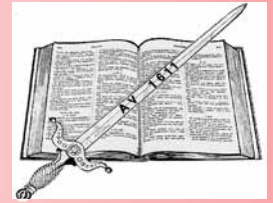




Bible Believers' Bulletin

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



Vol. 37 No. 10

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October, 2013

HOPHNI and PHINEHAS

By Tom Waddle

If you don't think that America has had it, you haven't been reading your Bible, or else you have your head in the sand to what's going on around you. Our prisons are so overcrowded that prisoners are being turned loose by the thousands before they finish their sentence (see California). America has been rightly named “an incarceration nation.” There are more people in prison in America than any other nation in the world. Our juvenile centers are full, with more coming.

When the Lord really wants to destroy a nation for living like the devil, He will do two things to it: let the women take charge and turn the children loose (mass school shootings, drugs, and teen pregnancies, etc.). **“As for my people, children are their oppres-**

sors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths” (Isa. 3:12).

The Duke of Wellington once said, “The thing that impressed me the most about America is how well the parents obey the children.” If you have spent any time in a supermarket, you can say

“amen” to that. There you'll witness *daily* an event of a beaten-down young mother being ordered around by a little six-year-old (*or younger*) *spoiled brat*.

Hophni and Phinehas (1 Sam. 2–4) are great examples of what you *don't* want your kids to grow up to be like. Here, the fault is put mostly on a *bad* father. **“Wherefore**

kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honour-est thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel” (1 Sam. 2:29). Although it does appear that Eli gave them some kind of warning, **“Notwithstanding**

Continued on 3

The Crossless Christ

By Robert Militello

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For MANY walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you EVEN WEEPING, that they are the enemies of the CROSS OF CHRIST: Whose end is

destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)” (Phil. 3:17–19).

In all of Paul's epistles, there is not a more biting criticism or sharper rebuke aimed at blood-bought saints who have rejected the rule of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Paul

calls them belly-worshippers. These are believers whose professed love for their Saviour melted away like ice cream on a Las Vegas sidewalk in July the moment the Holy Spirit led them to put the cross to one of their cherished earthly affections.

These brothers and sisters in Christ are not the Lord's enemies by any means, for they are part of his very own Body. Paul knows that the friends of this world have no interest in the world which is to come. The enemies of truth have no use for God's words. Look at America today. What could be more obvious? What Brother Paul has put his finger on here in verses 17–19 is a class of Christians who are enemies of the Lord's cross.

Now, it is one thing to be indifferent toward something, but it is another thing to hold that object in contempt, setting yourself as an enemy to it. Is it possible to be saved and be in such a condition as this? Obviously yes, for when Paul thinks about these saints, he cries. Brethren,

Continued on 6

Esau, the Profane Christian

By Brian Donovan

In Genesis 25, we are given the birth of two boys who become great lessons for the study of types in the Bible. Jacob, the younger, becomes the stereotypical Jew, and Esau, the elder, becomes a great type of the profane Christian. As any Bible student should learn quickly, there are no “Christians” in the Old Testament, nor is salvation the same in both Testaments. But we are talking about types, and one of the best ways to arrive at truth from the Bible is to pay attention to when the Lord shows you how one thing is a picture of another.

In Hosea 12:10, the Lord says He uses **“similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets,”** so any Bible reader who ignores types is missing out on a lot of truth.

Now when these two boys are first born as twins, it appears at first glance that one of them is not given a fair shake. Esau comes out **“red, all over like a hairy garment”** (Gen. 25:25), and his younger brother, Jacob, takes hold of his heel as a picture of supplanting himself into the position of his oldest brother. If you stop reading right there, you can come to the false conclusion that Esau gets some

bad breaks he didn't deserve. There shouldn't be any question that the two boys are NOT born equal—neither physically nor emotionally.

Something with which every sinner should come to grips is the truth that *God is not fair*. If you can reject all the lies you've been fed since kindergarten, you might have a chance to get somewhere and find your purpose in this life. God does not exist for you; you exist for Him (Rev. 4:11). God is not crying over you being born ugly or with a handicap; He actually takes credit for it—read Exodus 4:11. Did

Continued on 5

How to Interpret The Bible

(Part one of two)

The key to correctly understanding any passage in the Bible is found in 2 Timothy 2:15.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Naturally the new “Bibles” (including the “New King James Version”) all change the verse so you will lose that key: either by *not studying* or *not rightly dividing*. If we are going to study the Bible so we can rightly divide it correctly, then we must *interpret* the Bible correctly.

Now Peter said, **“no prophecy of the scripture is of any PRIVATE interpretation”** (2 Pet. 1:20). That means if you are going to get the correct interpretation of any given passage of Scripture, you can’t go to any *man* or *church* to get it. In the Scriptures, the Interpreter of Scripture is the *Author Himself: God*, specifically *God the Holy Spirit* (2 Pet. 1:21).

There are three notices in the Scriptures that no religious leader, scholar, teacher, or church can interpret *anything* in the Bible. Here they are:

Genesis 41:16—**“And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God?”**

Daniel 2:28—**“But there is a GOD IN HEAVEN that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days.”**

Luke 24:45—**“Then opened HE [talking about Jesus] their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures.”**

God is the Interpreter of the Scriptures; not any Pope, Cardinal, Bishop, Priest, profes-

sor, pastor, Rabbi, or Greek or Hebrew scholar. The promise by Jesus is: **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”** (John 16:13). What is that **“truth”**? It’s the *word of God*: **“Sanctify them through thy truth: THY WORD IS TRUTH”** (John 17:17).

Now how does the Holy Spirit lead and guide us **“into all truth?”** First Corinthians 2:13—**“Which things also we SPEAK [see 2 Pet. 1:21], not in the WORDS [cf. John 6:63] which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; COMPARING SPIRITUAL THINGS WITH SPIRITUAL.”**

So to understand what God the Holy Spirit said in His Book, you have to compare the WORDS of the Scriptures with the WORDS of the Scriptures, since those **“WORDS . . . are SPIRIT, and they are life”** (John 6:63). The guiding principle of the Reformation was *“Sola Scriptura”*: the *“Scriptures alone.”* You don’t interpret the Scriptures by Catholic teachings or traditions, or by the dictates of the Popes, Cardinals, and Bishops. You interpret the Scriptures *by the Scriptures*.

Now there are certain *“laws”* or *“principles”* that guide the student of the Scriptures in correct interpretation. These are not the *“divine fiats”* of any church or school but practical principles gained from studying what the Scriptures say. Every Christian should be familiar with them, so here they are:

1. The law of *literal interpretation*. Always take the plain, literal meaning of every verse except where it is *absolutely impossible* to do so or unless the passage is *obviously figurative*. You say, *“How do you*

know when it’s figurative?” *The Bible defines its own figures*. For example, when Jesus talks about *dogs* and *swine* in Matthew 7:6, there is no need to go to scholarship or any *“church”* to get some private, artificially affixed definition of those terms when Simon Peter told you they were *lost male false prophets* and *lost female false teachers* in 2 Peter 2:1, 22.

The Bible says what it means and means what it says. When I open up a teaching session on the radio, I always say, *“I will give what the Bible SAYS about the lesson and not merely what it is PRESUMED TO TEACH.”* I am not *primarily* concerned with what a passage *“means”* or *“teaches”*; I want to know what it SAYS. The old saying is: *“Where the plain sense of Scripture makes good sense, seek no other sense.”* You are not to place any allegorical meaning to the Scriptures that the Holy Ghost does not place there.

Now when the sense of a passage is *obviously* figurative, that’s one thing. Those **“sheep”** in John 10 are obviously not the four-legged critters in the field eating grass, but again, *the Bible defines its own figures* (John 10:25–29).

One of the problems the Catholic Church has is it takes certain passages that are *figurative* as *literal*, and vice versa. The glaring example is that **“cup”** and that **“bread”** in Matthew 26:26–28. The Catholic Priest will tell you, *“That’s the literal body and blood of Jesus Christ given under the figures of bread and wine.”* He will tell you that even though Jesus Christ said, **“The flesh profiteth NOTHING”** (John 6:63), and Paul told you that the commu-



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

nion of the body and blood of Christ is the *Christians themselves* (1 Cor. 10:16–17). The bread and the new wine in the Lord’s Supper are *figures*, and the Bible tells you what those figures mean.

2. The law of *first mention*. The law of first mention is that the first time a word appears in the Scriptures sets the *“tone,”* associations, and basic meaning of the word throughout the rest of the Scriptures. Of course, the word’s definition may be clarified, extended, contrasted, or qualified; but the original meaning will run throughout the entire Bible.

For example, the first time the word *love* shows up in your Bible, it has to do with the love of a father for his son, not the love of a man for a woman. That’s to show you that if you ever want to get in the love of God, you have to

Continued on 4

Dr. Ruckman’s Schedule

October 25-27
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HOPHNI and PHINEHAS

Continued from 1
they hearkened not unto the voice of their father" (1 Sam. 2:25).

So the first lesson learned here is that being in the ministry (*Eli was a priest*) is no guarantee that your children are going to turn out well. If you read the entire passage, you'll see that Eli spoiled his kids (vs. 29). He didn't believe in whipping them. He did not teach them any discipline or self-denial, and he wouldn't lead them the way they should go. He even allowed them to hinder and not respect the work of God (vss. 12–25). The Lord got so fed up with them that He eventually killed both of them (1 Sam. 4:11) *just like He said He was going to do* (1 Sam. 2:34).

Here are ten ways that guarantee you'll produce a Hophni or a Phinehas:

1. Begin from infancy to give your child everything he wants; he will grow up believing that the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him; it will encourage him to pick up phrases that will blow the top of your head off.

3. Never give him spiritual training. Let him decide for himself what is right and wrong and which "religion" to choose. But for Mary's sake, *make* him brush his teeth and comb his hair.

4. Avoid the use of the words *NO* and *WRONG*; he may develop a guilt complex. This will lead him to think that when he is arrested for stealing a car, there is something *wrong with the police*.

5. Pick up anything he leaves lying around: books, shoes, clothes, etc. This will teach him responsibility belongs to *someone else*.

6. Let him read or watch whatever is available. *Be sure* his drinking glasses and clothes are clean, but let his

mind feed on garbage. Later, you will "*wonder*" why he went to jail for rape.

7. Quarrel frequently in front of him so he will not be surprised when the home breaks up.

8. Never make him earn "*his own*." Give him all the money for which he asks. This will ensure you can provide for him the rest of his life.

9. Always take his "side" against the neighbors, teachers, and policemen. Make sure he knows they are all prejudiced *against him*. When he is old, he will see no need to "repent" because he is always right.

10. Never discipline or correct him. The "don't make him cry" philosophy will assure weeping parents later.

The Bible plan includes:

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it . . . Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Prov. 22:6, 15).

"Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying" (Prov. 19:18).

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Prov. 13:24).

"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:13–14).

Now there are always people who "abuse" these verses and take them too far. Yes, there is such a thing as whipping your children too much. You can be assured that the news media will always point out those that do and label all Bible believers as "child abusers," but those are exceptions. The Bible never advocates "child abuse." There is a dif-

ference between breaking your child's *will* and breaking his *heart*. "Child abuse," from the standpoint of the Bible, would be exposing your child to rock music, smoking, drinking, drugs, adultery, fornication, lasciviousness, gays, sex perverts, and HBO (Hell's Box Office). If that is true, NBC, CBS, and ABC are guilty of child abuse.

I would have never imagined seeing the way children are treated today. A mother in Texas killed all five of her children by drowning them in the bathtub. Another mother abandoned her three children—a five-year-old, a three-year-old, and one in the crib—by themselves for hours, only for them to be burned to death in a fire, just so she could go out and party with her friends. It's happening more and more

every day. People wonder why so many children are being "sexually abused," while society excuses pornography flooding the airways night and day. This nation is only reaping what the generation before has sown—*parents living like hell*.

This is what happens when you kick the Bible out. Don't let the kid read the Bible in school; he'll get the chance in prison. You've heard it rightly said, "Back to the Bible or back to the jungle." We are seeing it take place before our very eyes.

The Bible plan is the only plan that *has* worked or *will* work. How do I know this? It is validated *every day* by the National Education Association's effort to get rid of it. What they are doing is NOT working.

October Special

The holidays are upon us and the rush of buying at the last minute will increase. The Bible Baptist Bookstore is encouraging you to do your shopping early.

As a way of encouraging you, we are offering a twenty percent (20%) discount on your orders placed from October 1st to October 31st.

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How to Interpret The Bible

Continued from 2
 get in His Son because “the Father loveth the Son” (John 3:35, 5:20 cf. Rom. 8:39; Eph. 1:6).

Another good example is the word *sinner*. The first time that word shows up in the Bible, it is a reference to *sodomites* (Gen. 13:13). So throughout the rest of Scripture, sodomy is a *terrible sin* (Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9). It’s not “gay” or “an alternative lifestyle”; it’s one of the filthiest sins any sinner can commit.

3. The law of *primary application*. Every Scripture has one, primary application: the *doctrinal* application. The Scriptures are given *first of all “for doctrine”* (2 Tim. 3:16). The *doctrinal* meaning of a passage should be fixed before any other application is made.

4. The law of *progressive revelation*. The truth of a doctrine is made increasingly clearer as more revelation was given in Biblical history. You are not going to get the total truth of the Incarnation, the Virgin Birth, the Atonement, the Antichrist, or the Second Advent in Genesis 3:15. All those subjects are broached in that verse, but to completely understand those doctrines, you are going to need Isaiah 7; Micah 5; Isaiah 53; Psalm 22; Romans 5; Galatians 4; Luke 1–2; 1 Timothy 3; 2 Thessalonians 2; Isaiah 63; Revelation 14; Revelation 19; Habakkuk 3; etc. Those were all revealed later, and piece-meal at that. Moses had more revelation than Adam or Noah; David understood more than Moses; Isaiah had more than David; the apostles had more than any of the Old Testament writers. Why? Each had more revelation from the Scriptures they were given than the ones

before them: *progressive revelation*.

5. The law of *subsequently added details*. This is where Astruc and the higher critics made a fouled-up mess of the Old Testament. Instead of realizing Genesis 2 gives you details on the creation of man not found in Genesis 1, they had the two chapters written by two different authors and put together later by a “redactor” (instead of being written by *Moses*—Luke 24:44; John 1:17, 5:45–46). Genesis 5 says nothing about Enoch prophesying anything; you don’t find that out until you get to Jude 14–15.

A corollary to this law is: “Never interpret a *clear* passage by an *unclear* passage, or a *complete* passage by an *incomplete* passage. Always interpret the incomplete or unclear by the complete and clear.” For example, here is an

incomplete statement: “Who-soever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery” (Luke 16:18). Here is the *complete* statement: “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, EXCEPT IT BE FOR FORNICATION, and shall marry another, committeth adultery” (Matt. 19:9).

A good rule of thumb, in regard to this law, is never base your *foundational beliefs* on any verse that is obscure in any way. If the verse is not *absolutely clear*, don’t begin your theological system there. Now I am not saying that certain verses aren’t Scripture and aren’t inspired and aren’t authoritative; *they are*. But they are NOT *foundational verses* on which to build a theology. In a house, every piece of building material is a part of the

Continued on 10

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Five Ghastly Truths

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Gen. 3:1).

There are five great truths found in the Bible that will destroy any College, University, scholar, teacher, professor, or educator in the country any time those truths are faced. Those truths show up before you have gone four chapters into the Book.

That is why most schools in this country are infected with what we call “Bibliophobia”—*fear of the Bible*. All public schools, Colleges, and Universities are chocked full of emotionally upset, terror-stricken, paranoid *idiots* who believe the Bible is the greatest danger to education. They would (and *do*) gladly put up with condoms, rape, abortions, promiscuity, unwed mothers, rock music, drugs, mass shootings, sex perversion, cross-dressing, venereal disease, AIDS, and any other kind of social and moral anarchy before they would deal with the Bible.

It is also why the “educational community” rejects the first three chapters of Genesis in favor of a “fairy tale for grown-ups”—*evolution*. They would rather reject the proven laws of science (the Laws of Thermodynamics and Biogenesis) than face these ghastly truths that tear their academic system to pieces from top to bottom and leave it nothing but a smoldering ruin.

1. Satan is a *real, personal* force to be dealt with in the *intellectual realm*. My father

Continued on 7

Esau, the Profane Christian

Continued from 1

you read it? If you can accept that truth, you have a chance of making the right response to it and quitting all the alibis about the “bad breaks” or “impulsive mistakes” in your life.

When the Lord says “**Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated**” (Rom. 9:13), there must be something more to it than being born red and hairy. After all, is there “**unrighteousness with God?**” (Rom. 9:14), and “**Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?**” (Gen. 18:25). Before Esau was ever born, the Lord decreed that “**the elder should serve the younger**” (Gen. 25:23). Did that mean Esau was predestinated to go to Hell? No, it required a response to what the Lord God handed him, and it was NOT to go to Hell. What the Lord handed Esau was a position. He didn’t have to like it, but he had to respond. Esau responded the wrong way and earned the name “**profane**” (see Heb. 12:16).

The *King James* Bible defines the word *profane* right in

the verse where it is used by giving the example of Esau selling his birthright. Though the word today is mainly used to mean “dirty or “vile in language,” it’s main idea is one who emphasizes the physical over the spiritual. To be profane is to have little or no interest in spiritual things and to elevate the temporal things ahead of the eternal. Esau did not sell his birthright to Jacob on a whim; he sold it in his heart long before that day he came home from the field hungry and tired (Gen. 25:29–34).

Jacob knew the birthright was for sale and set about in his own conniving way to get it. Say what you will about Jacob, at least he coveted the eternal things, though he went after them the wrong way (Gen. 27). Jacob desired the things that the Lord thinks are important and went after them, while Esau was profane.

Esau is a great picture of the profane, Laodicean Christian of today. He is “**a man of the field**” (Gen. 25:27), and

since “**the field is the world**” (Matt. 13:38), he is a worldly man. Esau is all physical, all animal. He is alive today as the extreme sportsman. He would skydive, drop fifty feet at a time off a cliff on a snowboard, be the first to dive off the bridge, or get into cage fighting. Esau makes a dad proud of his athletic accomplishments and abilities to bring home the twelve-point buck. Even though there may be nothing sinful or wrong about any of those things in themselves, that is ALL Esau is: profane, fleshly, physical. If Esau can keep the birthright, okay; but if it can be traded for something more practical, more necessary, and more immediate, then it can be given up.

For the profane Christian, being faithful to attend church services, visitation, or helping others are all okay as long as they do not get in the way of the Stanley Cup or Lombardi Trophy. The profane life will pick up the Bible once in a while and read a psalm or

Continued on 13

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The Crossless Christ

Continued from 1
 take note that there are many in this category who will own Jesus Christ with their mouths while rejecting His cross. Look around, and you'll notice that in our nation there is no shortage of belly-worshippers going to church on Sunday, while pretending to have given their hearts to the Lord.

Why must there be a Judgment Seat of Christ for all born-again saints? Haven't we all been forgiven of all our sins? Wasn't this matter handled at Calvary, and haven't we been reconciled by the blood of the cross? Who are these saints whose names appear on a list entitled "enemies of my cross"? Paul says their "**end is destruction.**" What does he mean? Don't we all die (unless Tit. 2:13 intervenes)? Won't we all grow old and get sick and have our bodies fall apart like the saints of old, unless the Lord has us going down a less traveled road? Are "**the enemies of the cross of Christ**" facing a peculiar kind of destruction that will scorch them horribly and leave them naked? Oh no, Brother Militello, you mustn't allege such things, for "**God is love,**" right?

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes" (Luke 12:47).

To get a clearer picture of what will happen at the Judgment Seat of Christ and how

the enemies of the Lord's cross will fare, you need to read Luke 12:41-48. Our God has no problem identifying winners and losers in His vast army of servants. I had a boss at work years ago who was fond of saying that he knew who was really working and who was pretending. You think the Lord doesn't know what occupies your mind constantly?

"Enemies of the cross" are belly-worshippers. They occupy their minds with physical and temporal needs continually. Jesus said to "**lay up . . . treasures in heaven**" (Matt. 6:20). I'd like to know how much is spent each year by God's people on their pets (animals like to eat), hobbies, recreation, restaurants, etc., and compare it to what is given to get the Gospel out all over the world.

The servant who knows his Lord's will and doesn't prepare to do it will get a beating. Jesus said to Peter that servants like that will "**be beaten with many stripes.**" "**God is love.**"

When Paul wrote the Philippians and said "**God shall supply all your need**" (Phil. 4:19), did you ever consider that you may need a serious beating for being a foolish, slothful, and selfish servant, professing to love Jesus while loving your own belly first? The cross is a death instrument. Our human nature abhors the cross. Only a continual surrender to the

Holy Spirit within us can enable us even to approach the cross (self-denial), much less embrace it.

You've got to be blind not to realize that the Body of Christ in America wants, for the most part, Christ without the cross. In churches where the cross is preached most, seats will be empty. If you mention self-denial to a Christian in America today, he thinks of a Trappist monk in a monastery somewhere.

You want to see a sanctified bunch of actors and actresses doing their thing in church? Watch the pious expressions on their faces when singing "I Surrender All" after hearing a Holy Spirit-filled preacher cut and slash in pieces some of their idols. Many of these saints could do very well at a screen test given by a Hollywood studio. Some of them can even cry on cue. Some of you reading this better thank God the Rapture hasn't happened yet; you need to buy some "**gold tried in the fire**" (see Rev. 3:14-22) and do some soul-searching while your feet are still walking on earth.

Now, whatever is going to be done for our Lord will be tried by fire. We must prepare ourselves to fight, and morale will have to be high. Those believers who are among us and are "**enemies of the cross of Christ**" will smother the fire in you like a pillow held forcefully against your mouth and nose. Beware of those who tell you

that you lack love or do not evidence the "sweet spirit of Christ," whatever that is. Pick your company carefully. Seek fellowship with those who are not afraid of men's faces (Jer. 1:8).

Notice the standard David used in choosing those with whom he would fellowship.

"I am a companion of
 Continued on 9

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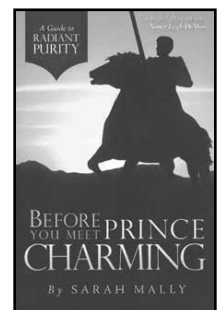
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Five Ghastly Truths

Continued from 5 didn't want to face that truth. My father was a smart man. He graduated from MIT in Boston where he studied Geology and Engineering. He was an industrial engineer in civilian life and an Army officer in military life (Captain in WWI and Colonel in WWII).

When I witnessed to my daddy and broached the subject of the Devil, he became indignant and said, "I don't believe in a Devil! I don't believe there could be any opposing force to God in the universe. If there were, you couldn't count on the laws of the universe holding up. For example, in building a bridge, you couldn't count on the tensile strength of steel to hold up."

I said, "Dad, Satan isn't interested in the tensile strength of steel; he's interested in DAMNING YOUR SOUL."

My father was speechless. He got up and literally *ran* out of that room. What was the problem? My dad didn't want to face the ghastly truth that when it came to his intellect, he had to deal with a real Devil out to destroy him.

That Book says of Satan, "**Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee . . . Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty**" (Ezek. 28:3, 12).

Satan is smarter than the smartest man you know. He was able to take down the wisest man who ever lived (Solomon) without breaking a sweat. And if you are going to deal with him, you must reckon with him in the intellectual realm.

Why is that? Because "**the world by wisdom knew not God**" (1 Cor. 1:21). Because "**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools**" (Rom. 1:22).

That's why Jesus said, "**I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things**

from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes" (Luke 10:21). That's why Paul wrote, "**If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise**" (1 Cor. 3:18), "**Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men**" (1 Cor. 1:25). When it comes to the wisdom of this world that comes from the Devil (James 3:15), God said, "**I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent**" (1 Cor. 1:19).

When you enter the intellectual realm, you are in Satan's territory. Why else would a famous, well-educated man say, "I really believe the truth is *creationism*, but it's *not rational*." Stop and analyze that statement. That's some professor with a Ph.D. after his name professing that he *knows* evolution is a joke, yet he still holds to it because he doesn't want to believe the alternative—creationism—is "rational." By "rational," of course, he means in line with *his own* reasoning and logic. He doesn't care whether the thing is *true* or not, as long as he can reason it out with his own noodle.

Hell will be full of people who rejected what they knew to be so simply because they couldn't make sense of the truth in their own minds. God's not behind that kind of insanity; the Devil is. It's the Devil's purpose in life to make you elevate your own brains over what God said in His Book.

2. The root source of all doubting and questioning the Bible is *Satan*. The first time you pick up the Devil in that Book, he is questioning what God said: "**Yea, hath God said . . . ?**" When Satan tempts Christ, he says, "**IF thou be the Son of God . . .**" (Luke 4:3). You see him raise that doubt? The Lord tells Satan about Job being

perfect and upright, and Satan says, "**Doth Job fear God for nought?**" (Job 1:9). That's the Devil raising a question about what God said right to the Lord's face.

So when a professor in a College classroom gets up and begins to cast doubt on the Bible and make you question what it says is so, that is not "intellectual honesty" or "academic freedom"; it is, in reality, true *Satanism* at its heart. That goes for a *Christian* College, University, or Seminary just as it does for a State or secular institution. When a teacher at a Christian College says, "A better translation should be . . .," "the *KJV* has unfortunately rendered this word as . . .," "the original Greek (or Hebrew) says . . .," that's the Devil speaking through that fellow just as he did through Simon Peter in Matthew 16:22–23.

Jesus told those Pharisees and scribes, "**Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye CANNOT HEAR MY WORD**" (John 8:43). Why couldn't they hear His word? Because their "daddy" was working in them.

"**Ye are of your father THE DEVIL, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He**

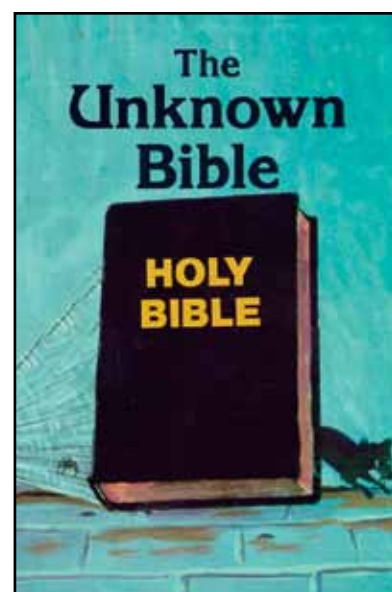
was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it . . . He that is of God HEARETH GOD'S WORDS: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:44, 47).

Doubting and questioning the Bible is *Satanic*.

3. All sin begins with either adding to or subtracting from the word of God. In Genesis 3, sin did not begin with Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit; it began with Eve changing what God said. In Genesis 3:2, she *subtracted* the word "**freely**" (cf. Gen. 2:16); in Genesis 3:3, she *added* "**neither shall ye touch it**" (cf. Gen. 2:17). She also changed "**thou shalt surely die**" (Gen. 2:17) to "**lest ye die**" (Gen. 3:3).

Satan will *add* to the word of God to create false doctrine. The Catholic Church added fourteen books to the Old Testament (the Apocrypha) so they could teach indulgences and Purgatory (Ecclesiasticus 3:30; 2 Maccabees 12:43–45), the immaculate conception of

Continued on 8



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The Crossless Christ

Continued from 6
all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts" (Psa. 119:63).

"They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word" (Psa. 119:74).

"Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies" (Psa. 119:79).

In each of those verses, the word "fear" shows up. It shouldn't take you long to determine who among the saints you know really fears God or who just professes to fear God. When I taught school, I had a habit of telling my students that if they hung with winners they had a good chance of becoming a winner. Also, if they hung with losers, they would become one. I said that there were only two categories of adults—winners and losers—and that the overwhelming majority of what our schools were producing consisted of losers. Now I meant all this in the sense of achieving something in life, not specifically in a spiritual sense, but the lesson is applicable.

This is true in our labor for the Lord. Our commitment to Jesus Christ will be tried early on in our pilgrim journey. Your potential to render effective service for your Saviour will depend upon your willingness to cut loose from losers.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us" (2 Thess. 3:6).

Notice that is a command. Look at Romans 12:1 where Paul wants the brethren to present their **"bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."** Paul in

Romans 12:1 is *beseeking* the brethren, while in 2 Thessalonians 3:6, he is *commanding* the brethren. There's a difference, and that tells you how God feels about you keeping company with **"enemies of the cross."** So look around and see if your "teammates" have the same burning desire to please the Lord as you think you have. Check carefully, or you'll pay dearly later on. Your **"end"** will be **"destruction"** or Paul lied.

I believe in these last days, before we leave **"this present evil world"** (Gal. 1:4), the Lord will allow Christians in America to have their faith stretched a little.

"Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand" (Judg. 7:3).

Gideon was called to the battle. The Lord "had it in" for the Midianites. When the troops got to the place of battle, they were allowed to yield to their fears and return home. Christians in America have been thoroughly spoiled since World War II ended, and few will want to leave their comfort zone if they hear the sound of battle. In May of 1940, the German panzers rolled over the French army, the largest in Europe at the time. German intelligence had found that a spirit of defeatism had set in among the French troops long before the battle had started. Is there a fighting spirit among God's people today? What do you think?

Later in Judges 7, the Lord decides to cut down the ten thousand that did not quit the field in verse 3. From mount Gilead they were brought

Continued on 11

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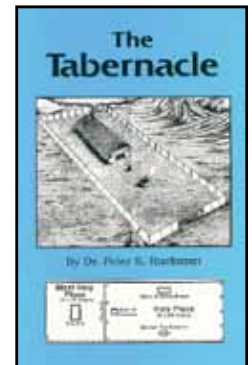
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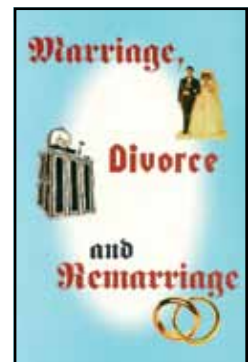


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How to Interpret the Bible **NOTICE!!**

Continued from 4 house: the timber, the brick, the glass, the wiring, etc. But you don't build the house on a foundation of *light bulbs*.

Why would you base your beliefs about New Testament salvation on a verse like Act 2:38? The verse was spoken at a *Jewish* feast to *Jews* and *Jewish proselytes*; not to any "Christians." It was *never* subsequently repeated by any apostle, including the one who originally said it. It was spoken before the Pauline revelation to the New Testament churches was given. And when the apostles and elders met in Jerusalem to decide what it took for a man to be saved (Acts 15), not one mention was made of baptism, as in Acts 2:38. So why would you base your theology on a verse with that many problems involved in it?

Do you want a good verse with which to start when it comes to salvation? Here it is: **"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life"** (1 John 5:12). Do you see how simple that is? Every word in that verse is a single-syllable word. You either have the Son or you don't. If you do, you have life, and if you don't, you don't have life. You don't have to worry about "repent, believe, confess, and be baptized." Do you have the Son of God? If so, you have life.

6. The law of *complete mention*. The Bible, without any reference to anyone's

"church" or "tradition," is God's complete revelation on anything important to our spiritual lives. Peter wrote:

"According as his divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises" (2 Pet. 1:3-4).

7. The law of *context*. The "context" is the verses surrounding the passage under consideration. One of the ways to "wrongly divide the word of truth" is to take a verse out of its context. Once a verse is separated from its context, you can make it mean *anything* you want. That is Biblical *anarchy*. The old saying is: "The three laws of Bibli-

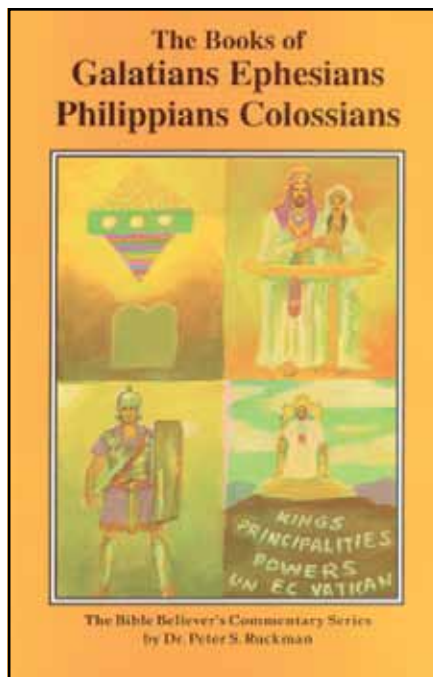
cal interpretation are *context, Context, CONTEXT!*"

The old saying is: "A text without a *context* is a *pretext*." A good example is how every Fundamentalist, Conservative, and Evangelical handles 2 Timothy 3:16. Every one of them will tell you that the only Scriptures "**given by inspiration**" are the *original autographs*. That's because they remove 2 Timothy 3:16 from its context—2 Timothy 3:15. Paul told you exactly about what "**scripture**" he was talking in that verse. It was "**the holy scriptures**" Timothy knew "**from a child**." Well, Timothy didn't have the originals of Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, et al. but what he had was "**given by inspiration**."

Continued on 15

Due to a switch over to a new accounting program, as well as the sheer expense of producing a publication like the *Bible Believer's Bulletin*, we will no longer be able to offer current issues of the *Bulletin* free online. Current issues of the *Bulletin* online will be offered at the very affordable price of fifty cents an issue. Issues from a year back will be archived and made available for free, and this will continue as new months' issues come out. But to access current *Bulletin* issues, you must purchase individual issues. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding. We strive to bring you the best in Bible teaching and admonition in the *Bulletin*. The New Testament commentary on this is: "**the labourer is worthy of his hire**" (Luke 10:7).

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The Crossless Christ

Continued from 9
down to the water. They were being tried, so their journey made them thirsty. Water is essential to physical life, and when a man lives only to sustain his life here on earth, his "affection" for "things above" (if he had any—Col. 3:2) goes out the back door.

Look at verse 5 in Judges 7. The Lord determines who will go into combat by the way they put water in their mouths. Talk about His ways not being our ways (see Isa. 55:8), this is classic. Bible readers know what happened here. Out of the original 32,000 potential fighters, only three hundred were called and chosen to fight. How a man brought water to his mouth was the deciding factor as to his combat readiness.

Belly-worshippers in our churches today are just fixated on satisfying their own physical needs. This is why the Lord brought them down from the mountain to the water. Only three hundred out of ten thousand brought the water to their mouths with their hands. Nine thousand, seven hundred fighters went down on their knees, bowing their heads to the water, and drank like dogs. The desire to slake their thirst was overwhelming. A dog has no awareness of things above, and to an animal, the need to stay alive is always the predominant factor in its behavior.

Paul said that for him "to live was Christ" and that "to die was gain" (Phil. 1:21). Preach that in America today. Was Paul unloving when he made this observation on the many that claimed to be following his "ensample"?

"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's" (Phil. 2:21).

To the saints in Colosse he says, **"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the**

right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH" (Col. 3:1-2).

Supposedly, our identification with Jesus Christ means we are dead to the things of this world. Death is a five-letter word. Five in the Bible is the number of death, and if your Bible teacher or pastor doesn't know that, he needs to get a handle on this word: **STUDY** (five letters also).

Notice also the word *cross*. How many letters? Romanism makes a big thing of the cross, naming schools, churches, hospitals, and cemeteries "Holy CROSS." I get a chuckle out of that, because if any church despises the cross, it's the Roman Catholic Church. That bunch will not go to the cross with its self-made effort to gain salvation by good works. It will not go to the cross with its non-biblical, Babylonian traditions, its love of money, and its desire to control the nations of this world through political intrigue and deceit. The only thing that church ever took to the cross was God's own word. Popes, bishops, and priests burned people who put God's word above "Holy Mother Church."

If you are saved today, it is because you came to the cross of Calvary with your filthy rags of self-righteousness and trusted that the blood of Jesus Christ would cleanse you from all sin. You were saved by embracing the cross. Did something change? Why do so many of God's elect rejoice in being saved from a fiery Hell to come, but show little enthusiasm over being saved from the power of their idols right now. Why is that? Dying to self-will now, embracing the cross now, is what the Holy Spirit tells us. We hear Him today when we read His word, and if you hear Him today, why harden your heart and put yourself among those whom Paul

called "enemies of the cross of Christ"?

Is life down here away from the face of the Lover of your soul so precious? Can you have a genuine longing to be

with Jesus and despise the cross? Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem. He told the elders of the church at Ephesus that the Holy Spirit
Continued on 14

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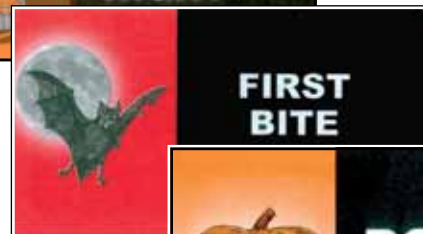


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Five Ghastly Truths

Continued from 8 from what God said. That is a ghastly truth that not even the "Fundamental" and "Conservative" Colleges want to face.

4. The present condition of man is a *fallen, deceived, self-righteous ignoramus*. He is a "buck-passer" who is hiding from God and who uses his education and religion as excuses to disobey God. What Paul said about the Jews can well be applied to every other member of the human race.

"For they being IGNORANT of God's righteousness, and going about to establish THEIR OWN righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:3).

The Book says, **"As it is written, There is NONE righteous, no, NOT ONE: There is NONE that understandeth, there is NONE that seeketh after God"** (Rom. 3:10-11).

No man is born into this world as a child of God with God as his Father. He is a child of *disobedience* and a child of *wrath*, under the control of the *world, the flesh, and the Devil* (Eph. 2:2-3). He is *spiritually dead* (Eph. 2:1) and under the condemnation and wrath of God (John 3:18, 36). Outside of Jesus Christ, no religion or good work can change that condition (Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5).

5. *All ages*—like the Age of Reason, the Age of Enlightenment, the Middle Ages, the Atomic Age, the Space Age, the Age of Aquarius, the New Age, etc.—*always end in decay, entropy, randomness,*

and *disintegration*. Evolutionists are forced to admit this every time they put up their time charts where they have to push everything back by millions, billions, and trillions of years. Those time charts are based on radioactive *decay*: carbon-14, potassium-argon, uranium-lead.

In the Bible, every dispensation ends in *apostasy*. God creates **"the heaven and the earth"** (Gen. 1:1) and anoints one cherub and sets him over the throne of God (Ezek. 28:14), and Lucifer rebels and is pitched out of the third heaven, ruining the original creation (Isa. 14:12-14; Gen. 1:2). The Lord starts over and creates man and puts him in a beautiful garden with a beautiful wife, and Adam and Eve fall and get thrown out of the garden. The dispensation of "innocence" ends in thorns, sweat, pain in child-bearing, and bloodshed.

God puts man under conscience, and men get so wicked that the Lord has to drown them out in the Flood. Noah and his sons leave the ark and form human governments, and you can read how that ends up in Genesis 11 at

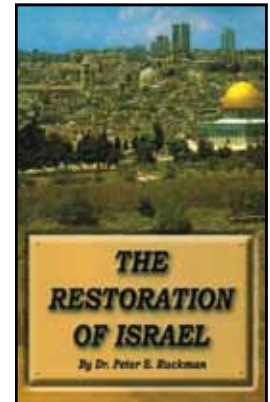
the Tower of Babel.

God calls one man out of Ur of the Chaldees and puts him under promise with imputed righteousness by grace through faith, and his family ends up in Egypt as slave laborers. God calls His people out of Egypt and gives them His Law, and they fall into idolatry over and over and over again until God sends in Nebuchadnezzar to wipe them out and carry them off into captivity.

Seventy years later, He brings them back to the land and has them rebuild the Temple. He protects them from genocide by Esther and gives them two good leaders (Ezra and Nehemiah). What do they do? They intermarry with the heathen and count the service

Continued on 16

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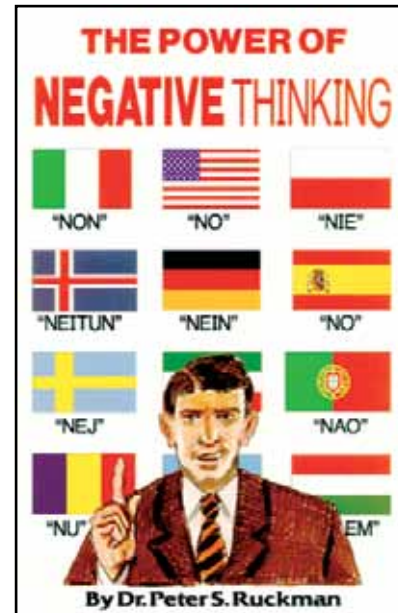
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Esau, the Profane Christian

Continued from 5 two, only as long as it doesn't dip into its Internet and Facebook time. When you read for what Esau sold his birthright, it sounds despicable (filling his belly just one time), yet the profane Christian fares no better. Bible believers today sell out their birthright just as cheaply. The red pottage might be acceptance, friends, family, a job, or filthy lucre; but that is all it takes for them to "rise up" and go their own way after eating (Gen. 25:34). As the profane Christian continues on "**his way**," time and circumstances bring about more choices that further disrupt the spiritual discernment of this child of God.

Some years pass, and Esau takes the wrong wife. He may have not purposely chosen to displease mom and dad (Gen. 26:34-35), but it was not a big deal if it did. After a few years of the profane life, the deception is strong enough to make him think he is actually going to get the blessing of his father (Gen.

27:1-4). Jacob did not have to go through all the gyrations to obtain the blessing; the Lord had already promised that he would get it. The Lord just uses Jacob and his mother's sin to fulfill what He already was going to do.

But all the while Esau is out hunting his deer, he actually thinks he is okay. It isn't very long, and just along the next ridge is his twelve-point buck. The confident marksman quickly has the gutted deer over his shoulder, with enough time to stop and brag to his Canaanite buddies of his prowess. After a few jokes and backslapping, Esau returns to Dad's tent, to the awe of the servants there. But he is only one step into Dad's tent when he feels like something is wrong. A minute later, the platter of venison crashes to the ground as the profane life thunders home.

Hebrews 12:17 adds the ominous postscript to the story

about the profane life when it says: **"he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."** Though God will forgive anything His child does, there are some things that cannot be undone. Are you listening, Esau? A wasted youth of not living for Jesus Christ cannot be brought back, no matter how sorry you are.

The profane Christian is sorry that things come out the way they do, but it is always someone else's fault. Esau simply blames Jacob's supplanting, conniving ways instead of his own profane life (Gen. 27:41). It may be God's fault, the kids' fault, the wife's fault, but never Esau's. That response just digs an even deeper hole, and in bitterness, more decisions are made in this profane life (Gen. 28:8-9). More years pass, and Esau is now satisfied without the birthright and without the blessing

as he says, **"I have enough"** (Gen. 33:9).

How can a Christian have enough when he doesn't have God's blessing? That profane life is a far cry from the Apostle Paul who says, **"Not as though I had already attained . . . brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"** (Phil. 3:12-14).

Don't wait for the platter to come crashing down. We have a God who delights in mercy (Mic. 7:18)

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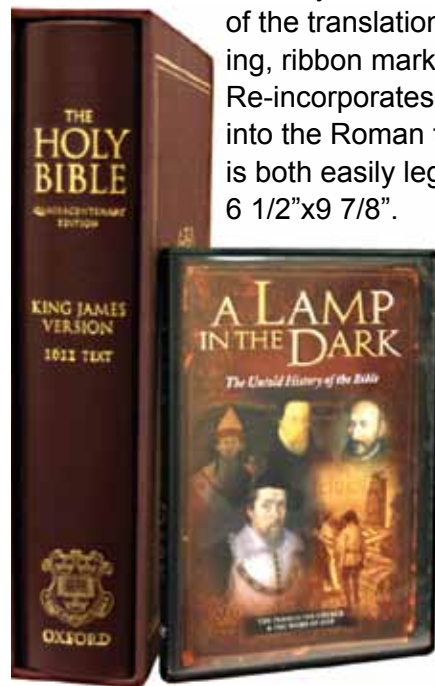
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The Crossless Christ

Continued from 11 showed him that “**bonds and afflictions**” would go with him (Acts 20:23). Imagine trying to coax Paul into taking an easier road. There is always someone around who is able to make a strong case for you to quit being dogmatic. Christians today have preferences, not convictions. There is a very big difference between the two; you know that, don't you?

Hear the words of a man who saw the cross as life and not death.

“But none of these things move me, NEITHER COUNT I MY LIFE DEAR UNTO MYSELF, so that I may finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24).

Gideon had his three hundred, and once upon a time, America had thousands who preached Christ and Him crucified, not an effeminate Jesus who stayed in the manger and never went to the cross with His own human nature. Are you marching to Zion with the cross, or did you lose it along the way when you discovered that it might cost you something to be a Christian? If you dropped it, pick it up now. There's an ill wind blowing in our land against God's word. Don't let the Lord see you fold like a cheap umbrella when that wind becomes a gale.

Stand up for what you know is true. Open your mouth boldly, and let the chips fall where they may. Amen!

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See page 3

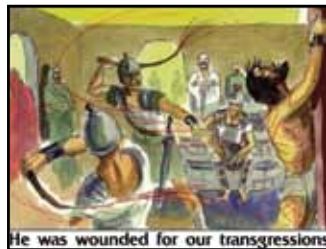
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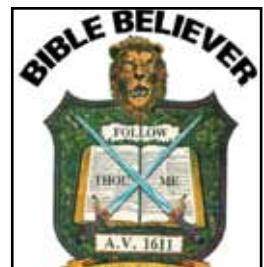
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How to Interpret the Bible

Continued from 10

Now in regard to this matter of context, one should always ask when studying a passage: "WHO is speaking, and TO WHOM is he speaking?" The Bible lists three different groups to which it is addressed: the *Jew*, the *Gentile*,

and the *Church*—the spiritual Body of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 10:32). Another question to ask is *when* is the passage in question being addressed? *In this age*, the Holy Spirit places every believer into the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13), and in that Body, "There is neither

Jew nor Greek" (Gal. 3:28). So *in this age*, if a person is not a saved person in the Body of Christ, he is either a *lost Jew* or a *lost Gentile*. But in the Old Testament, there was no Body of Christ, and once the Body of Christ is caught up at the Rapture of the Church, believers are no longer placed in that Body. So in the Old Testament, the Tribulation, the Millennium, and Eternity, there are *saved Jews* and *lost Jews*, *saved Gentiles* and *lost Gentiles*; and a distinction needs to be made there as well.

Next month, we will give you the final eight rules for interpreting the Bible correctly.

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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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Five Ghastly Truths

Continued from 12 of God as a burden. So God stops speaking to them for four hundred years.

At the end of that time, He sends them His Son to redeem them, and they crucify Him. The Lord gives those Jews a second chance in the book of Acts, and they reject Christ over and over until the Gospel goes to the Gentiles and God stops dealing with them as a nation.

Do you see the pattern yet? It's not like evolution at all, where things get better and better as you go along.

The Lord sends the Gospel to the Gentiles, and the Church Age ends up in the Laodicean church period where Christ is ready to spew that church out of His mouth. Even the Millennium ends in apostasy. The Devil is released from the Bottomless Pit and

deceives the nations. They surround Jerusalem to overthrow Jesus Christ, and God sends fire from heaven and burns them all alive.

All ages end in apostasy. That is not a "religious tenet"; it is a *fact of history*. It is a ghastly truth that goes against "the war to end all wars," "peace in our time," "our last, best hope for peace," the "New Deal," and Obama's "Change."

Now those five ghastly truths will tear up any College or University campus. In this case, "**the truth**" won't make anyone "**free**" (John 8:32) because it is *rejected* (John 8:45). These five truths will crush the American educational system into small bits and blow them away "**like the chaff of the summer threshing floors**" (Dan. 2:35).