

## WHAT “THEREFORE” IS THERE FOR

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER** is the world’s foremost guide to parliamentary procedure. It is used by more professional associations, fraternal organizations, and local governments than any other authority.

**Henry Martyn Robert** was an engineering officer in the Army when, without warning, he was asked to preside over a church meeting and realized that he did not know how. He tried to do it anyway and his embarrassment was supreme. This event left him determined never to attend another meeting until he knew something of parliamentary law. He made it his goal to study the few books then available on the subject.

From time to time, due to his military duties, he was transferred to various parts of the United States where he found virtual parliamentary anarchy since each organization from different parts of the country had differing ideas of correct procedure. So it was that to bring order out of chaos he decided to write **Robert’s Rules of Order** in 1915.

One of the most important parts of any business meeting is the **MOTION**. A motion is a proposal that the assembly take a certain action. It is made by a member obtaining the floor and saying, "I move that" and then stating the action he proposes to have taken. When a motion is of some significance, it is usually written in the form of a resolution beginning with the words "Be it resolved."

When there is important reasoning behind the resolution, such reasons are stated in a preamble, each clause constituting a paragraph beginning with the word "Whereas." The last paragraph then closes with the word "Therefore" and leads into the resolution ("Be it resolved"). **THEREFORE** then becomes a very critical word in many important legal documents.

*(Resolution adopted by UPCI General Conference in 1988) ...*

- **Whereas** our world has been wracked for a number of years by the corporate sin of abortion, and
- **Whereas** the United Pentecostal Church International must confront this moral and ethical challenge to our North American society, and
- **Whereas** the Holy Bible does provide insight into this climate of sexual permissiveness prevalent in our generation, and
- **Whereas** the Bible acknowledges God as totally involved in the creation of new life, and
- **Whereas** the Bible further acknowledges that a woman is with child at conception, and
- **Whereas** the church of the living God has a responsibility in protecting the rights of the unborn, **THEREFORE** ...

- **Be it resolved** that the United Pentecostal Church International go on record as opposing abortion on demand, and
- **Be it further resolved** that we voice our opposition to any legislation at provincial, state, or national levels which would bring about a climate designed to undermine the sanctity of human life, further destroying the moral fiber of our society, and
- **Be it further resolved** that we give ourselves to earnest prayer for an awakening in our North American society of moral consciousness concerning this issue, and
- **Be it further resolved** that we encourage and help provide for proper biblical solutions to this problem and that we continue to reach out to those who have been caught or blighted in any way by the effect or contemplation of abortion, and
- **Be it further resolved** that we encourage our ministers and churches to assist and counsel those with unwanted pregnancies concerning biblical alternatives, and
- **Be it further resolved** that we again reaffirm that we want to minister with compassion to those who may presently suffer the trauma of having had an abortion.

**THEREFORE** becomes a critical “hinge” or “word bridge” that joins the preceding reasoning together with the subsequent action to be taken.

**THEREFORE** is an *adverb*, the part of speech that modifies or qualifies associated words or clauses. It means “then, thus, since, so, hence, for that reason, accordingly, consequently, because of that, on that ground, to that end, *or* as a result.”

**THEREFORE** works the same way in Scripture as it does in everyday English. It usually signals a transition from **doctrinal truth** to **practical consequence**. It takes us from **what we believe** to **how we behave**. It moves us from what God has **provided** to what God now **expects**.

The Bible is more than a collection of beautiful religious writings. It is a **legal document** possessing great power; it is a **binding contract** that governs the life of every child of God. We need to be as familiar with its articles, clauses, codes, codicils, conditions, decrees, edicts, judgments, laws, limitations, ordinances, prerequisites, provisos, requirements, resolutions, riders, statutes, stipulations, ultimatums, and “fine print” as we would be with any other legal document that governs our lives.

Some people spend more time figuring out their life insurance than they do figuring out their “eternal life insurance” – the Bible!

**It is always a good practice to know what “therefore” is there for!**

Today, we have time for just a few examples from the epistles ...

## YOU BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY

**Whereas** you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1), and

**Whereas** by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2:8), and

**Whereas** ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12), and

**Whereas** now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13), and

**Whereas** through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father (Ephesians 2:18) ...

**THEREFORE** ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone. (Ephesians 2:19-20)

## YOUR BODY BELONGS TO GOD

**Whereas** the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9), and

**Whereas** such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11), and

**Whereas** all things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient (1 Corinthians 6:12), and

**Whereas** your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you (1 Corinthians 6:19), and

**Whereas** ye are bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20) ...

**THEREFORE** glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:20)

## YOU DON'T OWE YOUR FLESH ANYTHING

**Whereas** the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2), and

**Whereas** to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (Romans 8:6), and

**Whereas** they that are in the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:8), and

**Whereas** ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit (Romans 8:9), and

**Whereas** if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies (Romans 8:11) ...

**THEREFORE**, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. (Romans 8:12-13)

## GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYER

**Whereas** we are made partakers of Christ (Hebrews 3:14), and

**Whereas** we which have believed do enter into rest (Hebrews 4:3), and

**Whereas** the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12), and

**Whereas** we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God (Hebrews 4:14), and

**Whereas** we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15) ...

**THEREFORE** come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

## **THE LORD IS COMING SOON**

**Whereas** every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour (1 Thessalonians 4:4), and

**Whereas** God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7), and

**Whereas** the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16), and

**Whereas** yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2), and

**Whereas** ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief (1 Thessalonians 5:4) ...

**THEREFORE** let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. (1 Thessalonians 5:6)

## **YOUR WORK FOR GOD MATTERS**

**Whereas** now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept (1 Corinthians 15:20), and

**Whereas** in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive (1 Corinthians 15:22), and

**Whereas** the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (1 Corinthians 15:26), and

**Whereas** we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51), and

**Whereas** the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:52), and

**Whereas** then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54) ...

**THEREFORE**, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:58)