

# John Sproule Ministries, Inc.

October/November 2005 *Newsletter*

**A Word from the Word.** Ever since the beginning of time and history, Satan has pushed his colossal lies upon humankind, and it always begins with casting doubt upon the truthfulness of God's Word. He approached Eve in the garden with, "Has God *actually* [indeed] said, 'You shall not eat of every tree in the garden?'" (Genesis 3:1). With this very statement, Satan planted doubt in Eve's mind about the truth of God. His method can be traced down through the centuries and it infests the human race today.

For example, has God *actually* said that no persons will ever be in heaven who are trusting in their own goodness even if they are living better lives than others? Has God actually said that???? Yes, indeed, He has and many times. "**For by grace** [unmerited favor] **have you been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast**" (Eph. 2:8, 9). Good works are the *result* of God's bestowal of eternal life (Eph. 2:10), but they are not the *cause* of it. In another place, God has plainly said, "**Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit**" (Titus 3:5). Just after this statement, Paul reminds Titus (3:14) and the early believers to "learn to maintain good works," *because* God had already given them eternal life . . . but not to get eternal life! Such statements from God could be multiplied many times, but one word from God is sufficient.

Others will say, has God *actually* said that the *traditions of men* as practiced by some institutional churches of today . . . the philosophies, the liturgies, the incense, the icons, the reliance upon ancient church luminaries [who left us some good writings, and some very bad ones, but none "inspired" by God] . . . can never save us? Has God really said that? "**Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the basic principles of the world and not according to Christ**" (Colossians 2:8). Or, "**Therefore, if you have died with Christ** [i.e., been saved by accepting His death on the Cross for your own death and payment] **from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—'Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,' which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?** These things indeed have **an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh**" (Colossians 2:20-23).

Still others will say, has God *actually* said that simple trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His work upon the Cross is the *only way* to heaven and to Him? Yes, He has. Listen to Jesus Christ . . . "**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me**" (John 14:6). Even with such plain statements from God, the lies of Satan continue to be propagated . . . many of them through religious leaders in some of the institutional churches of today. They capture men with the *traditions of men* and hold them captive all the days of their lives.

**A Word from the Ministry.** The home Bible class being taught by Dr. Sproule will resume on January 10, 2005 at 7 PM at the home of David and Regina Tubbs at 529 Paige Drive in Hoover, AL. Specific directions will be mailed to all the class members. We express our profound gratitude to Ray and Sharon Berry in whose home we have met for the better part of 7 years . . . such kind hospitality . . . such gracious use of energies and time to make the class so welcome. We are truly grateful. In fact, JSM, Inc. had its beginning in their home. In January we will continue the series in Zechariah after two short sessions on the DaVinci Code and on Romans 11 (which will dovetail nicely with Zechariah).

My health continues to improve and we just completed a good ministry at the Anniston Bible Church this past Sunday (Nov. 6). Ginny's arthritic knee keeps bothering her and she will be undergoing arthroscopic surgery soon. Please keep us in your prayers.

As you know, it is our policy never to ask for money . . . but we, on occasion, do inform our supporters of special needs. We have done that twice since 1997. Now another need has arisen. Our old copier can no longer be maintained by the manufacturer. We will have to invest in a new (used!) copier. The cost will be around \$3,000. If any feel led to help with this, it would be greatly appreciated by Ginny and me.

In deepest gratitude for all of your prayers and support . . . from our hearts to yours, in Jesus Name!

John & Ginny Sproule