* (Psalm 126:6)

The logo for Salt & Light is a large, light blue circle containing the words "SALT" and "LIGHT" in white, stacked vertically, with a large white ampersand "&" in the center. To the right of the circle, the word "Program" is written in a dark blue serif font, followed by the number "21" in a larger, bold, dark blue serif font.

# Program 21

## Four Indispensable Truths: Honour Your Father and Mother

*“But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.”*  
(2 Timothy 3:1-5)

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise— that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*  
(Ephesians 6:1-3)

*“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”* (Malachi 4:5-6)

*“Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father’s nakedness and told his two brothers outside. But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father’s naked-*

*ness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will be to his brothers." (Genesis 9:20-25)*

*"Your, troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy majesty, from the womb of the dawn you will receive the dew of your youth." (Psalm 110:3)*

**T**his teaching was born out of watching an 11 year old boy lose his temper and curse his father, using the "F" word.

Some weeks later I met with the father and asked him whether he knew the reason why his son would dishonour him in front of so many others. Three times he said he couldn't think of any reason whatsoever. I sent up an s.o.s. prayer and back came the answer. I asked him if his wife would know the reason. At that moment, he broke and said his son had found pornography in the garden shed where he had concealed it.

The good news in this sad scenario is: the father went to his son, confessed his sin, asked his son for forgiveness. Their relationship is now totally healed!

What if your parents have behaved immorally? How would you cope with the pain and shame?

## **God views dishonouring of parents as one of the top ten offenses.**

So what do you do with parents who do not deserve to be honoured? How do you respond to parents who have behaved immorally?

Paul, a very dear friend of mine, had been cruelly abused by his drunken father. I was impressed by his lack of resentment and bitterness toward his dad. I knew he had been attacked with a pitch fork that was thrust

into his backside, and that on one occasion his father had also chased him with an axe intending to kill his boy. Just as he was in the process of bringing the axe down on Paul's skull, a neighbour intervened and Paul's life was preserved.

I spoke with him one day, "Paul, I know about your childhood and the things you suffered at the hands of your father. Yet I have never heard you speak evil against him, in fact I have only ever heard you honour him. How can you account for this, because it is truly amazing?" Paul's answer was short and profound. "First I had to forgive him, then I could honour him."

## **F**orgiveness is very big with God.

*"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* (Matthew 6:14-15)

*"Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."* (Matthew 18:32-35)

People who refuse to forgive create a self-made prison and often become bitter and warped in their personality.

The word 'forgive' means to 'let go and send away.'

I have preached on this subject to thousands of people around the world including India, Africa, North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. I always give an opportunity for people to respond by standing and following me in a prayer of forgiveness toward their father or mother. Each time, approximately a third of the congregation stand, many in tears.

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” (Ephesians 6:1-3)*

Let me encourage you to do business with God if the Lord has touched your heart as you have read these notes. May the Lord bless you!