

Bible Believers' Bulletin

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

Vol. 38 No. 1

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January, 2014

Fame, Fortune, And Happiness

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The old adage is: “money cannot buy happiness.” Another one is: “the best things in life are not for sale.” Of course, anyone would realize this if he just thought about it for a while. In modern, pragmatic America, though, thinking doesn’t pay off, so Americans go on living in a dream world and pretend money will solve all their problems. *It won’t.*

The truth is, money cannot buy peace of mind. It cannot buy a clear conscience. It cannot buy good health (although it can pay the doctor and hospital bills in the case of poor

health). It cannot earn the love of a *clean, decent* woman. It can’t give forgiveness of sins or obtain eternal life. Those are some of the “best things in life.” They are not for sale in any market place in the world, and they never have been.

A thorough survey of the world’s most rich and famous people more often than not reveals a mob of discontent, unhappy, miserable *misfits*. When football player Joe Namath was asked about happiness, he replied, “I guess I have never been completely happy a day in my life.”

Continued on 20

Salty or Sweet?

By Robert Militello

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth GOOD FOR NOTHING, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matt. 5:13).

Jesus said in Mark 9:50, **“Have salt in yourselves.”** Paul tells us in Colossians 4:6, **“Let your speech**

be alway with grace, SEASONED WITH SALT, that ye may know how to answer every man.”

Are you salty, Christian? Is the Body of Christ in America in these last days able to slow the decay and moral rot of the society around us? Does our stand for Jesus Christ have a bite to it, one that is in sharp contrast to the lifestyles of those around us? Does our speech have an edge on it, a cutting edge, or do we always speak with a mouth full of sugar? What good are we without salt? We’re **“good for nothing.”**

What we see today in our frightful slide into spiritual bankruptcy is

Continued on 11

In This Bulletin

Salty or Sweet?	1
Fame, Fortune, and Happiness.....	1
How You Can Know You Are Saved ..	2
Jonathan, The Christian Friend	7
Conform.....	25

How You Can Know You Are Saved

(Part One of Two)

Outside of “Christianity,” there are several “religions” in the world, and none of them can teach you anything worth knowing. You see, none of them can tell you for certain whether or not you will go to Heaven when you die. Sadly, many professing Christian “sects” and denominations can’t tell you that for certain either.

No Catholic knows for certain where he is going when he dies; his church teaches him that he *can’t* know for certain where he is going until he dies. No Charismatic knows for certain; he might commit the “unpardonable sin.” No one in the Church of Christ knows for certain; once a Campbellite has repented, believed, confessed, and been “BUPTized,” *he still doesn’t know where he’s going when he dies*. If you don’t believe that, *just ask one of them*.

Nobody in the Mormon Church knows for sure where he will end up when he dies; neither does any Seventh-day Adventist. Anybody who is counting on his *works* as part of his religion to get him to Heaven always doubts his salvation. He is never sure about it because he never knows whether he has done *enough* good works.

There isn’t a Moslem who ever lived who knew for certain he would make it to Paradise. The prime example is *Mohammed himself*; he said, “By Allah, even though I am the Apostle of Allah, yet I do not know what Allah will do to me [in reference to the Last Judgment]” (*Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. V, no. 266). In fact, Mohammed was *terrified* of Judgment Day (*Hadith*, Bukhari, Vol. II, no. 167). That’s Allah’s “prophet”; that’s the camel jockey all Moslems are to obey like they obey Allah (Sura 4:80). He had no more assurance of salvation than the Pope or Mother Teresa. No Moslem can say, **“I known whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day”** (2 Tim. 1:12).

No Jew knows for certain where he is going when he dies. All he can do is *hope* he makes it to Heaven by praying and giving alms. Some of the stricter ones might throw in keeping the Ten Commandments (along with Rabbinical *tradition*—Mark 7:6–13), but if they ever have a lapse in observing them, they’re done for (Deut. 27:26; Jer. 11:3; Ezek. 18:24–26; Gal. 3:10; James 2:9–11).

No Hindu or Buddhist knows where he will end up. Neither one knows whether he is going forward or backwards on the “Karma scale,” or whether he is getting rid of his karma so he can get off the wheel of life and death.



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

Continued on 3

How You Can Know You Are Saved

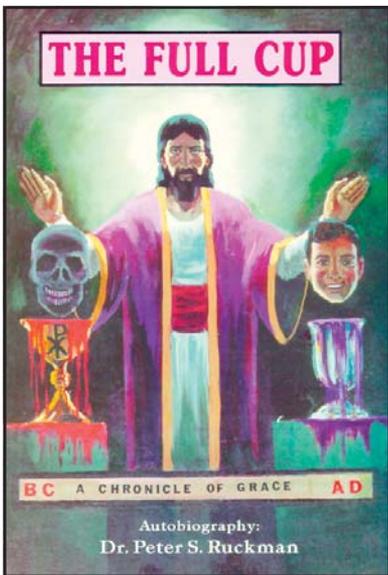
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The thing that separates Biblical Christianity—notice, I said *Biblical* Christianity; not Catholicism, Protestantism, Greek Orthodoxy, or some cult—from Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Mohammedanism (Islam), Confucianism, Zoroastrianism, Shintoism, Jainism, and all the rest of the religions is *absolute knowledge* of where you are going after you are dead. *Paul* knew where he was going when he died (2 Tim. 1:12). *John* knew where he was going when he died (1 John 5:13). *Peter* knew where he was going when he died (1 Pet. 1:3–4). That being the case, if you are a professing Christian, *why don't you know?*

When those apostles died, they didn't think they were going from the "great beyond" off into the "beautiful isle of somewhere," only to arrive *nowhere*. The Apostle Paul said, "**For me to live is Christ, and to die is GAIN**" (Phil. 1:21). How can it be "**gain**" if you don't know you're going to Heaven? I mean, if you are in danger of losing your salvation by works, you might miss Heaven and split Hell wide open. But the reason death was "**gain**" to Paul was because he knew when he departed this life, he would "**be with Christ,**" which he said "**is far better**" (Phil. 1:23). For the born-again Christian, "**to be absent from the body**" is "**to be present with the Lord**" (2 Cor. 5:8). A Bible-believing Christian can *know* where he is going when he dies.

That Bible says, "**These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life,**

Continued on 4



(Plus Postage—see page 8)

The Full Cup

(A Chronicle of Grace)

Autobiography of

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

He lived 27 years alone "**having no hope, and without God in the world**" (Eph. 2:12). Then, after being "**accepted in the beloved**" (Eph. 1:6), he went another 43 years as the Lord's "junk yard dog," a sentinel placed at the doors of the *Authorized Version* of the Holy Bible to take the seat of the britches out of "godly" scavengers who used the Book with which to make a living when they didn't BELIEVE it!

429 Pages
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How You Can Know You Are Saved

Continued from 3

and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:13). The Bible-believing child of God can know all kinds of things an unsaved Catholic or Protestant doesn't know.

Protestantism and Catholicism cannot replace *Biblical assurance*. Any “Christian” who is counting on his works to save him or keep him saved has been knocked from “amazing grace” to a *floating opportunity*. He *hopes* he's saved; he *thinks* he'll make it to Heaven; he *supposes* he'll all right with the Lord; but he *knows* nothing. All a religious man depending on his works can say is: “Judge not lest ye be judged” or “You think you're right and everybody else is wrong.” He has thrown out (or *misused*) the Bible, so he is willfully *stupid*.

Now, there are ways you can know you are going to Heaven to be with God and Christ when you die. You may not have all these evidences, but they will give you a knowledge of eternal security. So here are seven ways you can know your soul is saved.

You are commanded to **“examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves”** (2 Cor. 13:5). So see how many of these indications you have so you will have good reason for knowing you'll end up with the Lord in Glory when you die.

1. You can know you are saved if you have a *love for God*. Paul says that a Christian who is saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is to **“rejoice in hope of the glory of God”** (Rom. 5:1–2). When Paul speaks of **“hope”** he's not talking about wishful thinking like these religionists who say, “I *hope* I've saved.” He's talking about an **“earnest expectation”** (see Rom. 8:19; Phil. 1:20) based on the promises of God (Rom. 15:4). Paul goes on to say in Romans, **“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us”** (Rom. 5:5). That's not just God loving you; that's you loving God (Rom. 8:28; 1 John 4:17–19).

“The first and great commandment” is to **“love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”** (Matt. 22:37–38). But as a New Testament believer, you don't love out of mere commandment; your love for God is a response to God's love for you. John writes, **“We love him, because he first loved us”** (1 John 4:19). The place where He **“loved us”** was at *Calvary* (1 John 4:9–10; Rom. 5:8).

Did you ever hear of Mohammed loving Allah? You will search the *Koran* in vain to read Mohammed say anything like this:

“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God” (Psa. 84:2).

“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” (Psa. 41:1–2).

“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is” (Psa. 63:1).

Continued on 5

How You Can Know You Are Saved

Continued from 4

“I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications” (Psa. 116:1).

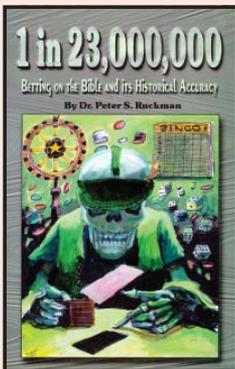
Do you know why you never hear Mohammed say anything like that to Allah? *Because Allah never did anything for him.*

My God (1 John 5:20; 1 Tim. 3:16) *died for me.* Moreover, He did it when I was His *enemy* (Rom. 5:10). **“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”** (Rom. 5:8). That was God’s love for us, and **“We love him, because he first loved us.”**

You say, “How do I know if I love God?” Well, how do you know if you love your wife; how do you know if you love your friends? If you love someone you want to spend time with that person; you would think well of that person. You wouldn’t misjudge or mistreat the one you love. You would rejoice in your loved one’s success and oppose your loved one’s enemies. Now let me ask you something: are those things true of you and God? Do you misjudge Him and think the worst of Him? Do you give Him the benefit when things go wrong in your life, believing that **“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose”** (Rom. 8:28). Do you spend time with Him by talking to Him in prayer and letting Him talk to you through His word? Do you rejoice in His success? Do you oppose His enemies—the world, the flesh, and the Devil? You can know if you love God or not!

2. Second, you can know that you are saved if you have *a love for God’s words.* David said, **“O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day”** (Psa. 119:97), **“Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold”** (Psa. 119:127), and **“My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly”** (Psa. 119:167). Job thought so much of the words of God that he said, **“I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my**

Continued on 6



Here is a Book, the Holy Bible, written by forty male authors, writing from three continents, through a period of more than 1,800 years; and it displays a *mathematical miracle*, DEALING WITH HISTORICAL EVENTS, that no computer could display with the ability to record 50,000,000 pieces of information per second.

What particular quirk of perverted logic would lead any “modern man” to overlook such a Book?

Alongside this Book, the Holy Bible, all other “holy writings” are cheap, shallow, superficial, religious nonsense.

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171 TOTAL PAGES
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(Plus shipping and handling. See pg. 8)

How You Can Know You Are Saved

Continued from 5

necessary food” (Job 23:12). Jesus said, **“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”** (Matt. 4:4).

Now let me ask you, do you feel about the Bible like that? Christians talk about **“God is love,” “God is love,”** while fearing the Book they are quoting when they say that (see 1 John 4:8). They hate all preaching from it that lays the emphasis where the Book lays it—that “man” is no good and *can’t* save himself, and that only through Jesus Christ and His blood atonement will any man get to Heaven (John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:9–10; 1 Cor. 15:1–4).

One time, a woman, trying to impress a visiting minister, said to her little girl, “Honey, go get that book that we all love so well.” The kid brought back a *Sears and Roebuck catalog*. (Saul’s sheep were bleating on him—see 1 Sam. 15:14.)

A wife had a husband who was always taking money from her purse to go gamble. Well, one Christmas she gave her daughter a ten dollar bill for a present and told her to hide it somewhere where her father wouldn’t find it and take it. After a while the girl came back to her mother with a big grin on her face and said, “I hid the money, momma, and daddy won’t find it this time because *I hid it in the Bible.*” Some of you haven’t cracked a Bible in so long that you wouldn’t know what was hidden in there (see Prov. 2:1–4).

Do you *love* the Bible? I didn’t say “recognize” it. Richard Dawkins, an unsaved *atheist*, recognizes the importance of the *King James Bible* to Western civilization, and it does him no good at all.

Do you *love* the Bible? I didn’t say “tolerate” it. George Bernard Shaw, the old atheist that he was, had a Bible that sat on a coffee table in his house. He never picked it up or opened it up to read it; he simply tolerated its presence there. That Bible lay there on that coffee table so long the cover stuck to the table, and when Shaw died, the table had to be auctioned off with the Bible stuck there on it. Do you know what Shaw said about that Book in his will? He said, “It is really a most unnecessary thing; I am glad to get rid of it.”

Now maybe you would never say such a thing about the Bible, but do you treat that Book like George Bernard Shaw treated it—letting it lie around for years, unopened and unread? A minister said to a man in his congregation one time, “If you looked at the words of God like you look at your watch in the service, we would get along a little bit better.” That’s true: if you read that Book and followed it like you ought, you would get along with “the brethren” a lot better than you do, and vice versa for them in regards to you.

In next month’s issue, we will give you the final five ways of knowing you are saved.

BBB New Format

Have you noticed anything different about your *Bulletin*? Well, we have switched to this new format so we can produce the *Bulletin* more efficiently. This new format will also help us keep the cost of shipping down. Don’t worry; you will still get the same amount of quality Bible-believing material (32 pages) as in the larger format (16 pages); that has *not* changed. We hope you enjoy this new presentation.

Jonathan, The Christian Friend

By Brian Donovan

The Christian life is not so much a code or a list of doctrines as it is a devotion to a Person. This walk is a heart in tune with a personal God and Saviour, revealed in the man Jesus Christ. This is a foreign thought to the old man of flesh. There is never a thought to him of loving and serving and spending time with anything or anyone he cannot see or touch. All of the Christian walk is one of faith and not sight, which goes completely contrary to the walk of flesh. The Bible is serious when it says, **“the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would”** (Gal. 5:17).

To be a friend of someone, there must be personal contact. That contact can be interrupted by distance, but no amount of mileage can separate **“very friends”** (Prov. 17:9). I can read the stories of the lives of some great men such as Melancthon, Farel, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Luther, and others; but without ever having had any personal contact, I cannot call them my friends. The choosing of your friends is something that heavily weighs on how your life comes out. Most will pick a friend based on the outward appearance or how he can benefit them. Young people will often pick a friend without any regard for the inner character, but instead how “cool” he is.

The Bible records the story of a great friendship and love that grows between Jonathan and David; it becomes a model and pattern for all of literature to emulate. In 1 Samuel 18:1, we are told **“the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.”**

Jonathan was the older of the two and had already proven himself a brave soldier and man in 1 Samuel 14, when he realized that his father Saul was not going to fill the need for someone to fight the Philistines. Jonathan took no thought for the two sharp rocks that were obstacles (1 Sam. 14:4) as he took on a stirring challenge from Israel's enemy (1 Sam. 14:10), all the while being spiritually minded enough to trust in the Lord's arm to get it done (1 Sam. 14:6). Jonathan was a brave, battle-experienced soul who looked up to his father as king, but never quite could knit together with Saul as kindred spirits.

Shortly after the battle of 1 Samuel 14, Jonathan sees David for the first time as a young lad, stepping out into Shochoh with only a sling. With all of the Israelite army watching in disbelief, the teenaged David defies the giant of Gath in the name of the living God. The others may have been mocking, but Jonathan watched this lad very closely. He knew there was a cause. He may have flinched at it himself, but Jonathan knew this ground and knew it was right. Immediately after this great victory over Goliath, Saul calls the young David to his house, and there begins the knitting of two souls that does not stop until death. The material of which David was made was exactly the material for which Jonathan was looking. It was just this kind of individual thinking, just this kind of bravery, just this kind of strength of spiritual life to which Jonathan craved to

Continued on 8

Jonathan, The Christian Friend

Continued from 7

knit. He found all this in David. For the rest of their lives, these two lives were of the same substance.

Jonathan remained loyal to his father, as a son should, but Jonathan and Saul never were able to click and never were of the same material. Saul never could understand this son of his, nor could he ever equal him. As the relationship knit closer between Jonathan and David, Saul was driven to anger enough to say to his son, **“do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion . . . ?”** (1 Sam. 20:30).

Jonathan knew exactly what he was doing. He knew there was nothing David could offer him outwardly. Jonathan was raised as an heir in a castle, while David was raised poor in the fields watching the sheep. But real friendship is not based on what is in it for you. This knitting in friendship of which the Bible speaks is an inner magnetism, something that just clicks with like spirits. Materials that are unlike each other cannot be knit together like this. That explains something about the audiences of Osteen and the TV preachers. **“Can two talk together, except they be agreed?”** (Amos 3:3).

Jonathan was no fair-weather friend. When David was hounded by Saul into the caves of Judea, it was never of Jonathan that he penned the imprecatory psalms. It was not of Jonathan he had to write: **“Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips . . . I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war”** (Psa. 120:2, 7). Nor was it of Jonathan that he had to write: **“For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me . . . But it was thou, a man mine equal”** (Psa. 55:12–13).

This kind of friendship lasts through troubles, especially when there is a personal sacrifice and cost involved. Jonathan handed over to David his right to the throne (his robe), as well as his strength as a soldier (his sword and bow)—see 1 Samuel 18:4. It cost Jonathan something to stick with his friend. When the last time came for these two men to meet on earth, it was Jonathan who went to David (1 Sam. 23:16–18). David had six hundred men with him (1 Sam. 23:13–15), but it was Jonathan’s visit that meant something to him.

Your King, the Lord Jesus Christ, has saved millions over the last 2,000 years, but He wants “Jonathan.” We know that one day soon He is coming for us personally, but who will go to Him? Your Friend is in the wilderness, and He is unwanted by this world. In truth, most of His own do not even want to take the time for His fellowship. Why not take Jonathan’s example and make it your own. Find Him and let Him know how much you think of Him.

It may be that when you get out into that wilderness of Ziph, that He will fit a cross for you that will bring Him great pleasure—a personal cross that you can carry for Him that will knit your souls together as Jonathan’s and David’s, a cross that will only fit your back and one that is necessary to change your

Continued on 9

Jonathan, the Christian Friend

Continued from 8

life into one that is not for self, but for your King. You will never be able to give Him too much. You will never be able to serve Him too much. You will never be able to out-love Him.

First Samuel 20:41—**“and they kissed one another, and wept one with another, until David exceeded.”**

The Death of Biblical Doctrine

In this work, Dr. Ruckman shows how modern Christianity has departed from several sound, Biblical doctrines and has substituted for them the false doctrines of tradition and apostate scholarship.



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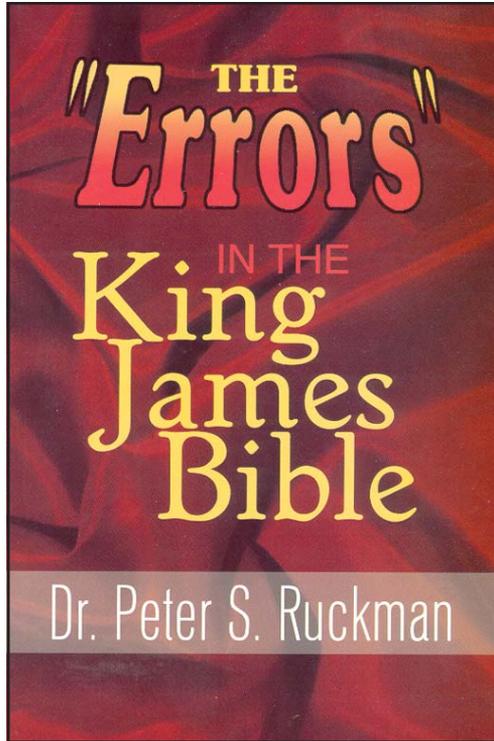
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Salty or Sweet?

Continued from 1

what Paul listed in 2 Timothy 3:1–5. Verse five is especially applicable to our time.

“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

We are loaded with religious people, walking about in a sanctimonious cloud of false piety, who enthusiastically major in sweetness and view controversy as a kind of spiritual leprosy. Where's the salt?

Years ago, I read the following in a Christian book, and it stuck me in the gut.

“To employ soft words and honeyed phrases in discussing questions of everlasting importance, to deal with errors that strike at the foundations of all human hope as if they were harmless and venial mistakes; *to bless where God disapproves, and to make apologies where He calls us to stand up like men and assert*, though it may be the aptest method of securing popular applause in a sophisticated age, is cruelty to man and *treachery to Heaven*. Those who on such subjects attach more importance to the rules of courtesy than they do to the measures of truth do not defend the citadel, but *betray it* into the hands of its enemies. Love for Christ, for His word, for the souls for whom He died, will be the exact measure of our zeal in exposing the dangers by which men's souls are ensnared” (James Henley Thornwell, cited by George Sayles Bishop, *The Doctrines of Grace and Kindred Themes*, 1910).

Here's the Apostle Jude wanting to write to the believers about the great salvation purchased for us by our Lord, but redirected by the Holy Spirit

to pen the following:

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and EXHORT YOU THAT YE SHOULD EARNESTLY CONTEND FOR THE FAITH which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

Jude appears just before Revelation. This is a last-days exhortation that calls us to “**contend**,” which is a verb meaning “to dispute” and “to contest,” according to Noah Webster. Where's the salt in these last days? Is it in the sermons of Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, Paul Crouch, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, et al.? God's people have been “sugared” to death. Their mouths are full of decay, and cavities abound. Spiritually speaking, the last days apostasy has gone from bad to worse, from the intensive care unit to the hospice.

Where are we prophetically right now? We are at the point of exchange. One woman is leaving in rebellion, typified by Queen Vashti in Esther chapter one, and another woman is about to take her place—a Jewish queen.

“And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev. 12:1).

An out-of-this-world transfer will soon throw this planet into chaos (Tit. 2:13). The Lord's Gentile bride will be removed to Heaven, and the way will be made clear on earth to replace her with a Jewish queen, a regenerated Israel. There are only two books in the Bible named for women. Ruth the

Continued on 13

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(Plus postage—see page 8)

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Dr. Ruckman compares teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, as presented in their own publications, with the word of God.

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97 Pages

Salty or Sweet?

Continued from 11

Moabites attaches herself to a Jewish redeemer. Later, the Holy Spirit positions Esther to become queen, first selected for her beauty and later found to be a woman of faith—see Esther 4:16.

Is there any salt left in the Gentile bride about to leave? Not much according to Revelation 3:14–22. She is **“wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”** (Rev. 3:13), and has an eye infection (see Rev. 3:18). Materialistically speaking, the bride is doing fine. She is **“rich,” “increased with goods”** and has **“need of nothing”** (Rev. 3:17). She's sweet, not salty; and she has little **“desire to depart, and to be with Christ”** (Phil. 1:23).

She looks with disdain upon street preachers and goes into an epileptic fit if you believe the 1611 *King James Bible* is God's pure word. This is a woman in love with *herself*. How much longer will the Lord keep her here? She has become an embarrassment to His name.

In Esther chapter one, Queen Vashti is summoned to the king's side at a banquet he has arranged for his princes and nobles. Vashti refuses to come and instead makes a feast for the women in the royal house. This act of rebellion didn't just pop up out of nowhere. Like termite damage, rebellion in the heart at first is unseen. All seems to be normal, at least for a while.

For 270 years, the *King James Bible* went unchallenged as the word of God for the English-speaking people. That Book had a power and authority that frightened sinners and made believers to **“walk circumspectly”**

(Eph. 5:15) and **“work out [their] salvation with fear and trembling”** (Phil. 2:12). With craft and cunning (I know more about the Jesuits than you do), the enemy of God's people set about to remove the saltiness from the salt. In 1881, the veracity of God's word was called into question with the publication of the *Revised Version* in England. The termites, those who wish to correct God's word and not be corrected by it, had now come out into the open.

Vashti rebelled openly against the king's command. Subjection to authority has been the overriding issue in all human affairs since the fall of Adam and Eve. One thousand years of Jesus Christ reigning as King in Jerusalem will end with rebellion against His rule. Vashti's act of defiance had to be addressed.

“For this deed of the queen shall come abroad unto all women, so that they shall despise their husbands in their eyes, when it shall be reported, The king Ahasuerus commanded Vashti the queen to be brought in before him, BUT SHE CAME NOT” (Esth. 1:17).

That was the end of Vashti. She was sent away. She had become **“good for nothing,”** and her dismissal opened a vacancy. A search committee was engaged to find a replacement, and Someone pulling the levers behind the curtain (like the Wizard of Oz) positioned a Jewish maiden to win the beauty contest and sit by the king's side.

“And the king loved Esther above all the women, and she obtained grace and favour in his sight more than all the virgins; so that he

Continued on 14

Salty or Sweet?

Continued from 13

set the royal crown upon her head, and made her queen instead of Vashti" (Esth. 2:17).

So where are we now on God's timetable? Esther chapter one reads like a giant billboard along the highway to Heaven in these last days. You can't miss it, unless your eyes are infected. In that case, you can get eyesalve and hope you see things the way they really are and not like you pretend them to be. We are becoming saltless. There are more Bible versions out there than Carter has liver pills. Negative preaching is scoffed at. We want our preachers sweet and not salty.

When I street-corner preach at one of Pensacola's long light intersections, I carry two signs along with a New Testament. Both signs are negative and have the word *fear* in them. One is Hebrews 10:31, and the other is Matthew 10:28. Maybe I'm too heavy on the salt, but in these last days, diabetes has become rampant with all the sugar folks consume. I'll take my chances at the Judgment Seat of Christ, O.K.?

Well, a number of times I've been heckled by some who read the signs and got upset. With a pious expression on her face, one woman, claiming to be a Christian, said to me that she didn't believe in fear. I answered her thus: "If you don't believe in fear and you exceed the speed limit by a good amount and see a Florida Highway Patrol car off to the side, why do you slow down? You do believe in fear, although not when it comes to God's word. So I'll give you some sugar because that's what you like. God loves you and have a nice day!" The fool

was answered according to her folly (see Prov. 26:5).

Now that's what you have today everywhere you go. Years of media brainwashing has conditioned folks not just to ignore negative truth, but to despise it. Many born-again saints have become so fearful of eliciting displeasure from nonbelievers that they have gone on a saltless diet. The soldiers that Jesus Christ has in His army in America seem more inclined to sell cotton candy at the county fair. Where's the salt?

Thank God, the salt is not all gone. There's still some around, but it is getting harder and harder to find. Back in 1980, I was a new Christian saved two years and eager to learn God's word. Someone gave me a copy of *The Sure Word of Prophecy* by Dr. Peter S. Ruckman. Like any fish recently taken out of its natural environment, I needed to be salted. The apostles didn't have ice machines by the Sea of Galilee.

Every book and Bible commentary I read by Dr. Ruckman helped set my face against this world and its "**rudiments**" (Col. 2:8). I turned away from the sweets that kids enjoy and looked for salt, the saltier the better, like pretzels. In the summer of '79, I had begun street-preaching at lunchtime on a corner across the street from the New York Stock Exchange: Wall and Nassau Streets. There were crowds of people there, many listening and others walking. I needed to get salty because the souls passing in front of me were in love with this world only. On that blessed corner, the Lord showed me: "**Be not afraid of their faces**" (Jer. 1:8).

Continued on 15

Salty or Sweet?

Continued from 14

“The fear of man bringeth a snare” (Prov. 29:25). This is why many blood-bought saints stay sweet and sugary while everything continues to decay rapidly. If the salt is not salty, it doesn't belong on the table. It serves no function. Often, I have heard Dr. Ruckman say about Christians here in this area that 90% of them aren't worth shooting. I don't believe that is an overstatement, not at all.

In Luke 17, Jesus cleansed ten lepers who had cried out for mercy.

“And ONE of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back,

and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but WHERE ARE THE NINE?” (Luke 17:15–17).

Ten sinners got saved and nine disappeared. Where did they go? Where's the salt? Imagine what would happen to our nation if 90% of our military went AWOL. No wonder the modern Presbyterian hymnals no longer include “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus” (Rev. 22:20)

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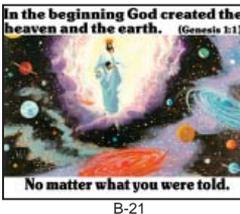
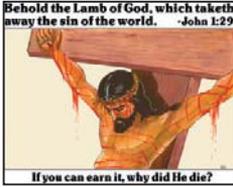
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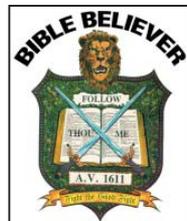
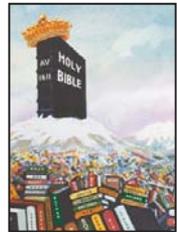
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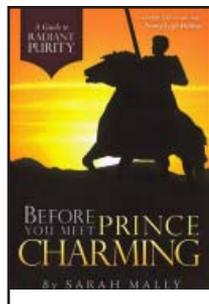
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Fame, Fortune, And Happiness

Continued from 1

Here are the testimonies of some famous Hollywood starlets, as reported by Walter Winchell in his column "Broadway Beat." Brigitte Bardot admitted she was "gnawed by self-doubt, fear, and a constant mass of anxieties." She would throw temper tantrums like a child and play with teddy bears. Winchell described her as "Eve in a Garden of Thorns," and said she served "the cult of perpetual immaturity."

Greta Garbo would find relief from the pressures of her career "by sitting alone in a room for hours and just moaning and moaning." Before Marilyn Monroe would go on camera, her hands would tremble, she would have break-outs of rashes all over her skin, and she would barely be able to speak. She came to Hollywood with a dreadful fear of failure, and that fear got worse even though she underwent years of treatment with psychiatrists.

Lana Turner described life as "a rat race getting on top, staying there, and being lucky enough to hold on." Joan Crawford searched in vain all her life "for emotional security." When she wrote her autobiography, she had to admit that she found none in her childhood and "none in love." Kim Novak, another of Hollywood's beauties, would go into moods of despair and suddenly start weeping for no reason.

Jayne Mansfield was one of Hollywood's "blonde bombshells." She was married three times and had numerous "affairs." She posed in the nude for *Playboy*, drank heavily, and cursed all her life. She once got into a fight on

the floor of a Stockholm nightclub during a dancing act. Her last "lover" was her attorney Samuel Brody, with whom she would have drunken brawls. A little under a year after she moved in with him, the two were killed in New Orleans headed for an early morning television interview. They drove under the back end of a cotton truck, and she died of a crushed skull.

Lupé Velez made 28 films in her lifetime. She killed herself at 36 years old after accusing actor Harold Maresch of fathering her unborn child. Carole Landis committed suicide when Rex Harrison—the actor with whom she was cheating on her husband, Horace Schmidlapp—refused to divorce his wife and marry her. Harrison found her dead on the bathroom floor from an overdose of sleeping pills.

Judy Garland overdosed herself on sleeping pills after trying to use a broken water glass to cut her throat. Susan Hayward tried to kill herself with sleeping pills. The actress Inger Stevens tried it by drinking cleaning fluid; she survived that attempt but later on succeeded with sleeping pills. That was after starring in *fourteen films* and *36 television shows* before she was 36.

A real bunch of happy, joyful people, aren't they? Frank Sinatra would often go to parties and just sit staring into space, not speaking to anyone for *hours*, while he got slowly drunk. That Bible says folks like that are "**without Christ . . . having no hope, and without God in the world**" (Eph. 2:12).

Continued on 21

Fame, Fortune, And Happiness

Continued from 20

Clark Gable dropped dead at 59 years old, looking for the birth of his first (and only) son. It was to be born when he was sixty. He said, "I am taking off until the baby is born in March. I want to be there when it happens, and for a good many months afterwards." He died four months too soon. He appeared in a total of 97 films (67 being theatrically released films). He was known to throw personal witnesses for Jesus Christ out his dressing room door. After five marriages, he was buried as a lost Roman Catholic.

Mickey Rooney earned twelve million dollars in 32 years. He had to file

for bankruptcy *twice*: once in 1962 when his total assets were \$8,000 a year after alimony and child-support payments to four ex-wives totalling \$10,000 a month, and again in 1996 when he owed \$1.75 million in back taxes to the IRS.

Queen Elizabeth I, amid the splendor, riches, and power of the English monarchy, became angry with a portrait painter who detailed her wrinkles in his painting. "You must strike off my likeness without any shadows!" she told him indignantly. She was a fine, contented, balanced, humble woman, wasn't she?

Continued on 22

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Fame, Fortune, And Happiness

Continued from 21

William Hogarth, the British artist, at the height of his craft, was cut to the quick by an unkind remark by King George II, made concerning a painting Hogarth had dedicated to the monarch. George II had said, "Who is this, Hogarth? Take this trumpery out of my presence." That hurt Hogarth's feelings and upset him for years.

The great Irish playwright and Statesman Richard Brinsley Sheridan said at his death, "I am absolutely undone." The popular Scottish novelist and poet Sr. Walter Scott, when once fiddling around his inkstand trying to write, finally gave up in frustration and said to his daughter who was there waiting on him, "Oh, take me back to my room; there is no rest for Sir Walter but in the grave."

Stephen Girard was the second wealthiest man of his day (1750–1831); he has been judged to be the fourth richest American of all time. He said once, "I live the life of a galley-slave: when I arise in the morning my one effort is to work so hard that I can sleep when it gets to be night."

That Bible says, "**There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked**" (Isa. 57:21). Hama was upset because one Jew wouldn't bow down to him. Ahab couldn't be satisfied with everything he had because his neighbor wouldn't sell him his vineyard. DeWitt Talmage said, "The mountaintops of worldly honor are always covered with a perpetual snow."

Benito Mussolini went home to Hell after being assassinated with his concubine by Italian partisans; their

bodies were then hung up by the feet in the plaza of Milan and stoned.

Adolf Hitler ended his "happy" life by hiding out in a bunker while the Russians were taking Berlin and killing his people, whom he ordered to defend the city. He married his common-law wife, and the next day, the two of them committed suicide. Their bodies were dumped in a bomb crater, doused with gasoline, and burned.

Continued on 23

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Fame, Fortune, And Happiness

Continued from 22

Howard Hughes was worth two-and-a-half billion dollars at his death. He invented (and crashed) several aircraft and made several hit films. He owned an aircraft company and at one time had controlling interest in both TWA airlines and RKO Pictures. He also owned several hotels, casinos, and television stations in Las Vegas. The newspapers said of him, "He was a great American, a bold inventor, and a great contributor to progress." What did Howard Hughes have to say after depositing \$100,000 a month and after dating three different movie stars in one night? "I am *not happy*; no, I am *not content*."

When Howard Hughes died, the six-foot, one-inch man had shrunk three inches, and his weight was down to ninety pounds. He showed signs of malnutrition and was living at a near poverty level in the middle of opulence and luxury. He had needle holes all over his arms and five hypodermic needles *broken off in his arms* from where the people around him had kept him doped up so they could get what money they could from his estate.

Now look at that. Those were wealthy people, they were famous people, they had the whole world at their feet, and *they were some of the most miserable critters on the face of this earth*. I have known carpenters, farmers, truck drivers, coal miners, commercial fishermen, nurses, and waitresses who lived happier lives than that—and they wound up sinless in New Jerusalem after death to boot.

Do you want happiness? Here is

how to get it.

"Happy is that people, whose God is the LORD" (Psa. 144:15).

"Whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he" (Prov. 16:20).

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Prov. 3:13).

"If ye know these things [the things Jesus said], happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

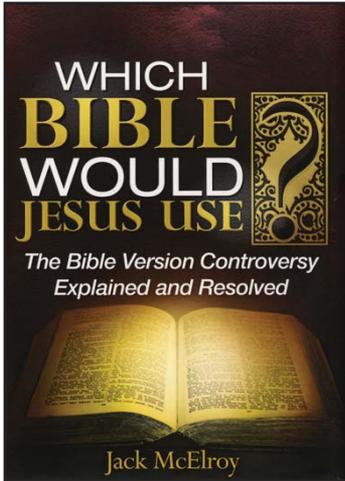
You should **"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice"** (Phil. 4:4). And when it comes to true wealth and riches, the Apostle Paul told you, **"But godliness with contentment is great gain"** (1 Tim. 6:6).

Those are the things money cannot buy. When it comes to the riches of this world, they are **"a snare,"** they are **"foolish,"** they are **"hurtful,"** they are *destructive*, and they are *damning* (1 Tim. 6:9). The Book says that those who coveted after them have **"pierced themselves through with many sorrows"** (1 Tim. 6:10). You just read the kinds of **"sorrows"** with which they **"pierce themselves."**

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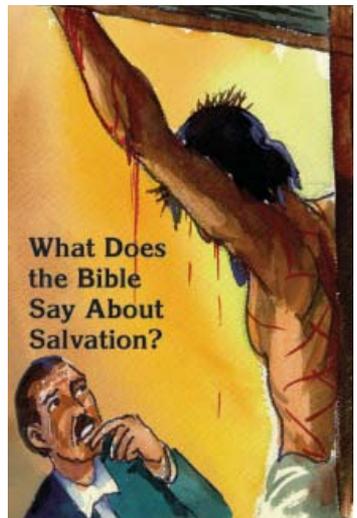
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CONFORM

By Tom Waddle

When the world (this will include the pope, the president, or any other “one worlder”) says “let’s unite,” they always mean *you* are to come to their side. *You* are the one that must conform to their way or face the consequences. The world demands *conformity* and won’t settle for anything less. Noah is given as an example of what happens when you refuse to go along with the world.

“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith” (Heb. 11:7).

How did Noah condemn the world? By living right and surviving. When a Christian does right and gets by, he proves to the world that you can live right and make it. That, to the world (*this will include worldly Christians*), is the unpardonable sin.

In the book of Daniel chapter one, four young “nonconformists” demonstrate how a Christian should conduct himself in **“this present evil world”** (Gal. 1:4). Nonconformity is always better. Do right and you’ll always come out right.

Why does the world want you, as a Bible believer, to *conform*? Hey—those God-fearing Hebrew children were the brightest (*illegal to point out today in a public school*), the best looking (*can’t say that either*), the *healthiest*, and the most cunning (the meaning in this context is someone who is “brilliant” or “gifted”) in knowledge. They knew science and had the ability to represent royalty. They knew different languages and customs well

enough to teach them. So why does the world demand conformity? Answer: *The world doesn’t want to feel guilty about their dirty, rotten lifestyle.*

The world wants you to CONFORM TO THEIR DIET (Dan. 1:5). They say you won’t “fit in” if you don’t take drugs, smoke, drink, and party (1 Pet. 4:4). The idea is to keep you so drugged up (pharmaceuticals or otherwise) that you are unable to think straight; i.e., make good, sound decisions.

This world is geared up to make you *fat and stupid* (known fact that alcohol and drugs kill brain cells). Everywhere you go they make sure it is more convenient for you to eat bad food than it is good food. Grease, white sugar, white flour, foods loaded with preservatives and chemicals, and sugary soda drinks are usually the cheapest. Good garden vegetables, fruits, fish, chicken, and a moderate amount of good beef certainly produced better health in our grandpas and grandmas than what this modern diet is producing in this generation. Growing up, we rarely heard of “cancer.”

If there’s any way possible, it’s always best to produce your own fruits and vegetables via a nice garden (easy preaching, hard living). Call it a conspiracy theory if you want, but eating good food (unprocessed) rather than eating junk food (processed) should be cheaper, *but it’s not*. It seems like the less you handle something the less it should cost, doesn’t it? And why does bad stuff taste good?

In reality, some foods affect some people in different ways. Coffee may not hurt you, but it certainly does me.

Continued on 26

CONFORM

Continued from 25

I “like it,” but I can’t drink it with a clear conscience because I know I’m going to pay for it afterwards. I guess it comes down just to doing the best you can do with what you know. The guidelines are: **“whatsoever is not of faith is sin”** (Rom. 14:23), and **“For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving”** (1 Tim. 4:4). If you know something is wrong to drink, eat, or put in your body, then don’t do it; and if you can’t pray over it before you take it, then you shouldn’t take it.

This diet thing can not only apply to what you take in your mouth, but what you take in your head and consume mentally. Remember the world is going to use any method it can to get you to *conform*. Sleazy magazines (*yes, women’s magazines included*), immoral novels, depraved TV shows, sit-coms, and movies starring depraved, wicked, immoral, corrupt, sinful, proud, disobedient, fornicating, covetous, deceitful, God-hating, Bible-denying reprobates. If you, a professing Christian, enjoy watching people brag about and strut their immorality, *then you have already conformed*.

They will try to get you to CONFORM TO THEIR HERITAGE: change your name (Dan. 1:7). They want to erase your identity and your connection with the Bible. *Daniel* means “God is my Judge”; they changed it to *Belteshazzar*, which means “Bel protect his life.” *Hananiah* means “Jehovah is gracious”; they changed it to *Shadrach*, “The command of the moon god.” *Mishael*, which means “who is like God,” became *Meshach*, “who is like Aku”; and *Azariah*, “Jehovah is my

helper,” was changed to *Abednego*, “the servant of Nego.” The Babylonians figured if the Hebrews would just quit using anything that reminded them of God, they could live the Babylonians’ “lifestyle” and be “accepted.”

You see, all this talk about “tolerance” means that *Christians must stop talking about the Bible*. They mean never mention the name of Jesus Christ in public (unless it’s as a curse word), *especially in prayer*. The world is to tolerate NOTHING. It is the Christian who must conform or else face isolation, persecution, misrepresentation, reproach, and criticism.

The world will try to CONFORM YOU TO THEIR HOME (Dan. 1:1). These Hebrew children were in a strange land, far away from home. The world tries to convince you that it’s all down here. *Worldly* preachers are easily identified by how they never talk about Heaven. Their emphasis is on how you are supposed to be happy, rich, and comfortable *and always have the finer things in life*. The answer is: **“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”** (Col. 3:2).

The world will try to get you to CONFORM TO THEIR WAY AND PLACE OF WORSHIP (Dan. 1:2). Go to a church where “love” is preached, where “everybody is somebody,” where no doctrine is preached, or where “coming makes you a member.”

They will try to get you to CONFORM TO THEIR LANGUAGE AND WAY OF THINKING (Dan. 1:4). They wish to enroll you in the “University of Babylon” so you can learn their anti-biblical and anti-God vocabulary. They don’t want to hear “EI” or “Jehovah”

Continued on 27

CONFORM

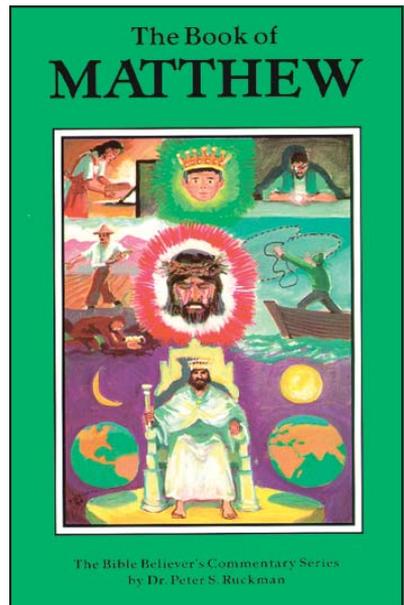
Continued from 26
connected with *anything*. Bible terminology is OUT! A “conformed” Christian talks like the world talks. He “shares” and “copes” and “relates.” This world wants to transform you from your spiritual roots and biblical understanding to being as stupid and immoral as they are, and they are succeeding through our Christian colleges. This new modern vocabulary that the average church has picked up is only a hindrance to getting to know God and the Bible better.

The world will try to get you to CONFORM TO THEIR MUSIC (Dan. 3:5). Rock music is common in the average church nowadays. The “jitterbug” and the “twist” have become accepted as “dancing for the Lord.” Dear Christian friend, “Christian rock” is an oxymoron. If it’s Christian, it’s not rock, and if it’s rock, it’s *not Christian*. Just because you change the words doesn’t mean that the contents have changed. If you were to change the label on Clorox bleach to lemonade, it would only mean that it would be *more dangerous than ever*.

The old Christian hymns that brought conviction and thoughts of Heaven are out—if you want to conform. There is an unyielding determination to get you to conform to this sick, fleshy, carnal music that produces nothing but sick, fleshy, carnal Christians.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your

Continued on 28



The commentary on the book of Matthew lays emphasis on the transitional nature of the book and its Jewish application to the Second Coming. False teachings of Catholicism and Liberalism are refuted, and critical problems (Sermon on the Mount, genealogies, Resurrection accounts) are thoroughly discussed.

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CONFORM

Continued from 27
reasonable service. And **BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**" (Rom. 12:1-2).

"But Daniel PURPOSED IN HIS HEART that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself" (Dan. 1:8).

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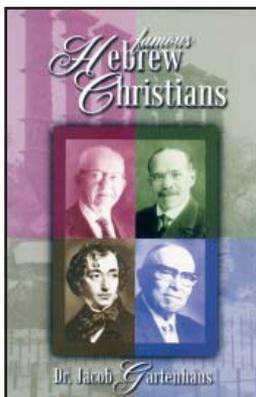
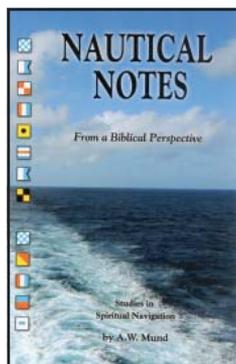
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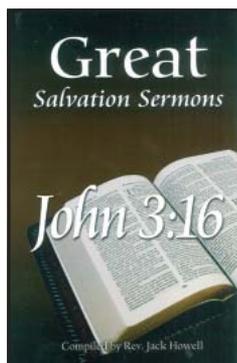
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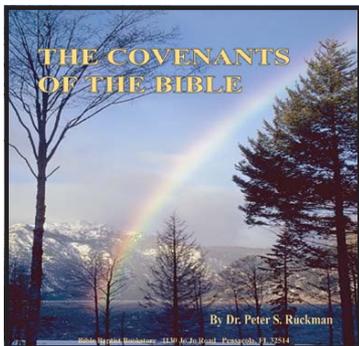
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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

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, Zwingle, Boehler, Zinzendorf, 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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