

**RELIGIOUS DISCUSSION At
Northside Church of Christ
Meridian, MS
January 22nd, 2010**

John T. Polk II will affirm

“The Scriptures teach that in benevolence,
a local church of Christ may relieve
saints and non-saints from its treasury.”

Thomas N. Thrasher will deny

Polk's Questions for Brother Thrasher

- 1. Wherein does your position on benevolence differ from that of the Pharisees?**
- 2. How does a "good work" for an individual become an evil work for the church?**
- 3. Why did Paul use God's general benevolence to all men in **2 Corinthians 9:15** to strengthen his appeal for funds, if it was for saints only?**

“The Royal Law” Is A Command

James 2:8-13

- 1. It is taught in Scripture as “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”**
James 2:8
- 2. It is applied to Christian “assembly” as being against prejudice**
James 2:1-7
- 3. It is included in “mercy” and is a part of the “law of liberty” that judges**
James 2:9-13

Jesus' Miracles Were Also For Out-of-Covenant People

1. He "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" **Acts 10:38**
2. He healed "a Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth" woman's demon-possessed daughter
Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
3. He healed a centurion's servant
Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Many Miracles Were Acts of
Mercy/Benevolence #2

1. Old Testament Elijah & Elisha

Luke 4:23-27

**2. Epaphroditus "was sick almost
unto death; but God had mercy on him"**

Philippians 2:25-27

The New Testament "Pattern"

Permanent & Temporary Elements

	Church	Individual	Poor/ Saints	Jerusalem/ Judea	To the Elders	1 st Day Contri- bution	"All"	NOT A Com- mand!
Acts 11:27- 30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Gal. 6:1-10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I Cor. 16:1-4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
2 Cor. 8 & 9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Jesus' Example of First Praying For, Then Doing For "**ALL**"

"I do **not pray for these alone**, but **also for those who will believe in Me through their word**" (**John 17:20**)

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that **He**, by the grace of God, **might taste death for everyone**. (**Hebrews 2:9**)

"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? "
(**James 2:14-16**)

Paul's Appeal To First *Pray For*, Then Follow Jesus' Example *To Do For ALL*

Therefore I exhort first of all that **supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men [pantoon anthroopoon]**, for kings and **all [pantoon]** who are in authority, That we may lead a quiet and Peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men [pantas anthroopous] to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who **gave Himself a ransom for all [pantoon]**, to be testified in due time, (**1 Timothy 2:1-6**)

What Does Paul Mean by “ALL?”

2 Corinthians 9:12-13

12 For the administration of this service **not only supplies the needs of the saints**, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, **13** while, through the proof of this ministry, **they** glorify God for the obedience of **your** confession to the gospel of Christ, and for **your liberal sharing with them and all men**

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

19 For though I am free from **all men**, **I have made myself a servant to all**, **that I might win the more**; **20** and **to the Jews** I became as a Jew, **that I might win** Jews; **to those who are under the law**, as under the law, **that I might win** those *who are* under the law; **21 to those who are without law**, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), **that I might win** those *who are* without law; **22 to the weak** I became as weak, **that I might win** the weak. I have become **all things to all men**, **that I might by all means save some**. **23** Now **this I do for the gospel's sake**, **that I may be partaker** of it with *you*.

The 5 Verses Using “All” (*pantas*) Alike:

- **Acts 5:11** - So great fear came upon **all the church and upon all** who heard these things.
- **1 Thessalonians 3:12** - And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love **to one another and to all**, just as we do to you
- **1 Thessalonians 5:15** - See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good **both for yourselves and for all**.
- **2 Corinthians 9:13** - while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal **sharing with them and all men**
- **Galatians 6:10** - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith**.

What Praises of God Can We Proclaim?

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises [arete] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light **1 Peter 2:9**

1. Goodness - Romans 2:4 - Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?

2. Forgiveness - Acts 26:17-18 - I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

3. Mercy - Titus 3:4 - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared

What Praises of God Can We Proclaim #2

3. Mercy - Titus 3:4 - But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared

3a. Spiritually - Luke 6:31-36

35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. **36** Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

3b. Physically - Matthew 5:44-48

44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, **45** that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust...**47** And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? **48** Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

Is A "Barbarian" Church Kinder Than A Church of Christ?

Acts 28:1-2 - the island was called Malta. And the natives showed us unusual kindness [*philanthropia*]; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold.

Titus 3:4 - But when the kindness and the love [*philanthropia*] of God our Savior toward man appeared

Why can Barbarians unite to warm Christians, but Christians cannot unite to warm Barbarians?

To What Else Is "Saints Only" Applied? (Should Responsibilities Toward Saints Ignore Verses Adding Others?)

- **Prayer?** Paul prayed for "the saints"
Ephesians 1:1, 16
--but he also prayed "for Israel"
Romans 10:1-3
- **Love?** "We also ought to lay down *our*
lives for the brethren" **I John 3:16**
--but "Christ died for **the ungodly**"
Romans 5:6
- **Benevolence?** "Concerning the collection for
the saints" **I Corinthians 16:1**
--but "liberal sharing with them **and all**
men" **2 Corinthians 9:13**

***HIS DOCTRINE IS PRODUCED
WITH DENOMINATIONAL
DEXTERITY***



***REAL TRUTH CANNOT BE
"PRODUCED OUT OF A HAT!"***

Patrick Donahue on "All" in the Strawbridge-Donahue Debate
on "Limited Atonement," March 21, 2003

1 Timothy 4:10: For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of **all men, specially of those that believe.** (KJV)

Now I picked this verse to begin with, because it helps define and clarify for us what "all men" is. You'll see me bring up passages that say, "Jesus died for all men," and then **I suggest to you that Greg will try to define "all men" as being the "elect."** But he can't do that here, because it says that God is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe... **You see, Galatians 6, verse 10 would necessarily imply that Christians are to do good unto them who are not of the household of faith, because it says do good unto all men, especially those who are of the household of faith. That would imply that we're also supposed to do good to those who are not of the household of faith.**

THE DOCTRINE'S "POOF"

Acts 11:27-30

Galatians 6:10

2 Corinthians 9:12-13

"Do You Think That The Scripture

Says In Vain" **James 4:5**

"Liberal Sharing With Them

And All *Men*" **2 Corinthians 9:13**



Signs of Shame !



Signs of Shame !



**Paul's Admission To Felix Showed
He Did NOT Bring "The Collection"
Only To Saints!!**

Acts 24:17-18

**Now after many years I came to bring
alms and offerings to my nation, in the midst
of which some Jews from Asia found me
purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor
with tumult.**

Was Paul's "nation" saints only —
OR Jews,
some of whom were saints?

**Acts 26:4 - My manner of life from my youth,
which was spent from the beginning among my
own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know.**

Will God Judge “All” or Saints Only”?

Hebrews 12:23

to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to **God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect**

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us **do good to all, especially** to those who are of **the household of faith.**

**Saints “Do Good” To The Same Class Of People
Whom God Will Judge!
If Not, Why Not?**

Adding to “All”

2 Corinthians 9:13

while, **through the proof of this ministry**, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and **for your liberal sharing with them and all men**

Hebrews 13:24

Greet **all those who rule over you**,
and all the saints.

***Is the “Great Commission”
A “Local Church” Obligation?***

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been give to Me in heaven and on earth, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you [**Greek plural, *humin***]; and lo, I am with **you** [**Greek plural, *humon***] always, even to the end of the age” Amen. (**Matthew 28:18-20** NKJV)

Numbers in James 1 & 2

Chapter 1:

- 1** – twelve tribes scattered
- 2** – my brethren
- 3** – testing your (pl.) faith
- 5** – you (pl.) lacks wisdom
let him (sing.) ask
- 14** – each one is tempted
his own (sing.) desires
- 16** – brethren
- 18** – brought us (pl.)
that we (pl.) might
- 19** – brethren
every man (sum total)

- 21** – save your (pl.) souls
- 22** – doers, hearers,
yourselves
- 23** – anyone
- 25** – he, this one
- 26** – anyone
among you (pl.)
- 27** – oneself (sing.)

Chapter 2:

- 1** – brothers, our Lord
- 2** – your (pl.)
- 4** – yourselves, judges
- 5** – brethren

Diotrephes

3 John: 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who **(1) loves to have the preeminence** among them, **(2) does not receive us.**

10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, **(3) prating against us with malicious words.** And not content with that, **(4) he himself does not receive the brethren,** and **(5) forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.**

11 Beloved, **do not imitate what is evil,** but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God. (NKJV)

An Evil Christian Who Severs Christ's Headship By His:

1. Selfish Ego-trip
2. Rejecting Apostles
3. Smear & Fear
4. Arbitrary rules
5. Abuse of Sound
Brethren

Pharisaical Heresies

Brother Donahue's Contention

The tradition of men, as the washing pots and cups **Mark 7:6-9** (cancels obedience to the commandments of God)

Brother Thrasher's Contention

Christians ought to keep their benevolence pure from unclean people **Luke 7:36-43** (cancels the love of God for others)

A House Divided Shall Not Stand

Luke 11:17

“But he, knowing their thoughts, said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and **a house divided against a house falleth.**”