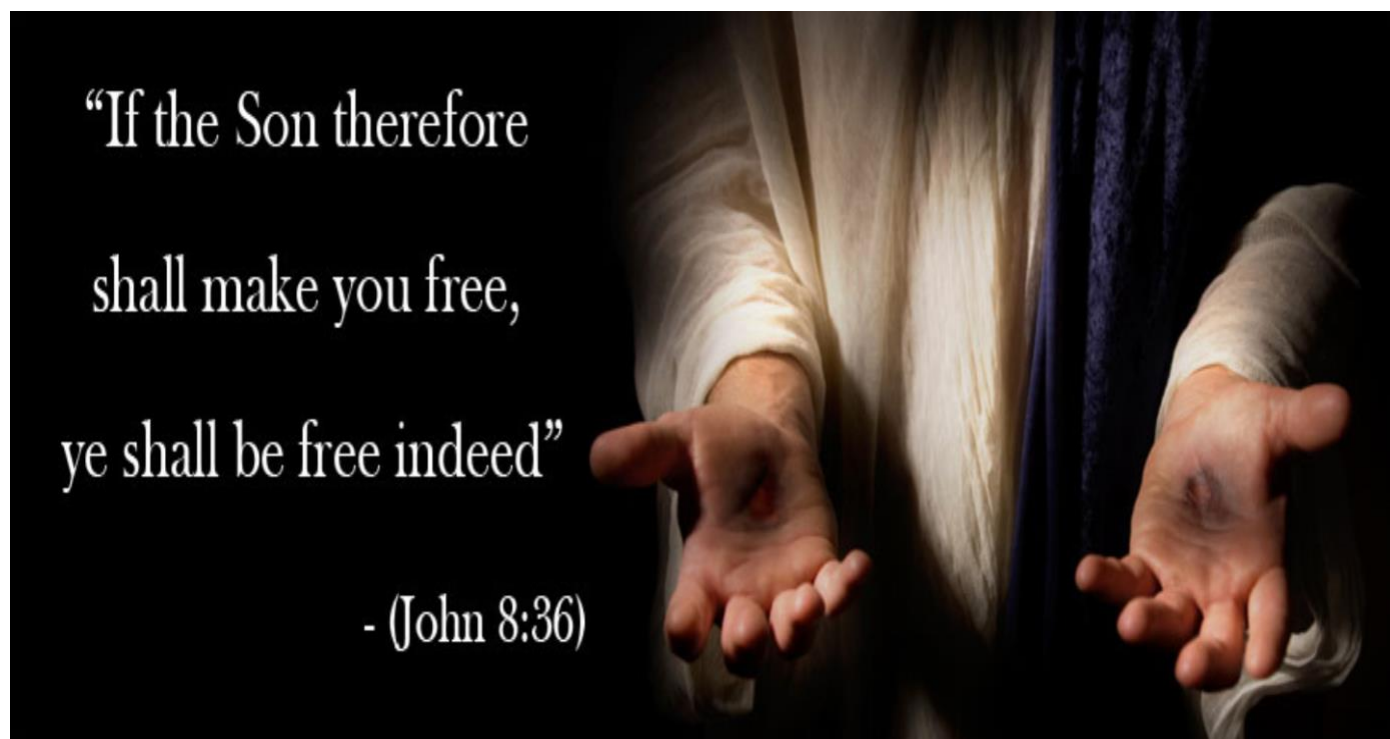


Eleutheros Books Newsletter

January 2025



Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com.

Eleutheros Books is now offering online courses.

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible?

How about learning more about salvation? Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today?

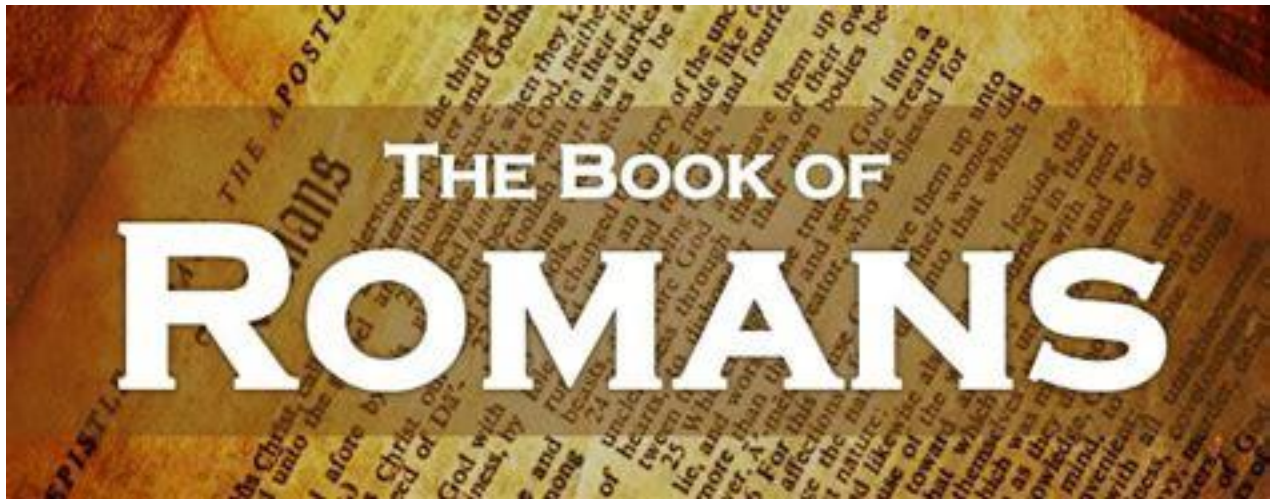
Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians

Study at your own pace! <https://eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com/>

The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now available in a Spanish translation (both in paperback and eBook formats)! To make a purchase, go to www.amazon.com and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Nuestra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

Spanish translation of [A Portrait of Jesus](#) is available now. Click on the link above to purchase.

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Thoughts on Romans

2:17-18 *Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the Law, and make thy boast to God, and knowest His will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the Law.*

In this chapter the Apostle explains the situations of both Gentiles and Jews. One the one hand, Gentiles are “a law unto themselves” (2:14), and do not concern themselves with anything Biblical unless, of course, they have been saved by God’s amazing grace.

On the other hand, Jews generally boast in the fact that God gave the Law to them through Moses. They were given revelation from God and glory in that fact, but what have they done with what God gave to them?

Even while God was giving the Law to Moses, the Jews, even Aaron the high priest, became idolatrous and very sensual: *And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as far this Moses, the man that brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. And Aaron said unto them, break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears and brought them unto Aaron. And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a golden calf: and they said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when they saw it, he built and altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation," and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord. And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink and rose up to play."* ([Exodus 32:1-6](#)).

The Jews were given something very special, but they abused it very badly, inventing an idol. The Gentiles were given nothing and invented other idols.

Whether Jew or Gentile, there was rebellion against the one true God!

The Jews rested ([2:17a](#)), boasted ([2:17b](#)), "knew" ([2:18a](#)), and "approved" things that are more excellent ([2:18b](#)), but they did not believe God. The Gentiles knew nothing of the things God gave the Jews and were no better off.

It is interesting that verse 17 begins with the word *Behold*. Such an imperative should be taken seriously! The basic idea of this word is this: See how important this is!

The purpose of the Law was to show both Jews and Gentiles that they are not able to obey it! Not only does their initial reaction to the Law demonstrate this bedrock truth, but Paul emphasizes it in an epistle to Timothy: *Knowing this, that the Law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for men stealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine* ([1 Timothy 1:9-10](#)).

So, what is the solution to the ignorance of the Gentiles and the rebellion of the Jews?

Paul gives the answer to this in the same letter to Timothy:

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief ([1 Timothy 1:15](#)).

Religion kills but Jesus saves!

Consider the words of this great hymn:

Wonderful Grace of Jesus
Haldor Lillenas

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin.

How shall my tongue describe it? Where shall its praise begin?

Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free,

For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me!

Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most defiled.

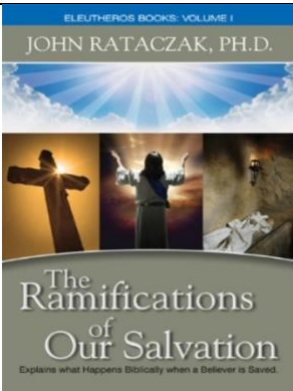
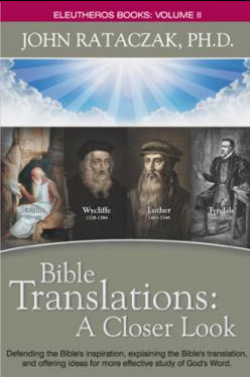
By its transforming power, making him God's dear child!

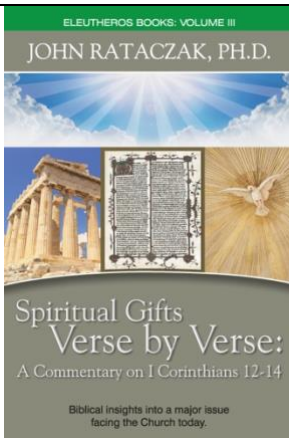
Purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity.

For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me!

We will continue these thoughts from Romans in next month's newsletter.

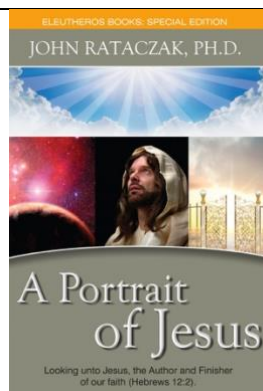
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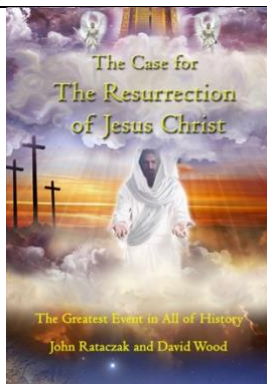


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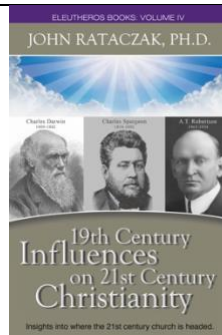
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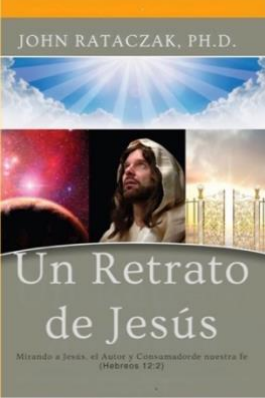


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<p>Spanish translation of A Portrait of Jesus is available now. Click on the picture below to purchase.</p>	



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The history of [Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary](#) has been a chronology of miracles and accomplishments. From our inception in 1992, God has seen fit to bless and advance us in tremendous ways.

JBTS is uniquely Baptist. Unlike many institutions, we have no financial base of support from conventions or associations but endorsements, commendations, cooperation, and support of many ministers, denominational leaders, and churches. We are committed to biblical conservatism and evangelical theology.

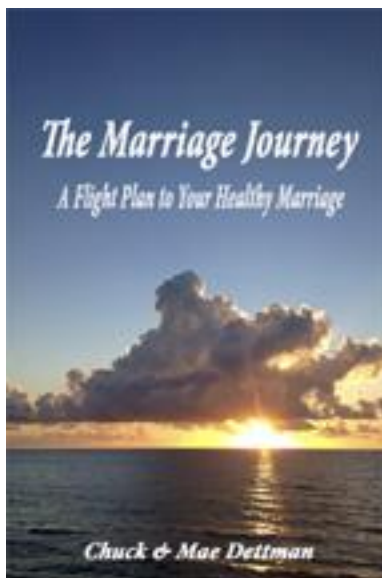
We endeavor to provide a Christ-centered education that is comprehensive yet practical in approach. Both residential and external courses are available. Our school strives to provide courses of the highest standards at a fraction of the cost of liberal arts colleges and other seminaries.

The external programs of Jacksonville Baptist Theological Seminary make it possible for students to continue their educational goals while enabling them to continue their ministry or employment without attending classes on campus. External students may enroll at any time during the year and may proceed with their studies at their own pace. Educational preparation is an adventure and for that reason we are dedicated to helping our students achieve their best. Our teachings are true to the Bible, standing on the fundamentals of faith.

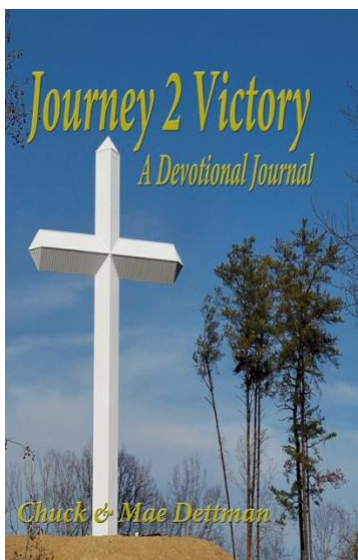
The seminary looks forward to a partnership with Dr. John Rataczak as he joins our adjunct faculty, concentrating on external studies.

For additional information on JBTS contact us at <https://jbtsem.com/contact/>

Books by Chuck & Mae Dettman



[The Marriage Journey](#) gives helpful navigational aids you can easily apply during the stormy times of your marriage flight. The aeronautical theme gives an uplifting perspective to the turbulence often experienced in marriage. The Journey checkups, flight plans, and more, make for an easy read, plus offer a fresh and unclouded approach to help you build a strong marriage and family.



[Journey 2 Victory](#) serves as a tool to assist in healing not only marriages and relationships, but also individuals. Many times, when our thoughts are committed to paper God gives us comfort and ‘releases’ our hurt

and pain. This is a journal designed to give you a sense of freedom and peace using a word, with a related scripture verse, to reflect and pray your struggles to Him. Each day select a word that is significant, pray the scripture for that word and then journal your thoughts.

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