



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 38 No. 7

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

July 2014

The Missionary Spirit

By Brian Donovan

For the Bible-believing Christian, the work of missions is a requirement, not an option. Although the word *missions* or *missionary* does not appear in the *King James Bible*, the command to “**go**” is found throughout the New Testament. Just as the ancient Greeks used torches to pass on to relay runners to the finish line, so the Apostle Paul passed the torch of missions down through church history. Paul considered himself a debtor to both Jew and Greek “**to preach the gospel**” (Rom. 1:14), and it was “**the love of Christ**” that constrained him to go to them (2 Cor. 5:18–20). No one can be a disciple of Jesus Christ and not be involved in missions. The Lord told His followers that they should pray that laborers would be sent forth into a harvest (Matt. 9:37–38) that is already white (John 4:35).

All of church history is a movement, a movement that begins in Jerusalem and goes outward to the ends of the earth. For the Christian today, that movement is one that goes across the

street, down the road, and across the oceans. To be born in the USA and saved makes one an automatic debtor to those who do not have the chance he has been given. Seeing the great need should compel every saved sinner to do something about the work of missions. Though all cannot be called to go, all should be burdened to have a part, whether in praying, giving,

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Shooting Straight

By Tom Waddle

When it is said that a preacher is a “straight shooter,” it means someone that you can depend on to “tell it like it is.” All of the Old Testament prophets were just that. Jesus Christ was a “plain preacher” (Matt. 23; John 8), and you would certainly never confuse Him with these modern preachers wasting your time with “sharing.” You can always spot the preacher who is controlled by his congregation by how careful he is in making sure he doesn’t offend anyone-\$\$\$. A “straight shooter,” on the other hand, is in it for one reason—to make sure you get the truth, *hitting the target*.

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AMERICA, The Great Satan

Moslems call America “the Great Satan.” There are some things that are so about that statement and some things that are not so, and we will look at the differences.

The word *Satan* is found 56 times in the Bible in 49 verses, fourteen of those times in the book of Job alone. The word means “adversary,” and the first time the word shows up in the Bible, Satan is the adversary of Israel (1 Chron. 21:1). First Peter 5:8 says,

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

Satan is called **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4): he rules over **“all the kingdoms of the world”** (Luke 4:5–6) until the King of Kings comes back to make them His own (Rev. 11:15). In the meantime, the world, including the United States, is awaiting the installation of Satan’s King, the Antichrist (Rev. 13:1–2, 17:13–17).

The upcoming religion in the United States, as well as Europe, Africa, China, Russia, South America, Mexico, Australia, Canada, India, the Middle East, etc., is *Satanism* (Dan. 11:36; Rev. 13:3–4; 2 Thess. 2:3–9). It will replace Catholicism, Buddhism, atheism, Greek Orthodoxy, Protestantism, humanism, Mohammedanism, Hinduism, and every other religion on earth. In the Tribulation, the False Prophet sets up an image of the Antichrist at the Jewish temple in Jerusalem (Matt. 24:15; Dan. 9:27, 12:11) and causes all men **“both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond”** to **“worship the image of the beast”** or **“be killed”** (Rev. 13:15–16). That is the destiny of America and every other nation on earth.

Now if America is the “Great Satan,” what would make that so? Well, the first thing would be getting rid of God from the political and social life of the nation.

Psalm 9:17 says, **“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and ALL THE NATIONS THAT FORGET GOD.”**

Satan’s main job as **“the god of this world”** is to blind the minds of lost people so they won’t believe the Gospel and be saved (2 Cor. 4:4). When the word of God is sown in the hearts of unsaved men and women so it will bear fruit to eternal life, Satan tries to snatch it away before it will germinate (Mark 4:15). So when a nation gets rid of God and the Bible, *it actively sides with Satan.*



Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

President, Founder, and Teacher of the Pensacola Bible Institute, Pensacola, Florida.

America, the Great Satan

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Do you know what this country did back in 1962 and 1963? In 1962, the Supreme Court threw prayer out of the public schools (*Engel vs. Vitale*), and in 1963, it threw the Bible out (*Abington School District vs. Schempp*). In 1980, the Supreme Court, in *Stone vs. Graham*, said the Ten Commandments couldn't be posted in the classroom because the pupils might "read, meditate upon, and perhaps venerate and obey the Ten Commandments which is not a permissible . . . objective."

Now the kiddies can't pray over their food at lunch; they can't read their Bibles during "free time"; teachers have taken children's Bibles away from them and thrown them in the garbage; bus drivers have refused to let them aboard the school bus if they were carrying a Bible to school; they can't write about God or the Bible for a writing assignment; etc. You say, "Are you talking about the former Soviet Union or Red China, Ruckman?" I'm talking about the *United States of America*—the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

You can't bow your head over your lunch at public school and thank God for your food, but you can have a classroom set aside for you if you are a Moslem and face Mecca five times a day to pray. You can't post the Ten Commandments, but you can force high school students in California to dress up like "ragheads" and memorize verses from the *Koran*. The kids can't sing Christmas carols at Christmas time like "Silent Night," "Joy to the World," or "Away in a Manager"—even though they are supposed to be celebrating the birthday of Jesus Christ—but they can sing the praises of a Socialistic, Black-Liberationist Moslem (Barack Hussein Obama). What is all that? It's *Satan*.

When the government got rid of God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible, it replaced them with *evolution*. Evolution is "survival of the fittest." That's the law of the jungle. So you got rid of Bible morals and replaced them with *jungle morals*. Whereas the problems in the public school back in the 1950s were talking in class, chewing gum, and running in the hallways, now they are assault, rape, theft, drugs, and teenage pregnancy. You can't post "**Thou shalt not kill,**" so you have kids coming into schools and shooting their teachers and classmates. Why not? That's what the animals in the jungle do. No lion has any conscience about killing a zebra; no cheetah worries about slaughtering a wildebeest. If you came from animals and are just an evolved animal, what's the big deal? If you teach children they came from animals, sooner or later they will *act* like animals.

You take out the Bible and stick in *sex education*. You teach the kids it's all right to fornicate based on "values clarification." That leads to promiscuity, and the natural results of that are unplanned pregnancies and venereal disease. To take care of the "unwanted" pregnancies, you take the teen mothers to abortion clinics behind their parents' backs to help them cover up their sin and avoid the consequences. To take care of the VD's, you give the kids free condoms without telling them they have a 35% *failure rate* and that there are now incurable VD's that are transmitted merely by skin-to-skin contact.

But normal fornication was not enough for the sex-obsessed neurotics of SIECUS. So now the kids, some of them all the way down to *kindergarten*, are

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America, the Great Satan

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taught about Lesbianism and sodomy, and most recently, *bestiality*. You are back to the jungle.

You give the kids *jungle music*. All rock music is, is *African sex music*. And what started out as sex music ended up as music about drugs (Beatles, Jefferson Airplane, the Cavaliers, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix), Satanism (Alice Cooper, Black Sabbath, KISS, Ozzy Osbourne, Sex Pistols), and *sex perversion* (Queen, Culture Club, Madonna, Lady "Gaga," Miley Cyrus). (For further study, see chapter 4 of *Music and Musicians*.)

Now they have introduced *jungle religion* into the public schools. You can't teach the kids about Moses, David, Jesus Christ, or the Apostle Paul; but you can teach them about Harry Potter (witchcraft) and Gaia ("Mother Earth"). As anyone knows, the native religions of Africa are *animism* (worship and appeasement of spirits in nature) and *witchcraft* (the witch doctors). Evidently nature worship and witchcraft don't violate the "separation of Church and State."

Abe Lincoln made an astute observation once: "The philosophy of the classroom today will be the philosophy of government tomorrow." The reason this country is in the mess it is today is from fifty years of this garbage taught in the public schools. We are finally reaping what was sown all those years. That is why your government today is legalizing drugs, forcing you to fund abortions, and pushing "marriage" between two faggots and two dykes. Any nation that promotes that kind of filth is involved in the works of Satan (1 John 3:8).

That Bible says, "**Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people**" (Prov. 14:34). If this nation ever was a "great" nation, it certainly wasn't because of anything you read above. The One who exalted this country to the point where it could whip two world powers *twice* (England and Germany) is the same One who can bring it down where you lose your shirt to two countries no bigger than Massachusetts (Korea and Vietnam).

Brethren, if that Bible is true (and there's no doubt in my mind whatsoever that it is), the greatest enemy America has is not Russia, Red China, Iran, North Korea, or "the Islamic Nation"; it's *God Almighty*. God is not going to let any nation live the way this nation has lived for the last sixty years and get away with it. He said of any nation that lives that way that He would "**repent of the good**" He did to it (Jer. 18:10) and pluck it up, pull it down, and destroy it (Jer. 18:7).

Contrariwise, He also said, "**If that nation . . . turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them**" (Jer. 18:8). It's back to the Bible or back to the jungle, folks.

Now let me ask you something, and answer me honestly; not what you wish or pray for. The promise in Jeremiah 18:8 is to *any* nation that will get right and clean up, so it certainly could apply to America. Question: Do you think this country is going to repent and get right? You say, "Yes." Then get ready to lose your shirt.

When God gave those options to His own chosen people, do you know what they chose? They said, "**we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart**" (Jer. 18:12). Human nature

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America, the Great Satan

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hasn't changed in the last 2,500 years.

Brethren, this nation is shot. The only chance you have is a revival like you read of in Jonah 3, where everyone from the President down to the animals would get right (Jon. 3:6–10), and there's so little chance of that happening that a professional gambler would be a fool to bet on it. The good news is that you as an *individual* can get right and stay right with God. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is able to turn you **“from the power of Satan unto God”** (Acts 26:18). As a Christian, the Holy Spirit has provided you the armor that will allow you **“to stand against the wiles of the devil”** (Eph. 6:11). We don't have to **“give place to the devil”** (Eph. 4:27); we can *resist* him (James 4:7). When Satan accuses us to God (Rev. 12:10), **“we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”** (1 John 2:1). We can overcome Satan **“by the blood of the Lamb”** (Rev. 12:11) and **“the sword of the Spirit”** (Eph. 6:17 cf. Luke 4:1–3).

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The Missionary Spirit

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sending, or going. A pastor should not just be training an occasional missionary, but kindling the missions spirit in the whole congregation.

Without programs, mission boards, deputation, conferences, committees, or political clout, the early Christians took the truth of the Gospel to wherever Christ was not named. As one church historian noted: "their first action was to sell their goods and give to the poor . . . then pass on to other countries." They were able to live off the land and were not up against the travel restrictions of our day (visas, passports, job requirements, etc.), so under the present circumstances, there certainly isn't anything wrong with using mission boards, deputation, etc., to get to the field of calling. Yet with all these things available today, how few hear or listen to the call of God to go.

The work of missions does not require higher education. The heathen Celsus noted the missionary zeal of the Christians of his day as he attempted to ridicule them, saying, "Their aim is to convince only worthless and contemptible people . . . idiots, slaves, poor women, and children. They behave like beggars and would not dare address an audience of intelligent men . . . but if they see a group of young people or slaves or rough folk, there they push in . . . people of the utmost ignorance and lack of education." Thank God that He reaches out to idiots and worthless folks, or I never would have had a chance to be saved. A quick reading of Acts 17 and 1 Corinthians 1 shows what the Lord thinks of the world's higher education and their response to the truth.

So off these early Christians went, using the freedom of the laws of the Roman Empire to travel, along with a universal language (Greek) to preach across the Mediterranean world in a missionary effort that has been unequalled since. Along with performing this great work came an expected persecution. It was this same persecution that strengthened the church and individual Christians. As Tertullian noted, "the death of the martyrs was the seed of the church," and as another wrote, "as long as the church wore scars, she was strong; it was when she wore a crown that she became weak." Throughout the period of persecution, especially from Nero (A.D. 64) to Diocletian (A.D. 303), the church grew both in numbers and spiritual strength. With the acceptability of "Christianity" under the devil Constantine in A.D. 325, the pagans mixed into the local churches without salvation, and it was only through an underground movement of preaching that resulted in any effectual work.

Soon enough, the world was plunged into the Dark Ages (A.D. 500–1500), and the true missionary work continued underground. Beginning with John Wycliffe (1380), the "Morning Star of the Reformation" training his Lollards, and John Huss of Bohemia (1415), men were trained in outdoor field preaching with a burning desire to see souls saved. Almost all of the area that is presently called the Czech Republic once followed John Huss's preaching. This missionary zeal brought thousands to salvation as the Bible was put into the hands of the common man in his common tongue. It was also the foundation for the next great missionary thrust of church history with the Moravian movement.

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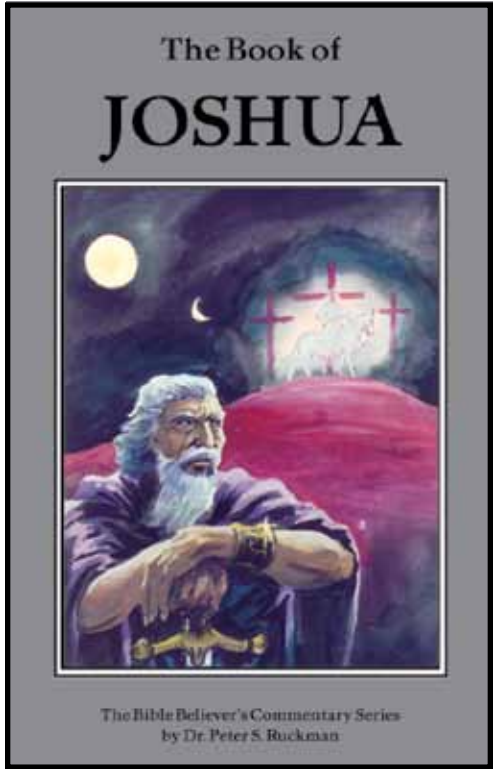
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The Missionary Spirit

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Born to a wealthy family in Germany in 1700, as a young law student, Nicolaus von Zinzendorf saw a painting by Domenico Feti called "Ecce homo" (meaning "Behold the Man"), with an inscription "All This I Did For You, What Are You Doing For Me?" That was enough for Zinzendorf to quit law school and dedicate his life to Christ. He opened his estate to persecuted remnants of Hussites and Waldensian believers and named the place *Herrnhut*, or the "Lord's Watch." Never an actual missionary himself, Zinzendorf used his wealth and influence for the work, and over the next thirty years, over 225 missionaries were sent out over the world from Herrnhut.

Believing that every missionary should bring his trade with him and be self-supporting, the Moravians went from Greenland throughout the Caribbean Islands, South America, and Africa. In order to reach the slave population of St. Thomas, Leonard Dober sold himself into slavery, traveling below deck on a six-month voyage in quarters not high enough to stand up straight. Another answered the need for someone to go to Greenland, saying, "I'll go; where is it?" When Zinzendorf asked one of his men how soon he would leave for the field, he replied, "As soon as I can get my boots back from the cobbler." The sad part about the Moravians is that they were not willing to build local churches with doctrinal foundations, and many of their works were built on emotion. As a result, as the missionaries died off, so did their work.

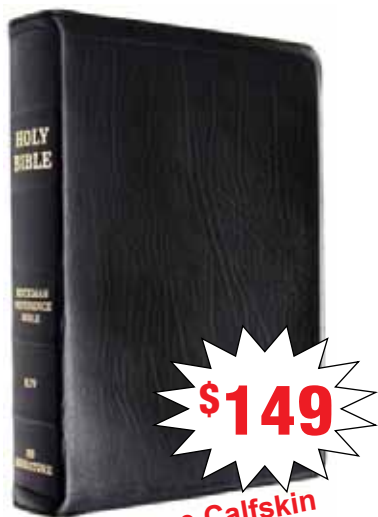
Following the Moravians came the great missionary thrust out of Great Britain and the United States of America throughout the 1800's. Beginning with the "father of modern missions," William Carey, men such as Henry Martyn to India and Persia; Alexander Duff and John Clough to India; Robert Moffatt, David Livingstone, George Grenfell, and Alexander MacKay to Africa; John Paton, James Chalmers, John Williams, Robert Morrison, and Hudson Taylor to the far east and the Pacific isles, England and Scotland sent out the pioneer missionaries. Out of the USA went Adoniram Judson and the founding of the great missionary societies of the 1800's. Though Judson is given credit by most authors as America's first foreign missionary, a black man named George Liele, a freed slave who pastored in Savannah, Georgia, felt the missionary call to Jamaica. After selling himself back into slavery, he established a local church that grew to over three hundred members. This was in 1783, some 29 years before Judson left America in 1812.

The autobiography of John Paton made him famous with stories of being supernaturally delivered from cannibals and civil wars, while his wife and infant son died within months of reaching the islands. Paton's excitement can be felt as you read of "cannibal hands, once stained with human blood, now stretched out to receive the communion elements." Many other pioneers went to reach the heathen of the Pacific, working and giving their lives to preach the Gospel. James Chalmers buried two wives in Papua, New Guinea, while seeing the Lord convert cannibal, heathen temples into local churches. After only five years, Chalmers said throughout the whole area he worked, there could

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Ruckman Reference Bible

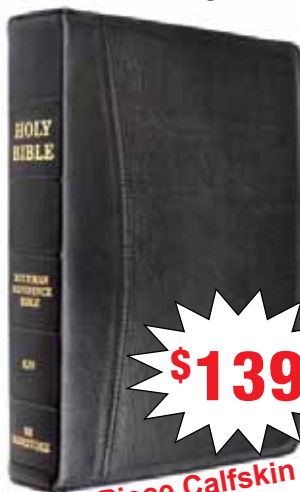
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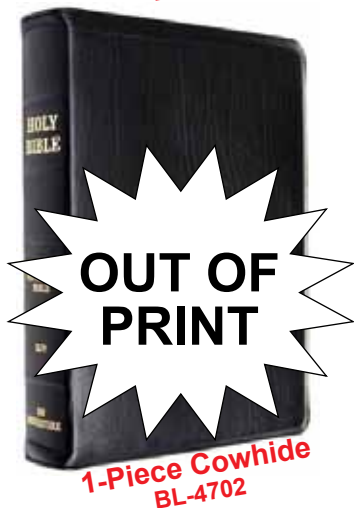
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The Missionary Spirit

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be found “no cannibal feasts, ovens, or skulls.” In 1901, while exploring fierce cannibal territory near the Fly River, Chalmers was beaten, clubbed to death, and eaten before a rescue party could reach him. The great success stories of these early missionaries to the South Seas were lost over the next 50–75 years, as education, medical works, and the social gospel took precedence over the preaching of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.

Here at the close of the Laodicean period of church history, the Lord has raised up a small army of Bible-believing missionaries over the last forty years, that as far as numbers go, will not amount to anything staggering, but will amount to much at the Judgment Seat of Christ. The work here at Pensacola Bible Institute, under the leadership and teaching of Dr. Ruckman, has trained and sent out over 75 men to foreign fields, establishing local Bible-believing, Baptist churches in at least 35 foreign countries. Some of these men have died with their boots on, in the place God called them, doing what God called them to do. Weldon Jones (PBI–1970) went home after working in Mexico over thirty years; Santos Ortiz (PBI–1981) died on the field in Honduras. John Wheat (PBI–1981), after establishing a couple of churches in Australia and being a faithful example of a personal soulwinner, is now with the Lord. Ron Sykes (PBI–1987) went home after twenty years in South Africa, Jeff Smith (PBI–1987) went home after working in Scotland, and Brian Higgins (PBI–1992) is also now at rest after some hard years of work in Ukraine.

Ask the Lord what He would have you do to get in line with His desire to have you be a witness to **“the uttermost part of the earth”** (Acts 1:8). Pray about nixing a vacation to Disney World, and instead take a trip to a third-world country and let the Lord get the attention of your children and yourself. If you went with a servant’s attitude to be a blessing, any of our missionaries would love to have you and show you the great need. It will help change your Christian walk, and you will never be able to look at some of your “problems” the same. After being on five continents in over thirty countries, I have a hard time dwelling on the humidity and pollen in Pensacola, or the differences between the American presidential candidates.

“Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into HIS harvest” (Matt. 9:38). I double dog dare you.

Bro. Donovan’s Schedule

July 25-27

Faith Baptist Church
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Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pastor Paul Sherrouse
(479) 650-4028

September 12–14

Bible Believer’s Baptist Church
1055 N.E. 25th St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Pastor John Robinson
(503) 706-7147

Shooting Straight

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Shooting pistol competition has taught me a lot about preaching. I chose pistol shooting (USPSA-United States Practical Shooting Association) because shooting rifles became “too easy” and did not require a lot of effort at being efficient at hitting a dime (half inch group) five out of five times at 100 yards, *with the proper equipment*.

Note I said *with the proper equipment*. Being able to shoot a handgun straight hinges even more on *the proper equipment*. You are not going to do well (in competition) by just having some “off the shelf” pistol. The only way to do well in competition is to get a “custom built” racegun. If your gun will only shoot a four inch group at 25 yards, you’ve already lost. You need a pistol that is capable of shooting a half inch group at 25 yards even to be in the running.

As a range officer for many years, I’ve seen shooters come to the line with *parts of their gun missing!* Can you imagine trying to hit a small target at 25 yards without a front sight? And so it goes with preaching: can you conceive trying to preach with a *NKJV* or *NIV*? Hey, buster, you *are disqualified before you even start!* You’ve got parts missing; you have faulty equipment. Are you that ignorant about the condition of your equipment? You can’t be a “straight shooter” with that junk.

Custom “raceguns” are expensive. And so it goes with preaching; you’ve got to get a Book that *has cost somebody something*. There are men that gave their lives so you can have a copy of the *King James Bible*. Did you ever hear about someone being burned at the stake for trying to make sure you get a copy of the *NKJV* or the *NIV*? What did the *NIV* cost anybody?

Your equipment must be more than just “reliable.” “Infallible” would be great, wouldn’t it? Well, in spite of all of the effort to get rid of it, we have one that’s infallible: the *King James 1611*. It’s great to have a weapon that has a reputation of absolutely no “misfires,” “jams,” or “missing parts.”

“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him” (Prov. 30:5).

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever” (Psa. 12:6-7).

“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it” (Psa 119:140).

That’s not all; you’ve got to have a pistol that has the right lube. If you run it “dry,” you are sure to have a “malfunction.” Hey, preacher, you’ve got to have a Bible that’s anointed (lubed, if you will) by the Holy Spirit of God. I think the word is *inspired*.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).

If it’s Scripture, then it’s “inspired.” Saying only the “originals” were inspired is the same thing as saying, “nobody has the Scriptures today.”

Now here are some skills that you must master in order to take your “shoot-

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Shooting Straight

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ing” to the next level. The first basic rule of “shooting straight” is your STANCE. To effectively manage recoil and to fire an accurate shot, you have got to have a *solid platform*. The best one is similar to a fighting position (1 Cor. 9:26; 1 Tim.6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7). This will be your “weak foot” (left if you are shooting right handed) slightly (about three inches) in front of your other foot. Place your feet about shoulder width apart, and put about 70% of your weight on the balls of your feet. Have your knees bent slightly, arms extended, but not locking out your elbows. If you lock out your elbows, it will take you longer to recover from recoil. Your arms should act like shock absorbers, receiving most of the recoil.

All of that is the secret to BALANCE. In order for you to “shoot straight” as a preacher, you cannot get OFF-BALANCE. That Book has hefty recoil and has knocked many a preacher right off their feet. Hyperdispensationalism will get you so off-balance that it will cause you to be knocked on your “rear end.” Calvinism has dried up many a “God-called” preacher to the place he no longer has a desire to win anybody to the Lord Jesus Christ. That Book has some recoil, brother, and you’d better believe it. Do we not sometimes refer to it as the “ole 66 caliber”? And unless you maintain the right balance, it will knock you off your feet.

The Devil will try to get you “off-balance” by trying to mess up your stance—too much weight on the wrong foot, or not bending your knees, being too rigid and trying to “control” the Book. It’s going to “kick,” so just let it. Just get it back down on the target, and let it do what it’s supposed to do.

This leads to the next thing: your GRIP. Your grip starts while the pistol is still in the holster. You see, you shooting well doesn’t begin when you get to a match. It’s the time you spend at home practicing. Getting the right “grip” on your weapon comes from hours and hours of getting to know your weapon. Consistency is the secret. Every day work on it. I believe they call it “muscle memory.”

Get ahold of it the same way every time. You will notice the “points of contact” will be the palm of your hand, your “trigger finger” positioned down the frame of the pistol, and your thumb riding high on the safety. After you get a good grip, it’s time to draw! Bring the pistol up to your midsection; this will be where your “weak hand” meets the pistol and gently is placed over the “strong hand,” rolling it forward so your thumb points toward the ground. This will “maximize” recoil control and give you faster and better shots. You should grip the pistol with approximately 60% of the total grip coming from your “off-hand,” while your “strong-hand” is at about 40%. The “shooting hand” should be at about 40% of the total grip, because you don’t want to interfere with trigger control.

Get “a grip” on the Book, but get the right “grip.” Spend time memorizing it and “**rightly dividing**” it. “**Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth**” (2 Tim. 2:15).

If you have an “off-the-shelf” NKJV, don’t worry; you’ve already lost. That part is missing; please step off the line. You are “DQ’d!” (Disqualified, taken out of the match). Unload and show clear, please.

Continued on 14

Shooting Straight

Continued from 13

You see, if you get the wrong grip, you will never be able to consistently “shoot straight.” There are parts you shouldn’t grip while shooting; for example, *the barrel*. If you grab the barrel and pull the trigger at the same time, you are going to learn how to “rightly divide” *really quickly*.

So now we get to TRIGGER CONTROL. This is how to press the trigger for an accurate shot. How to manage your trigger is a very critical part which MANY “shooters” (i.e., preachers) overlook; yet this is a very important element in knowing how to “shoot straight.” The wrong finger placement will cause you to “pull the shot” every time. I have seen (several times) grown men aiming at a target down range, but their shots were hitting about twelve feet in front of them. They were “jerking” the trigger when they should have been “squeezing” it. Good trigger control is placing the first pad of your finger on the trigger, taking up the “pre-travel” to the breaking point, then squeezing gently to the rear until it snaps.

After you get a good stance and grip established, next is CORRECT SIGHT ALIGNMENT AND FOCUS. Remember, this will come AFTER a good stance and grip has been established. Make sure your sights are lined up right so you can hit at what you are aiming. Amen!

As they say on the range, “happy shooting”—uh...“preaching.”

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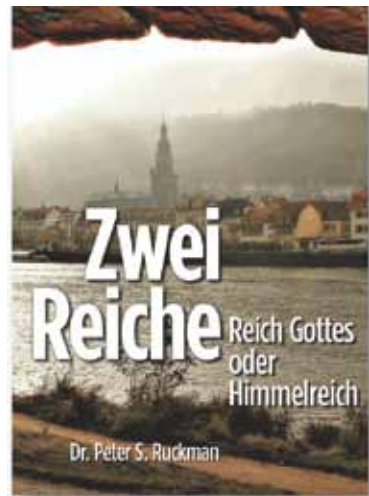
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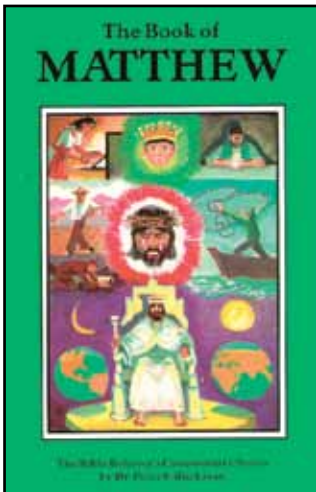
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The Ultimate Discovery

By Robert Militello

“And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father’s have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee” (Luke 15:17–18).

How rare it has become today in our society to find a soul that has come to the place of genuine truth about himself. So many so-called conversions to Christianity remain shallow because biblical self-realization is such a deadly blow to the ego and our carefully constructed world of vanities and delusions. It took Job almost 42 chapters to make that ultimate discovery about himself.

“Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6).

Solomon, the Hugh Hefner of his day, spent years trying to make sense of life, and he was the wisest man that ever lived next to our Saviour. Millions today are in false religions, therapy, twelve-step programs, fraternal lodges, and community organizations of all kinds trying to fill the void that comes with being lost, without Christ and without hope **“in the world”** (Eph. 2:12). Hell must continually enlarge itself to accommodate the souls that die in their delusions.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT” (Matt. 7:13–14).

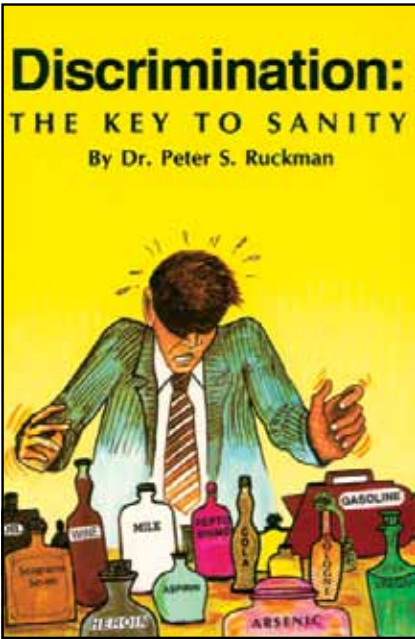
For the few today that get saved in America, there had to be a place somewhere in their life’s journey where the horrible discovery occurred. Real repentance flows from the frank admission: “I am nothing but a dirt-bag.” How wonderfully refreshing it is to remove the cloak of self-righteousness and stand before God in all your filthy nakedness. Allowing this to happen to you now, and not at the White Throne Judgment later on, frees you from the self-delusions in which you painstakingly dressed yourself since reaching the age of accountability before God.

“Amazing Grace,” the greatest hymn ever written according to some, cannot be sung with a truthful heart unless the soul has put off the filthy rags of self-righteousness. How can you sing, “that saved a wretch like me,” if you’ve never located that filth that lies in your heart? Covering that filth is the Devil’s handiwork and your damnation.

“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits” (Prov. 16:2).

Evil people die in their sins, and their souls go to Hell. In thousands upon thousands of churches in America each Sunday, the preachers, priests, and elders will not dare say what Jesus said in Luke 11:13 and Matthew 7:11—**“If ye then, BEING EVIL, know how to give good gifts unto your children”**

Continued on 19



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One word did the job for America; it had emotional appeal coupled with psychotic content. That word was “DISCRIMINATION.” It is the lever by which the lid was pried off the entire nation to let in the most immoral jungle culture that ever destroyed a nation.

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The Ultimate Discovery

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How can someone be saved if he does not agree with what Jesus said concerning his nature? The only good thing dwelling inside a believer is the Holy Spirit. Evil dwells alongside your Saviour. Sin is your constant companion until death or the rapture, whichever comes first. Sin not paid for with God's own blood (Acts 20:28) damns you no matter how "godly" you were in life.

I've never been to a funeral where the preacher, priest, or elder had the nerve to say that the soul of the deceased was in Hell unless he or she knew Jesus as his or her personal Saviour. Jesus said the way to destruction was broad and few find the way which leads to life. Well, the Lord certainly didn't mean that about Americans. In this wonderful country, hardly anyone goes to Hell; certainly not folks like JFK, Martin Luther King Jr., John Lennon, Frank Sinatra, and Jackie Onassis. The thought that such people are now being tormented in Hellfire is unthinkable. If it is hard to admit that people who were greatly admired while alive are in Hell because they were evil, it is harder still to believe that family and loved ones who died without Christ are there.

In 1946, 23 top Nazis were tried for war crimes and were presented with volumes of memoranda establishing their culpability. Nevertheless, each and every defendant pleaded "*nicht schuldig*" (not guilty). Who wants to admit to being evil? There is no secular college or university in America today offering courses in philosophy or psychology that would allow a student to pass the course if he or she agreed with the following:

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

All religions serve the Devil's purpose in keeping souls from discovering their wretchedness and hopeless condition. With the explosion of knowledge in the last 150 years, our inventions have been used by the Devil to keep souls distracted. It is only God's grace, and nothing else, that can open our understanding and cause us to exclaim like Paul,

"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Tim. 1:15).

What a discovery for a man who lived blamelessly according to Jewish law and kept a good conscience toward God (Phil. 3:6; Acts 23:1, 24:16). Something has to happen to a sinner for light to shine upon a heart that Jeremiah described as "**desperately wicked.**" Even with death approaching, the heart can retain its hardness. Two thieves were placed alongside our Saviour, and both faced death with hearts thoroughly darkened by sin. Our Lord was being mocked and reviled by the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders according to Matthew 27:41-43. That bunch wasn't facing death, but the thieves were, and they joined in the mocking and taunting.

"The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in

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his teeth" (Matt. 27:44).

Something happened a while after the Lord was hoisted up on His cross, which was "**the third hour**," or 9 a.m., according to Mark 15:25. One of the thieves who was previously railing against the Lord stopped mocking. An extraordinary change came over the man. We don't know at what hour this happened, but we know that according to Luke 23:39-41, this one thief turned on the other and rebuked him. Light had come into his darkened, wicked heart. In verse 41, he makes an extraordinary confession which even many saved souls find difficult to make when some bad thing happens to them. The thief says, "God is just, and we are getting what we deserve." How do you think the unrepentant thief felt hearing that? Did any Nazi that was hanged after the Nuremberg trials say, "I'm getting what I deserve"?

Well, what could have triggered the sudden change of heart by the repentant malefactor? Jesus said something that cut deep into that man's heart. The Lord did not tell the thieves they were going to Hell and needed to repent. He wasn't "soulwinning" the way we understand the word today. Our Lord was approaching death with a grace and dignity that caused this one thief to quit his mocking and rebuke his fellow malefactor.

At "**about the sixth hour**" (twelve o'clock), according to Luke 23:44, there came "**a darkness over all the earth.**" In the verses previous, the thief said to Jesus, "**LORD, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom**" (Luke 23:42). I believe what was spoken by our Lord in verse 34 before the darkness set in gave the repentant thief enough light to make his ultimate discovery just before death arrived: "**Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34).

How we act when the storms of life hit us full force can have a tremendous effect upon those around us. Those with whom we have spoken concerning the things of God may effortlessly put off our words, but to bless God like Job did in spite of personal disaster (Job 1:21) is something that causes amazement and may lead someone to salvation. How many thousands of Romans sat in wonderment as Christians entered the arena of their death, singing and praising God? This must have haunted some of the spectators who previously thought very little of those enemies of the Roman gods.

I think the Lord calling upon His Father to forgive His murderers rattled that one thief like nothing else in his life ever did. That thief may well have lived a life of hatred toward the Romans. Jerusalem was filled with insurrectionists at that time. It's not natural to love your oppressors, and how much less so when they unleash their brutality and torture you to death. Jesus had been amazing people with His speech since He was twelve years old. No man ever spoke like Him, or ever will. Our Lord saved a soul in death, but not in the conventional, evangelistic way.

Had this thief heard Jesus preach before? Was he among those who

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The Ultimate Discovery

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saw Jesus ride into Jerusalem, being hailed by the people some four days prior? Did he read the sign over Jesus' head: **"THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS"** (Luke 23:38)? The word of God had in some way been deposited into his heart and not snatched away by **"the fowls of the air"** (devils—Luke 8:5, 12). In a flash, his doubts disappeared, and he believed what he heard or what he saw written on the cross. He asked to be remembered in a coming kingdom, so he believed Jesus was what the sign said he was: King of the Jews. His belief was instantly rewarded just before death took his breath away.

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Self-discovery occurs in verses 39–41, and belief follows in verse 42. Mercy then comes in verse 43, and death walks in right after. What if the Lord allowed the Devil to continue blinding your mind and hardening your heart (2 Cor. 4:4), where would you be today? What about those to whom we've witnessed and pray for their souls to get saved before they leave this earth? Have they rejected God's word? Pray that something will come that will open the door to that ultimate discovery—their wickedness and love of sin.

Once I heard a preacher say that our God is a God of second chances, and everyone said, "Amen!" Later, I said that I believed the Lord can give a sinner many chances to receive Him but that He is not obligated to do so. Where is it written that a sinner's heart will soften later on after refusing grace when first offered?

"To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart" (Psa. 95:7–8).

Why do men harden their hearts? Simple: **"men loved darkness rather than light, because THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL"** (John 3:19).

If you are a Bible believer, you have to chuckle when you hear someone say, "I need to find out who I am." If someone were to say that to you, would you take advantage of that opening and say, "Do you really want to know?" Years ago, when I attended Catholic schools, I knew quite well that I was a sinner. Going to confession on a Saturday at 3 p.m. was all the convincing I needed. Sadly, the priest behind the screen did not give me the words of life (cf. John 6:68), and I remained in darkness for years. Nevertheless, the Lord used the law that I was given as a Catholic to lead me to salvation.

"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster" (Gal. 3:23–25).

There was a time in America when the Ten Commandments were displayed in public schools. It wasn't difficult then to know you were a sinner

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The Ultimate Discovery

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when those commandments were before your eyes five days a week. Sin was called sin then, not a disease like today when referring to alcoholism and drug addiction. Sodomy was understood to be a wicked, unnatural perversion and not something you practiced due to a so-called "gay gene" somewhere in your DNA. How can anyone make a true discovery about himself when words like *sin*, *wickedness*, *abomination*, and *evil* are thrown out of the vocabulary of every practicing therapist working in a rehab center or in a twelve-step program somewhere?

What happens to your cherished self-esteem and your sense of civility and decency when you read what the Lord says about your behavior?

"The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Psa. 14:2–3).

Man is evil. He is filthy. He is, apart from Christ, a dog licking his vomit or a pig wallowing in her mud (2 Pet. 2:22). To live all your life and not recognize that what God says about you is so is to choose death and not life. Self-discovery is painful, so we cling to the lie given Eve some six thousand years ago: **"and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"** (Gen. 3:5). That sounds a lot better than a dog licking vomit, right?

A line I heard years ago while watching a movie made a singular impression upon me and helped me later to recognize God's truth. The film was the 1951 black-and-white "A Christmas Carol," featuring Alastair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge. At some point in the movie, the ghost of Christmas past takes Scrooge to a bankruptcy hearing. Scrooge and his coworker, Marley, were in the employ of a Mr. Jorking, who was declaring insolvency after embezzling his company's funds. Scrooge put forth an offer to save the company provided he become the chief stockholder. This enraged the company's trustees who viewed Ebenezer as a vulture waiting for his prey to die. While the trustees were loudly voicing their objections, Mr. Jorking smirked and said to the trustees, "Come, come, now, gentlemen, we are all cutthroats under this fancy linen of ours."

What a line! Don't you like seeing pretensions challenged and delusions smashed? My God likes to put the axe to idols, especially the idol of *self*. As a Bible believer, don't you have an obligation to further your Father's business?

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:3–5).

From Deep in the Heart of Texas

A man in San Antonio wore a shirt with the title "World's Push-Up Champion." He said he did four hours of push-ups every day.

When asked by a street preacher about getting saved he replied, "I don't want to be an extremist. I don't believe in getting fanatical about anything.

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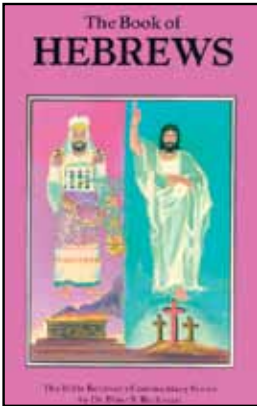
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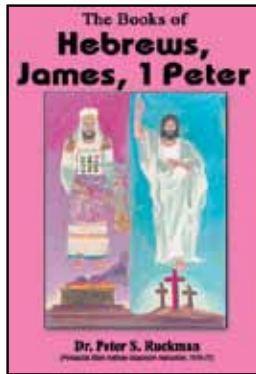
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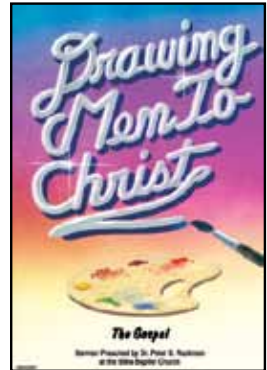
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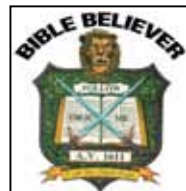
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Thirty Days Under the Crescent Moon

*(Editor's note: The following is a book which we are publishing here in the *Bulletin* in serial format. The work consists of a preface and seven chapters, some of which have had to be divided between two issues due to length.)

By Andrew Saucier

CHAPTER 2

"THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN
OFTEN GO ASTRAY"

"For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?" (Rom. 11:34).

The day after we landed in Nairobi, we rested and got our ducks in a row—so we thought. The following day we began in earnest. With tracts in hand and Bibles under our arms, we were ready to win Kenya to Christ. Well, anyway, that was the intent.



The first day of evangelism went well. We distributed 10,000 copies of seven different titles of Chick tracts, all of them in Swahili, the prevailing language of the area. Although most of the population under age 25 understand and speak English, we decided to distribute tracts in Swahili, and also to use an interpreter for preaching, because most of the young people are more fluent in Swahili.

On the first day, a hundred or more students made professions of faith in

the Lord Jesus Christ. I don't remember the titles of all the tracts that we used, with the exception of one: "Allah Had No Son." I remember that one in particular because it is the tract that put into motion the sequence of events that made this trip a little more to "write home about" than all the others.

Although we separated the Moslem children from the others, unbeknownst to us, on our first day of work, a young Moslem girl inadvertently got hold of the gospel tract "Allah Had No Son." After reading it, she gave it to her Imam (Moslem leader or teacher). The Lord was in this matter from the very beginning, because that particular school was the first time in all of my visits to Kenya that the Moslem children were separated. That was done through the providence of God and at the request of the principal in charge. We praise God for the Lord's overturning in this matter and at

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Thirty Days Under the Crescent Moon

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time, because we had never done so before in the forty or fifty schools that we had visited previously. That separation proved to be a major part of our defense.

The Imam, something like a local Catholic priest, controls the congregation, but with much more authority than does the Catholic priest. The girl just happened to pick the tract up off the ground; someone had obviously thrown it away. No doubt the Lord had providentially made preparations to defend us in the upcoming events, and that is the reason for the exclusion of the Moslems from the preaching of the Gospel. How good it is to have someone on my side that knows the future!

It wasn't until the next day that things began to get hairy. However, the day the Moslem girl brought the tract to the Imam, the evening of the first day of witnessing, the Imam whipped the local Moslem community into a frenzy. Several hundred stormed a local Baptist Church with the intent to burn it down, shouting their favorite slogan: "Death to the infidels!" This particular church was selected because the associate pastor, Bro. Patrick M. Ngei, had accompanied us to that particular school earlier that day.

By the time the violence erupted, we had already returned to the Hampton House and settled in for the evening; consequently, we were not aware of what was happening. The irony of the Moslem infidel thing is that if the Moslems really knew who the infidels actually are, they would be killing one another at a faster rate than they are doing right now. There has always been a degree of division between Christian denominations, but never to the extent that the Moslem community experiences.

Proverbs twice says: "**There is a way which [or "that"] seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). The light that is in them is darkness (Matt. 6:23), and they know it not yet (Prov. 24:12)! "**When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels**" (2 Thess. 1:7), they'll come to the realization of who is the real infidel.

After the Gospel tract incited complete chaos in an entire community, order was finally restored when the Moslems were promised that the police would prevent any more Gospel tracts of that sort from being distributed and that they would arrest anyone attempting to do so. Bro. Patrick Ngei, the associate pastor, was arrested at the church, and a search was undertaken for the remaining infidels who happened to be Brother Paul Garcia, Pastor Michael Otanga, and myself. The next morning, the authorities located us while we were buying gas at a service station. We had no idea at all what was the matter. We were told to accompany the officers to the local police headquarters to be detained for questioning. When I asked whether or not we were under arrest, I was told by the head officer that we

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Thirty Days Under the Crescent Moon

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were not at the time. I assumed then that it was just a misunderstanding and that it would be in our best interests to comply with their request (not that we had a choice), so we went with them.

When we arrived at the headquarters, we were placed in a dingy looking courtyard to await whatever it was that was going to transpire next. I must admit that in the beginning of this ordeal I was a bit intimidated, considering where we were and what was taking place. I know **“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”** (2 Tim. 1:7), but those verses did not immediately come to mind in this situation. As always it was, “O God, help me!”

Paul at Jerusalem, when faced with the possibility of examination by scourging in Acts 22, pleaded his case by proclaiming his citizenship (Acts 22:24–29), and I found myself doing the very same thing at my examination. The only difference in my case from that of the Apostle Paul was that Paul, being a citizen of Rome by birthright, struck fear into the heart of the centurion, and my being an American citizen didn't seem to bother anyone.

Several hours passed before any questioning was done, and we learned later that the reason for the delay was that the local officers were awaiting orders from the higher-ups (**“spiritual wickedness in high places”**—Eph. 6:12) on how to proceed. Knowing that we had done nothing unlawful made their decision difficult, but the Moslem community was demanding that something be done because we had distributed a Gospel tract stating that Allah had no son. The intent of the tract was to illustrate that God did have a Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and that since Allah did not have any sons, Allah could not be God. They took offense at that and rioted intending to burn down the Baptist church where Bro. Patrick was the associate pastor, because they knew he had accompanied us in distributing that particular tract.

The authorities finally decided to charge us officially with “inciting a riot.” What that meant was the riot the Moslems had conducted was our fault. In fact, it went a little further than that. What it really meant was the Moslems were without control of themselves because what we were doing was so offensive to them that they were unable to resist rioting; therefore, their conduct was justified, making us the culprits. It's like, “My momma spanked me when I was two years old; that's why I rape and kill women. It's her fault.”

We later learned that the chief of police was a Moslem and that we were to be used as a means of pacifying the situation, something like a scapegoat—sacrifice one and let the other go free into the wilderness (Lev. 16:10). Not a bad idea, depending upon which goat I happen to be. The Lord was our sacrificed “Goat,” and we were the goats that were set

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free into the wilderness. (Editor's note – although we are indeed set free in Christ [Gal 5:1], it is *Christ* who bore our sins [1 Pet. 2:24].)

Considering the fact that we had no idea we were to be arrested that day when we started out to do the work of the Lord, we were not sufficiently supplied with the necessary money to secure our release when the official charge was handed down. It's not a good idea to carry large sums of money around while traveling in and about that area of Nairobi. By the time the investigation was complete, it was late in the evening, the banks were closed, and we were going to spend at least one night in custody before we could make bond.

During the investigation, we had learned that several of the investigating officers were professing Christians. I don't mean to question the validity of their Christianity by saying they were "professing" Christians, but Kenya regards itself as a "Christian" nation. For the most part, the population knows that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for their sins in the same way that a Catholic knows those truths, but what they don't know is *how to be saved!* Justification and peace with God through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ are not understood. They are not familiar with salvation by grace through faith alone.

The joy of preaching to the Kenyans is that once they hear the fact that they need simply believe in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for their sins, they are more than willing to receive Christ as their personal Saviour. On my first trip to Kenya, more than 10,000 boys and girls, and men and women, stood up (most of the preaching is done in the open fields where everyone is sitting in the dirt) to acknowledge their willingness to receive Christ for eternal life. The Bible says that in Him there is life (John 1:4). Outside of Him, everything dies—no exceptions. Dogs, cats, plants, anything that has temporal life will die permanently outside of Christ. Immortality comes only through Him. Yet that's what lost man is seeking: an undying existence.

During the course of the investigation, I had the opportunity to convey that great truth to many of the officers, some of whom seemed to get it. The chief investigating officer of that division, however, was a hateful sort of man who didn't enjoy being spoken to as if I had something he needed but lacked. He was a Moslem, and the spirit of that ungodly religion was evident in Mr. Henry, the name by which we had come to know him. He and I had several run-ins over the legality of the polices' treatment of us, especially considering that fact that Kenya regards itself as a democratic nation (which I questioned).

The other brothers advised me that it would not be in our best interest to aggravate the situation by confronting the authority. Because of Romans

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13, I agreed. But the truth of the matter is that the man had gone as far as his authority allowed him to go, and there was really no more that he could do against us. The matter was not in the hands of the judicial system, and at the time, I had no idea where that would take us. But for the sake of the scriptures, I withheld myself from confronting the officer any further. But from then on, I could tell through his spirit, as evidenced on his countenance, that if he had had the authority, our lives would not have been worth a plug nickle.

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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, 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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Because I knew his authority was limited, he didn't frighten me. What worried me was the *system*; Mr. Henry was merely a spoke in the wheel.

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

It was the wicked system controlled by Satan that bothered us (Gal. 1:4 cf. 2 Cor. 4:4).

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