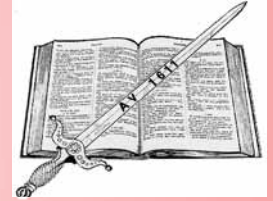




Bible Believers' Bulletin

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17)



Vol. 37 No. 12

Bible Baptist Church, P.O. Box 7135, Pensacola, Florida 32534

December, 2013

JOB SECURITY

By Tom Waddle

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10).

Evidently the verse "strikes a chord," because EVERY new translation on the market can't leave it as it is. They change it to say "all kinds of evil." According to Nestle's critical apparatus, all Greek texts known read as the *King James*, and I don't mean the *NEW King James*. Even the *New King James*, endorsed by Jerry Falwell (Liberty University) and Curtis Hutson (*The Sword of the Lord*), couldn't stomach the application of the verse, so they had no choice but to CHANGE IT to "all kinds of evil."

The Barnes commentary says, "That is, of all kinds of evil. This is evidently not to be understood as literally true, for there are evils which cannot be traced to the love of money." The Clarke commentary will back that up with: "Perhaps it would be better to translate παντων των κακων, of all these evils; i.e., the evils enumerated above; for it cannot be true that the love of money is the root of all evil, it certainly was not the root whence the transgression of Adam sprang, but it is the root whence all the evils mentioned in the preceding verse spring."

It's obvious that Clarke needs a little third grade
Continued on 12

No Vacancy

By Robert Militello

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN" (Luke 2:7).

As a boy attending Catholic schools in Brooklyn, New York, I was told a number of Bible stories, but these stories were presented with little or no background. Priests and nuns are not students of Scripture. Actually, religious people feel threatened by the Bible, but they dare not admit it.

When I first heard the Christmas story, I felt sorry for Mary and Joseph. Their baby had to be born in a stable, and they were so poor. At Bethlehem, Jesus, though not yet born, was rejected. No one was willing to give place to a woman heavy with child. How sad, how uncharitable. Why are people so selfish? Thirty years later, the man Jesus



found the same rejection, only then, much more direct.

"He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:10-11).

Truth is an intruder in our world of lies and deceit. At Christmas, the professing Christian world pretends to love truth. It's a great time to pay lip service to the one who inspired all those great Christmas carols.

And as for all the rooms being taken, that's easily explained. Jesus was really born on the Feast of Tabernacles, and Jews from all over the empire had to go to Jerusalem to sacrifice. The outlying towns of Bethany and Bethlehem were packed just like they were at Passover and Pentecost (see Deut. 16:16 concerning this).

None of this was ever taught me in Catholic
Continued on 3

A Very Wary Christmas

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The common expression for this season is "Have a very Merry Christmas," but I am going to talk to you about having a very *wary* Christmas. That is, there are some things you have to look out for at this time of year.

First of all, beware of *Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer*. A red nose is a sign of a *drunk*. Christmas and New Year's are the greatest times for drinking liquor in America. There will be more drunks between those two holidays than the whole rest of the year. The liquor is going to flow, and with it come the deaths by drunk

driving. An average of about 10,000 people die a year in car crashes where alcohol is involved. That is down about 10,000 a year since 1982 due to the efforts of groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving, but more people die every year from drunk driving than the number killed by the gangs during all of Prohibition.

I have a copy of the *New Yorker* magazine from 1977; out of 200 pages, there are 24 full-page, color advertisements for liquor for Christmas. The December issue of *Esquire* magazine had 35 full-page, color liquor ads out of 210 pages. Do you know what

a full-page ad in a magazine like the *New Yorker* or *Esquire* costs? It involves some shekels, boy! If you removed all the liquor ads from *Playboy*, *Life*, and *Time*, those magazines would go broke.

At the time I was putting this message together, America had something like 200,000 bartenders and 170,000 ministers, and the "ministers" included Catholic Priests, cult leaders, and Liberals who aren't even real Bible preachers. I would say, conservatively, that, today, bartenders outnumber real Gospel, Bible preachers at least a hundred

Continued on 5

The Great Impersonator

The Bible is filled with people who impersonated other people for various reasons. *Sarah* posed as Abraham's sister (Gen. 12:10). *Jacob* pretended to be his brother Esau to deceive his father Isaac (Gen. 27:1-30). *Leah* passed herself off as her sister Rachel (Gen. 29:23-25). The *Gibeonites* deceived Joshua by dressing up as ambassadors from a distant land (Josh. 9:1-27). When *David* was brought before the Philistine King, Achish of Gath, he acted like he was crazy so he wouldn't be executed for killing Goliath in battle (1 Sam. 21:12-15). *King Saul* hid his identity when he went to visit the witch of Endor (1 Sam. 27:7-12). *Jeroboam's wife* disguised herself when she went to see the prophet Ahijah (1 Kings 14:1-6). *Jehoshaphat* took Ahab's place in battle, while *Ahab* took the place of a "buck private" (1 Kings 22:29-30). The *chief priests and scribes* of Christ's day made like they revered the Mosaic Law (John 9:28-29). And in the Christian Church, there are a bunch of *religious wolves* parading around as Christ's sheep (Matt. 7:15).

By far, the greatest impersonator in the whole Bible is *Satan*. Satan is a "god" (2 Cor. 4:4) like Jesus Christ is God (1 John 5:20). The Antichrist is *Satan in the flesh* (2 Thess. 2:7-9) just as Jesus is God in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16). Satan is a *King* (Job 41:34) just like Jesus Christ is a King (1 Tim. 6:15). Satan is a *Prince* (Eph. 2:2; John 16:11); Jesus Christ is a Prince (Dan. 9:25; Acts 3:15). Satan has a *son* (John 17:12; 2 Thess. 2:3) like God has a Son (Matt. 3:17), and just as Jesus is the *Son of man*, Satan's son is the "man of sin" (2 Thess. 2:3). Satan is a *lion* (1 Pet. 5:8); so is Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:5).

Satan is a *serpent* (Rev. 12:9) just as Jesus was likened to a serpent when He was on the cross (John 3:14).

Satan is the perfect counterfeiter. He has his own *apostles* (2 Cor. 11:13), *ministers* (2 Cor. 11:15), *church* (Rev. 17:1-18), and *Bible* (2 Cor. 2:17) just like Jesus Christ does. When that Antichrist shows up in Revelation 6:2, he is such a good imitation of the real thing, that all the Amillennialists and Postmillennialists will tell you he's the genuine article. The Antichrist shows up on "a white horse" like Jesus does at the Second Advent (Rev. 19:11); he has "a crown" while Jesus Christ has "many crowns" (Rev. 19:12). And he shows up "to conquer" just as Jesus does at His return in power (Rev. 19:15).

That's *the Devil*; he's an *imitator*. So the new "Bibles" change 1 Corinthians 11:1 to read: "Be *IMITATORS* of me, just as I also am of Christ." The New Testament term is not "imitator"; it's *disciple*. A disciple is a *follower*, not an "imitator." "Imitator" is a Satanic term for somebody act-

ing like Christ for the purpose of *deception*. The Greek term for an actor is *hypocrite*.

Now, in modern, popular culture, the greatest impersonator of all is *Santa Claus*. The original "Santa Claus" was a Greek Catholic Bishop of the Fourth Century named *Nicholas of Myra* (notice that the name *Nicholas* comes from the same Greek word as "Nicolaitans" [Rev. 2:6], meaning "conquest of the people"). Myra was located in Asia Minor, which would be modern-day Turkey.

Nicholas became a popular Bishop because he was a *generous man and loved children*; that is, he was loved for everything *positive* that he did. You won't find one *negative* thing recorded about him. Unlike Patrick, Chrysostom, Polycarp, Ignatius, and the Donatists, he wasn't known for his *preaching or soulwinning*. The best you can say for the man is that having grown up in the *Greek Church* instead of the *Roman Church*, he probably had the *right Bible* (the *Syrian-Byzantine* text), and he *may* have been a saved man.

After his death, the super-



Dr. Peter S. Ruckman
President, Founder, and Teacher of the Pensacola Bible Institute, Pensacola, Florida.

stitious pagans in the Greek Catholic Church revered him as a "saint," although he was never officially "canonized" by any church. His grave at Myra became a "shrine" for "pilgrims" until the Moslem Turks invaded in 1087 and broke up the party. The day of his *death* (Dec. 6) was celebrated as "St. Nicholas Day."

In the Dark Ages, Nicholas
Continued on 4

What Does the Bible Say About Salvation?

An easy-to-understand explanation to a lost sinner of how to be saved and born again.

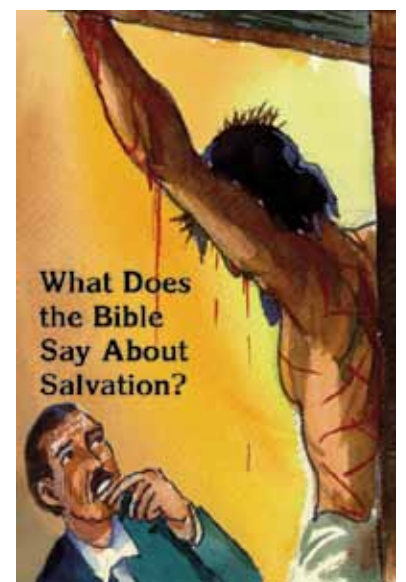
This material is taken from *Theological Studies*, Vol. II and deals with Faith, Repentance, Forgiveness, What Happens When a Person Believes on Christ, Assurance of Salvation.

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No Vacancy

Continued from 1 school. Much later, when I got saved and began studying God's word, I realized how badly I had been affected by Catholic superstition. Certainly it is true that the crowded inn can symbolize the heart of an unsaved man immersed in idolatries. When you love your sins, you're not likely to make room for one who will war against your filthy habits. All this makes for good preaching.

Ironically, truth is all the more an inconvenience during religious festivals. Jesus was killed on Passover eve. Religious fervor during "holidays" can lead to acts of self-mutilation, as in the Philippines on "Good Friday." On the last day of Ramadan in Mecca, the Moslems go bonkers, and many get trampled and killed. You can have religion; I'll take Jesus anytime.

Now, who could have imagined that the Christmas child would cause the whole world to fix its calendar by His birth? There are now seven billion people on this planet, and 32% of them (2.18 billion) call themselves Christian, according to the Pew Research Center. The next largest group is the Moslems. They make up one quarter of the world's population. Of the professing Christian population, about 60% identify themselves as Roman Catholic; the rest are Protestants and Orthodox.

Over two billion souls name the name of Jesus as their God and profess to believe in His Deity. Do they know Him? Is He welcome in their lives? Is there really room for Him?

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. MANY will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy

name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:21-23).

Talk about being traumatized, hundreds and hundreds of millions of professing Christians will discover that they and their Saviour never "got married"; they never became **"one flesh"** (Eph. 5:30-32). The Lord doesn't own them as His own. Worse than that, they are classified as **"workers of iniquity"** (Luke 13:27). These are souls who have labored in the name of Jesus and have sung hymns to Him.

How many schools, hospitals, orphanages, and food pantries for the poor have been opened by sincere, devout Catholic religious orders? The Catholic Church still has priests who perform exorcisms. Thousands of Protestant pastors preach to congregations around the world, and these ministers never invited Jesus into their "inn." Why call someone laboring in the name of Jesus to help save lives, heal the sick, and feed the poor **"workers of iniquity"**? Isn't that kind of extreme? Not if you believe that all your righteousness is **"as filthy rags"** in His sight (Isa. 64:6).

Here's a bunch of men calling themselves the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), placing themselves strategically around the world to influence governments, educate those who are politically minded to serve Rome, and put forth a social gospel that saves no one. If you ever hear a Jesuit preach on the coming of the Lord, let me know. They make a big fuss over Christmas but won't dare mention the Lamb becoming a Lion to overthrow the Gentile world system. Jesus calls them **"workers of iniquity."** For most Catho-

lics, Christmas is an old Bing Crosby Christmas album mixed with a little of Luke's Gospel, chapter two, verses eight through fourteen, recited by the cartoon character in "A Charlie Brown Christmas." To these He will say, **"I never knew you."**

It is possible to know a great deal about someone without meeting that person? You may know a lot about the Bible and be lost. I certainly knew about Jesus as a boy in Catholic school. My heart was drawn to Him, but no one ever introduced me to Him in His word and told me how to be saved.

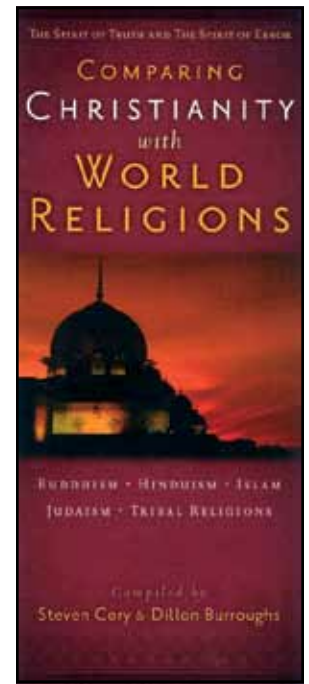
My teachers, men proudly known as "the Society of Jesus," could not introduce me to someone they did not know. They could tell me stories about Him, but the "inn" where Jesuits gather would never make room for Jesus, because light dispels darkness. These men labor for an institution that has always hated Bible believers. They love darkness; they are **"workers of iniquity."**

Johann Sebastian Bach wrote "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring." God's own people rejected Him and probably 80-90% of those who call Jesus "Lord" have no real desire to give away the "room" they have booked for themselves while traveling through this world. Babies are desirable, yes; but Jesus grew up and things changed.

"He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE HIM" (Isa. 53:2).

No one feels threatened by a baby. I'm sure little Jesus was a joy to hold, and Mary and Joseph, and their kinfolk and neighbors in Nazareth, must have delighted in Him. That gentle and obedient boy left Nazareth for Capernaum

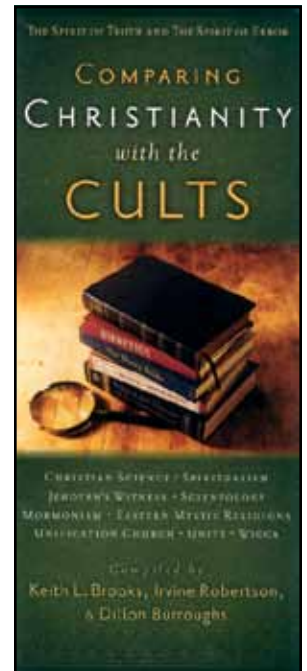
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The Great Impersonator

Continued from 2
 became the most popular "saint" outside of Mary. Two thousand churches throughout Europe bore his name, with at least 400 of them in England alone. He became the "patron saint" of *scholars, sailors, pawn brokers, orphans, and children.*

The city of Amsterdam, Holland adopted St. Nicholas as its patron saint, and when the Dutch founded "New Amsterdam" in the New World (New York City), they brought St. Nicholas along with them. The Dutch called him "*Sinter Klass*," and when the English settlers picked up the name, they slurred the "*Sinter*" to "Santa."

It was in America where the Catholic/Orthodox "St. Nicholas" became the modern Santa Claus. In 1809, the author Washington Irving (*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*) wrote a fictional history of New York and made Santa Claus a *Dutch elf*. In 1823, an Episcopalian Seminary professor named Clement Moore published a poem entitled "A Visit from St. Nicholas"; we know it today as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." It became the definitive description of Santa Claus as a "fat, jolly old elf." This was the image popularized by cartoonist Thomas Nast in the 1860s and by the Coca Cola artist Haddon Sundblom in the 1930s. The famous editorial by Francis Church for the *New York Sun* in 1897—"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus"—solidified the whole myth in American thought.

Now, just as the Catholics converted a Jewish maiden into the fourth member of the Trinity, St. Nicholas (a Greek Orthodox Bishop) has been converted into a "Santa Claus" who is the perfect *replacement* for Jesus Christ.

Santa Claus has been given the attributes of *Deity*.

He is *omniscient* ("He sees you when you're sleeping; he knows when you're awake; he knows if you've been bad or good"). He's *eternal*. In the "Yes, Virginia" editorial, Francis Church wrote, "Thank God *he lives forever*, ten times 10,000 years from now." He's *omnipresent*: he can deliver toys to all the good little girls and boys in one night.

Like the Lord (see Dan. 7:10; Rev. 20:12), Santa has *books by which to judge*: "He's making a *list*; he's checking it twice. He's gonna find out who's *naughty and nice*." A child has to accept Santa

by faith just like you have to accept Jesus Christ by faith (Heb. 11:6). In the movie "Miracle on 34th Street," the mother (played by Maureen O'Hara) tells her daughter (played by Natalie Wood), "You must *believe* in Mr. Kringle and *keep right on believing*; you have to *have faith* in him." To which the little girl replies, "I *do believe*; I *do believe* Mr. Kringle is Santa Claus."

Everything about the appearance of Santa Claus is designed to remind you of *Jesus Christ*. He's dressed in *red* (Isa. 63:1-2; Rev. 19:13). He has *white hair and a beard*

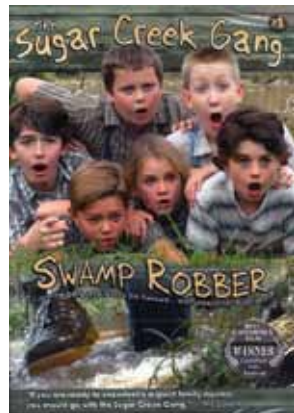
(Dan. 7:9; Rev. 1:14). Since Christ's feet look "**as if they burned in a furnace**" (Rev. 1:15), Santa comes down a chimney and lands *feet first in a fireplace*.

Like Jesus Christ (Mark 6:3), Santa is a *carpenter* who carves wooden toys for children. Santa lives in the *north* (cf. Psa. 48:1-2; Ezek. 1:4). Little children come up to him and sit on his lap (cf. Mark 10:13-16).

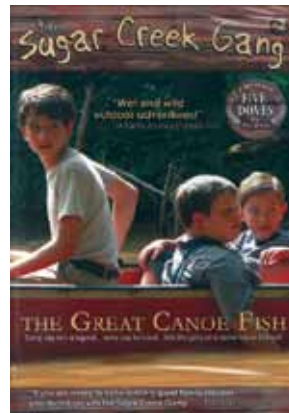
In Holland, St. Nicholas Day is celebrated by St. Nicholas sailing in from the *North Sea* (cf. Psa. 48:1-2; Rev. 4:6)

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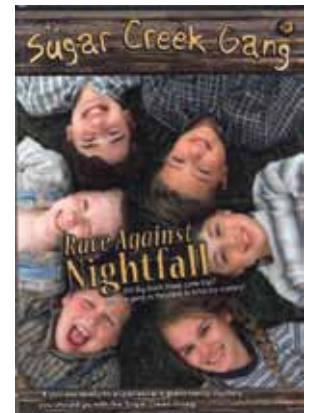
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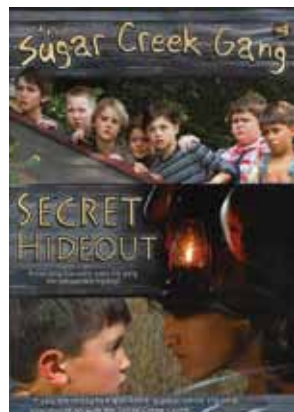
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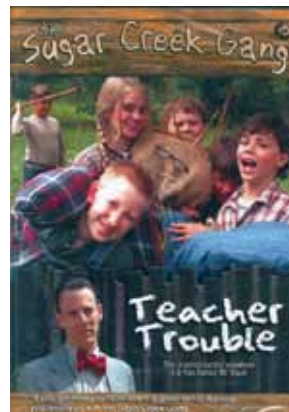
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A Very Wary Christmas

Continued from 1 to one. This nation is a *drunk* outfit. You had better beware of Rudolph the drunken-nosed reindeer.

Second, beware of *Scrooge the humbug*. That is the brethren who read about that "Christmas tree" in Jeremiah 10 and know all about the Babylonian origins of December 25 and all that stuff (see *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop). They won't let a Christmas tree in their house and say you're backslidden if you observe the holiday (of course, that doesn't stop them from taking the day off work). One sister up in Tennessee used to put up a sign in front of her yard when Christmas came around that read, "Happy Birthday, Baby Baal!"

Now I can appreciate that, but you don't have to overdo it. I know all about the Saturnalia celebrated there in Rome, where those pagans finally ended up killing the Christians on December 25. I know Jesus wasn't born during the winter solstice when the sun god was resurrected; He was born on September 23 when the sun was created (see our comments on Gen. 1:15-16 in the *Bible Believer's Commentary on Genesis*). I know all that, see. But you don't have to pull all that stuff on the kiddies, you crazy nut.

Let's just face it, none of the brethren who put up a Christmas tree (and there are plenty of them that do) are bowing down to it or praying to it. They aren't going to get demon-possessed from putting up a tree and decorating it. The same passage that talks about the "Christmas tree" says, "**Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good**" (Jer. 10:5).

You can use a Christmas tree to teach your kids something about the Lord Jesus Christ. You see that tree? Tell them about the tree on which

Christ died (1 Pet. 2:24). You see those Christmas lights on the tree? Tell them about "**the light of the world**" (John 8:12, 9:5). Are there gifts under the tree? Then tell them about "**the gift of God**" which "**is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord**" (Rom. 6:23).

Use the time of year to witness. I know December 25 wasn't the day Christ was born, but the season makes the world think about Him at least once a year. Thank God for that! It might not be much, but they haven't gotten rid of Him yet.

Next, beware of the *twelve days of Christmas* where you'll be spending money all the time. The fellow in that song buys his "true love" a whole barnyard of fowl and leaping lords, milking maids, gold rings, and what not. You spend that much money, and you'll be flat broke. You'll be going around singing, "I heard the *bills* on Christmas day."

"Charge accounts with bills of folly. Fa la la la la, la la la la.

"Now the country's off its trolley. Fa la la la la, la la la la.

"Give your checkbook to your honey. Fa la la la la la, la la la.

"Blow your dollars; they're all funny. Fa la la la la, la la la la."

That's the business. I mean, why buy a bunch of junk for people that they're going to return to the store anyway?

Beware of *Santa, the potbellied glutton*. The season from Thanksgiving to Christmas is nothing but eat, eat, eat; it's a trap. Have some cookies; have some pumpkin pie; have some turkey. You stuff yourself till you about explode, man.

Overeating is a conspiracy with Christians. Every time they get together for fellowship, they have to eat. Pretty soon you get "TB"—*twin bellies*; or "Dunlap's disease"—

your belly *done lapped over your belt*. It's nothing but rot gut, slop gut.

Watch out for *Dasher and Prancer*. You know what they are, don't you? That's *football*. All you get in every home from Christmas to New Year's is football.

Guys will sit in front of the boob tube watching football while the wife is getting Christmas dinner ready, while the family is eating Christmas dinner, and after they've finished eating. It's nothing but football from about 11:00 in the morning throughout the rest of Christmas day.

Beware of "*on Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen*"; that's *drivers*. Be careful of the traffic out there. Drivers are crazy this time of year; they're speeding to the mall and speeding to the store trying to get their shopping done. They're not watching out for you, so you had better watch

Continued on 11

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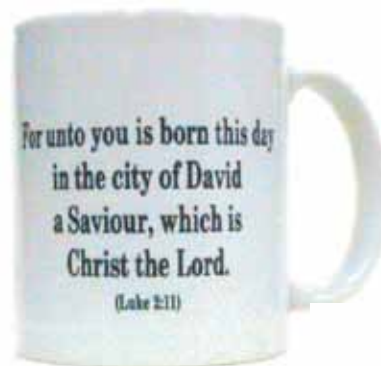
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No Vacancy

Continued from 3 and gave the first hint that God's Lamb would one day become a Lion. There He began His public ministry; the boy was now a man with no fear of man at all, only of God.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17).

Nations don't desire Him today. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is a beautiful Christmas carol, but the lyrics "Come, Desire of Nations, Come!" is not reality. The term "Desire of Nations" is taken from Haggai 2:7. There, the context is the Second Advent, but the nations of this world will oppose Him, and He'll be desired by only a remnant of surviving Jews and Gentiles who believed on Him, did good works, and survived the Tribulation period (Rev. 12:17, 14:12; Matt. 24:13). Today in our nation, He is less desired than ever before, although at Christmas time He may still get a lot of lip service.

When Jesus finished the work His Father gave Him, He looked as though he had been in a train wreck.

"As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred, more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men" (Isa. 52:14).

He came to suffer and die a brutal death. The promise of His coming was fulfilled, and that is what Christmas is really about. December 25th is a reaffirmation that the Lord keeps His word. It gives Bible believers a good opportunity to remind the lost that He promised to come again, first for His own (see John 14:1-3). He will appear suddenly in the clouds to catch us away (1 Thess. 4:16-17), and that family gathering will make all family gatherings at Christmas seem like a very small thing.

At this time of year, some saints get into squabbles over how or how not to celebrate Christmas. We know Jesus wasn't born on that day, and we know what the Puritans and our Anabaptist forefathers thought of these religious feast days. My reaction to that is: "So what."

All God's people should be opportunists (see Luke 16:1-12). If our government declares the Lord's birthday to be a national holiday, fine. So what that December 25th was not the date of His birth.

I honor my parents every day and thank God for them. If tradition sets aside a Sunday in May for mothers and a Sunday in June for fathers to receive special recognition, I'm fine with that also. For a Christian, every day is Thanksgiving. I don't need a Thursday in November to remind me to give thanks, but I thank God for the national celebration we have on that day.

For years, the Bible Baptist Church has had a marching band performing at the Pensacola Christmas Parade. It's a great thing to see Scripture signs reminding the spectators of what Christmas really is about. The marching band is always well received, but there are some who get uncomfortable with the display of God's words and would rather keep the parade about Santa, Frosty, and Rudolph. Bible Baptist is an opportunistic church. That's the way it should be.

Now there is a dark side to Christmas. For many, it is a time of profound loneliness. Dreams not realized and memories of loved ones who are not around anymore cause depression. For those who are without Christ and do not have a Comforter, it is not a time of joy, no matter how many lights they put up. It may be a time of partying and drinking, but the

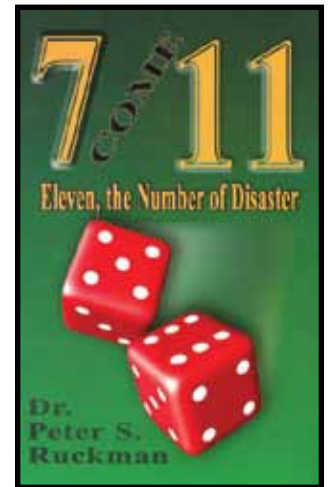
real joy that comes from the Holy Spirit alone is nowhere to be found.

Folks are expected to be happy at Christmas time, so great effort is made to appear happy. But a thin mask cannot easily hide the sadness of soul that appears on the faces of many. Life without salvation is essentially joyless. Read Solomon's Ecclesiastes for more enlightenment on this matter.

Also, to all but the blind, Christmas has become somewhat dangerous. It is a time when thieves and robbers come to the fore. Also, it is a time of potential tragedy because of the eager mob of shoppers lining up in front of big name stores at two in the morning waiting for the big sale to begin. On Long Island a few years ago, one shopper was trampled to death when the doors opened, and many were injured. Shoplifting at

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7 COME 11

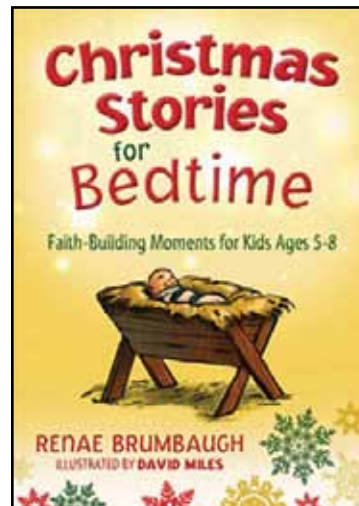


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Joab, the Selfish, Opportunistic Christian

By Brian Donovan

At first glance, Joab appears to be a loyal soldier for King David. His exploits include being the first to scale Jerusalem's fortress and, as a result, being made captain of David's army (1 Chron. 11:4-6), fighting against the rebellious Ishbosheth and killing his leading soldier Abner (2 Sam. 2:8, 3:27), hatching the plan to reunite David with his estranged son Absalom (2 Sm. 14:1-23), then sticking with David against Absalom and his rebellion and killing Amasa (2 Sam. 20:9-10).

The Great Impersonator

Continued from 4

and riding through the city on a *white horse* (cf. Rev. 19:11). Santa Claus is characterized by his laugh: "Ho! Ho! Ho!" (cf. Zech. 2:6). And when the children line up to see him at the mall, he is *seated on a throne* (cf. Dan. 7:9; Luke 1:32).

The most peculiar thing about Santa Claus is his name. "Santa" is *not* the original Dutch word for "Saint." Anyone who knows Spanish knows that "Santa" is the *feminine* word for *saint* (as in "Santa Anna"—Saint Anne; the masculine word for *saint* would be "San" as in "San Pedro"—Saint Peter). Santa Claus, therefore, is an *androgynous hermaphrodite*—both *male* and *female* (see Dan. 11:37).

That's not all. If you rearrange the letters in *Santa*, you get *Satan*. If that seems like a stretch, look at this: St. Nicholas is also known as "Saint Nick." "Old Nick" is a British name for the *Devil*.

Santa Claus is also known as "Kris Kringle." That's the name for the "little Christ child" in German. Santa Claus is the most perfect impersonator of Jesus Christ outside of the Son of Perdition himself (2 Thess. 2:3-4).

All these moves appear to be for his king's sake, but a complete study of Joab's life shows, in the end, an ambitious man who makes choices for his own benefit. In other words, when it is to his advantage to do what is best for David, he will do it and make sure he shines in the eyes of others as it is done.

This kind of Christian can be found in every Bible-believing church, and he is never flushed until the Lord puts the right opportunity in his path. All that matters is what is in it for the selfish opportunist. Three things can be said that are true of this kind of Christian.

1. *Selfish opportunists are hard* (2 Sam. 3:39—"the sons of Zeruiah be too hard for me"). When Joab killed Abner, it was in a city of refuge (Hebron—Josh. 20:6-7), and it was deceitfully done (2 Sam. 3:27). Joab saw that Abner had made peace with David (2 Sam. 3:21) and was now a rival for his own ambitious plans. When David gave the eulogy for Abner's funeral, Joab takes special

note of when his king said, "the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness" (2 Sam. 3:38). Joab knew right then that David was not going to do anything himself about Abner's murder, and he began to think he might be irreplaceable. In time, Joab got a letter requesting that Uriah be put in harm's way, and even though he obeyed orders, he probably put the letter in his pocket for future reference. When he later returned to Jerusalem and saw a pregnant Bathsheba in the palace, he was really glad he kept that letter.

Opportunistic Christians always rejoice over the sins of others because they can be used for selfish gain. David spent some hard time paying for his sins and losing sleep, but he repented and got his heart back right with God,

while the "hard man" smirked and slept well. By this point, Joab held King David in contempt, and after disobeying direct orders by killing Absalom, he began ordering his king around (2 Sam. 19:5-7). Publically, Joab appeared to be the obedient soldier and loyal subject, but the opportunist was simply weighing out his options and using each

Continued on 9

OCTOBER SERMONS

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

Meeting God In A Dark Place
Demons And Christians
Desertion And Discharge

Brian Donovan

Being Clothed With Humility
The Great Interrupter
Stewardship
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Kevin Griffin

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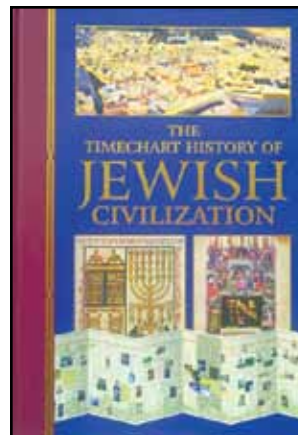
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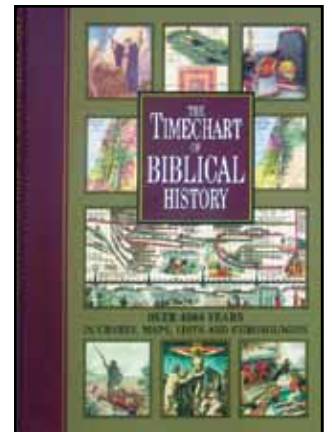
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We hope this information will help you in preparing your orders. In addition, we trust the Lord will give you a blessed holiday season.

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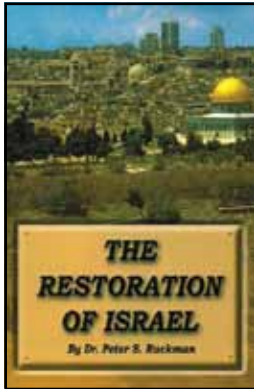
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Joab, the Selfish, Opportunistic Christian

Continued from 7
 circumstance for personal advancement. The fact that opportunists remain church members, and even "leaders," means nothing. They carefully pick and choose their fights and know exactly with whom to talk behind the scenes for their next opening.

2. *Selfish opportunists make others weak* (2 Sam. 3:39). At Abner's funeral, David says, "**I am this day weak.**" That was due to Joab. David needed some hard soldiers, being the man of war that he was, and it was good to have some mighty men of blood and guts like Joab and his brothers. But that strength became a weakness when he thought he needed them at any cost. David needed obedient fighting men, not ambitious opportunists who would murder to promote their own plans. A good church is made weaker by this kind of Christian, and by the time he is flushed, he has always piously weaseled his way into the hearts of some other believers.

In the Christian's spiritual battle, you will find out that whenever you turn over your weakness to the Lord Jesus Christ, it can become your strength. That is how Paul describes it in 2 Corinthians 12:10. But the reverse is true as well. If not turned over to the Lord, the Christian's strength can become his weakness. The rich man will rely on his money, the strong

man on his muscle, the wise man on his brains, the gifted on his abilities. There is absolutely no spiritual power in any of those things, if not turned over for the King's purposes and will. Peter's boldness became his downfall when it was time to submit, Paul's zeal and learning became "gain for him and loss for Christ" when it came to salvation (see Phil. 3:7). Joab was making his king weaker, and he knew it. It was for his own gain.


3. *Selfish opportunists are eventually rewarded* (2 Sam. 3:39). After a long career of "using" his king, Joab is rewarded. The Lord finally gives him the opportunity that seems to make the most sense, and Joab goes with the rebellion of Adonijah (1 Kings 1:5-7). When Solomon is anointed, David reminds him not to forget "**what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me**" (1 Kings 2:5-6) and not to let him die in peace. Benaiah the terminator is sent to carry out the order, and Joab decides that it is time to run to the altar. He might even pat the letter he's been holding on David for so long. But Solomon could not care less about any letter, and neither does the Lord God. What should have been repented of and taken care of twenty years ago is now being cleansed. But what a way to go out. But the Lord is a rewarder.

Are you a Joab? Do you make decisions with self-promotion and politics in

mind, or is your King's pleasure their basis? It is not too late to repent. Do not wait for Benaiah's phone call. The self-opportunists have a hard time putting anything or

anyone ahead of their own ambitions. They are willing to destroy a local church and bring down as many others with them as possible to advance their own cause.


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No Vacancy

Continued from 6
Christmas has become a real worry for store managers, and in the larger stores, purse-snatching is common, especially in the big cities. Christmas is now little more than a “cash register” holiday.

Often overlooked is the fact that many people go into serious debt because of Christmas. More marriages break up over finances than over adultery. Money problems create a “Christmas hangover” which shows up in late January and early February when the bills come in. Credit card companies love Christmas, and why not? The Lord’s birthday is a gold mine for them. Gifts, gifts, gifts, and more gifts—isn’t that what Christmas is all about in America these days?

“For God so loved the world, that he GAVE” (John 3:16). The Lord is the ultimate giver; we are just amateurs. We pretend to be givers and want to be thought of as such, but we are essentially takers. Taking is fine, so long as it is the taking of things that God wants you to have. First and foremost is the gift of salvation. Take that by all means. Next is a real, effective Holy Spirit fellowship with God’s Son. This is something the Lord wants you to have. He wants you to take it while it is offered to you on this earth.

“And he said unto them, with DESIRE I have DESIRED to eat this passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15).

Your first duty as a Christian is to be in fellowship with your Saviour. That’s why He died for you. He removed the wall that kept sinners away from His presence. He put a seat at His table for you and me, and He expects us to sit and fellowship. This is what real feasting is all about. You may have a great Christmas dinner with family and friends, but if you are not in fellowship

with the Lord, you are not feasting, only pretending.

For the hundreds of millions of professing Christians who never met their Saviour, Christmas is a good time to get acquainted. Many may not be around to see another Christmas. I suppose the most pathetic category of sinners who will show up at the White Throne Judgment when the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth ends will be those whom Matthew referred to in chapter 7, verses 21–23.

“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord” (Matt. 7:22).

These millions who call Him Lord and go to Mass at Christmas, or to a Protestant or Baptist church nearby, will have a lot of Christmas memories to take with them to the Lake of Fire. They could have prepared Him a room in their heart, but they were preoccupied with so many things. Regardless of the hectic activity in their lives, they were able to hear His call. They heard Him knock on the door of their hearts (Rev. 3:20).

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 11:28).

A short walk from the crowded inn to the stable would have saved their souls,

but they stayed at the party. Why? The Scripture gives the only plausible answer.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19).

They’ll call Him Lord this Christmas and sing, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come,” but He’ll remain a stranger to them as He is to all **“workers of iniquity,”** no matter how many hospitals, shelters, schools, or churches they build in His name. **“Ye must be born again”** (John 3:7).

Handbook of Manuscript Evidence

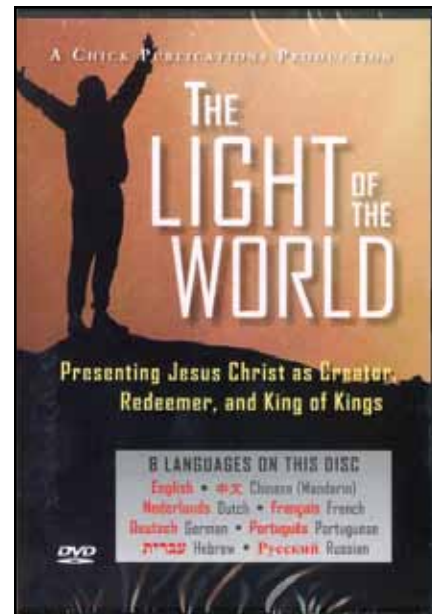
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A Very Wary Christmas

Continued from 5
out for them.

Watch out for the *Little Drummer Boy*; that's the *music*. You had better watch out when you turn on that radio dial to listen to Christmas music; all you're getting these days is a lot of African jungle music with Christmas words slapped on it.

And you even have to watch out for the good Christmas carols. Those Christmas carols are beautiful music, but a lot of them are bad theology. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King." Did she do it? "Come Desire of nations, come; fix in us Thy humble home." Can you name me one nation that desired Christ to come the first time? Why, Rome wasn't looking for Him. His own people weren't even looking for Him (John 1:10-11). Do you think the nations desire Him now? Are you out of your mind?! You can't even mention His name in the public schools at the time of year His birth is supposed to be celebrated.

I have a list of Christmas carols for people in the nut house.

For multiple personality disorder—"We Three Kings Disoriented Are."

Dementia—"I think I'll Be Home for Christmas."

Narcissistic—"Hark the Herald Angels Sing about Me."

Paranoid—"Santa Claus is Coming to Get Me."

Schizophrenia—"You'd Better Watch Out; I'm Going to Cry. I'm Going to Pout; Maybe I'll Tell You Why."

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder—"Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells."

Hypochondriac—"I'm Dreaming of a Sick Christmas."

Involuntary Melancholia—"Shut Up, Ye Merry Gentlemen; I Want to be Dismayed."

Manic Depressive—"Deck the Halls and Walls and House and Lawn and Office and Cars and Buses and Streets and Stores . . ."

Now you should watch out for *too much humanism* this time of year. Beware of making your friends, relatives, and family the most important thing instead of your Saviour. Humanism is the religion of the world: man is it. It's making the second great commandment ("**Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself**") take precedence over the first (loving the Lord God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind).

That thing is so strong these days that even Pope "Francis" said *atheists* don't have to believe in God to go to Heaven. That Bible says, "**The FOOL hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are CORRUPT, they have done ABOMINABLE WORKS, there is NONE that DOETH GOOD**" (Psa. 14:1).

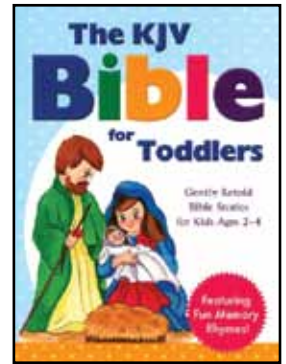
No atheist, agnostic, humanist, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, Moslem, Hindu, etc., is going to get to Heaven by his own good works. You will come through Jesus Christ, or you won't come at all.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; BUT THE WRATH OF GOD ABIDETH ON HIM" (John 3:36).

Finally, let me say this: beware of *coming down the chimney with old St. Nick*; you're liable to get *burned*. "Old Nick" is an old English name for the *Devil*, the great *imitator* of Jesus Christ (see our article in this issue on "The Great Impersonator"). "St. Nick" coming down the chimney and landing in the fireplace is a picture of the Devil winding up in *Hell* (Matt. 25:41).

Did you ever stop to think about what it would be like

Continued on 12



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JOB SECURITY

Continued from 1
 "learnin'." We know that the motive for Adam and Eve's sin was not **"the love of money"** because money had to be there in order for them to love it. Does this mean that the verse is wrong? No, the verse is not wrong; *his application* of the verse is wrong. The application is to this present evil

age. If you trace back all of the evil that's going on in the world today, you'll find someone that is bowing down to the "almighty buck." So these feebleminded Bible blockheads change the verse to "make it clearer"?—*hogwash*; "to make it read closer to the 'originals'"?—*monkey tripe*; to bring it "up to date"?—*don't*

be so absurd. They change the verse because *they love money more than God.*

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).

Did you see that? Clarke

said the verse "cannot be true," and Barnes said it's "not to be understood as literally true." *Hey man, if it's not true, then it's a lie. Are you telling me that God is a liar?*

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar" (Rom. 3:4). Clarke is the liar.

The verse is correct as it's found in the *King James Bible*; and it's merely validated by the ploys of Falwell, Hutson, Barnes, and Clarke. Why did they change the verse? Because **"the love of money is the root of all evil."** The Book was kicking them out of business—*job security.*

Let's look at it a little closer. In order to keep your job of teaching Greek and Hebrew in the average Christian school or college, you have got to

Continued on 16

A Very Wary Christmas

Continued from 11
 to go to Hell from *America*? Why, you'd be better off going to Hell from the darkest part of Africa or the Amazon than to go to Hell from America.

I mean, every Christmas time hearing songs like: "O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark street shineth THE EVERLASTING LIGHT," and never coming to the everlasting light, and dying in spiritual darkness and winding up in

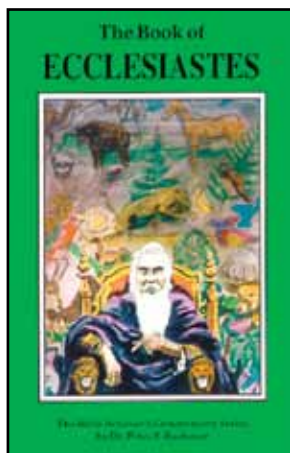
outer darkness. Or hearing that verse from "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" about Christ coming to "give them SECOND BIRTH" and never being born again and experiencing the *second death* instead. Can you imagine that?

God help you, people. To wind up in Hell after being raised in a nation where you hear about Christ every Christmas and Easter, where you can get ahold of a Bible any time you want, where there is a church on nearly every corner, and where you can hear

the Gospel on TV and radio just by flipping a dial. That would be rough, boy. You'd be better off being in a place with no Bible, no Gospel, no Christmas, no Easter, and no chance of salvation, than to go to Hell rejecting all that. I can't think of anything much more terrible than being in the Lake of Fire and remembering, "Silent night, holy night. Son of God loves pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face bring the dawn of REDEEMING GRACE," and you *missed it.*

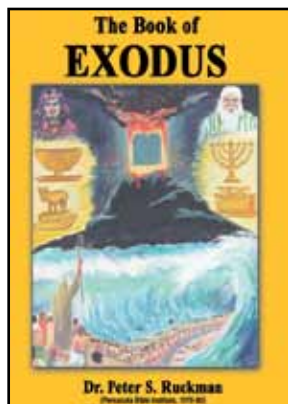
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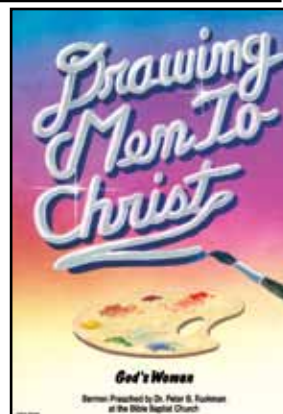
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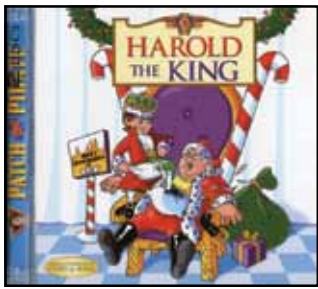
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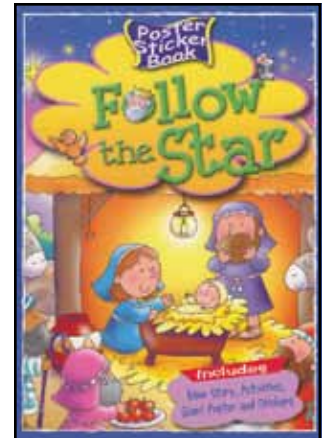
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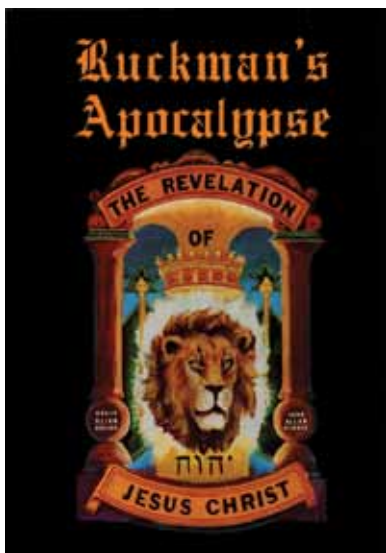
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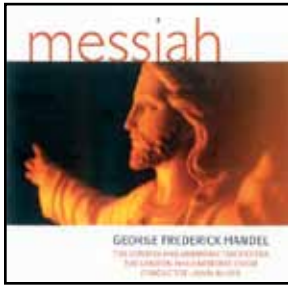
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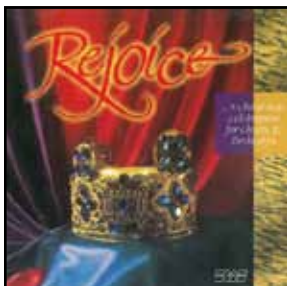
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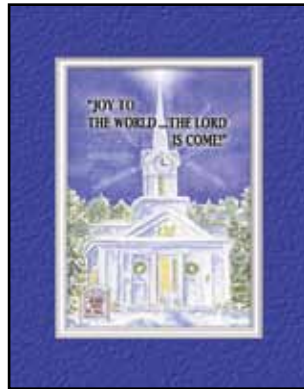
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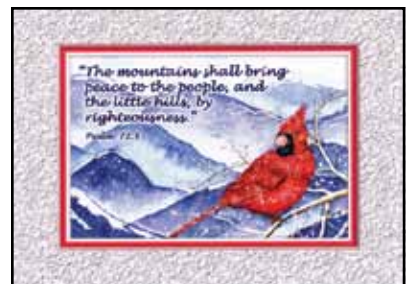
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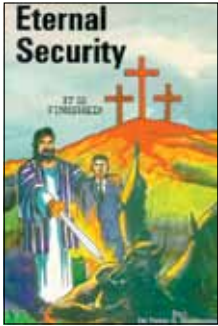


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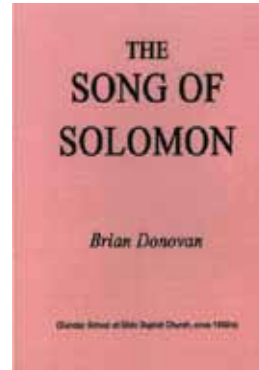
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RADIO LOG

ALABAMA	Evergreen WTID 101.1 FM Huntsville-Decatur WBXR 1140 AM	10:00 A.M. Sun. 10:30 A.M. Sat.	NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque-Santa Fe KXKS 1190 AM	11:00 A.M. Sat. 6:30 P.M. Sat. 6:30 A.M. Sun.
COLORADO	Aurora KLTT 670 AM	10:30 A.M. Sun.	NORTH CAROLINA	China Grove WRNA 1140 AM Durham WFTK 1030 AM	3:30 P.M. Sun. 12:00 Noon Sun.
FLORIDA	Pensacola WEBY 1330 AM Brooksville WKJO 102.7 FM	8:00 A.M. Sun. 4:00 P.M. Fri.	PENNSYLVANIA	York WGCB 1440 AM WGCP 96.5 FM Wilkes-Barre/Scranton WITK 1550 AM	7:00 A.M. Fri. 9:30 P.M. Fri. 6:00 P.M. Sat.
INDIANA	Indianapolis WBRI 1500 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.	SOUTH CAROLINA	Greenville WLFJ 660 AM	7:00 A.M. Sun.
KANSAS	Kansas City KCNW 1380 AM	6:30 P.M. Sat.	WEST VIRGINIA	Hines WYKM 1030 AM	7:30 A.M. Sun.
KENTUCKY	Richmond WCBR 1110 AM	2:00 P.M. Tue.	WYOMING	Cody KOFG 91.1 FM International SS Hour	9:30 A.M. Sun. 5:00 P.M. Sun. 3:00 P.M. Sat. 3:00 P.M. Sun.
LOUISIANA	Alexandria-Lafayette-Lake Charles KWDF 840 AM	9:00 A.M. Sat.	CANADA	Thompson, MB CHTM 610 AM Theo. Seminar of the Air	1:30 A.M. Mon. 5:30 P.M. Sat. 9:30 A.M. Sun.
MICHIGAN	Lupton WMSD 90.9 FM	8:15 P.M. Wed.		International Sunday School	
MISSISSIPPI	Tupelo & 31 counties in Alabama WCPC 940 AM	10:00 A.M. Sat.			
NEBRASKA	Omaha-Lincoln KLNK 1560 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.			

TV & Satellite LOG

ALABAMA	Andalusia—Ch. 63 Covington Co.—Ch. 42 Opp—Ch. 59 UHF—Ch. 25	10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun.	NEW YORK	Broome—Time Warner—Ch 6 Buffalo—Public Access—Ch 20 Elmira—Corning—Ch 1 Farmington Time Warner—Ch 12 Mid-Hudson Cable—Ch 11 Lockport—Ch 20 LCTV	4 PM Mon. /6 PM Wed. 5:05 PM Sun. 9:00 AM Sun. 8:00 PM Sun. 3 PM Wed. 4:00 PM Mon. 10:30 AM Tues. 10:00 PM Fri. 12:30 PM Sun. 4:00 PM Fri.
CALIFORNIA	San Pedro—Cox Communications San Diego—Cox—Ch 24 & 18 San Diego—Time Warner—Ch 16	6:30 PM Fri. 4:00 PM Wed. Time varies	NEW MEXICO	Albuquerque Community Cable—Ch 27 Los Alamos—PAC 8	5:00 PM Mon. 6:00 PM Sun. 2:00 PM Tue.
CONNECTICUT	Willimantic—Charter Comm.—Ch 14	5:30 PM Tue.	NEW ZEALAND	Mainland TV Nelson	9:00 AM Sun.
FLORIDA	Pensacola—Cox Channel 39	9:00 A.M. Sun. 3:00 A.M. Tue. 3:00 A.M. Sat.	OKLAHOMA	Tulsa—Ch 47-2 (antenna)	6:00 PM Fri.
IDAHO	Pocatello—TCL Cable—Ch 12	1:00 PM Sun. 2:30 PM Tue.	PENNSYLVANIA	York—York CATV—Ch 16	9:00 PM Mon. 3:00 PM Tue.
IOWA	Dubuque—Media Com—Ch 81	Times Vary	TENNESSEE	Pikeville—S.E. Tenn. St. Regional Correctional Facility	Times Vary
MASSACHUSETTS	Springfield—Public Access—Ch 12	5 PM Mon.	TEXAS	Abilene—KTXS—Ch 12 Brownwood—Ch 77 San Angelo—Ch 55	7:00 AM Sun. 7:00 AM Sun. 7:00 AM Sun.
MICHIGAN	Battlecreek—Access Vision—Ch 11	3:00 PM Sat.			
MONTANA	Missoula—MCAT—Ch 12	2:00 PM Mon.			

WIDE COVERAGE—DIRECT TV—SATELLITE—INTERNET

Satellite	AMOS SATELLITE— —METV 6 PM Sat. and 1 PM Sun. Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Cyprus, Dubai, UAE (Cable 24 all Israel) —FETV 8 PM Fri. (GMT) Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania Satellite PAS-10, 3.924 Mhz. vertical polarity, 3,003 Msyb/s symbol rate, 2/3FEC	G6 Ch. 15 "C" band (99 degrees W) 7 PM ET Fri. Coverage—Southern Canada, whole U.S., Hawaii, Northern Mexico, Caribbean G4 Digital Transponder #21 1 PM Sunday (Central) Frequency 4124 MH (101 degrees W) Coverage—All North America
Direct TV	Channel 367 World Harvest Television Ch 321—Hattiesburg, Mississippi Direct TV Satellite Friday 6 PM	7 PM Eastern Fri. 7 PM Eastern Fri.

**THE CREED OF
THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT**

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzen-dorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

Bible Baptist Church

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JOB SECURITY

Continued from 12
create the need for Greek and Hebrew. How is this done? It's done by teaching that you can't understand the Bible without "the Greek" or "the Hebrew"; i.e., there are mistakes in the *King James Bible*, and "you need *me* to help *you* understand it"—*job security*. You *create a problem* that's not really a problem to make people think they need you—*job security*.

If the problem of "racism" was solved, do you know how many people would be out of a job? Are you really gullible enough to think that the NAACP was created to solve "racism"? If racism were solved tomorrow, Jessie Jackson and Al Sharpton would be standing in the unemployment line along with the other 90 million people who are out of work. So the thing to do is *create a crisis* so YOU can be-

come the problem solver —*job security*.

I know how unions work. They convince the workers that their employer is treating them "unfairly," thus creating a "hostile work environment." They *create a crisis* so they can keep their job—*job security*. The news media outlets operate the same way. If there is no news to report, then *create some*. *Every news media agenda is for the purpose of creating news* (and getting you killed in the process)—*job security*. Want some examples? The repeal of prohibition, forced integration, the promotion of A.I.D.S by supporting sodomy, gun-control, taking the Ten Commandments out of schools, and the advancing of Islam as a peaceful religion—*job security*.

"For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of un-

derstanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged" (Prov. 28:2).

More crime means more jobs, so in order to create more jobs, you encourage more crime. You appoint federal judges that make sure children in school will not know it's wrong to steal, lie, murder, commit adultery, covet, worship idols, take God's name in vain, not put God first, and not honor your father and mother. Who would object to the Ten Commandments being posted in schools? That's easy—anyone who was opposed to the abolition of images, statues, and idolatry; that's easy—anyone who was opposed to right moral standards and ethical precepts; that's easy—anyone who was intent on increasing crime—*job security*. More crime means more police officers, more deputy sheriffs,

more prisons, more prison guards, more electricity, more food, more lawyers, more judges, and more rules and regulations, which means more legislators and congressmen—*job security*.

"...which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (1 Tim. 6:10). It is now getting to the point that there are so many district court judges, probate judges, circuit court judges, IRS regulations, and code enforcements that you can't move an inch; they've just about taken all of our liberties away. We have enjoyed the freedoms we have because America has always had people who feared God and practiced the Bible. America is now reaping **"the love of money"** which is **"the root of ALL evil."** *You are not going to beat that Book.*