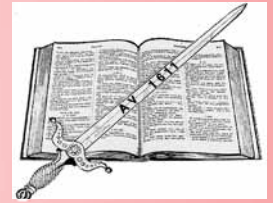




Bible Believers' Bulletin

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



Vol. 37 No. 11

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

November, 2013

Come Before Winter

Pray for Caesar

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Do thy diligence to come before winter” (2 Tim. 4:21).

The text comes from Paul’s “swan song”; that is, his last words to his **“son in the faith,”** Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2), before the apostle got his head cut off. Paul’s admonition in 2 Timothy 4:21 is very short, but it contains some very practical advice. Winter in the Mediterranean was rough, and sea travel came to a halt (see Acts 27:12; 1 Cor. 16:6; Tit. 3:12). Paul is telling Timothy that if he is going to see him before Nero cuts off his head, he had better get there before winter sets in, or he is liable not to make it. Whether Timothy made it or not, I don’t know. I hope he did.

The idea of the text, as applied to us, is there are certain things that can’t be done when it becomes too late. There are some things you had better do while you can, because the time is coming when you won’t be able to do them. Paul tells the young minister **“do thy diligence”**—make sure you get it done. Winter is coming.

Down South, there are certain crops you can’t plant late in the Fall, because if you do, the frost will kill them. Yankees have it rough in that regard. Up in places like Wisconsin and Minnesota, the ground can’t be plowed until April because it’s frozen four feet deep in the Winter.

That’s why Yankees have cellars. A house’s water pipes have to come up through the cellar; otherwise they would freeze solid and burst. Here in Pensacola, if there is a hard



freeze, you will see busted water pipes all over town. That’s because the pipes are only about four inches in the ground; there’s nothing to

protect them unless they are covered in insulation.

There are some things that can’t be done when Winter

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Barzillai, the Aged Christian

By Brian Donovan

When the Bible reader comes to the pages of the history books of Samuel and Kings, he is opening his heart and mind to the richest treasury of lessons on human nature anywhere. Though the main theme of the books has to do with the set-up of the political nation of Israel and the study of the physical Kingdom of Heaven, the Holy Spirit has woven in the stories of individual human lives with the intent that **“whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope”**

(Rom. 15:4). They were also recorded for **“ensamples”** and **“for our admonition”** in these last days (1 Cor. 10:1). Just in the books of 1 & 2 Samuel alone can be found a lifetime of study for both men and women in the characters of Eli (an old priest and father), Hannah (the praying mother), Samuel (the faithful prophet), Saul (the people’s choice), Jonathan (a true friend), David (a man after God’s own heart), Nabal (the fool), Abigail (the wise woman), Joab (the opportunist), Absalom (the spoiled son), Shimei (the cursing punk), Abner (the Democrat turned Republican), to say

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By Robert Militello
“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” (1 Thess. 5:18).

There’s much to be thankful about this nation which God set up as a refuge for those seeking religious freedom. Bible believers know that our national blessings are the result of the promise of God to Abraham: **“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”** (Gen. 12:3). This one verse explains the main reason for God abundantly blessing our nation.

Thank God our forefathers had the sense to welcome Jews who also had the courage to leave the old life in Europe and start fresh in the New World. Our Founding Fathers didn’t know it at the time, but America was to be a haven for Jews and the key player in God’s plan to launch the modern state of Israel.

When the Pilgrims sat down to eat that first Thanksgiving feast, the real purposes of God in allowing this land to be settled by Europeans unhappy in their own land were hidden from their eyes.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD” (Isa. 55:8).

America was to be blessed like no other nation on the face of this earth because the God of the Bible was determined to provide the sons of Jacob an opportunity to return to the

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How to Interpret The Bible

(Part two of two)

We have been discussing what is known as “Biblical hermeneutics”—how to properly interpret the Bible. This is absolutely essential for every Christian. The Holy Spirit said, “**no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation**” (2 Pet. 1:20). That goes for any man, woman, child, or “church” on the face of this earth.

No sinner, saved or lost, has a right to say the Scriptures mean anything based on his or her own *opinion*. That means that what you are getting these days from Obama, Hillary, the Democrats, and the militant faggots about the *sex perverts* (incorrectly labeled by the news media as “gays”) is pure, unadulterated “tripe and chittlins”; it is “horse feathers” from start to finish. The Bible isn’t to be interpreted according to “social norms,” because what society “accepts” *changes* according to *how much sin they think they can get away with*.

The Book can only be interpreted by its *Author* (2 Pet. 1:21; 2 Tim. 3:16). *God* is the only proper Interpreter of the Scriptures (Gen. 40:8, 41:16; Dan. 2:28; Luke 24:45). So when studying the Bible, the way to find out the proper interpretation is to compare what God says in His Book with what God says in His Book—Scripture with Scripture (1 Cor. 2:13 cf. John 6:63). Anything else is “**private interpretation**.”

Never go to “scholarship” for the proper interpretation of a passage. The fact of the matter is that most scholars—and by “most,” I would say the *vast majority*, nearly 99% of them—don’t teach the Bible; they give you *men’s opinions* about the Bible.

Whenever you hear a pastor, teacher, professor, or scholar talk about the “historico-grammatico” interpretation of the Bible, 95% of the time he is not talking about interpreting the Bible according to the *history* or *language* found in the *Bible God has given you* (AV 1611). What is meant is interpreting the Bible according to Josephus, Philo, the “church fathers,” evolutionary archaeologists, Machen, Robertson, Schaff, Trench, Thayer, Vincent, Tischendorf, Griesbach, Nestle, Nida, Metzger, et al. He is talking about interpreting the Bible according to information found *outside the Bible* by lost historians, German rationalists, dead orthodox grammarians, and religionists who followed *philosophy, tradition, and science* (Col. 2:8; Mark 7:8–13; 1 Tim. 6:20) over what God said in His Book.

While it is important to note the historic context of a passage, the student of the Bible should beware the private interpretation of *historians* like he should beware the private interpretations of Popes, Bishops, and “TV evangelists.” For instance, the standard interpretation put on that camel going “**through the eye of a needle**” there in Matthew 19:24 and Luke 18:25 is that “**the needle’s eye**” was a small gate in the wall of Jerusalem through which a camel had to get on its knees and crawl at night when the main gates to the city were shut. That’s known as the “historical” interpretation. *It has nothing to do with real history*.

The truth is, *no such gate has ever been found*. The “historical” interpretation was invented by some thin-skinned neurotic who couldn’t imagine

the sweet, mild Jesus being *sarcastic* to anyone. The “gentle Galilean” couldn’t possibly be using *hyperbole* (exaggeration to make a point) about how damning riches can be. (Wanna bet? Just read how sarcastic His language could get in Matt. 23.) So the story about “the needle’s eye” gate was invented and passed on from campfire to campfire by the Christian “scholars” as legitimate “history” when it was nothing more than the infidelic invention of a depraved imagination.

Here’s another “for instance.” If you listen to any Fundamentalist expounding on Romans 12:20, you will get that the “custom in Bible times” was that a person would carry a pan on his head when he went to get coals to start his fire, and if you wanted to do good for your enemy to short of “shame” him into getting saved, it would be like you voluntarily filling up his pan with coals from your fire.

Now whether that is historically so or not, *it has nothing to do with Romans 12:20*. Going to the *Author of Scripture*, instead of the “historical” interpretation, you learn that if you do good to your enemy and he still rejects the Gospel, *you increase his damnation* (Prov. 25:21–22 cf. Psa. 140:10). Scripture with Scripture, folks; and when history or science or scholarship or tradition goes against the Scripture, the whole lot of them can go “plumb to the Devil” (to quote Billy Sunday).

You take that “grammatical” interpretation. Mark it down, if anyone has to run to the Greek or the Hebrew to prove his point, he is doing one of two things: he is either trying to steal your faith in that Book and place it in *himself*, or he



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

is trying to *prove something that ain’t so*. Anything that is so in that Book (and by “that Book,” I am not referring to any “Bible” like an RV, an ASV, an RSV, a NASV, an NIV, an ESV, “Good News,” the CEV, the NEB, or even the NKJV or “Modern English Bible”; I am talking about the God-honored English text of the Protestant Reformation—the *Authorized King James Version* of the Holy Bible) can be proven without any reference to Greek or Hebrew. A preacher or teacher might use Greek or Hebrew to *defend* the KJV or *reinforce* the KJV, but the moment he uses the “original languages” to *change the Book God gave you in your own language*, he is either *stealing your authority or conning you*.

The key to Biblical interpretation is not the “historico-grammatico interpretation” as given by the majority of Christian scholars. It is *Scripture with Scripture* and the *Scriptures in their context*. If you want to make a fouled-up mess of the Bible, then you do one of four things: you *add* to the text (e.g., adding the word “originals” to 2 Tim. 3:16 when no manuscript or text on earth says any “originals” were “**given by inspira-**”

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Barzillai, the Aged Christian

Continued from 1
nothing of the list of mighty men who fought for their king against any and all odds.

In this backdrop is the life of a much lesser known man by the name of Barzillai, who quietly grows in grace right into his twilight years. He lived through the time of the transition of the nation of Israel going from a theocracy with God's choice of David for his king. Barzillai lived across the Jordan River in Rogelim (2 Sam. 17:27), and had to live through the awful experience of Absalom's treachery and revolt against his king. But Barzillai showed a discipline and loyalty to his king that makes him a great "ensample" of learning, as well as a type of a Christian growing aged in Christ.

There are a few marks on his life that are worth noting for the Christian today. These marks are found in 2 Samuel 19:31-39. David fled from Jerusalem and his throne when Absalom started his conspiracy, and when David got to the other side of the Jordan River, he found help and sustenance from Barzillai while David dwelt in Mahanaim. In our passage here, Absalom has since been defeated and killed by Joab, and David is now headed back to the throne in Jerusalem when he meets again with Barzillai.

UNSELFISHNESS is the first mark I want to point out (vs. 35). Barzillai is that day eighty years old and has no thoughts for himself. He wants to show loyalty and encourage his king, so he makes sure he is there for him. David was an outcast from the throne while Barzillai served him, and our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ is no different. This world rejects Christ as their King and wants no part of Him. The Lord Jesus Christ came

preaching, He saw thousands of people come out, and the first thing He did was to weed out those who did not mean business. Jesus often turned to the multitudes and thought of ways to turn away those who were there for the wrong reasons. One time in Luke 14, He said that to be His disciple a man would have to hate mother, father, sister, brother, and his own life also, or he could not be a disciple of His. Another time in John chapter 6, Christ saw thousands of people there to get their bellies filled, so He told them they needed to eat His flesh and drink His blood. That turned them away by the thousands and left only a few (who also would have gone, but already knew there was nowhere else to go—John 6:68).

Jesus Christ made salvation the easiest thing a sinner could receive by paying the way for him, but we are talking about a completely different subject. Discipleship requires unselfishness and crosses. Barzillai thought nothing of his own birthday and put himself out for his King.

Shortly after Mohammed died and went to Hell, one of his faithful followers named Abu Taber impressed an older Arab chieftain enough to send ambassadors of peace to him. Abu called one of his men forward, handing him a dagger, and told him to stick it into his own heart. The faithful disciple did as he was told on the spot and committed suicide. He called another soldier forward and told him to jump off the cliff they were on to the rocks below, which he also promptly obeyed. Abu then turned to the ambassadors and said, "You go back and tell your chief that I have 500 more men just as faithful, and within 24 hours, I will have him chained to my dogs."

How does a maniacal killer like that find so many faithful disciples, yet Christians, who have a King who would never demand anything so wasteful and stupid of their lives, have problems submitting to Him? Barzillai was unselfish.

Secondly, Barzillai WORKED WITHOUT REGARD FOR REWARD (vs. 36). When David asked Barzillai to return with him to Jerusalem where he would be taken care of, Barzillai refused. He told David that he did not want to be a burden to him, proving that his motive for helping him earlier was not for his own gain. Most of Israel kind of waited out to see whether Absalom or David was going to come out on top before they would commit, but not Barzillai. He stepped up for his king when David was down and out, and when

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Bro. Donovan's Schedule

November 8-10

Bible Believers Baptist
128 Goodman Street
Munfordville, KY 42765
Pastor Sean Riggs
(270) 524-5678

December 13-15

Anchor Baptist Church
10440 Crain Hwy.
Faulkner, MD 20632
Pastor Bob Joseph
(540) 663-0192

January 10-12

Bible Believers Bapt. Ch.
3857 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Pastor David Peacock

January 23-26

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Elbridge, NY 13060
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How to Interpret The Bible

Continued from 2

tion”), you *subtract from* the text (e.g., you get rid of the word “**God**” from 1 Tim. 3:16 so that the verse no longer teaches the Incarnation), you *remove* a verse from its context (e.g., you remove Christ’s statements about eating His flesh and drinking His blood from their context in John 6 of Him living by His Father in the same way you live by Him and *believing on Him for eternal life* in order to practice Roman Catholic cannibalism in the “Mass”), and you run to the “original Greek” or “original Hebrew” to get rid of the Biblical text as it appears in the *Authorized Version* of 1611 (e.g., you refuse to *translate* the Greek word *hades* so you can get rid of *Hell*). Those are the ways to deceive over a billion professing Christians so you can *damn* a whole nation and culture.

Now in our last article, we began giving you the laws of proper Biblical interpretation. They were the law of *literal interpretation*, the law of *first mention*, the law of *primary application*, the law of *progressive revelation*, the law of *subsequently added details*, the law of *complete mention*, and the law of *context*. We continue here with number 8: the law of *negative discrimination*.

Contrary to everything being taught by the government, the public schools, and the vast majority of churches, the Bible’s message is not merely a *positive* one. In other words, when you hear a preacher, teacher, politician, TV personality, actor, or psychiatrist talking about *self-esteem*, *self-love*, “positive reinforcement,” “possibility thinking,” “the power of positive thinking,” “your best life now,” and such rot, *you are not dealing*

with the Bible. The Bible takes a *negative* view of man apart from God. In the Bible, man is born into this world *dead spiritually*, a child of disobedience, and a child of wrath (Eph. 2:1–3). His father is the Devil (John 8:44), and he is headed to the same place his “daddy” is headed (Matt. 23:51 cf. 25:41). There is *nothing* good in man (Rom. 7:18): his *throat* is bad, his *tongue* is bad, his *mouth* is bad, his *feet* are bad, and his *eyes* are bad (Rom. 3:13–18). The natural man in his lost state is alone in this world without any hope because he doesn’t know God (Eph. 2:12) and God doesn’t know him (Matt. 7:23). The only hope proffered to men is through the revelation of God in His word and in His Son Jesus Christ. Outside of that, “man” is a *dead duck*, whether it be this side or the other side of the grave.

Any interpretation of the Bible that doesn’t follow what you just read above is a *false* interpretation. In the Old Testament, it was the *false* prophets who preached the *positive* message (see 1 Kings 22; Jer. 23).

Also the Bible is the most *discriminatory* book you ever read. Out of all the *nations* in this world, it only recognizes *one* as God’s people—the *Jews*. Out of all the *cities* in this world, it only recognizes *one* as God’s capital—*Jerusalem*. Out of all the *religious leaders* that have come on the world scene, it only recognizes *one* as the only way to God—*Jesus Christ*. You talk about discrimination, *that’s it*. Arabs, Moslems, Catholics, “whites,” and “blacks” are out the window. Mecca, Rome, Washington, D.C., and New York don’t win, place, or show. Mohammed, Buddha,

Mary, Lao Tze, the Pope, the Dalai Lama, et al., are perfect blanks. You will either come to God *His way* or not at all. Integration, ecumenism, universalism, and “global communities” have nothing whatsoever to do with true Biblical interpretation.

9. The law of *agreement*. That is, never use one verse to contradict another. Now there are many *apparent* contradictions in the Bible. For example, in Leviticus 11, God gives you a list of dietary restrictions; in Acts 10, God allows Peter to eat anything. But such “contradictions” are easily resolved when you find out to *whom* certain passages were addressed and *what occurred* to make the change. In the case of certain foods being off limits, Leviticus 11 was addressed to *Jews* under a *theocratic system* before the *death of Christ*. Acts 10 was addressed to a *New Testament believer* in the Body of Christ, free under grace because Jesus Christ blotted out “**the handwriting of ordinances that was against us . . . nailing it to his cross**” (Col. 2:14).

Obama has tried to use the same arguments to say it’s all right for one sex pervert to “marry” another sex pervert to be whatever they are trying to be. The only problem is, God condemned their sin under three testaments: *before the Law* (Gen. 19), *under the Law* (Lev. 18:22), and *under grace* (Rom. 1:26–28). No change was made because the problem was a *moral* one, not a *national* or *ceremonial* one.

10. The law of *repetition*. Like any good teacher, the Lord repeats material for *emphasis* (see Gen. 41:32). That being the case, the stu-

Continued on 10

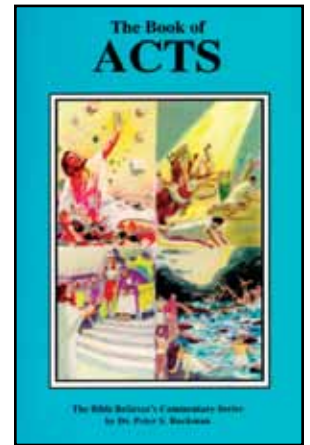
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ACTS

This commentary fully covers the errors of the Roman Catholics, Hyper-Calvinists, Hyper-dispensationalists, and other assorted apostates, tracing the progression of the Gospel and of revelation from Pentecost onward. Rightly dividing this book doctrinally, Dr. Ruckman also puts into modern terms the lives of the apostles and New Testament Christians.

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Come Before Winter

Continued from 1 comes. Two dictators found that out to their grief. Both wanted to rule all of Europe, and both made the same mistake. Both Napoleon and Hitler attacked Russia in June; *that's too late to attack*. If you don't take the whole country in four months, you aren't going to get back. You'll be caught in the middle of a Russian winter where it can get down to 45 degrees below zero. Napoleon and Hitler couldn't whip "General Winter."

Paul told Timothy, "**Do thy diligence to come before winter.**" I hope Timothy got there in time, but I don't know. What if Timothy put off leaving and made it there just after the execution was over? That would have been rough, boy; too late. I picture Timothy showing up just as the soldiers are hauling off Paul's headless body. I hope that wasn't the case, but sometimes I wonder.

Paul's words should be an admonition to us to do certain things while we are able to do them. If you don't, you won't get the chance because it will be too late. The Winter of life is going to set over your soul, and the things you planned you won't get a chance to carry out. There are things that should be done when you're young, because when you get old, it will be too late.

You should *form good habits* while you can. The teen years are too late to form good habits. A child's character is fixed before he is five years old, and it is set by momma, according to the psychologists. Momma, you had better influence that baby, that toddler, while you have the chance.

You need to form good habits while you're young. Make the body obey. A young person should be taught to *obey* because he will need that ability in life. There will come a time that if you are in the habit of rebellion, it will

be too late to reform. You will keep right on in rebellion and won't be able to change until you wind up in the sanitarium, prison, or the grave. You need to "**come before winter,**" before the ground gets hard and you aren't able to do what you want to do.

While you are in the Spring-time of youth, form good habits: good cleaning habits, good reading habits, good walking habits, good speaking habits. Do it while you are young, before you get stuck in your ways with bad habits. "**Do thy diligence to come before winter.**"

Next, you should show *kindness to loved ones* while you can. Your loved ones aren't going to be around you all the time; sooner or later, they will all head to the *grave*. You had better show them kindness while you have the chance.

I attended a funeral one time here in Pensacola where the husband of a young woman had been killed in an auto accident. I gathered that young couple had some kind of marital trouble from the way things went. That grieving widow fell in that casket and hugged the corpse. It was a bad scene, man. She called out her husband's name over and over again: "I loved you, Jim. I never did step out on you, Jim." I wish she would have told him that before he ended up in that box. I don't know if that fellow would have believed her or not, but I hope she didn't wait until he was dead to tell him.

Show kindness to your loved ones before they depart. One of my favorite characters who came through school here is Nathan Bemis. He's a pastor in Kalispell, Montana now and has a great work. Nathan was raised out in the wilderness of Colorado. When his daddy died, he and his brother had to dig the hole in

which to bury him. All the time they were doing that, their sister stood there beside the grave crying and saying, "I never told him I loved him." A whole lifetime, and after her daddy died she realized she never said "I love you" to him. Sorry, too late.

You had better show kindness to your momma, your daddy, your grandparents, your wife, your children before they're gone. You can stand by the grave and weep and wail all you want, and it won't do a bit of good. Winter has come; it's too late.

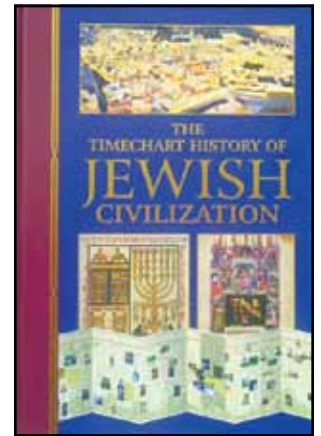
One of the best things I ever did in my life was right after I got saved. As an unsaved young man, I caused my momma and daddy a lot of grief. After I got saved, I drove to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and I got down on my knees before my momma and daddy and begged their forgiveness for the way I had lived as a teenager.

Of course, they were as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. They had heard I had "gotten religion" (I got *saved*), and they were lost Episcopalians. They said, "it's all right, boy. Don't worry about it; it's fine."

I said, "Good. Then I'd like to know one other thing: *have you ever been saved?*" That's when the fur hit the fan. I was all tore up and didn't know how to witness. I cried and begged them to receive Christ and got nowhere with them. My dad said, "That's all right, son. Don't let it bother you. If you found some new faith that's good for you; that's fine. If not, we can see a doctor in the morning."

My dad thought I had lost my mind, like my brother, and wanted me to go see a shrink. I hadn't lost my mind; *I was just getting my mind back.*

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of
Continued on 7

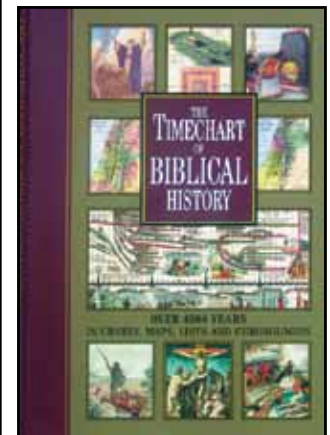


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Pray for Caesar

Continued from 1
land of their fathers. What are three centuries to a God who sees a thousand years as but a day (2 Pet. 3:8). From 1621 when the Wampanoag Indians and Pilgrims sat down to an autumn feast, to 1948 when President Harry Truman recognized the state of Israel, the God of Israel purposed our nation to be the midwife to end-time Israel. The midwife was to be blessed and kept healthy until her purpose was accomplished.

“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For KINGS, and FOR ALL THAT ARE IN AUTHORITY; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour” (1 Tim. 2:1–3).

No nation aside from Israel is special to the Lord. **“All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity”** (Isa. 40:17).

The Lord is not obligated to keep us going and to continually pour out His blessings upon us. The year 1948 may well have been our highwater mark as a nation. Israel was born then, and the good, ole’ USA became just another used-up utensil in the hand of God.

We use plastic forks a lot in our society. They are used, soiled, and thrown out. We don’t keep them like we would good silverware. Well, all nations and empires are like that in the Lord’s hands. Sorry, brethren, but we are disposable; and it appears we are about to be put into a hefty trash bag and brought to the garbage dump of history, because Caesar says a sodomite marriage is just as noble as one between a man and woman.

Pray for Caesar like the

Scripture says in 1 Timothy 2. Caesar doesn’t know it, but praying, Bible-believing Christians are the reason the Lord hasn’t yet put the twist tie upon our garbage bag. Our society is becoming ever more hostile toward the word of God. Judgment must follow, or Sodom and Gomorrah never happened.

Did you ever think that you would admire Russia and its leadership for their “Christianity”? Vladimir Putin recently let it be known that he has no intention of legalizing sodomite marriage. The Russian Orthodox Church, which has become resurgent in Russia since the fall of Communism, has let it be known that traditional marriage in their land will not be compromised. I wonder if Queen Elizabeth sounded out Mr. Putin on his view of marriage before she said yes to gay marriage in England? The land of the Czars is closer to God’s view than the land of the *King James* Bible. Did you ever imagine that you would see that in your lifetime? Well, you have.

Will the blessings continue much longer? I thank God for what we have here, but as a Bible believer, I realize the danger our nation is now in. Last June, when the Supreme Court voted down the accepted idea of what constituted a marriage, the Lord was allowing someone to walk out the back door with a load of national security secrets. Knowing the Lord, you know there is no such thing as a “coincidence.” Well, Mr. Edward Snowden, a contract employee of the National Security Agency, left the U.S. with four laptops filled with top secret information on how our nation gathers intelligence.

Mr. Snowden traveled to Hong Kong and to Russia later. I’m certain the authorities in both countries were interested in what was in those computers. One of

the blessings for which we have always enjoyed and given thanks is a God who has watched over our nation continually. It appears He has left the watchtower, and we are on our own. God help us, and pray for Caesar like you were told.

It is right to give thanks for our nation and all the blessings we enjoy, but be wary of men. Governments are made up of men, not angels. Be wary of a government that would use its revenue agents to punish those who disagree with its policies. Be wary of a government that would pressure churches to adopt its policy regarding the employment of sodomites. Be wary of local governments that seek to muzzle street preachers by passing “public nuisance” ordinances.

Yes, by all means pray for Caesar and those in authority, but know that the Bible you trust is not what Caesar holds dear. When it is convenient, Caesar will give lip service to God’s word, but Caesar is about power and control and not about **“righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** (Rom. 14:17).

A day may come soon in our land when Bible believers, their pastors and teachers especially, will have to resist **“the powers that be”** (Rom. 13:1). Will Caesar charge us with a crime if our preachers continue to call sodomy an **“abomination”** (Lev. 18:22)? Will this be considered hate speech or a violation of someone’s civil rights? Where are we headed in this country, and will Caesar seek to punish believers of the Book, as the state churches and magistrates did in Europe centuries ago?

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Who-soever therefore resisteth

the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation” (Rom. 13:1–2).

Peter followed Paul’s instruction, writing, **“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. HONOUR THE KING”** (1 Pet. 2:17). Imagine, this was written when Nero was emperor. So obey Caesar and the Lord, unless Caesar makes it impossible for you to do so. If the Hebrew midwives had obeyed Pharaoh and killed the male babies born to the daughters of Jacob, there would be no Moses (see Exod. 1:15–22. See also Acts 4:19–20; Ezra 4:21–5:2; Esth. 3:2–6 and Dan. 3:14–18 where the lawful authorities tried to intimidate God’s saints).

Pray that our government doesn’t bring us into open conflict with God’s word. Christians ought to obey the king, but situations arise where tyranny may bring a Christian into rebellion against **“the powers that be.”** When the American Revolution began in 1775, almost all of New York (not Boston or Philadelphia) was solidly in the camp of George III. It was dangerous to sympathize with traitors to the crown. If you sided with George Washington and the rebels, you needed to keep your mouth shut and keep an eye on your neighbors. In August, 1776, Gen. Washington

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Come Before Winter

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power, and of love, and of a SOUND MIND" (2 Tim. 1:7).

It was my dad who had lost his mind. He had an IQ of 150 and a Master's degree from MIT in Boston, but when it came to spiritual things, he was just as blind as a bat backing into a hurricane. He went to College to study geology in order to *disprove Genesis*. Real smart fellow—he was just as lost as a goose in a horse race.

But I sure am glad I witnessed to them when I did. I didn't see either of them again for years and years, and when they died, I wasn't even notified of it. They both died in the same year (1966), and I didn't hear about either death until three months after both of them were buried.

I had a meeting up in Delaware with Sam Ingram once, and I asked him if he could take me by my parents' graves. I had never seen where they were buried. I got down on my knees in front of that grave stone and read the inscription. My dad died in August 1966, and my mom died a month later in September of 1966 (my younger sister had already died a month or two earlier that same year). I thought to myself, "Boy, I sure am glad they didn't die without knowing I was sorry for the way I had lived as a unsaved young man." If I hadn't done that, I would sure have been in a mess at that moment. I would have been on my knees, pounding that dirt, and it wouldn't have done a bit of good. The ground was frozen.

There is something else you need to do before it is too late: you need to *disciple your children* while you can. There will come a time when they are not going to listen to you. When they get to a certain age, they consider themselves adults, and they are "smarter" than they ever have been or

ever will be again in their lives. They consider their opinions to be just as good as yours or better. They think they have all the answers, and when they get to that point, it's too late to do anything with them.

I would advise you to whip your children while you can. Of course, that's not the advice of the National Education Association, the courts, or the HRS (HEW, Depart. of Children and Families, HHS, or whatever). They cry "child abuse!" if you spank the "little darlings" and will arrest you. But that's not what happened in my day. We didn't have any "children's rights" when I was growing up. If you didn't do what you were told, you got the belt (or the strap) in the seat of your britches. Nowadays, they don't want to "warp their personalities."

Momma, daddy, you had better beat that kid while you can. They are going to get big enough to beat you up. I told one of my boys one time to get his hair cut, and he got "sassy" with me. He was in his late teens. He said, "What if I don't get it cut?" I told him, "You'll wish you had." He said, "But you told me when I got big enough to beat you up, I could leave home, and I'm big enough to whip you." I said, "Okay, get out." "But I want to stay," he said. I said, "You can stay, but if you live under my roof and put your feet under my table, I call the shots. You *will* get a haircut." He said, "Okay, but I can still beat you up." "Don't bet on it," I told him, "You can't stay awake forever." "Yeah, and you'd do it too," he said. You'd better believe I would.

While you can, momma and daddy, you had better teach those kids it doesn't pay to live like the devil. You had better do something to straighten out those kids while you can. When they get old, they are going to have their way, and

you won't be able to talk them out of it with a talking machine.

There is something else you had better do while you can still breathe and have your senses about you: *you had better thank God for your health* while you still have it.

I am now 92 years old, with two incurable conditions, but when I had good health, boy, I thanked God for it. Whatever is wrong with me now, I had years and years with hardly any time in hospitals or with doctors.

Do you have a good pair of legs? Do you ever thank God for them? Do you thank the Lord for your legs, your knees, your feet? You had better while they are still in good condition. I can't do it anymore, but I used to jog at least two miles a day (now I can only walk a mile a day). There was hardly ever a time in my life when I didn't think about a couple of my students: one was Michael Hauenstein who was confined to a wheelchair, and the other was Rex Harrison on his crutches. Those guys couldn't walk, let alone run. If you have two good

legs that work, you had better thank God for them.

"Do thy diligence to come before winter." Some of you are not doing what you can before Winter comes. When the chill comes, there will be some things that you either can't do or will have a hard time doing.

Something else you had better do before Winter comes is to *forgive those who have wronged you*. Are you bitter or angry at someone about something? The best way to get rid of those things is to *pray* for your enemies.

Listen, brethren, don't hold on to that grudge until you hit the Judgment Seat of Christ. Jesus said, **"But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses"** (Matt. 6:15). Of course, that has nothing to do with your *salvation* in this day and age, but an unforgiving spirit can affect your *fellowship* with God, God's *blessing* on your life, and your *rewards* at the Judgment Seat of Christ. You had better apologize to whom

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Pray for Caesar

Continued from 6 fought Gen. Howe for the control of New York harbor and the surrounding area. Washington and his army were run out of town and retreated to New Jersey. Well, the British remained in control of New York throughout the war, and to keep their position, they kept pastors and their congregations under surveillance.

Before I left New York, I went often to the John Street Methodist Church at lunchtime for prayer. The church was two short blocks from my office, and the history of the place fascinated me. Fanny Crosby worshipped all her life in this church, and her pew is so marked. This church was the first Methodist congregation planted in America. It began in 1766 and has a basement museum filled with rare items. After a while, I became friendly with a church officer who allowed me to read some really old documents kept under lock and key.

I discovered that the John Street Methodist Church was considered a "Tory" church; that is, one where the congregation was pro-British, loyal to George III. The church kept its doors open throughout the war. When the war ended in 1783, many crown loyalists left to return to England; others relocated to places where

no one knew where they stood during the war. Christians who sided with George Washington and the patriots were much relieved when the British army sailed out of New York harbor later in 1783. Could something like this happen again where Christians in the same family split over submission to Caesar or God's word when a line is drawn?

It was civil disobedience that led to the Civil Rights Act passed by Congress in 1964. Black citizens in the South said "no" to the local and state authorities. Our Constitution gives every citizen the right to protest lawfully and peti-

tion government to redress their grievances. What about Bible believers? Do you think that civil disobedience on our part would lead Congress to pass an amendment to the Constitution making only traditional marriage lawful? Even if Congress passed a proposed amendment, it would have to be ratified by 37 out of 50 states, and that won't happen. No one in Washington, D.C. fears the protests of a minority—Bible Christians—looked upon with contempt by the media, Hollywood, and the educational establishment. In this present world, we have no

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The Answer

By Tom Waddle

Some years ago, Paul Harvey told the story of a man who had lost his job and was in serious financial trouble. The bank notes were due, the family needed food, and it seemed there was nothing to do but to rob for it. He chose his locale, walked in, stuck a gun in the cashier's face, and demanded she hand over all the money. She quickly handed over everything: twenty dollars. "Are you kidding?" he yelled in desperation. "That's it," she said, showing him the empty drawer. He took the money and ran out, only to be greeted by four .40 caliber muzzles pointed in his direction which demanded his surrender.

After a brief escort to the county slammer, he was seated in front of two detectives who were very interested in his sudden escapade of crime. He had no previous record and did not fit the profile of what they considered an habitual criminal. One detective brought in the pistol that he had used in the crime and asked, "Is this your pistol?" "Yes," he respectfully answered. "Do you know what this is?" inquired the detective. "Well, it's just an old pistol my father gave me," the man retorted. "That, my man," replied the interrogator, "is an original Colt that's worth over \$20,000. The answer to your problem was in your hand."

The application is simple. Greek and Hebrew "nugget" diggers think their only option for "making it" is to rob some "ancient" manuscript, while they have the answer in their hand—the *King James* 1611. They are not looking at what is in their hand; they refuse to examine it. You might say they are "willingly ignorant" (2 Pet. 3:5).

If you have ever tried to make conversation with these "scholars" (or preachers who

are self-proclaimed "scholars"), you will find out in a matter of minutes that they are not Bible readers at all, much less *Bible believers*. They don't think what they have in their hand has any value or is worth their time or investigation. It is only a "tool" to be "used" and "preferred." The phrase used is "a reliable translation."

They readily pursue knowledge contrary to the word of God, in any place but the word of God. I have said it before and will keep saying it—just because you are a *Greek* or *Hebrew* student doesn't mean that you are a *Bible* student. Some of the most *Biblically ignorant* people are Greek and Hebrew scholars.

It is certainly an unendurable tragedy to listen to some uneducated preacher say, "In the original Hebrew . . ." or "The Greek word for this is . . ." or "A better rendering is . . ." when he hasn't had *any* formal training in Greek or Hebrew. They are only repeating what their peers have said, with no evidence for it whatsoever. But I guess the bigger tragedy is a teacher who knows Greek and Hebrew purposely lying to young men who have been "called to preach." They are being trained to lie to their congregation *on purpose* in order to get an offering.

Higher Christian education is to be blamed. Stewart Custer is one of the best examples of what I am saying. He said way back in 1987 in a letter to Thomas Morris (see "*Errors in the King James Bible*", App. Ten, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman), "I defend every word in the original autographs of the Greek and Hebrew text of the Bible . . . The Greek and Hebrew manuscripts which agree most closely with the autographs are to be followed . . . The *King James Version* is a good English translation (that's exactly what Pensacola

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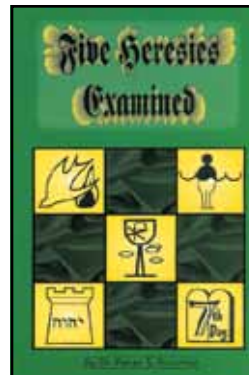
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How to Interpret The Bible

Continued from 4
 dent of the Scriptures should note what God *repeats* in the Scriptures.

As important as the doctrine of the Virgin Birth is, it only appears twice in the Gospels: Matthew 1; Luke 1. The feeding of the 5,000 appears in all four Gospels. There must be something about that miracle that is more important than the virgin birth of God's own Son. That's because it typifies God's care for Israel during the Tribulation (see our remarks under Luke 9:10-17 in the *Bible Believer's Commentary on Luke*). It's connected with Christ's Second Advent, and the Scriptures always put more emphasis on the Second Advent than they do the First. That's because the important day to God is not when wicked men took His Son and put Him to death. That's important to us because that's how we get in on the "goodies." The important day to God is when His Son gets what rightfully belongs to Him, and that takes place at the Second Advent.

11. The law of *triple reference*. Every verse in the Bible has three applications: *historical*, *doctrinal*, and *spiritual*. The historical application is that the passage actually took place in history just as the Bible says it did. Creation, the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, Noah's ark, etc., were not

myths used by God to "teach some great truth." They were actual, historical events. The Bible, after all, is not primarily a *religious* book. It is a *history* book: the only completely accurate history book you will ever get ahold of.

Every verse also has a *doctrinal* application which is the *primary* application (see law 3). The doctrinal application is the one that tells you what to believe as a Christian. Quite often, it is a *prophetic* application.

And finally, there is a *spiritual*, *devotional* application which the individual Christian can make to his own personal life. This can be the more dangerous of the three, for it can be the most subjective. The important thing is never to make the Scriptures about *you*. The Scriptures are about the *Lord Jesus Christ* (John 5:39-47).

12. The law of *types*. There are people, places, and things in the Bible that picture something in the future from when the events occurred. Joseph is one of the greatest types of Jesus Christ in the Bible. He was hated and betrayed by his brethren because of envy like Christ (Matt. 27:18). He was a servant in the world like Christ (see Phil. 2:7). As a type of Christ, he could actually interpret what God said (Gen. 40:8 cf. Luke 24:45). And God exalted him to the second position in the kingdom like God will with Jesus Christ; when Jesus Christ reigns over this earth, He will be second only to God the Father Himself. These are only a few of over 100 types Joseph fulfills about Jesus Christ.

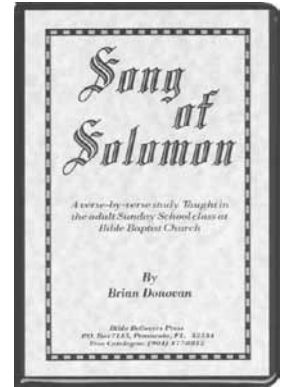
The law of types is given by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10 and Galatians 4. A type can be drawn when there is an obvious parallel between the

"original" and some great New Testament truth.

13. The law of *double application*. Many prophecies in the Bible have a *primary* and *secondary* application. For example, the "**good tidings**" of Isaiah 52:7 are that God reigns in Zion: that's Jesus Christ on the throne at Jerusalem during the Millennium (Psa. 2; Zech. 14). Look at the parallel passage in Nahum 1:15—"**O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts [Zech. 14], perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee: he is utterly cut off.**" There's no doubt that the *primary* application is to the Millennial reign of Christ. But in Romans 10:15, the Apostle Paul makes a *secondary* application to the
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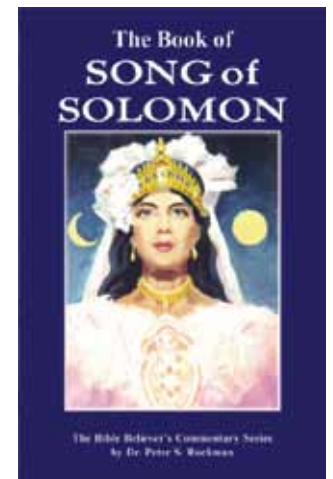
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Barzillai, the Aged Christian

Continued from 3
David was not able to pay him back. Unlike the cheap opportunists all around, Barzillai did not stop to calculate what it might cost him or if this would turn out as a good investment in his favor. He helped his king because he was worthy and it was right.

Jesus Christ is a worthy King to serve, no matter what the cost. Many Christians will serve as long as there is something in it for them, whether it be recognition or money or a stepping stone to greater things. When Jesus Christ wanted to feed 5,000 men, He first asked for a lunch from a lad (John 6:9). The boy could have kept it; after all, it was his. Besides that, there was little chance he was going to get anything in return for giving it up. When was the last time you worked for Christ without regard for what was in it for you?

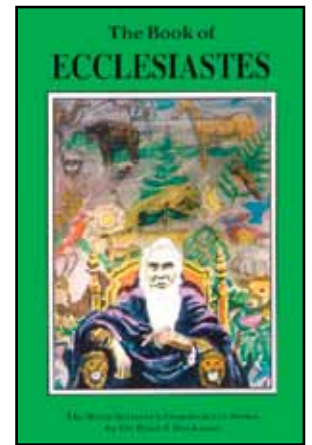
Thirdly, Barzillai GOT A YOUNGER MAN INTO THE WORK IN HIS PLACE (vs. 37). Barzillai tells David that even though he cannot go over, he has a young man named Chimham whom he would like to see get into the palace with his king. What a joy to help someone else get into the great calling of God's work: to help a young man learn how to preach on the

street, to point his heart to foreign missions, to answer to the call to pastor, to become a soulwinner, to teach the Bible, etc. Can you point to anyone whom you have helped along into this great cause of Christ, or are you only concerned with self? Do you know the joy of knowing that someone is serving the great King in part because of your help? Chimham goes over with David because of Barzillai (vs. 40). A young man can now know the joys of fellowshiping with the King because of an aged Christian.

These are just some of the marks of an aged Christian. Winter has its advantages. "The hoary head" can be "a crown of glory, IF it be found in the way of righteousness" (Prov. 16:31). There are some great joys in the aged Christian life that you cannot know as long as you are living for yourself. Why don't you purpose to get up if you've messed up and start doing something for Jesus Christ? You cannot find any of these marks on the "Christian

Internet" or by joining the "Tea Party." These are marks that are etched by spending time growing old for your King. These are things that only the Judgment Seat of Christ will play out.

When King David is on his deathbed, he remembers three men. Two of them were opportunists that were in it for themselves: Joab and Shimei (1 Kings 2:5, 8). David reminds Solomon to pay them accordingly. The third is Barzillai (1 Kings 2:7), and David makes sure his sons are to eat at his table for the kindness shown. One day soon, the Lord Jesus Christ will call you home. Will there be any kindnesses you've shown your King to be remembered?



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How to Interpret The Bible

Continued from 10 preaching of the Gospel in this age. That's *two* applications of the same passage, given by the Holy Spirit.

14. The law of the "gap." The Bible often skips periods of time without comment. The Bible skips everything in the life of Christ between the time He was twelve years old and the beginning of His ministry when He was thirty; the only thing you will read about that time period is: "**And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man**" (Luke 2:52). Any further speculation into the details is just worthless conjecture that can only lead to false interpretations of the Scriptures like the "Aquarian Gospel," which says Jesus traveled into the East during that time to learn His wisdom. That way you can dismiss what He says as being plagiarized from Buddhism, Hinduism, and Zoroastrianism. They have to make Jesus Christ a religious thief like Mohammed.

15. The final "law" is the law of *emphasis*. It states that you should never overemphasize or underemphasize a doctrine unless the Scriptures do. Some people, like the Catholics, ignore the great doctrines of salvation like justification by faith and imputation. Some Christians "go to seed" on a doctrine until they become useless to God, like the Hyperdispensationalists and Hyper-Calvinists do with election and predestination. You need to keep a balanced approach to the Scriptures and place the emphasis where God does. One should study and teach the whole "**counsel of God**" from the Bible (Acts 20:27), but the emphasis should be placed on the great fundamental doctrines of the

faith like the inerrancy and authority of the Scriptures, the Deity and virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, salvation through Jesus Christ alone, and the return of Jesus Christ both for His own at the Rapture and later as conquering King at the Advent.

Those are the "laws," or principles, of proper Biblical interpretation. Every heresy taught in the Church today can be traced back to a violation of one of those laws. The important thing that will protect the believer from deception in these matters is to accept *what* the Scriptures say, *where* they say it, to *whom* they say it, and above all, to accept the Scripture as the words of God

and not *men* (1 Thess. 2:13).

(The material in these articles was taken from chapter 7 of *What Saith the Scriptures?*, chapter 4 of *How to Teach the Bible*, and Appendix 38 of the *Ruckman Reference Bible*.)

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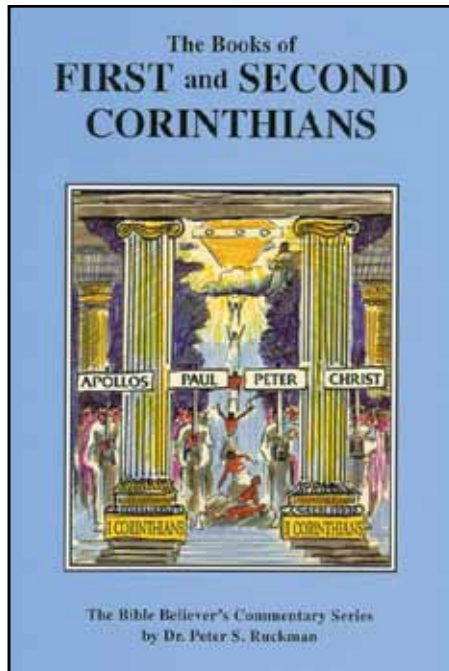
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Come Before Winter

Continued from 7
it is due; you had better forgive those who have wronged you.

Another thing you ought to do while you have the chance is *take opportunities to do the Lord's work*. Do you have the opportunity to do something for God right now? You had better do it while you can; you won't always have the opportunity. Jesus said, "**the night cometh when no man can work**" (John 9:4). You had better serve God while the opportunity presents itself.

If you have the chance to give to the Lord's work, you had better not wait. Right now, in the United States, money given to the church is tax exempt. It's not in Germany; it's not in Mexico; it's not in Indonesia; it's not in Iran. With the way Obama is bankrupting this country, I wouldn't be surprised if it won't be here before too long. Give while you can still get credit for it.

Some Christians think, "Well, I'll leave the church or the missionaries a lot of money in my will when I die." Well, that's fine and dandy, but it does you no good. That Bible says that at the Judgment Seat of Christ, you get rewards for the things done *in your body* (2 Cor. 5:10), not after you're dead.

You had better *study your Bible* before the cold and the night set in. Are your eyes still good where you can read and study the word of God? Then you had better do it while you can. At 92, I have macular degeneration in both eyes, and I can barely read the Bible and my notes in the pulpit. I sure am glad I read it over 150 times while my eyes were still good; I don't have the chance now.

Here you are in the United States, and you have the freedom to study the Bible. For a long time they didn't have that freedom in Spain; Francisco Franco burned all the Bibles. They didn't have that freedom

for 75 years in the Soviet Union and the Eastern Block. Christians still don't have that freedom in Saudi Arabia or Iran; the Bible is banned in those Moslem countries.

I read the story of some German POWs held in a Russian prison for twenty years after WWII was over; they had given up any hope of getting home. Of course, the Communists had taken any Bibles on the prisoners away from them, but there was one guy there who had managed to stash away a few pages of Scripture. Whenever he could, he would go from cell to cell and read those pages to his fellow inmates.

There was one old German there who had been reduced to rags, but he had one suit he saved to wear on special occasions. Whenever his buddy would come around to read the Bible to him, that old German fellow would shave and put on his one suit. He did that to reverence the word of God when he had a chance to hear it. You had better read your Bible and study it while you have the chance. The time might come when you can't.

You had better *witness* while you still can. The time is coming, Christian, when you will be arrested or executed for witnessing. Obama and his bully boys in the Pentagon have already threatened to court martial any soldier, sailor, airman, or Marine who dares witness to his buddies. Some of the brethren, like Chuck Colson, Billy Graham, James Dobson, and Bill Bright, got together a while back and all agreed that Christians shouldn't witness to certain groups, like Jews and Catholics. You had better witness while you have the chance, because nowadays, even some Christians are out to take that ability away from you.

If you are lost, you ought to *receive Christ* while you are

able. The Apostle Paul wrote, "**NOW is the accepted time; behold NOW is the day of salvation**" (2 Cor. 6:2). You may not get the chance before you die. You could be under so many drugs that you can't do anything.

You had better trust Christ before your heart becomes so cold and hard that it can't respond to the wooing of the Holy Spirit. Dr. George Truett used to have a rich banker who came to his church there in Dallas, Texas from time to time. Dr. Truett had worked on that guy for years to get him to receive Christ, but he never did. Well, the time came when that banker's daughter, a girl about twelve years old, was killed in a car wreck. Truett preached the funeral, and he rode with that daddy to the grave side. On the way, he noticed that that banker wasn't very emotional as you would expect someone to be upon losing his little girl. Nevertheless, Truett tried to press the fellow one more time about trusting Christ. "You know, preacher," said that banker, "I used to be worried about things like that. It used to really upset me. But something has happened to me, and it doesn't bother me anymore."

I'll tell you what happened. The thermometer dropped until there was ice on top a foot thick. That fellow was frozen to death spiritually.

There is one last thing I would like to say about the text: you had better prepare for the future before you run out of time. There used to be an estate over in Milan, Italy which was owned by a millionaire, and he had a beautiful garden on it. A gardener lived on the estate who took care of that garden year round, and it was so impressive that tourists would come from all over the world to see it.

One time a tourist asked that gardener about his mas-

ter. That gardener told the tourist, "The master only comes through here about four times a year." "Do you know when he is coming?" asked the tourist. "No," said the gardener, "I have to keep up the garden, though, for when he does visit." "Well," said the tourist, "the way you take care of this garden, it looks like you are expecting him to be here tomorrow." "Oh no," said the gardener, "not tomorrow, sir; TODAY."

Now I trust you "got the message." I'm talking about your Saviour showing up, as He promised, to take you to Heaven (John 14:3). You had better prepare for Him right now while you have the chance, because once He comes, it will be too late to get ready.

"And every man that hath this hope in him [the hope of His appearing—vs. 2] purifieth himself, even as he is pure" (1 John 3:3).

You need to "**do thy diligence to come before winter**" and be prepared NOW to meet Him "**in the air**" (1 Thess. 4:17).

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Pray for Caesar

Continued from 8 friend but Jesus. If this hasn't been made clear to you by now, it will be soon enough.

Personal work and street-corner evangelism are meeting with more and more unfriendliness and outright hostility. The spiritual climate for those still trying to win souls is deteriorating rapidly. America right now is not walking away from God; it is running away. As our society becomes gradually more perverted, Christian parents will need lots of wisdom and supernatural vigilance to keep their children from the moral pollution that floats like a toxic cloud over almost all our communities.

Still, we are to thank God for America and for all the Jews He allowed to come here. If there were not a strong Jewish lobby in Washington, the American-Israeli Political Action Committee (AIPAC), the policy of our government would be significantly more unfavorable toward Israel than it is now. The one thing that would turn the Lord decisively against our nation more than what the Supreme Court did with the redefinition of marriage is for this administration to pressure Israel into giving away more of the land God gave the Jews.

Caesar courts destruction when he puts his hands in God's pocket and steals from Him. Pray for Caesar so he forsakes this folly, or our nation may have to relive the nightmare of September 11, 2001, and probably on a larger scale. You cannot poke your finger in God's eye and expect a national day of thanksgiving to serve as a pass excusing you from the judgment you recklessly brought upon yourself. Thanksgiving is great, and I thank God it is on our calendar. But if you are saved,

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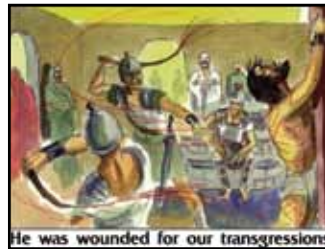
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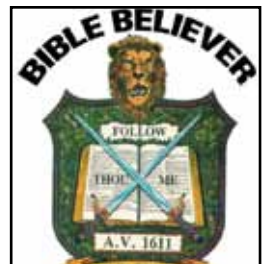
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The Answer

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Christian College believes)
. . . . There is no perfect English translation; this is why we study the Greek and Hebrew The Bible is indeed the Word of God insofar as it agrees with the wording of the original Greek and Hebrew

autographs.”
That is very typical of Christian higher learning. They are liars—habitual liars. They do not have the “originals” to defend. They do not have any “originals” to compare with anything. Therefore they do not know what “closely

agrees” *with anything*. Have you ever considered how *stupid* that really is? I am talking about the chairman of the Bible department (at that time) at Bob Jones University. It’s like putting up a “wanted” poster with no picture saying “We are looking for this guy,” when you don’t know what he looks like to begin with. Did it ever occur to you why the Lord didn’t preserve the “originals”? If you did have them, you wouldn’t know they were the “originals” anyway. *You fool, you’d better look at what’s in your hand.*

Hey preacher, don’t give in to the peer pressure to compromise on the word of God,

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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.

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The Answer Pray for Caesar

Continued from 15
the King James 1611. Those who bowed at the altar of “the Greek and Hebrew” will try to intimidate you, threaten to withhold money and/or meetings, and maybe even dangle a “position” over your head. *You can’t afford those kind of preacher-friends.* They are “**enemies of the cross**” (Phil. 3:18). It didn’t say, “enemies of Christ”; it said, “**enemies of the cross of Christ.**” They refuse to bear the shame and reproach that attends being a Bible believer; i.e., bearing the cross (Luke 9:23). They are scared to death of ridicule. If they were to believe that the *King James* Bible is the infallible words of God, they might be called a “Ruckmanite” (whatever that is!).

I personally know several preachers who fit that description to the “T”; I mean, men

whom I thought were strong *King James* Bible believers that “caved” *BECAUSE THEIR INCOME DEPENDED ON IT.* Most of them wear two faces. When they are around Bible believers they are Bible believers, and when they are around Greek and Hebrew “geeks” they automatically are translated into a *preacher of another color.* Chameleon preachers—they are known by how fast they can change colors.

Maybe not today, but someday, they are going to get caught, for “**judgment must begin at the house of God**” (1 Pet. 4:17). The Judgment Seat of Christ will reveal ALL of the “wood, hay, and stubble” (1 Cor. 3:12), all of the wasted time searching for the answer “out there” somewhere, when they had the answer in their hand the whole time: *the King James Bible.*

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 you don’t need a national holiday to remind you of just how good the Lord has been to you, right?

When I got saved in 1978, I heard a preacher list seven gifts the Lord gave him at salvation, and I copied them in my Bible. The following are seven very good reasons why every Christian should be giving thanks in his heart and with his lips daily to his Lord. When the Holy Spirit entered my body, I received *forgiveness of sins, power to live clean, peace of heart and mind, daily provision of needs, grace for trials, a sinless body to come, and eternal life already begun.* I believe I did pretty well, wouldn’t you say? Look at what a Jew, Jesus Christ, gave me for free; He didn’t charge me a cent. He paid for all that with His own

blood, and the best is yet to come, regardless of how Caesar treats me down here.

I thank God for America and for my dad who brought my mother and me to this country from Germany in 1946. I thank God America stood by Israel when Israel needed a friend, and I pray our leaders will never forget the Jew who helped bankroll the American Revolution, Haym Solomon. When we needed a friend, Mr. Solomon stepped into the breach. The Jews were used to save our nation, and the Jew was there again to save your soul.

“And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed” (Isa. 61:9).