

Today's Sermons

Morning: Jesus, The Savior of Mankind – Dale Barger
 Afternoon: Jesus, The Lord – Dale Barger



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Offering	\$1620



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 Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
 Volume XIV May 2, 2021 Number 18

Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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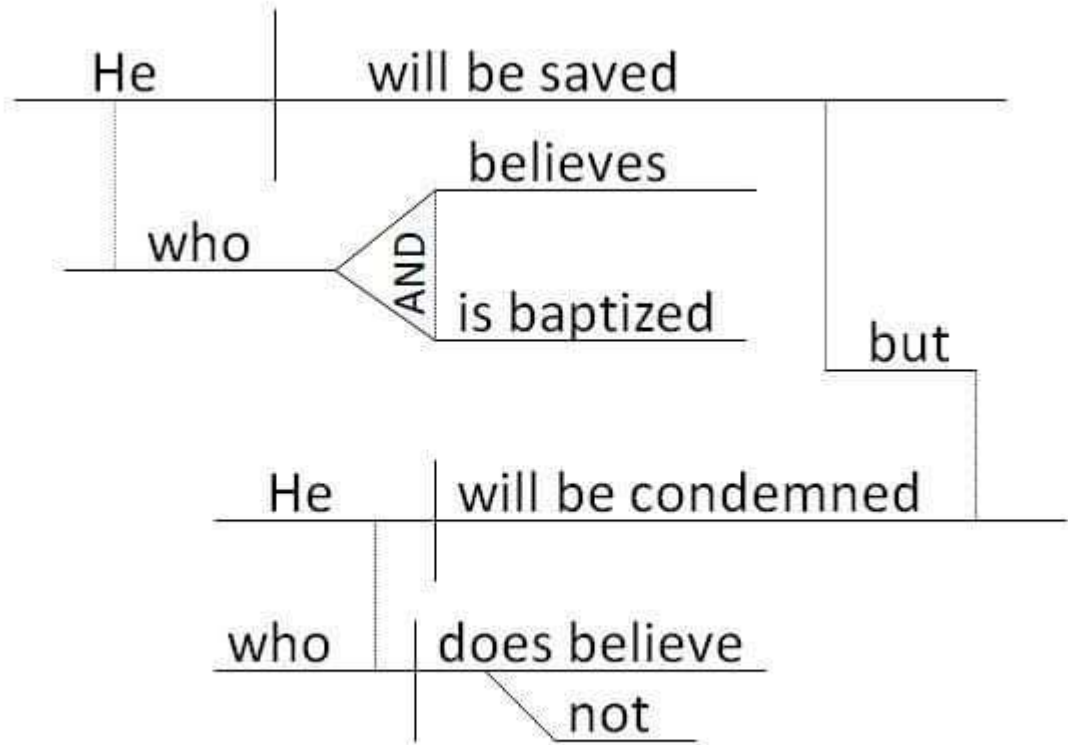
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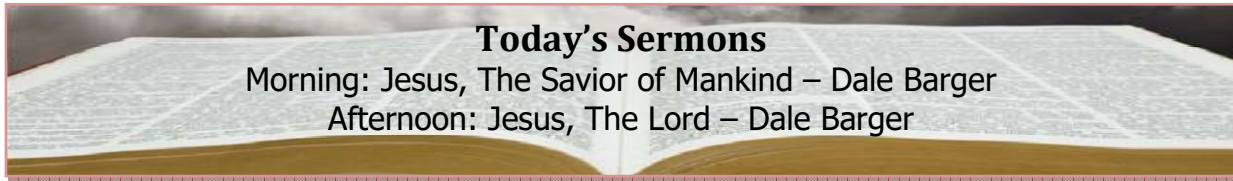
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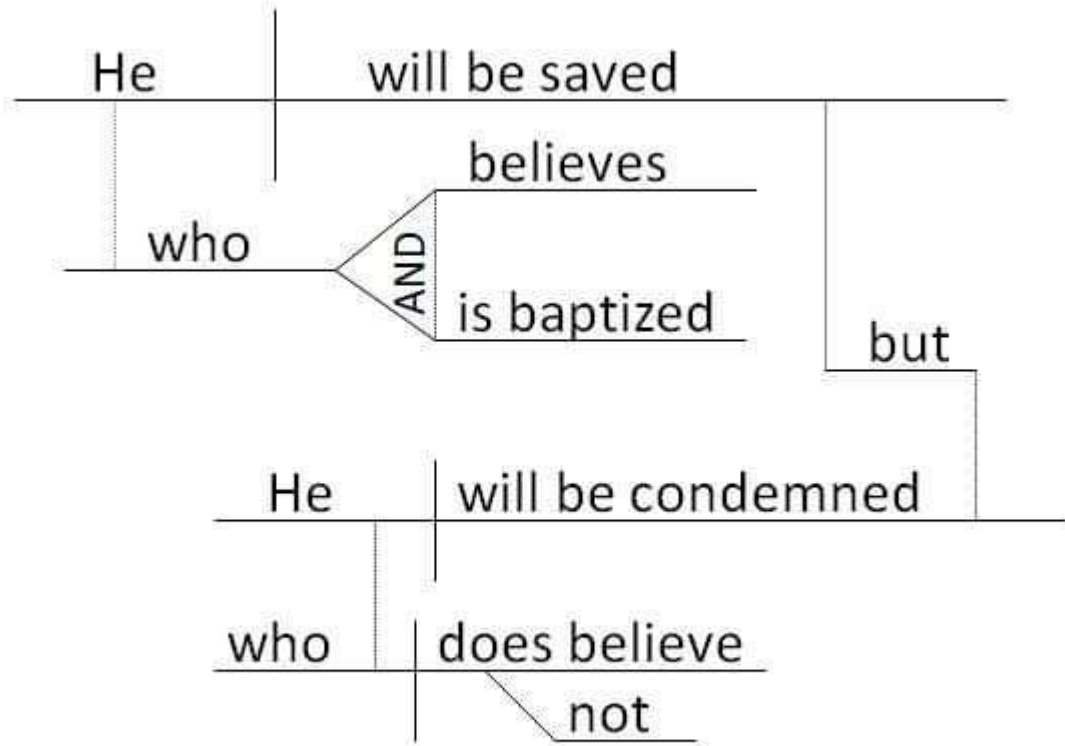
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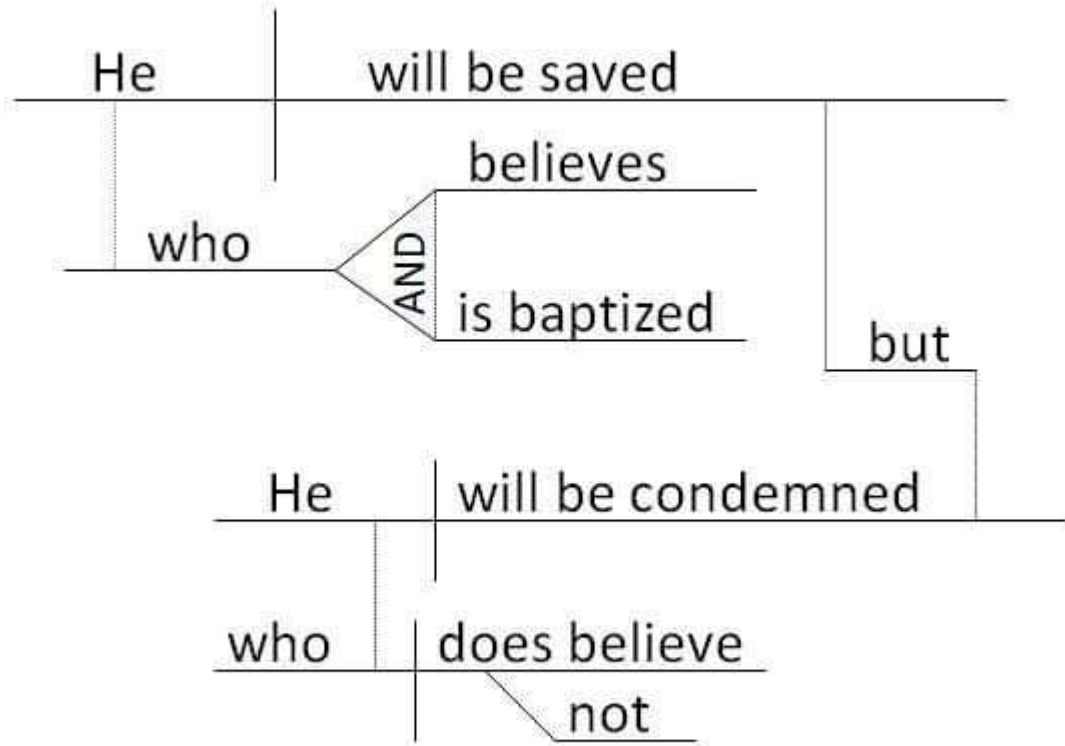
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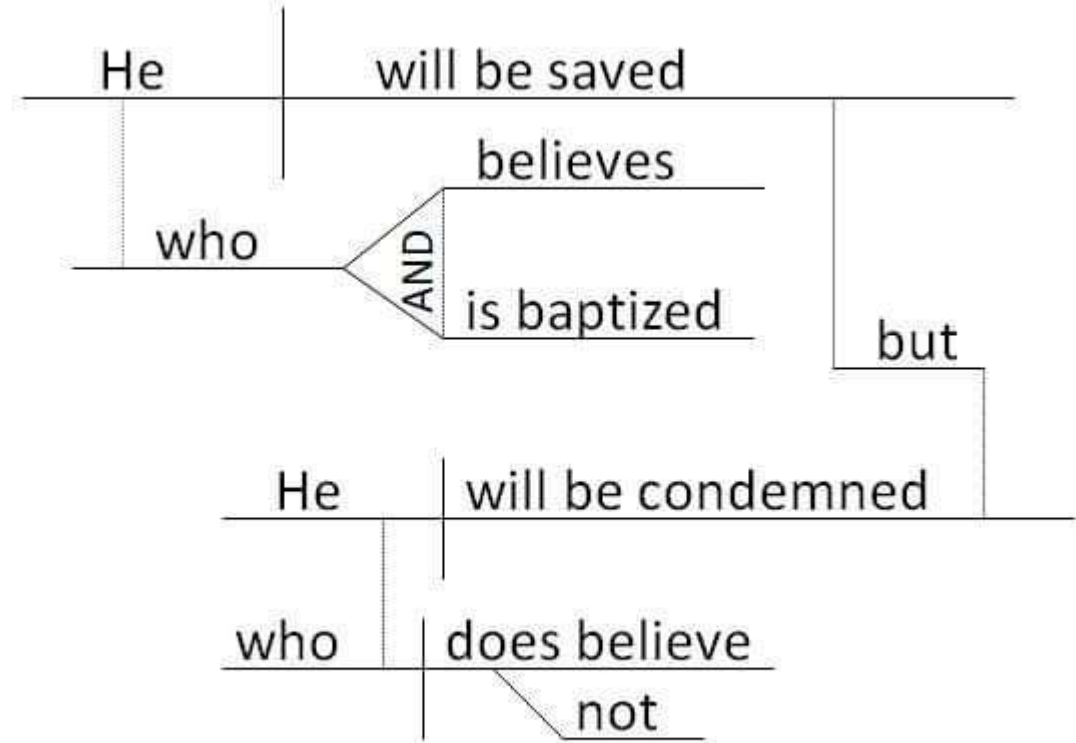
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Volume XIV May 2, 2021 Number 18

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Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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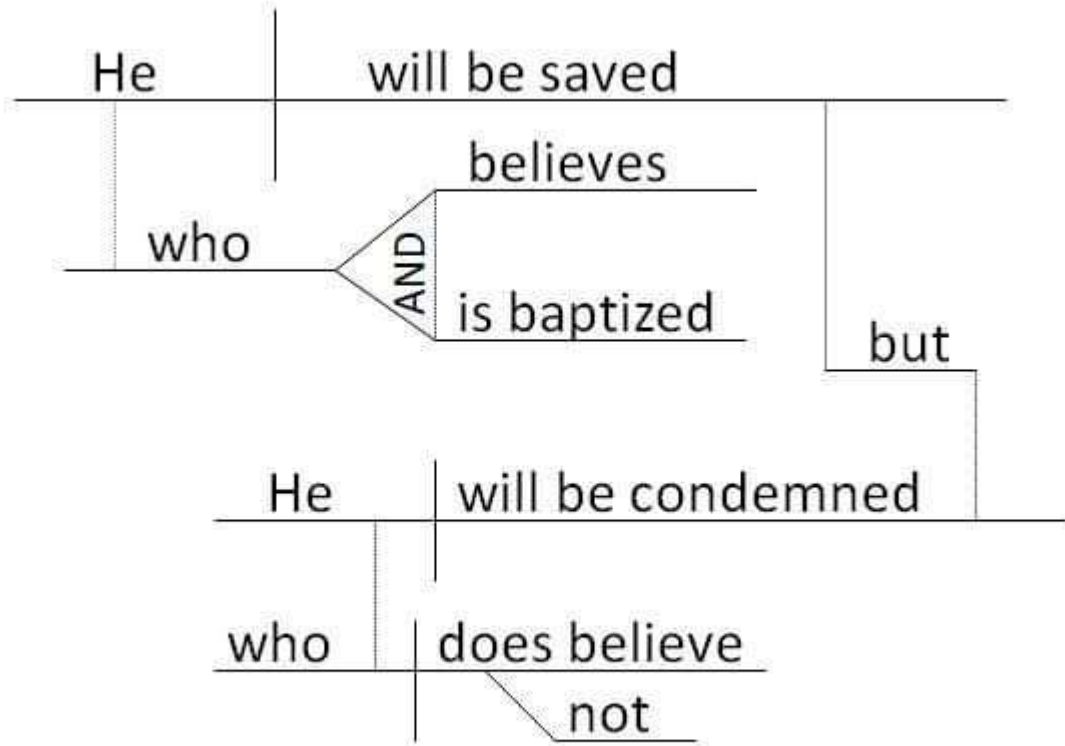
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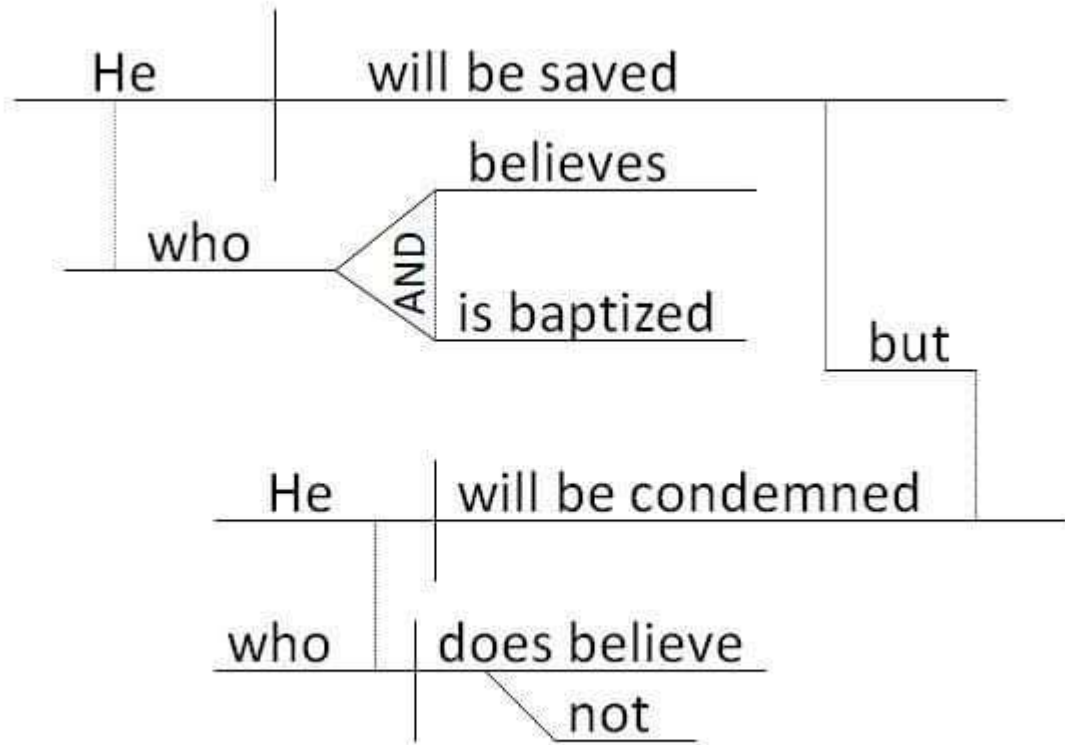
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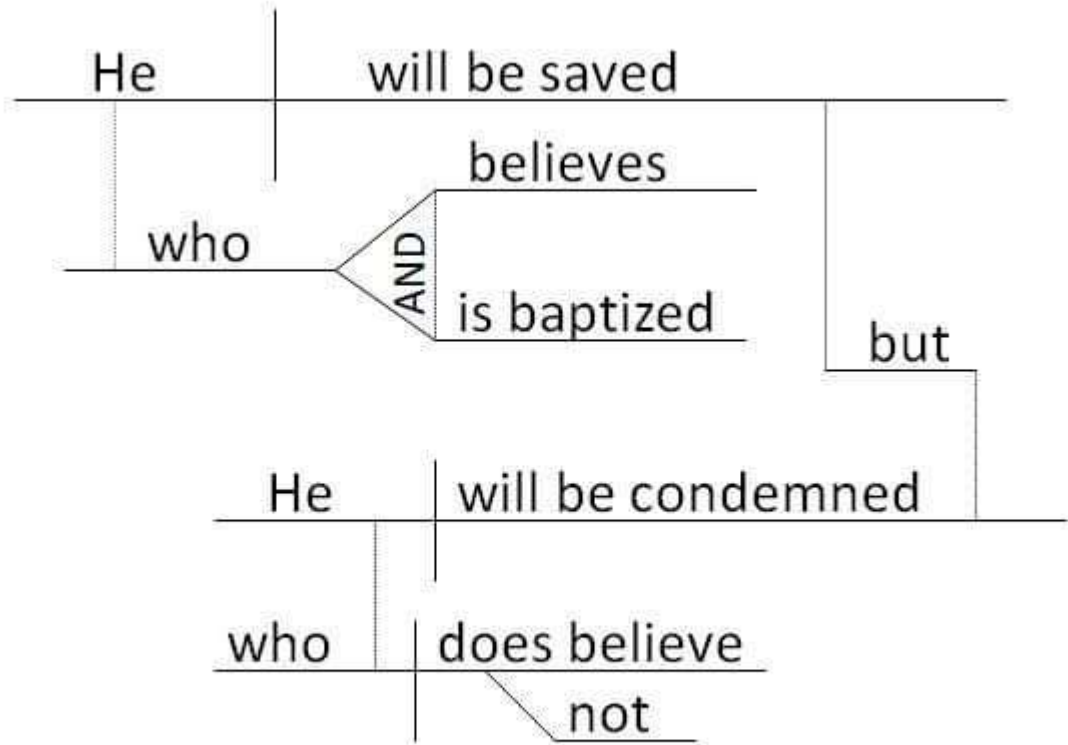
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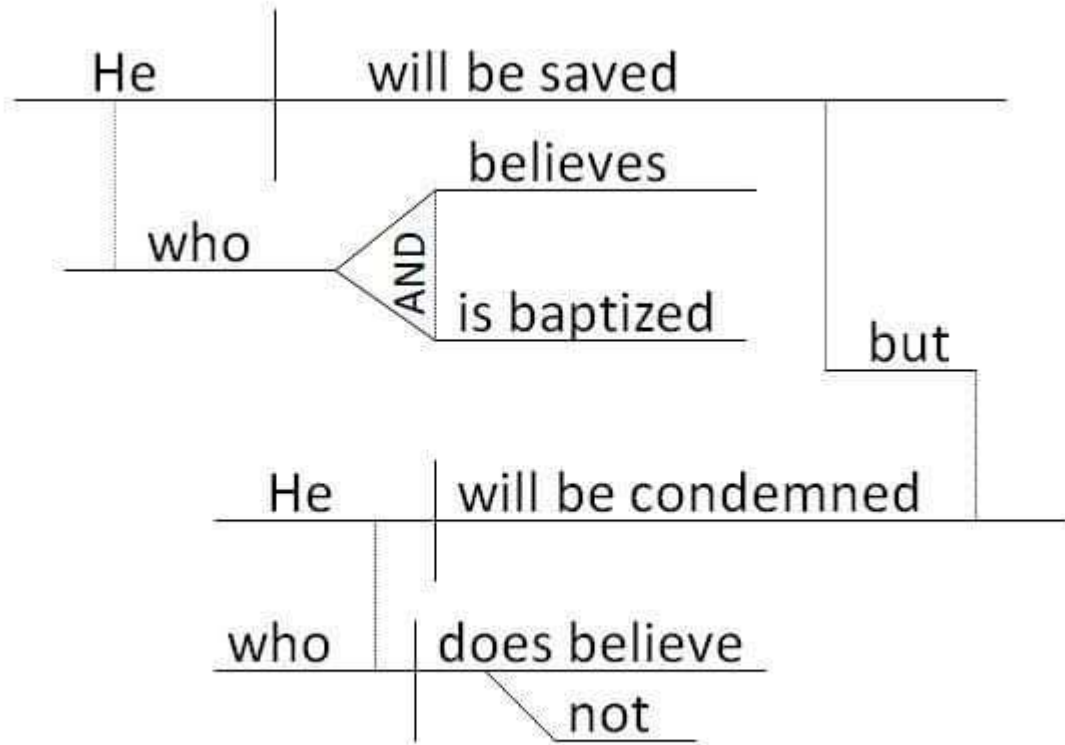
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Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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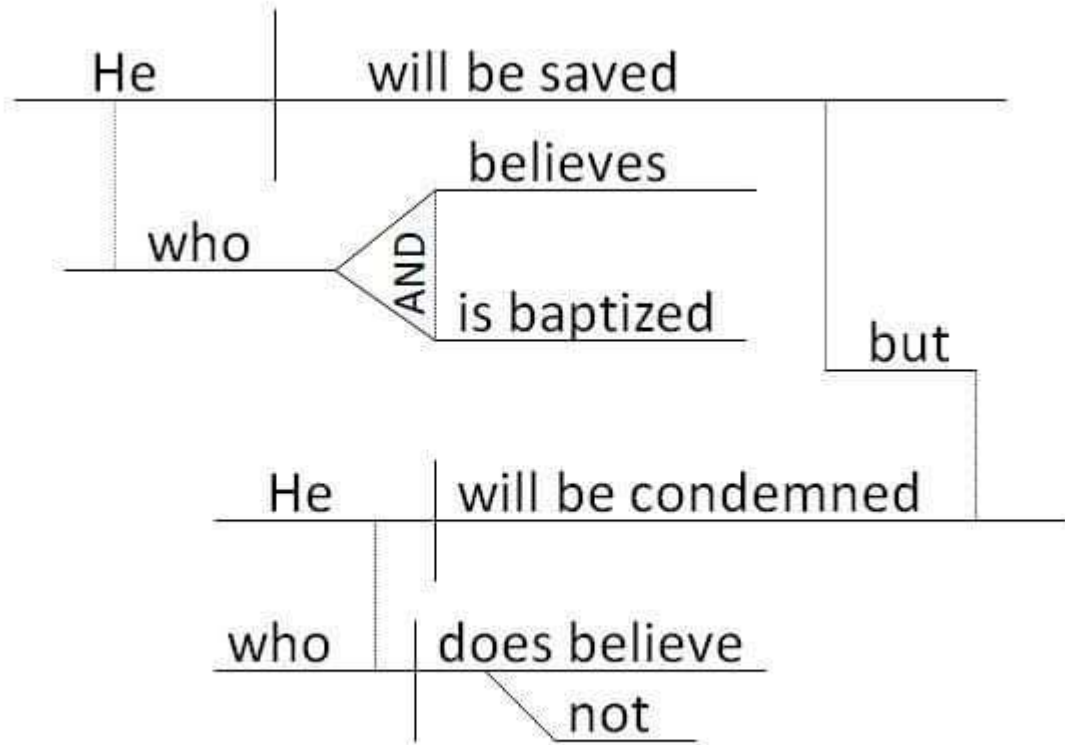
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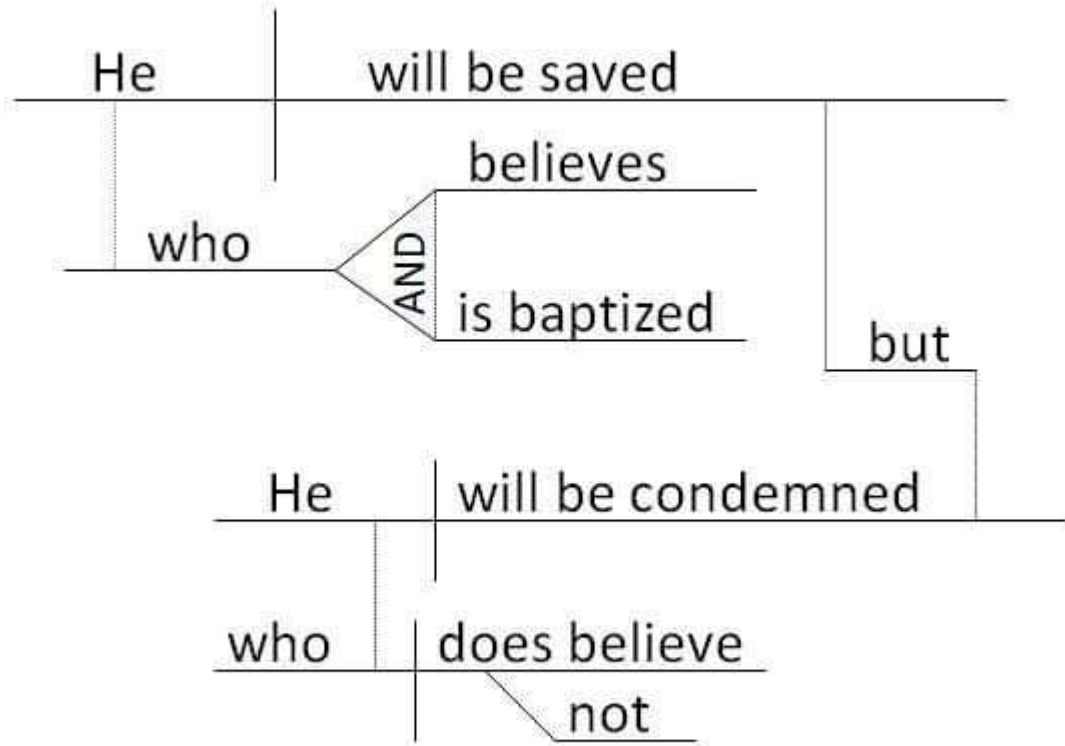
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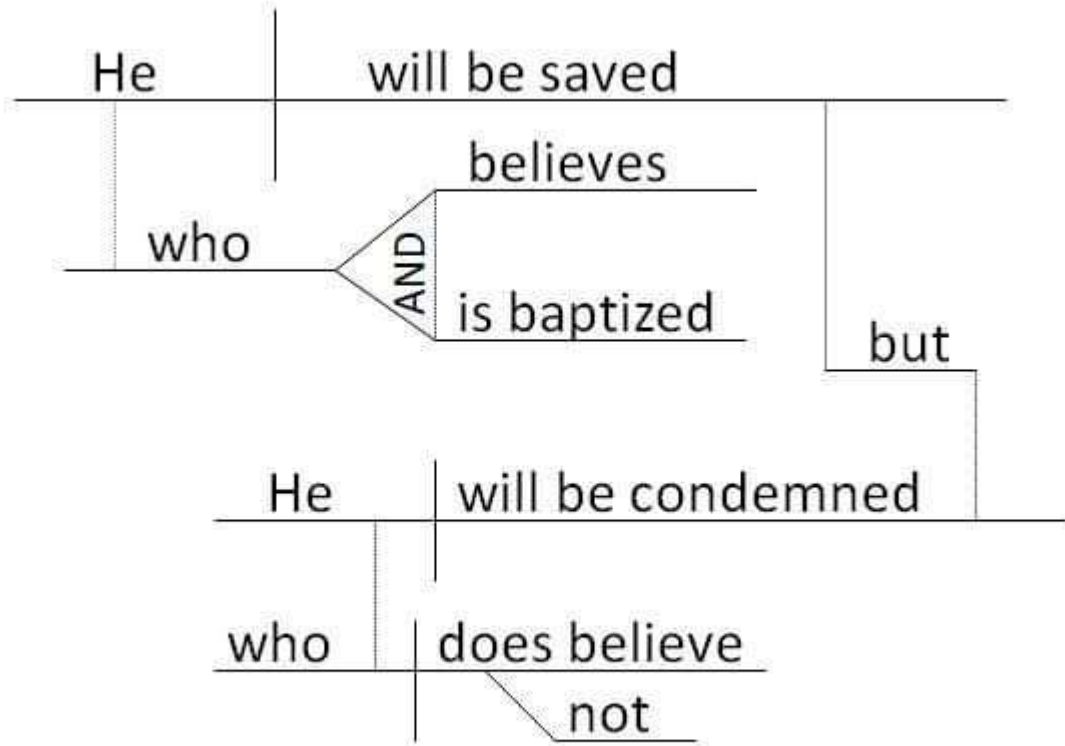
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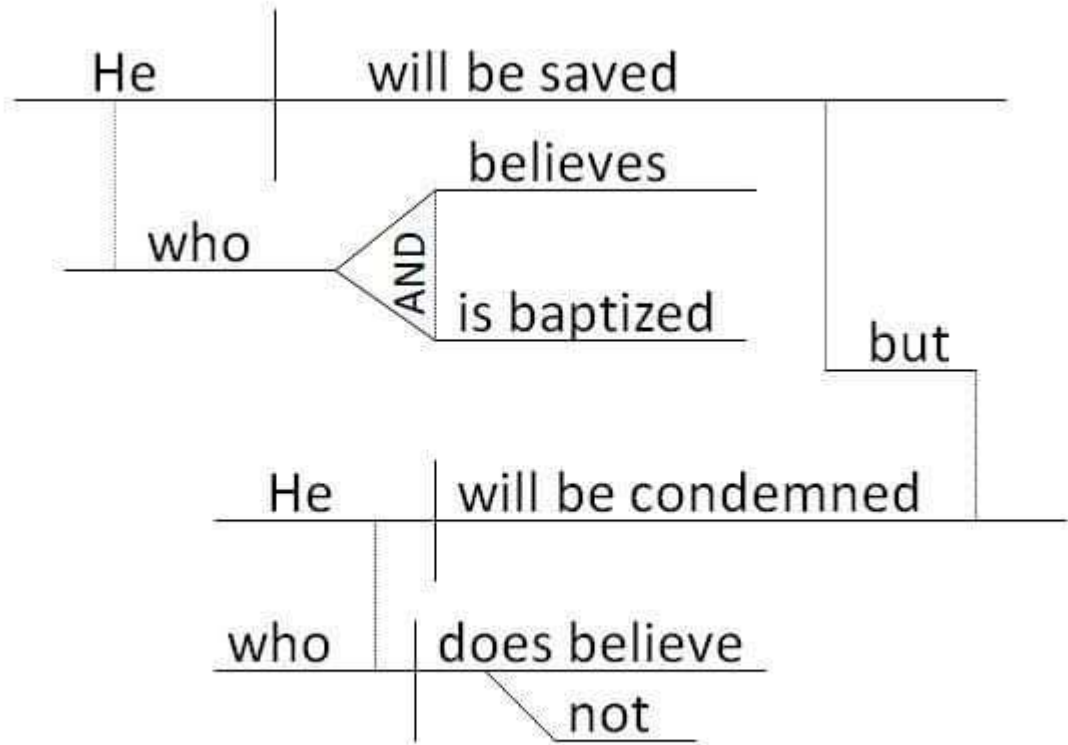
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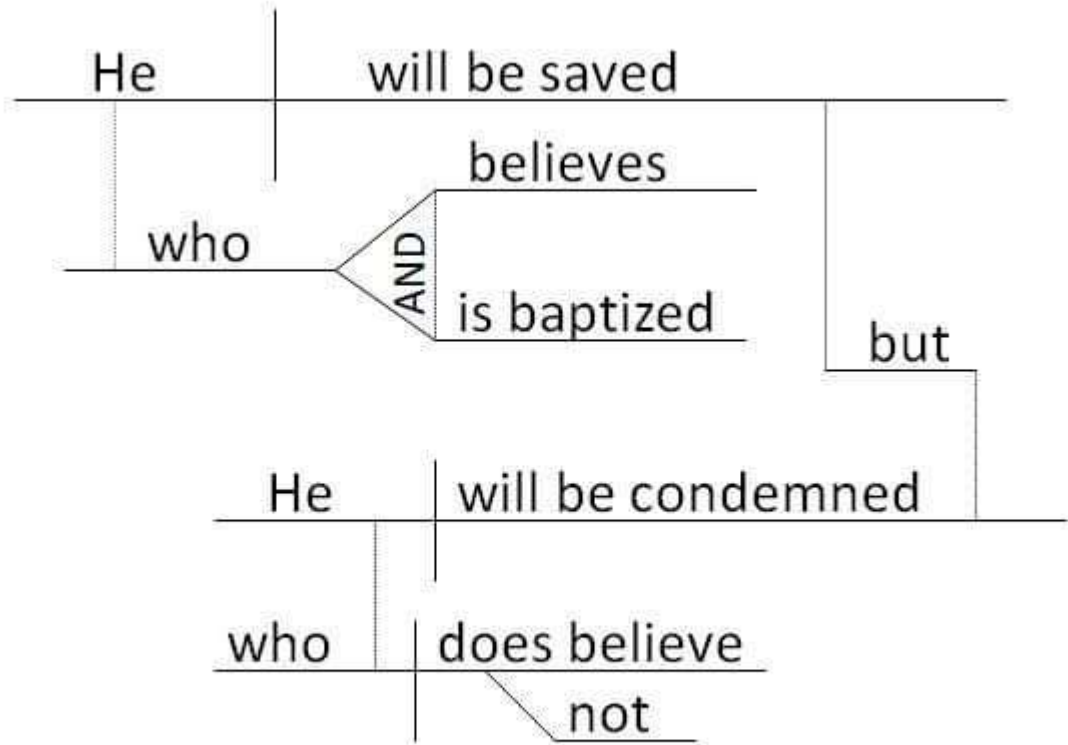
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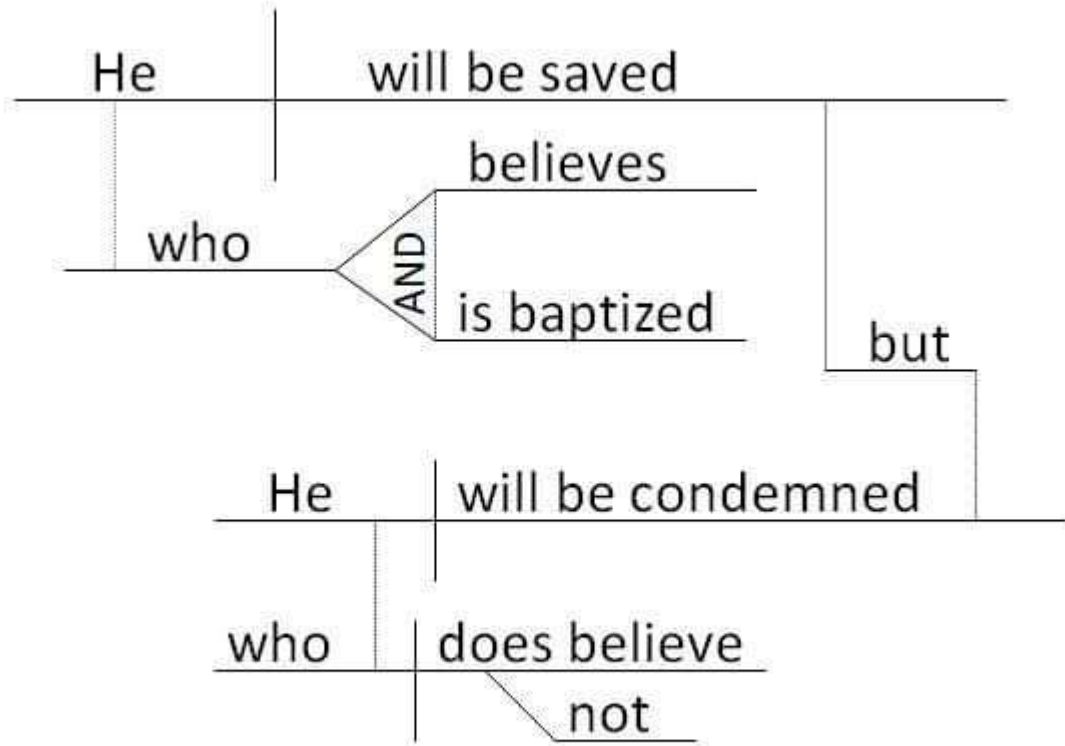
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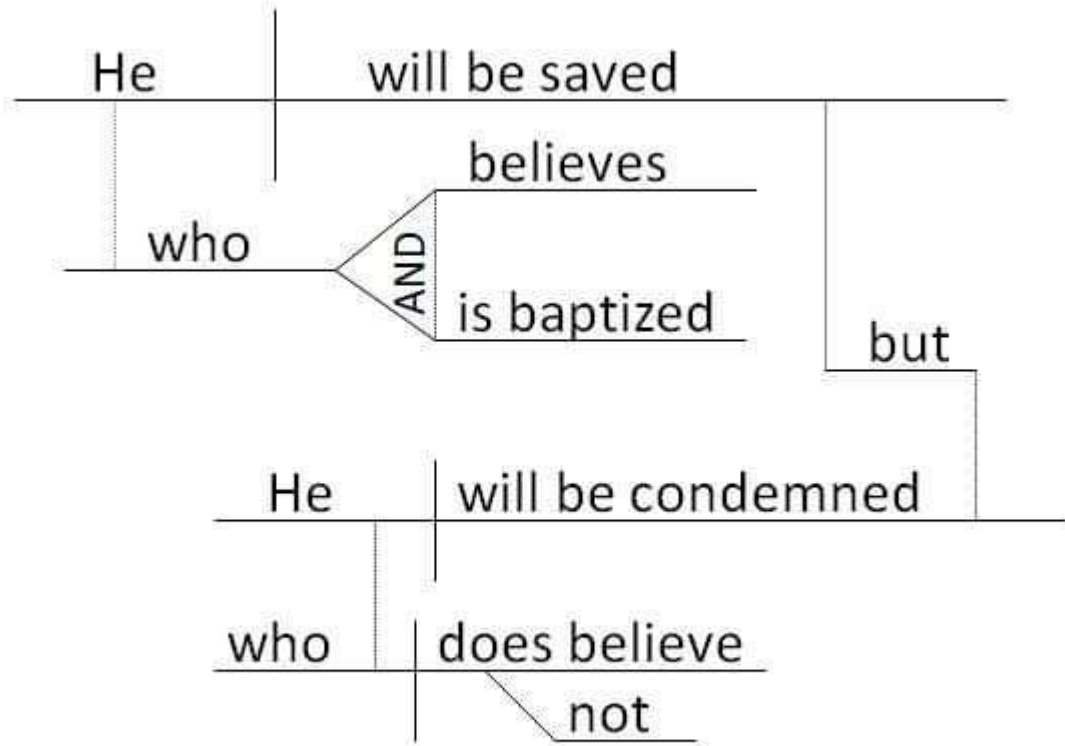
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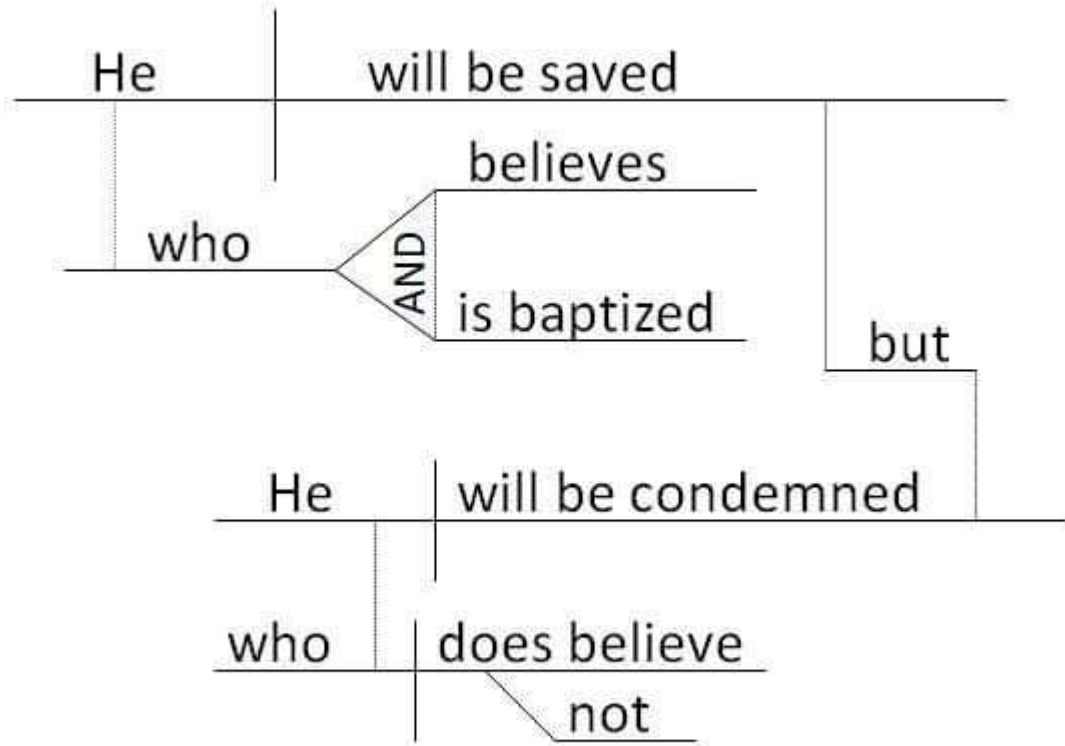
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Sunday AM Worship	25
Sunday PM Worship	17
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Offering	\$1620



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West Jefferson Church of Christ
 130 Robert Street
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 Phone: (336) 846-5615 | Email: info@wjchurchofchrist.org
 Volume XIV May 2, 2021 Number 18

Minister:

Tim Canup
tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

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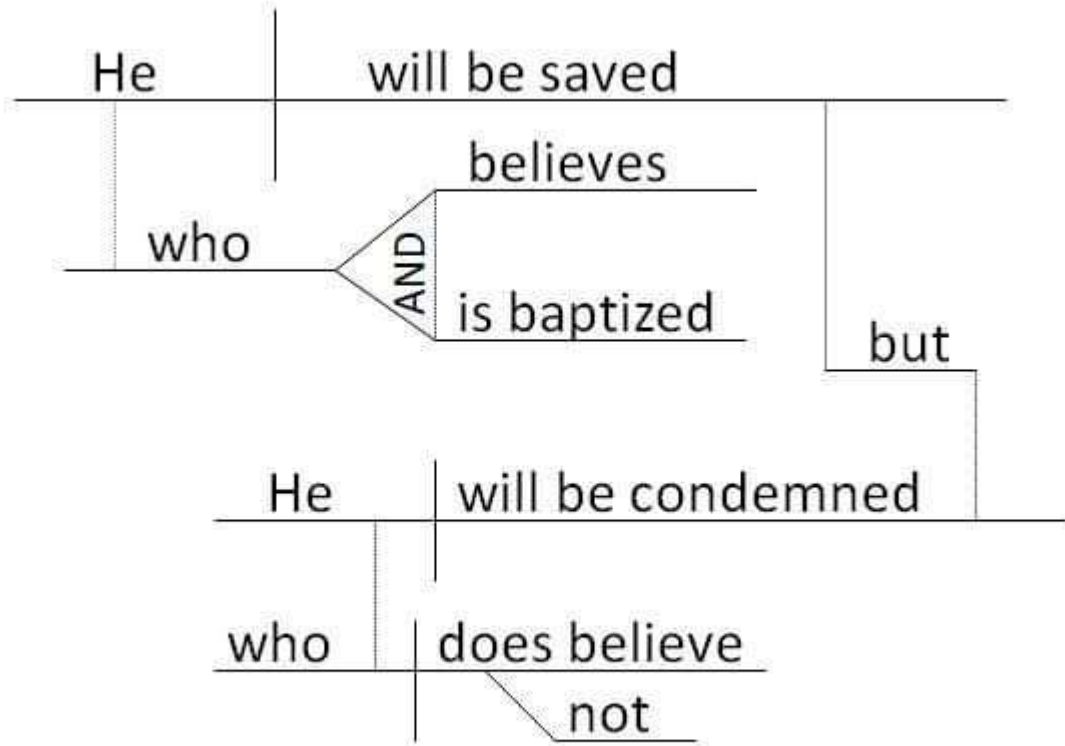
The Permissive Society

by Andrew Connally

The permissive society has entered the church. There was a time when men who taught instrumental music was a matter of opinion, that sincerity in worship was enough...had at least the common courtesy to get out of the church. They at least had the courtesy and conviction to know that they did not stand with us, and they got out. But no longer is that true. Under the guise of the brotherhood and orthodoxy and under the coattails of their elders, they are harping and carping and sniping at the doctrine that men have defended for hundreds of years, not because it is traditionalism, but because it is true and, brethren, I say that permissive psychology is responsible for it. It is time our brethren felt that they could pick up the bible and they could begin to look at it and see that what they have been doing is true. And if you do not think it is, you need to restudy your Bible. If it is true, you need to rise up against preachers, elders, and anyone in the brotherhood that teaches otherwise (2 John 9-11).

Again the very lifeblood of the church, its purity and simplicity are decried and denied, and the tragedy is that some brethren love to have it so (Jer. 5:31). They like it that way. They want a form of godliness (2 Tim. 3:5), but they do not want it to confine them. They want to enjoy orthodoxy; "I'm a Christian, my membership is there; oh, I don't stand for

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anything; I don't go except when I want to, and I don't really sacrifice, but I get all the blessings of a good clear conscience," when in reality their life is a shame and a disgrace. And, in many instances, gross immorality prevails and we sit around and allow it to continue.

Now I ask the question: Why has permissiveness become the standard? Because of the pursuit of worldly pleasure. "That in the latter days grievous times shall come and men shall be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:1-4).

Brethren, that is the state we are in. Men love their pleasure more than they love God. First, whether it is Hell's Angels, the devotees of James Bond, or Hugh Hefner, founder of Playboy magazine, the uses of LSD (or methamphetamine), or the weak church member who sits at home on Sunday night watching a TV program instead of going to worship God, all exemplify our pursuit for pleasure! Oh, it may be a certain different degree, or you might say that watching TV on Sunday night is not like that, but it is still sin! It's still sin! And on Wednesday night, our buildings look like most of our brethren feel that some of us have caught smallpox and they do not want to be associated with us. They are out because they are devotees of pleasure. They are in a hundred thousand places, doing anything their hearts desire; and woe betide the eldership or the Gospel preacher that stands up and preaches against it!

The pursuit of sexual pleasure is just another avenue of the same old sins: self-gratification; selfishness; serving the god of pleasure. That's why we have to teach our young people that their bodies are vessels unto honor and, therefore, they must sanctify themselves and keep themselves for the Master's use (Gal. 5:19-21 ; 2 Thess. 4:3-5).

Our preoccupation with sports is another example of our permissive society. How long do you think it would take to rally a hundred thousand Christians for a Gospel meeting? We can get a hundred thousand out to watch the Dallas Cowboys (or the Titans) play, can't we? It is because of our preoccupation with sports, because pleasure is our god and the god of so many others. It reached an all-time high in 1967, when the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys played the NFL championship, and people by the thousands sat in minus 17-degree weather to watch that football game. You could not get children of God to go out and sit in zero-degree weather to hear a Gospel sermon, at least in the majority of instances. It is because we have a preoccupation with pleasure. Our attitude is that our only real sin is just being bored. Therefore, anything that keeps me from being bored is worthy of my greatest ambition. Whole cities are dedicated to its pursuit. Las Vegas, long the domain of illicit sex, immorality, gamblers, quick marriages, and quicker divorces has now become the "whole family's" city. Now you can take the entire family there, baby-sitter for the children,

ski lodges for the young people, while Mama and Daddy can gamble and watch the nudie shows, all included with the whole family plan. Brethren, if this is the "family plan" in America and if this represents American society, then we are gone already. It is time that we recognize that our people must stand up and cry out against it. Because our jaded appetites must constantly be tugged, pushed, and beaten into a new frenzy of pleasure, we feel that anything is worthwhile, if it satisfies what I want to do.

What is the church's obligation to the permissive society? Mid McKnight can get himself into some real situations where young preachers come and ask him, "Well, what will I do if I find an elder unqualified?" Mid says, "Preach the Word!" "What will I do when I find a man and woman living in adultery in the congregation?" "Preach the Word!" "What do you do when you find liberalism galloping in?" "Preach the Word!" "What do you do in the face of a permissive society?" "Preach the Word!" And, brethren, we all ought to do it. It is not just a preacher's obligation, or an elder's or a deacon's. It is the obligation of every child of God. All of us are Christians and, therefore, every one of us has spheres of influence that no one else has. The Bible says to the young man Timothy, in 2 Timothy 4:2-5 "Preach the word, be urgent in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but having itching ears will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts and turn aside from the truth unto fables. Be sober, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill thy ministry."

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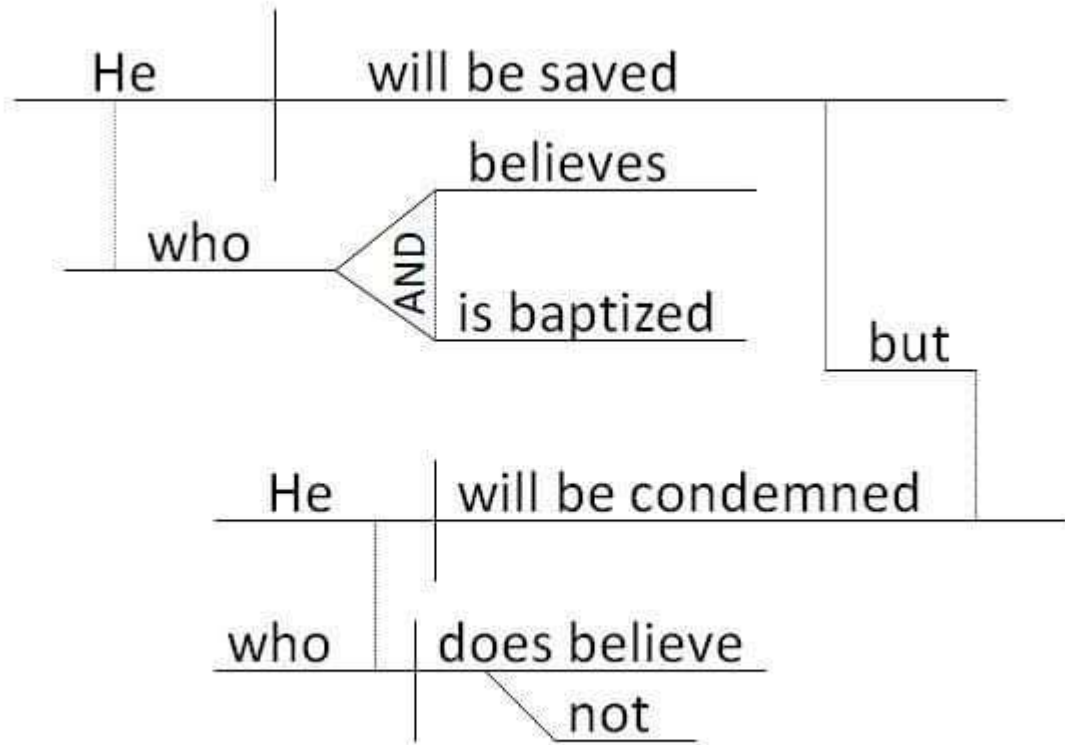
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