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GOD

Every system of thought, every world view has a concept of God. Three prominent views of God in America are: monism (everything is God), atheism (God does not exist) and Christian theism (there is a personal, infinite God who is totally separate from the created universe).

Secular humanists are atheists. They reject any concept of a transcendent Creator in favor of materialistic evolution. They believe that the universe is a closed system. There is nothing above and beyond the universe. Therefore man, as the highest form of evolution, is responsible for creating his own law and morality; save himself and the world through science and social planning; unite mankind into one world order; and redirect the course of evolution. Humanity is the secular humanists' God.

Agnostics are polite atheists. Agnostics say that they do not know whether God exists or not. He may exist. He may not exist. Biblically speaking, agnostics are atheists because they presuppose that God has not revealed Himself in creation, history, and the Bible. Men cannot avoid the responsibility to believe and serve God because God has revealed Himself in such a way as to leave all men without excuse. (Read Romans 1:18-32, Psalm 19:1-4). There is no neutrality. You must serve either God as he has revealed himself or the Bible in the way you are being an idol, a false god.

Most people in America would not consider themselves to be atheists. Most American's profess belief in God. Unfortunately, the vague sentimental God that people believe in has nothing to do with the righteous, holy, just God of the Bible. God is seen as a cosmic Santa Claus, a heavenly spare tire. God has a sentimental, indiscriminate love of everyone. He exists for him. He is there to give out goodies and bail us out when we get into trouble. People have set up a false God. A god who takes little or no demands on one's life. If this is your view of God, then you are a practical atheist. You are an idolator. Whether you're a hard core atheist, a soft core atheist (i.e. an agnostic) or a practical atheist (ie average churchgoer), you need to understand that atheism is the religion of nihilism. Because atheism leaves man in a monistic (all is matter) impersonal universe, it leaves man without any basis for ethics, meaning, personality, logic and even science.

For example, most atheists say they believe in the dignity and sanctity of human life. But the atheistic world view can provide no convincing reasons why human life should be nurtured and protected. The atheist believes human beings are the product of chance evolution. Humans do not have souls that continue after death, so eventually everyone will cease to exist. Eventually the sun will die out or explode and the earth will cease to exist. Eventually the universe will expand into an icy death or contract into a fiery ball. Eventually it will be as if no one (including you) ever even existed. Memories, records and history will be completely destroyed forever. According to this world view your life, whether good or bad, holds no significance at all. It doesn't make any difference whether you're Adolf Hitler or Mother Theresa because in the end it will be as though no one ever existed at all. When the atheist denies the transcendent, personal God of the Bible, who is absolutely good and who will judge all men and then render eternal judgment, he has destroyed any possibility of ethics. Atheistic ethics can only be social convention, relative, temporary, changing and arbitrary. Secular humanistic atheism naturally leads to societal chaos. The only reason non-Christians act ethically at all is because they are created in the image of God and have a conscience. They continually borrow ethical concepts from Christianity. And God keeps society from disintegration through his common grace.

New Age mystics 4 are monistic or pantheists. All being, all reality, everything that exists is part of the one impersonal spirit. The biblical doctrine of God as separate and distinct (transcendent) from the universe is totally rejected. You are god. The animals are god. Plants, rocks, water and dirt are god. The one spirit is a cosmic force, an energy field. The New Age god is a changing, evolving god. A god in process. God the impersonal cosmic one became the many (e.g., bug, plants, people etc...). The many are now in the process of returning to the one. A spiritual, evolutionary odyssey from the amoeba onward and upward to man and finally back into the one cosmic impersonal spirit. An impersonal, changing god is a non-speaking, non-directive, non-judgemental

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1 This even applies to the atheist for whatever a philosophy or religion chooses as its foundation for ethics, meaning and salvation as in God (see R.J. Rushdoony, The Political Philosophy of Christ, 1979, 1978, Thorsons, Print, Fairfax, Virginia, Chapter 6).

2 Unfortunately many evangelical and fundamentalist Christians have adopted a similar view that "God loves the sinner but hates sin." But the Bible emphatically states that God hates both the sin and the sinner. "For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You. The unfold shall not stand in your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man" (Psalm 5:4-6). "The Lord tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates. Upon the wicked He will turn aside, fire and brimstone and a burning wind" (Psalm 11:5-6a).

3 "God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked everyday" (Psalm 7:11).

4 Read Revelation 20:11-15. God will cast all unpaid sinners into hell, not just their sins. God only separates sin from the sinner when a sinner trusts in the sacrificial death and oblation (perfect, sinless) life of Jesus Christ. The sinner's sins are imputed to Christ and Christ's perfect righteousness is imputed to the sinner. The sinner is justified through faith in Jesus Christ.

5 Nihilism is the rejection of any basis for knowledge, truth, morality and religion. A nihilist believes there is no meaning or purpose to our existence.
god. Any communication that occurs is god speaking to itself. If everything is god, then impersonal relationships and personality itself is an illusion. If everything is god, then you must say that good and evil are part of god or good and evil don’t really exist. You cannot derive morality from an impersonal force any more than you can derive morality from an ocean. You cannot derive meaning from an energy field any more than you can derive meaning from static electricity. There is no need to obey an impersonal spirit of which you are a part, for if you are god you cannot do anything wrong.

Pleasure-seeking Americans are flocking to the New Age concept of god for two reasons. First, the naturalistic, atheistic secularism taught in public schools, colleges, universities and liberal churches leaves people spiritually hungry. The Bible teaches that we were created in God’s image, His likeness. Our chief purpose is to fellowship with, serve and glorify our Creator. Secular humanism cannot satisfy man’s spiritual longings. Therefore, people have been embracing New Age mysticism in order to try and fill this spiritual vacuum. Second, the non-speaking, non-directive, non-judgemental god of New Age thought allows sinful man to pursue his lusts without guilt and without fear. The New Age concept of god leaves one autonomous. If you’re god you can do whatever you desire. Pleasure-seeking Americans are flocking to the New Age concept of god for two reasons.

The Christian God is personal. He thinks. He communicates with mankind. He acts in history. He loves. He is kind. He is merciful and compassionate. He is absolutely righteous, holy and good. He is self-conscious, self-reflective and self-determinative. The God of the Bible is not some impersonal force, particle field or energy mass. He is an independent, eternal, living being.

The Christian God is infinite. Therefore all of His attributes are unlimited. God is everywhere present (omnipresent) without being part of the universe because God is pure, uncreated Spirit. His essence is totally different from created reality. The universe is finite. It is a speck of dust in God’s sight. God is all knowing (omniscient).

God’s knowledge is exhaustive. Nothing can be added or subtracted from His knowledge. Therefore God, not man, is the source for truth. God is all powerful (omnipotent).

22 Deuteronomy 32:4
31 Genesis 1:26
34 Isaiah 58:8-9
35 Isaiah 44:24s
9 Genesis 2:4
36 Hebrews 1:1-2
10 John 3:16
11 Acts 14:17
12 Hebrews 1:1-2
13 Acts 14:17
14 Acts 14:17
15 Acts 8:16
16 Isaiah 8:16
17 Psalm 86:15
18 1 Peter 1:24
19 Psalms 48:9
20 Acts 11:17
21 John 5:26
22 Revelation 4:8b
23 Exodus 3:14
24 John 5:26
25 Acts 17:25
26 Psalm 102:12a, Romans 3:25-26
27 Psalm 9:2
28 Acts 17:25
29 Acts 17:25
30 Hebrews 4:13, Romans 3:25-26
31 Jeremiah 32:17, Isaiah 40:17
32 The only thing that God cannot do is violate or contradict His own nature. For example, God is perfectly holy and righteous, therefore God cannot sin. John 11:7-9
33 1 John 4:7-11, John 3:16, Jeremiah 31:33, Ephesians 2:4-5
34 Psalm 96:2
35 Psalm 102:27, James 1:17
36 Acts 17:25
37 There is one God existing eternally in three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. There are not three Gods but only one God. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are not one third God each or part of God, but all are fully God of one indivisible essence, power and eternity. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not three manifestations of one God. Each are completely equal, possessing the full Divine nature. When the Bible teaches that God is three persons it does not mean that there are three individuals "but only personal self-distinctions within the Divine essence, which is not only generically, but also numerically one" (Bretsk, 1941, p87). Therefore we should never make the mistake that many cults do by referring to the Holy Spirit as just an emanation of God’s power or energy. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is a person. Jesus Christ in His Divine nature should never be referred to as a created being, Jesus Christ is God. Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity who has existed from eternity.


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and New Age thought are so absurd
Thus we do not have a
or the death of God, who exchanged the
The consistent atheist believes that death is the cessation of all existence. What
appears as one’s soul and personality is nothing more than a physical process. When
your brain ceases to function, you forever cease to exist. Once you die, that’s it. You
forever lose consciousness because there is no soul or spirit that lives on. Your body
rots into the soil. You are gone forever. No memories, nothing. All your labors,
achievements, "good" deeds, family, friends, love and hopes are lost forever. Your are
forever compost. Your life has no significance at all, none. Everything you have ever
done has no meaning. From atoms floating in the void to atoms floating in the void. All
your talk of love and meaning you stole from the Christian world view. If you were
consistent with your world view, you would say "All is matter, nothing mystical". Then
you say "Yet but our achievements, our memories live on in future generations"
Nonsense, everything will be consumed by a supernova. If your are an atheist, every-
thing that occurred on earth, everything, will have no significance at all, none.
Reincarnation is the belief that, at death, a person’s soul migrates and is reborn
into a new body. There are some different variations of this belief. Some believe that
after death peoples’ spirits spend time in a spiritual world or dimension and each person
chooses when or where to be reborn. Others believe that the impersonal law of Karma
will determine when and where each person will be born. If you led a bad life, you will
be born into a difficult situation where you will suffer for your past deeds. If you were
good, then you will be born into a good situation. The ultimate goal of reincarnation
leads us to the reification of your spirit with the over soul, the one infinite, cosmic,
impersonal, spiritual essence. Everything that exists: dirt, rocks, insects, animals and
people all go to heaven in this system. Hence its current popularity. But what most people fail to understand is that the Eastern New Age heavens is impersonal. You
merge back into the impersonal, cosmic spirit. The New Age mystic has avoided the Biblical
doctrine of Hell but has ended up no different than the atheist. You will be a little drop
that melts into the infinite, impersonal, cosmic ocean of energy. You as a person will
case to exist.

DEATH

It should be no surprise that people who believe in different gods also have
radically different views regarding death. The materialistic atheist believes that death
brings the total cessation of existence. The New Age mystic believes in reincarnation.
The orthodox Christian believes that death brings a temporary separation of the soul
from the body until the resurrection and the final judgment.

The consistent atheist believes that death is the cessation of all existence. What
appears as one’s soul and personality is nothing more than a physical process. When
your brain ceases to function, you forever cease to exist. Once you die, that’s it. You
forever lose consciousness because there is no soul or spirit that lives on. Your body
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your talk of love and meaning you stole from the Christian world view. If you were
consistent with your world view, you would say “All is matter, nothing mystical”. Then
you say “Yet but our achievements, our memories live on in future generations”.

The Bible teaches that man was created by God with a physical body and an
immaterial soul. In the garden Adam and Eve were offered eternal life on the basis of
perfect obedience to God. But if they disobeyed God’s command, God said they would
die. Adam and Eve, acting in pride and unbelief, disobeyed God’s specific command
and sinned. This act of rebellion in history brought spiritual death. The primary
meaning of death is separation from God. We all will die because of the guilt and pollution we
inherited from Adam and because of our own sins. We have all sinned thousands of
times. There are the sins committed in our mind such as coveting, pride, envy, hatred,
planning evil acts, sexual lusts, adulteries and fornications. And there are the sins of
the outward life such as greed, deceit, lying, disrespect to parents, theft, murder,
forication, adultery and so on. Physical death is a result of spiritual death which is
a result of sin. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ.
our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law" (Romans 7:14).

To harmonize the Biblical view of death with reincarnation and annihilation is absolutely impossible. Death is not natural. It is God's curse and punishment for man's rebellion. Not only does the Bible not teach reincarnation, it unequivocally repudiates it. This Bible teaches that you die only once. They are judged by God for what they have done on earth. "It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). "Now he is dead...I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (Psalm 15:5). Death expresses God's anger, God's judgment, God's condemnation and God's curse. Men are in rebellion against God and His righteous law. Therefore God justly brings death, judgment, Hell and the lake of fire to wicked, unbelieving men as sanctions against sin.

The Biblical doctrine of Hell is probably the most unpopular doctrine in the whole Bible. Yet Jesus Christ believed in Hell and warned his hearers more about Hell than the rest of the Bible combined. "Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both body and soul in Hell" (Matthew 10:28). "So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:49-50). "Then He will say to those of the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). "Blessed are the persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

Yet both John the Baptist and Jesus taught that he who is born again is in a figurative sense. That is, John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the Elijah to come (see John 1:21-23, 11:14). The second New Age proof of reincarnation, Jesus' statement that, "You must be born again", is also easily disproved by the Bible. If you read the context and Jesus' whole statement in Nicodemus, it becomes clear that Jesus is not referring to reincarnation but to the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit which comes upon a person enabling them to see the Kingdom of God. That is, the Holy Spirit does a work upon men who are dead in their sins. The Holy Spirit opens their eyes and ears in order that they can believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. "Jesus answered and said to him, "Man, assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Unless he is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:3-7). Jesus is teaching a spiritual birth, not a physical birth. Therefore Jesus cannot be speaking of some future physical birth into a new physical body.

The atheist's God is collective humanity. Therefore salvation is seen in purely immanent (this worldly) categories: education, cradle to grave security, health care, economic growth, personal peace, affluence and so on. Without a transcendental God to look to in direction, moral law and salvation, the atheist has put his trust in the secular state as man's sole lawmaker, problem solver and saviour. Historically this view of the state has led to political coercion, loss of liberty and unpalatable brutalities. Marxism, socialism, fascism and, to a lesser extent, the welfare state embody the atheistic ideal. In order for the secular state to save man it has sought total jurisdiction over every area of man's life: the family, the school, business, the church etc. But the secular state, rather than saving man, has only helped to destroy him. In every country where the Christian world view has been replaced with a secular world view the basic institutions of society have decayed. The Communist countries collapsed first because they were more consistent with the atheistic ideal. Western Europe, the United States, Canada and Australia are reaping the fruits of secularism: fragmented families, drug abuse, crime, abortion on demand, militant homosexuality, youth gangs, racism, the AIDS epidemic, the rise of the occult and Satanism, pornography, the epidemic of teenage suicide, the

The wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:49-50). "Then He will say to those of the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41). "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). "Blessed are the persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:10).

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40 New Age writers claim that the Bible teaches reincarnation. They try to prove reincarnation with two arguments. First they claim that the Bible teaches that John the Baptist is the reincarnation of the Old Testament prophet Elijah. And second they quote Jesus' statement that "You must be born again" (John 3:7). Yet both John the Baptist and Jesus taught that he who is born in a figurative sense. That is, John the Baptist fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the Elijah to come (see John 1:21-23, 11:14). The second New Age proof of reincarnation, Jesus' statement that, "You must be born again", is also easily disproved by the Bible. If you read the context and Jesus' whole statement in Nicodemus, it becomes clear that Jesus is not referring to reincarnation but to the sovereignty of the Holy Spirit which comes upon a person enabling them to see the Kingdom of God. That is, the Holy Spirit does a work upon men who are dead in their sins. The Holy Spirit opens their eyes and ears in order that they can believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. "Jesus answered and said to him, "Man, assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Unless he is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again." The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:3-7). Jesus is teaching a spiritual birth, not a physical birth. Therefore Jesus cannot be speaking of some future physical birth into a new physical body.

41 Romans 5:16
42 Colossians 3:13
43 Romans 5:16
44 Colossians 3:13
45 Luke 16:19-31; Jude 1:7,13; 2 Peter 2:4-9
The New Age concept of salvation is metaphysical not ethical. The New Age mystic is concerned with moving up the scale of being back into the one, cosmic, impersonal spirit. There is no sin or true ethical guilt in this system, only ignorance. Therefore New Age mystics preach self-realization, self-actualization and self-transcendence. You are god, therefore you must look within. You need to acknowledge your godhood and learn to live in terms of that reality. New Age mystics teach that you must overcome the illusion of your separateness from other people, other things. To achieve true enlightenment, cosmic bliss or nirvana, you must have not only proper knowledge but also proper techniques: chanting, holy, meditating, fasting, proper diet, yoga exercises, meditation, visualization etc. When you achieve pure self-realization you enter a mystical "indescribable" experience of total cosmic bliss and peace. You are experiencing the oneness of all things, of all reality.

The Bible presents man's central problem as not political or metaphysical but ethical. Man is a sinner. Man is in ethical rebellion against God's perfect standard, His law. When Adam the first man sinned the whole human race fell into sin. Every person who ever lived except Jesus Christ was born with the guilt and pollution (sinful corruption) of sin. Every person except Jesus Christ has also committed actual sins. "There is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like...those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:19-21). Because of our sins we have become enemies of God. We are dead in trespasses and sins. Without God's friendship and fellowship, without hope. Yet God in His divine compassion, love, grace and mercy has provided redemption through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. The Bible clearly states that Jesus Christ has overcome sin itself by dying on the cross, being raised from death and reigning in victory. 

This is because only a savior, perfectly holy person, without spot or blemish can be accepted by God as a savior. "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separated from sinners...who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God...this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God...For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 7:26a; 9:14; 10:12, 14).

Believers in Christ are saved not only by Christ's sacrificial death but also by Christ's perfect, sinless life. Jesus Christ fulfilled God's law in exhaustive detail. He never sinned. He rose from the dead totally victorious over sin, Satan, and the temptations of the world. Adam failed and we have failed. Our lives have been one sin committed after another. But where we have failed horribly, Jesus Christ was totally victorious. If you place your trust in Jesus Christ's sacrificial death and sinless life, then your sins and guilt are placed upon Jesus Christ and washed away by His blood sacrifice. Then Jesus Christ's perfect sinless life is imputed to you. You are clothed with Christ's perfect righteousness. On the day of judgment God will treat you as His own son by adoption and you will be given eternal life solely on the merit of Jesus Christ. Salvation from start to finish is a sovereign work of God.

You are responsible to repent of your past sinful lifestyle, and to place your faith in Jesus Christ. In order to truly repent you must recognize that your past life is characterized by sin, alienation from God, vanity, defilement, guilt and spiritual helplessness. You must have a genuine sorrow for sinning against God. You must turn from your sin and trust in Jesus Christ. The old life of sin is put to death with Christ and is replaced with a new life of godliness and good works. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a..." (Galatians 5:16).

46 The sinner can never solve man's problems because he rejects the Biblical doctrine of sin. He believes that man does bad things because men have a bad environment and because man just lacks the proper knowledge. Socialist bureaucrats believe they can solve problems with money and education. Yet all the money and education in the world has not developed the Third World, eliminated poverty in the inner city or stopped the AIDS epidemic. Why? Because man's basic problem is spiritual and not environmental. Man is a sinner. He must accept that fact, accept responsibility for his sinful behavior and turn to Christ for salvation.
new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). People who claim to be Christians yet live a life characterized by sin are liars and hypocrites. Christians are not sinless yet there is a clear demarcation between the old unconverted life and the new life in Christ. The Christian does good works out of obedience and gratitude to Christ. Good works do not contribute to salvation at all. Christians are saved solely through the merits of Jesus Christ.  

CONCLUSION

In this century Biblical Christianity has been ridiculed as mythology and irrational nonsense. But not only is Biblical Christianity absolutely true, it is the only world view that is rational, and that provides ultimate meaning to our existence. Only the absolute, unchanging, transcendent God of Christianity provides a basis for absolute, unchanging moral standards. Only the final judgment before Jesus Christ provides perfect justice. Only the perfect, sinless life and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, the God-man, can eliminate sin and guilt. Materialistic atheism and New Age mysticism are irrational, absurd and nihilistic. The only God, the One who created you and sustains your life at this very moment, commands you to repent of your false beliefs and your sins and believe in His Son Jesus Christ. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the Scripture says, ‘Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame” (Romans 10:9-11).

If you want to discuss the issues in this booklet, or if you would like to participate in a Bible study or church service, please call or write to the address given below.

48 “By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth to be a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the Justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus (Romans 3:21-26).