



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 38 No. 5

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

May, 2014

The Christian Soldier

By Brian Donovan



When Satan hounded the Apostle Paul into a dark prison cell in Rome, he was not aware of how the man was going to respond, nor how greatly the Lord Himself would end up using the situation. Had Satan known that the prison epistles would be the end result, he would not have pushed the envious Jews so hard against the Apostle to the Gentiles to the point of blind rage. Paul's prison time was spent putting to pen and paper the great mysteries that had been hid from ages past. Thanks to the letter to the Ephesians, the Christian learns of **“the middle wall of partition”** that was **“broken down”** by Christ to make **“one new man”** of two opposing groups (Eph. 2:14–15), besides the revelation of the mystery of the Body of Christ (Eph. 5:30–32). At the close of the letter, Paul is led by the Holy Spirit to teach the saints that they are called into a spiritual battle that requires

spiritual weapons (Eph. 6:10–18). In these last days of the Laodicean church age, it is a rare thing to hear and see a congregation that is being prepared to **“stand,” “wrestle,” “withstand,”** or put up any kind of a battle to be offensive about anything. Yet following the Lord Jesus Christ will lead the Christian head-into a fight that never lets up.

Recently, an old World War II veteran and valuable member of Bible Baptist Church went home to be at rest with the Lord, but right up to the end, even on his deathbed, the old Marine was still at war. From his deathbed, he gave specific instructions to “stay down and dig that hole deeper,” as well as letting his men know when it was time to attack. Brother Mitchell's last hours were spent fighting the enemy on Bouganville, and it was a great illustration of what a faithful Christian soldier is to be involved in today—a fight. The sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians closes with the final call to the Christian soldier to be aware of his Arm (vs. 10), his Arsenal (vs. 11), and his Adversaries (vs. 12).

I. His ARM—**“be strong in the**

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God's Woman



Dr. Peter S. Ruckman
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In 2 Kings 4:8, you find the only place in the Bible where a woman is referred to as “**great.**” It is the Shunammite woman, and her name is not even given. Mary wasn’t even called “great,” but in 2 Kings 4:8 is a woman about whom you know practically nothing, and the Bible says she was *great*.

Before broaching my subject, I need to say something which shouldn’t be necessary. What I am going to say *should be evident*, but it *isn’t* anymore. *A man should be a man, and a woman should be a woman*, but these days, you have to tell folks that. These days, Obama and the Democrats are pushing the queers, faggots, dykes, and butches. But that’s abnormal; it’s *perverse*. It is “reasonable” (and *normal*) that men should be men and women should be women.

Now if I were a woman (and I’m NOT a woman), but if I were a woman (and *I don’t want to be a woman*), but if I were a woman (and *thank God I’m not a woman*), I would want to be *God’s woman*. Don’t you Christian ladies believe that to be so? I mean, as a man, I want to be *God’s man*. Don’t you ladies want to be God’s woman? Well, if you do, here are the things that characterize God’s woman.

First, God’s woman has a *clean body*. One of the greatest pictures of the Bride of Christ in the Old Testament is *Rebekah*. The Bible says that before her marriage to Isaac, she was “**a virgin, neither had any man known her**” (Gen. 24:16). Rebekah was a *clean* woman. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: “**for I espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ**” (2 Cor. 11:2).

You live in a jaded generation. Modern Americans have a complex about *virginity* and *moral purity*. They think if a girl (or a boy, for that matter) reaches eighteen and is still a virgin, there is something wrong with the kid. There’s nothing wrong with a young person like that; that’s something *right*. There’s something twisted about people who are embarrassed to talk about virginity but won’t blush over *pornography*.

Billy Sunday went to witness to a fellow one time named Eddie Arnold (*not* the hillbilly country singer). Eddie was about to be executed for killing a man in a bar during a gambling fight. When Billy asked if Eddie had any message for his mother, Eddie cursed and said, “You tell her that.”

Billy was shocked, but do you know what Eddie said about his mother? He told Billy Sunday, “Preacher, I learned how to *play poker* watching *my mother*; I learned how to *drink* watching *my mother*; I learned how to *cuss* listening to

God's Woman

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my mother. The first *dirty joke* I ever heard came from *my mother*. I learned how to *gamble* from my mother, and I just *killed a man* in a *gambling fight*. If it weren't for *my mother*, I wouldn't be here, so you tell her blankety-blank her."

Eddie Arnold's mother wasn't God's woman. She belonged to someone else. God's woman is a clean woman.

Every few years, Hollywood has a dirty blonde and a dirty brunette for girls to look like, dress like, act like, and have your family and life *ruined like*, I might add. If you teenage girls and you women want to be dirty, you can be dirty and have a bunch of men trail after you like a pack of dogs, but if you do, you will *end up with the dogs*.

I witnessed to a couple of women one time from a car wreck in Traveler's Rest, South Carolina. One was a Catholic girl, and the driver was a Southern Baptist woman. They had been stepping out on their husbands and were drunk. I was able to lead the Catholic girl to Christ, but that Southern Baptist woman was something else.

She was very indignant, and when I asked her if she was saved, she screamed for me to get out. But before I left, I gave her one of those old-time Methodist prayers, where you pray at the top of your lungs. I prayed, "Oh, God! Please take this poor godless, depraved, Hell-bound, demon-possessed sinner and save her from a Devil's Hell!"

That old sister was just livid; she was paralyzed with anger. I told that woman, "Lady, I don't know who you are or where you're from, but I'll tell you one thing: any woman who responds to the Gospel the way you responded must be a *very wicked woman*."

Second, God's woman has a *converted soul*. The Bible picture is *Ruth*. Ruth gave up her own people and gods to go with Naomi to Bethlehem.

Ladies, it's not enough for you to be clean morally. "**Ye must be born again**" (John 3:7). You can't be saved by *morality*; clean living can't save you. No matter how clean you live, you are still a *sinner* (Rom. 3:23).

There is many a society woman who knows all the proper etiquette and just the right things to say but who is just as lost as a goose in a horse race. God's woman is a *saved* woman.

Years ago, an opera singer got saved in a meeting Bob Jones Sr. preached in Montgomery, Alabama. After she got saved, she was asked if she would grace the meeting with one of her arias, and she agreed. The next night she came on the platform all decked out in the regalia of a coloratura soprano and sang in a voice that could be heard for a "country mile":

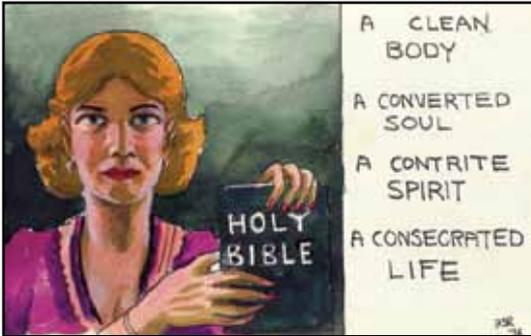
"I once was away from the Saviour,
And as vile as a sinner could be.
And I wondered if Christ the Redeemer
Could save a poor sinner like me."

That opera singer was a *good* woman, she was a *talented* woman, she was a *cultured* woman, but she didn't become *God's* woman until she trusted Christ.

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God's Woman

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Are you God's woman?

Third, God's woman has a *contrite spirit*. The Bible says, "**a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise**" (Psa. 51:17). What is a contrite spirit? It's a *humble, meek spirit*.

The Bible example of this is *Sarah*; she called her husband "**lord**" (1 Pet. 3:6). Passages like 1 Peter 3:1–6 and 1 Timothy 2:9–15 consign every modern

American "liberated" female to the *city dump*. The last thing this country needs is another aggressive, ambitious woman who is half male.

I hate to say this, but it is so. There is many a *saved, Christian* woman who makes a hell on earth out of her home. It shouldn't be that way. If a couple is saved, their home should be a slice of heaven on this earth. But a woman can ruin her home, and nine times out of ten she will do it with her *big mouth*.

The temptation for a man is to lose his temper, but the temptation for a woman is to open her mouth when she should *keep it shut*. That's what Eve did. Before she opened her mouth and ate the forbidden fruit, she opened her mouth and misquoted what God said—*twice*. She *omitted* something He did say ("**freely**"—Gen. 2:16 cf. 3:2), and she *added* something He never said ("**neither shall ye touch it**"—Gen. 3:3 cf. 2:17). Eve couldn't keep her big mouth shut, and mankind has been paying for it ever since.

Peter said a Christian woman is to have "**a meek and QUIET spirit**" (1 Pet. 3:4). The Greek is very strong here, ladies; it means "SHUT UP!"

When it comes to this matter of women running their mouths, I can speak from experience. I had a meeting one time over in Ft. Walton Beach where a particular woman would come rushing up on the platform every night after I got through preaching. She would grab me by the hand and pump it up and down while she pushed me back across the platform and went on and on without a let-up. Now don't misunderstand me. She was a good woman; she was a saved woman; she was concerned about her lost husband and son. But my God, what a mouth on that sister!

One night she invited the pastor and me over for dinner. That lost husband wasn't there and never showed up (smart fellow!). I sat there for a whole *hour* and got only *two sentences* in. That woman rattled on *nonstop*. I thought to myself, "If her husband ever does get saved, it will be a *double miracle*: God over man and man over *mouth*."

I have seen some tragic things come to pass because of *too much mouth*. I was out doing personal work one time with another pastor here in town named Ken Swaggert. We were dealing with an old sea dog named Emmanuel. Em-

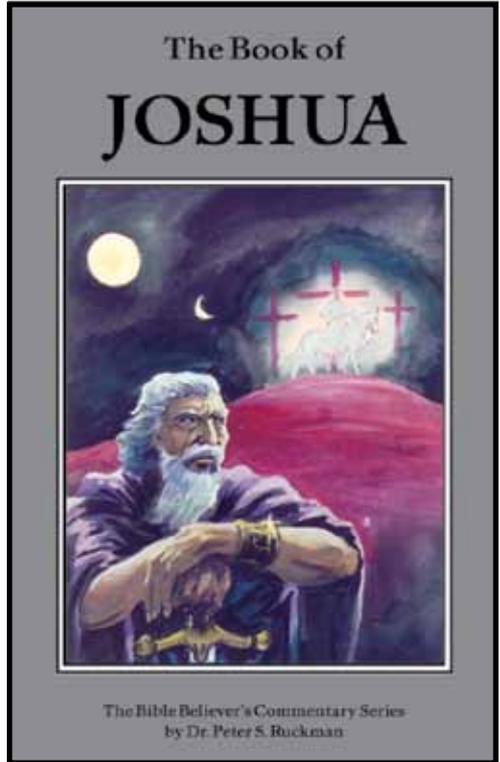
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NEW COMMENTARY

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to the Christian's spiritual warfare against the world, the flesh, and the Devil. The geography of the book is tied in to associated events in the rest of the Old Testament, with a map at the end to help the reader locate the major cities in Joshua, as well as the division of the tribes in the land.

(Plus postage—see page 17)



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God's Woman

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manuel was up to his eighties, and he had been married to a saved woman for more than fifty years. She had been trying her best to win him to Christ without success.

I witnessed to Emmanuel, and then Bro. Swaggert witnessed to him. It was obvious that Emmanuel was under conviction. Emmanuel's wife was behind him wringing a handkerchief nervously.

But as Bro. Swaggert pressed Emmanuel to trust Christ, that poor sister just couldn't stand it anymore. She cried out, "Oh, Emmanuel, won't you?" That old salt turned around and growled, "Shut up and keep your nose out of my business." The Holy Spirit just went "poof" and was gone. That woman was a good woman, and she was a saved woman who loved the Lord. But she took that old man and kicked him into Hell just as sure as the world, and she did it with her *big mouth*.

Finally, God's woman should have a *consecrated life*. In all the years I have heard people give "life verses," I can only recall one teenage girl who gave one I consider to be an excellent verse for a woman. It was Galatians 5:24.

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."

That's a verse like Galatians 2:20.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Of course, those verses aren't just for women; they are for any Christian. But they speak to the consecrated life a Christian woman should have. Bible examples would be *Hannah, Abigail, Mary, and Dorcas*.

I ran into a salesman up in Holland, Michigan one time named Otis Jones. He had been raised as a Roman Catholic altar boy, but he got saved through a fifteen-year-old girl leading him to the Lord.

One day he went into the office of a manufacturer with whom he did business, and she was filling in for the receptionist who was on her lunch break. Jones happened to notice the girl's hands and had to compliment her on what beautiful hands she had.

That young lady held up her hands and said, "My hands belong to Jesus." That shook him up so badly that he cursed without even thinking. Of course he felt like a perfect fool cursing and was so embarrassed that he ran out of there.

For the next week, all he could think of were that girl's hands and how they belonged to Jesus. He finally went back to the place at the same time of day, and there was that girl at the desk again. "What did you mean about your hands belonging to Jesus?" he blurted out. The girl replied, "My whole body belongs to Jesus." And that upset him so badly that he ran out of there a second time.

When he came back the third time, he said to that girl, "Young lady, I was raised an altar boy in the Catholic Church, but I don't know the 'Jesus' you talk about. Would you tell me about Him?" And that teenage girl led him to Christ.

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God's Woman

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The next Sunday, Jones went to the church that girl attended and found out she was the piano player. As that girl played, Jones felt the Holy Spirit all over that building. After making some inquiries about her, he learned that when she was eight years old she promised the Lord that if He would help her learn the piano, she would never play anything but a hymn on it. That was that girl's secret. She was God's woman; He had her hands.

Has God got your hands, sister? Has He got your feet, your eyes, your ears, your mouth? My approach to this is that whatever I am able to do, the Lord has it. If I can draw, the Lord has it. If I can play an instrument, the Lord has it. If I can write, the Lord has it. It might not be any good, but it is the Lord's. When I get to the Judgment Seat of Christ, all I'll be able to say is: "Lord, I did the best I could with what you gave me under the circumstances." Does God have your *best*, sister, no matter what it is?

The old-time Methodist evangelist Sam Jones held a meeting in Atlanta, Georgia one time in which a notable gambler in that part of the country got saved. He had a reputation for being a very wicked man, but he got saved as a result of his Christian wife.

She had witnessed to him and tried to lead him to Christ to the point where he wouldn't listen any more, but she prayed for him, nonetheless. One night late, he and an older fellow got out of a poker game, and he invited his buddy home for a cup of coffee.

That old man said, "What woman is going to get up at 1:00 in the morning to fix a cup of coffee?"

"Mine will," said the younger fellow.

"What kind of wife you got any way?" asked the older man.

"Oh, she's a Christian," said the young gambler.

"A Christian!" exclaimed the older guy. "I don't know what *that* is, but I guess it's worth seeing."

The two went to the younger man's apartment, and he banged on the bedroom door and yelled, "Wife, get up! Make us some coffee and don't take all night about it!"

That Christian lady got up, donned her housecoat, and made some coffee. When she brought it out to the two men, her husband winked at his buddy and said, "Watch this." He knocked the coffee to the floor and cursed. "This coffee is cold; get us some more," he demanded. Patiently the wife came back and cleaned up the mess; then she went back to the kitchen and fixed some more coffee.

"How does a good woman like that live with a devil like you?" asked the older fellow.

"I don't know," said the husband, "but she does. She about drives me out of my mind, always talking about God, the Bible, prayer, and going to Hell."

"You're going to Hell all right," agreed the old man, "but I don't see how a fellow like you wound up with a good Christian woman like that."

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God's Woman

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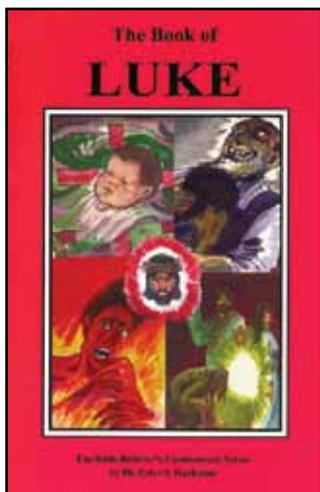
About that time the wife came back in with the fresh coffee. Her husband's friend asked her, "Young woman, why would a good Christian woman like you live with a good-for-nothing husband like you've got?"

That woman replied, "I love him. I have tried to win him to Christ, and I can't do it. Some day he is going to die and burn in Hell forever, and he'll never be happy again. I am trying to make him as happy as I can now while he's here."

The young man felt so low after hearing that that he let his wife lead him to the Lord right in front of his gambling buddy.

Now that's a very unusual case, but God's woman is a very unusual woman. Christian lady, don't you want to be God's woman?

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May 29-June 1

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Pastor Ron Robinson
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July 25-27

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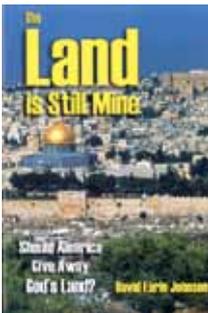
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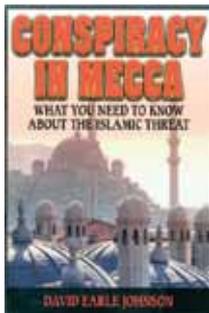


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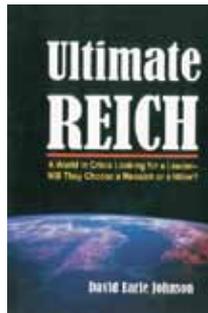


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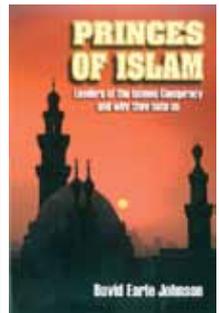


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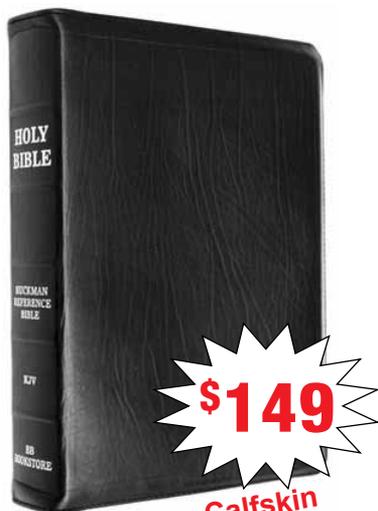
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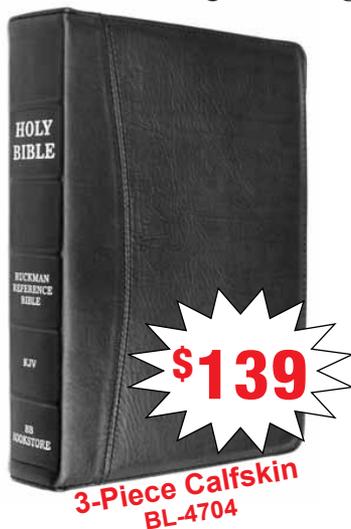
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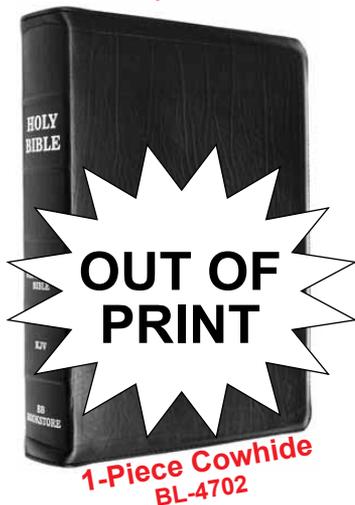
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The Christian Soldier

Continued from 1

Lord, and in the power of his might” (vs. 10).

The great Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10) knows that we are weak in the flesh, so He commands us to lean on His arm and go **“in the power of his might.”** We are spurred to fight on, even if only in flashes of bravery and courage. The flesh must be laid down and presented as **“a living sacrifice”** (Rom. 12:1), even though it will not, as Isaac, the type of the Son on Calvary, lay down willingly. The flesh will kick and scream and try to compromise; anything but willingly submit. So the soldier must learn to go **“in the power of his might.”**

There is great encouragement to know that you can rely on the arm of the Lord. The Lord waits for a Pharaoh that **“knew not Joseph”** (Exod. 1:8) before He would lead Israel out; otherwise, Egypt would have allowed an easy, friendly departure. But the Lord wishes to rip Egypt out of your heart, as well as recognize from where the deliverance must come. Jesus Christ waits four days to allow Lazarus to die, or no one would have had the chance to believe (John 11:15). The Lord works in this manner in order to make it obvious that this is not a warfare to be fought with the arm of flesh. The soldier can make it through much adversity and trouble as he relies on the arm of the Lord.

The Lord has not yet revealed the date of His coming, only the promise that He is coming. The circumstances do not tend to optimism, unless the soldier continues to rely on **“the power of his might.”** In these last days, the Church of Jesus Christ is to be made up of disciplined soldiers, willing to fight, committing their souls to **“a faithful Creator”** (1 Pet. 4:19). To listen to what comes out of the modern pulpit, you would not get the idea of enduring **“hardness, as a good soldier”** (2 Tim. 2:3), but rather a Hollywood talent show for a bunch of “look-at-me-now-Mommy,” Facebook sissies. The battle must begin within the soldier’s own deceitful heart and carry on to reach a lost world on its way to Hell. This is the description of the normal Christian life found throughout the New Testament.

II. His ARSENAL—**“Put on the whole armour of God”** (vs. 11).

The armor is plainly listed in verses 14–17, and there isn’t any mention of sacraments, baptisms, holy water, pilgrimages, etc. What a condemnation awaits the Roman “Vicars of Christ” who stole the Christian soldier’s armor and replaced it with the dead works of popish religion. This battle must be fought God’s way, with His armor, and under His directions. When Joshua led Israel into the land of Canaan, the Jordan River opened God’s way, Jericho’s walls fell God’s way, and the 31 pagan kings were all defeated God’s way. The only hope for the Christian soldier is to **“put on the whole armour of God.”**

A. The loins must be **“girt about with truth”** (vs. 14). The whole midsection, or core of the soldier, must be protected with truth. The Christian must search, study, listen, and always seek out truth. One of today’s catchphrases is: “I just can’t seem to wrap my head around that.” Well, try wrapping your head around a pole, but wrap truth around your whole middle. You need the truth! The soldier who girds himself with truth will be protected from being **“carried about with every wind of doctrine”** (Eph. 4:14).

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The Christian Soldier

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The Lord puts a premium on truth. He delivers it to His people through His words (John 17:17—**“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth”**) and expects us to hold fast to them (2 Tim. 1:13). The *King James Bible* is a vilified book, and it is popular to attack the pure words of God in these last days. The Lord is **“against the prophets”** that steal His words from their neighbors (Jer. 23:30). Today’s Christians call whatever best suits themselves the truth, and it changes with the times.

The truth is supposed to be more important to you than your job, family, friends, and even your own self. Truth does not consider personal gain. Henry VIII kicked the pope and Roman Catholicism out of England; not for love of the truth, but for personal gain. The result was a state Anglican church that was as pagan as Rome. Professing Bible believers often cause division in a church, not for love of the truth, but for personal gain.

A soldier is strengthened in the battle when his loins are **“girt about with truth,”** as he is able to take some afflictions in the stand for truth. He has his orders and knows they are always right, and that allows for a stand that can take reproaches, infirmities, and persecutions.

B. The breastplate is made of righteousness (vs. 14). Although Jesus Christ is our righteousness, the soldier must daily put on a breastplate of his own right living. The Lord calls His people to holiness (1 Pet. 1:14–16) and to **“depart from iniquity”** (2 Tim. 2:19). The soldier is to **“put off . . . the old man”** and **“put on the new”** (Eph. 4:22–24). Having the breast protected in this way gives courage in the fight, because **“if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God”** (1 John 3:21). This battle is fought in private, as well as in public. The breastplate on the Roman soldier was a chafing to the flesh, yet a great source of protection in the battle. One day, it will be shown as **“the fine linen”** of the righteousness of the saint (Rev. 19:8).

C. The feet must be **“shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace”** (vs. 15). A soldier must have protection for his feet. Troubles with the feet can knock the soldier out of the fight. The Christian must be always ready to preach the Gospel. An unprepared soldier misses opportunities and often doesn’t even realize the missed chance until it is long passed. Abraham kept his feet ready, and one day the Lord told him to offer up Isaac. Moses kept his feet shod until one day the Lord told him to go up a mountain and come home. **“The god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4) keeps men busy with trivia. Men work and fight for real estate, promotion, money, power, and things until it is too late. Lost sinners cannot conceive that the Lord has such good news for them: **“the gospel of peace.”** Religion leaves doubt, while the Gospel says you can KNOW (1 John 5:13; 2 Tim. 1:12). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only way for a sinner to find **“peace with God”** (Rom. 5:1).

The Lord God Almighty is just skirmishing with sinners right now. A tsunami here, an earthquake there; but soon He will return in anger, and sinners will die by the billions. The world has never seen anything like what is coming in the Great Tribulation. The Lord’s bow is aimed, and the arrow is in flight (Psa. 7:12).

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The Christian Soldier

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Are your feet shod with the **“gospel of peace”**? The Christian foot soldier has a duty to be shod with this gospel, and there is not much time left before the fight will be over,

D. **“The shield of faith”** must be worn above all (vs. 16). This piece is **“above all”** because **“without faith it is impossible to please God”** (Heb. 11:6). It is by faith that **“the elders obtained a good report”** (Heb. 11:1–2). The Lord takes note of the faith of the centurion (Matt. 8: 5–10), and when He returns, it will be faith for which He will be looking (Luke 18:8).

Faith can only cling to what God said, even when the circumstances show it to be unreasonable. It was not reasonable to have faith that an ark would float a family safely through a worldwide flood, that at 99 years old, Abraham would have a child through his ninety-year-old wife, that Egypt would be defeated with only a rod in the hand of Moses, that a virgin would bear a child, or that Jesus Christ is soon coming back for His own. But by faith, all the fiery darts of doubt and unbelief can be quenched. Faith clings to the Scriptures and hopes against hope (Psa. 119:114).

Faith causes action. Moses made a very unreasonable decision to leave the comforts of the palace of Pharaoh and be counted with Hebrew slaves (Heb. 11:24–25). Yet the Bible says that **“he endured, as seeing him who is invisible”** (Heb. 11:27). Faith is needed to pack up a family and cross the oceans to reach the lost souls of a foreign land.

Faith overcomes temptation by seeing sin as it really is. Moses saw that **“the pleasures of sin”** were but **“for a season”** (Heb. 11:25). Paul saw that he could not be tempted above that he was able (1 Cor. 10:13). Peter saw that he could resist the whole council and **“obey God rather than men”** (Acts 5:29).

Faith comforts the believer in troubles, knowing that they are able to bring forth gold (1 Pet. 1:6–7). By faith, we know that even troubles **“work together for good to them that love God”** (Rom. 8:28). There is great value in the defensive protection that **“the shield of faith”** brings the Christian soldier.

E. The head must have **“the helmet of salvation”** (vs. 17). **“The hope of salvation”** (1 Thess. 5:8) gives the soldier purpose to live and fight. The poor souls without salvation have no purpose, no goals, and no hope. As a result, they will spend much time and money seeking the thrills offered by this world. He might try dropping off a cliff on a snowboard, doing flips on a motorcycle, bungee jumping, or getting frost bitten toes and fingers just to stand on a mountain summit. Man does not desire to live without some kind of purpose, so he will continue seeking to find it, even as each thrill quickly subsides. **“The helmet of salvation”** replaces temporary thrills with eternal purpose.

In 1910, a Christian lost his wife and was left with two young sons. He remarried and watched his business grow to over 1,400 stores from 1917–1929. During that time, his second wife also died, and the crash of 1929 saw him lose \$40 million. At 57 years old, this man was in a sanitarium and crushed. As he was getting dressed one morning, he heard a faint voice singing from the kitchen, “Be not dismayed what e’re betide, God will take care of you; beneath

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The Christian Soldier

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his wings of love abide, God will take care of you." From that point, J.C. Penney was able to renew his trust in **"the helmet of salvation"** and start over. Until he died, he never quit his excessive giving to the work of God, as the Lord blessed him, to be a blessing to others.

F. The last piece of the **"armour of God"** in the list is **"the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God"** (vs. 17). All of the other pieces in this armor are defensive, but the sword is offensive. It is paramount that the Christian soldier have confidence in his sword. His sword must be wielded offensively in this battle, and without it, he has no more than the lost sinner without hope (Eph. 2:12). The Devil is not fearful of your **"shield of faith,"** your **"helmet of salvation,"** your shod feet, or your **"breastplate of righteousness."** What knocks him down is the word of God.

When Edward VI was being crowned as king of England in 1547, he was presented with three swords, representing his domain over England, Ireland, and France. Edward noted that there was a missing sword. When asked what that could be, he answered, "The sacred Bible which is **'the sword of the Spirit,'** without which we can do nothing."

The word of God has the power to convert sinners from the damnation of Hell to eternal life in Christ. It must be drawn at any and every occasion. It can save at weddings, funerals, in jails, in hospital rooms, stores, banks, schools, and on the foreign mission fields. **"The sword of the Spirit"** reaches into the private places of the heart without asking permission. It **"is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart"** (Heb. 4:12). It cuts both saints and sinners. The Christian soldier does not do the lost soul any favor by withholding his sword from drawing blood (Jer. 48:10).

The constant satanic attacks on the Scriptures prove how valuable they are. The worldwide standard in the last days of the Church Age is found in the worldwide language of the last days, the *King James Bible* of 1611. It is **"the sword of the Spirit"** that has been carried to the uttermost parts of the earth.

III. His ADVERSARIES—**"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"** (vs. 12).

The Christian soldier's adversaries are not human, but spirits. Though these beings are **"in high places,"** they still have access and control in this world. In Daniel chapter 10, a great example of this spiritual battle is revealed. As Daniel spends three weeks praying, Gabriel finally shows up and lets him know that **"the prince of Persia"** withstood him until Michael the archangel helped Gabriel out. From what the Bible reveals regarding the power of angels, we can be sure that this was no human prince holding Gabriel back. This episode shows that the world's governments are run from above by **"the prince of the power of the air"** (Eph. 2:2). Human governments are the Lord's punishments for rejecting His kingship (1 Sam. 8:7) and have been delegated to Satan (Luke 4:5–6). Politicians are satanic pawns, using conspiracies to make wars in the name of peace as millions are killed every year.

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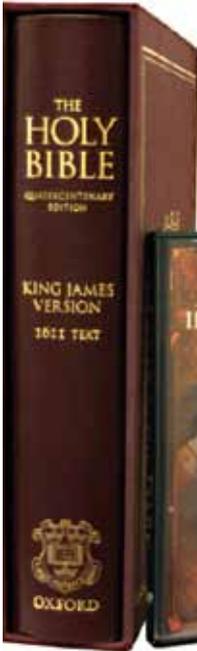
The Christian Soldier

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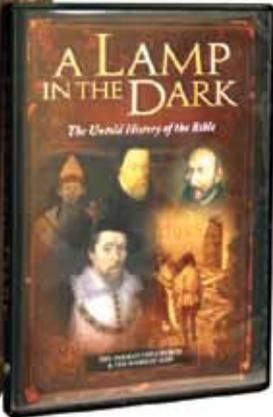
The Christian soldier must wrestle in prayer against these spiritual adversaries, recognizing that it is the souls of men that must be fought for. Every time a Christian gets riled up about politics and deluded into thinking that he can bring political change to save his country, he has been sidetracked by his spiritual enemy. The soldier of this Church Age has never been ordered by his Captain in a single verse of Scripture to save or change the country in which he lives. It is the Lord God of the Bible who is presently gathering the nations, politically and socially, into a one-world government to get them ready for the great destruction of His Second Coming. This prophecy is given repeatedly in the books of Amos, Joel, Zephaniah, and Zechariah. Not a single example can be cited from the beginning of the Church in the book of Acts, through the writings of Paul (including his actions), that could lead the Christian soldier into politics. Our enemies are spiritual, and our offensive weapon is spiritual, the word of God.

It is fashionable and acceptable to be a patriotic American. What is NOT fashionable is to wield the sword and say, "Thus saith the Lord." The Captain of our salvation is looking for soldiers who will swing the sword, with the discernment to recognize the spiritual adversaries, and who are fully armed for the conflict.

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Jailbirds vs. the “Godly Apostates”

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

From time to time we print letters from people who believe the Book and are glad to have it. We don't print these to “toot our own horn,” but to show the apostate Fundamentalist leaders in America that things aren't always as they see them through their “rose-colored glasses.”

These letters come from people who, many times, *never heard of me*, or just heard of me. We reproduce here two letters from “clients” who are “in population.” That is modern “double-speak” for prisoners in the “slammer.” The first one is from Texas.

“Dear Peter, I see by your great interest in making known by your knowledge and servitude to examine the Greek and Hebrew languages that are left, that you prove that the *King James Version* is the genuine word of God. This is so compatible. To find such a man today that fights back at the so-called ‘experts’ of today who question the authority and accuracy of our Bible, God's word. In this prison, there is so much turmoil about this; they do not agree that the *King James* is correctly the word of God. Even my neighbor has turned from it and has become a Jehovah's Witness. Satan is behind all of this, I am sure. I believe these other ‘Bibles’ are the first step to get the world ready for the Man of Sin, and the people who accept them as being better have lost their understanding of other versions. All I am doing here is trying to help get straight the evil that is around that is upsetting the church here, and to try and open their eyes to see how it is being done. I thank you again for your great help. Sincerely . . .”

These are the kind of Christians who are going to face Bob Jones III and his “reverent biblicists” at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They will find out then how many thousands of those kind of believers there were. These ultra-separated apostates, with their isolated mentalities, their isolated tax-exempt corporations, and their isolated fellowships, have forgotten that the Book we believe is quite able to judge *them*, no matter what they do or how they accomplish it.

Now the fellow out in Texas had a “kindred spirit” he never met, and didn't know, over in Reidsville, Georgia. That prisoner wrote:

“Dear Dr. Ruckman, I am an inmate at the Georgia State Prison, and I have bad eyes and wear glasses. For the past couple of years I have written a number of Christian publications, like *The Sword of the Lord*, Bob Jones University, and about seventeen other different places, asking if they could donate to me a large-print, red-letter study Bible, *King James Version*. The only one who answered me back was *The Sword of the Lord*, and they sent me a small-print New Testament NASV (this was before Shelton Smith became the editor). After reading your book *The Christian's Handbook of Biblical Scholarship*, I can understand why. Mr. Ruckman, I am writing to request your help if possible. Could you please send me a large-print, red-letter *King James Version*? I deeply appreciate it if you would.”

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LEARN OF ME

By Robert Militello

“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).

Wouldn't you know that the word **“study”** was going to be discarded in every perverted rewrite of the 1611 *King James* text. There is something about that word that brings fear into the hearts of those who fancy themselves to be “popes” over God's people. God forbid that you, the average Christian simpleton not having any knowledge of Greek or Hebrew, should discover that this bunch (little “popes”) are without clothes underneath their emperor's robes. Studying is a discipline that has vanished and has gone the way of the rotary phone.

In 1828, Noah Webster defined the verb *to study*. It means “to fix the mind closely upon a subject; to muse; to dwell upon in thought”; also, “to consider attentively and to examine closely.”

Studying requires *effort*. When Paul listed the signs of impending character collapse in the last days of the church (see 2 Tim. 3:1–5), he began with **“For men shall be lovers of their own selves.”** Obviously, this means a marked increase in selfishness, the “ME” generation. The servant of selfishness is laziness. Last-days Christians living in a world of high tech and immediate access to entertainment and information could find themselves prone to laziness like no generation before them.

God's word is not a piece of literature that naturally captures your attention. It condemns human nature, it mocks men's efforts to make the world a better place, and horror of horrors, it describes a literal place of fire in the afterlife. This is not exactly a book on which the natural man cannot wait to get his hands, unless, of course, something inside him has been worked upon by the Holy Spirit.

How can I learn of Him, my Saviour, unless I submit to the discipline of *studying* God's word and not just *reading* it? Study brings its own reward, and the Lord would have us all taught in the words that He faithfully preserved for us.

“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat” (Prov. 13:4).

Desire to know Him should be motive enough to study His word. All of Psalm 119 is about the word of God. Nine times in that Psalm you find David writing, **“teach me”** (see vs. 12, 26, 33, 64, 66, 68, 108, 124, 135). Nine is the number of fruit, and if you desire to bear fruit as a Christian, you must allow the Holy Spirit to teach you while you are here and able to do something for His glory before He comes, amen?

“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant” (1 Cor. 10:1). Paul liked that phrase and obviously had little tolerance for ignorance among the brethren, as is evidenced also in 1 Corinthians 12:1; 2 Corinthians 1:8; and 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

Paul had a teacher's heart. As a student of the Torah, his Yeshiva (school) master was Gamaliel, the Pharisee who gave counsel to the Sanhedrin concerning the handling of the Lord's apostles (Acts 5:34). Paul shows off his credentials to the Jews wanting to kill him in Acts 22:3 by mentioning his education under

LEARN OF ME

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that great Torah sage. Jews are impressed with education. Studying to them is a staple of life: it goes with breathing, eating, and sleeping.

Would to God Gentiles would look at it this way. Many Gentiles get intimidated by those who display a mastery of the subject about which they are talking. Even big shots like Festus, the Roman governor of Judea, and King Agrippa thought Paul's learning went too far.

“And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; MUCH LEARNING DOTHTH MAKE THEE MAD” (Acts 26:24).

I remember hearing that nonsense from a Catholic priest regarding the danger of searching the scriptures apart from Catholic tutelage. An evangelical pastor of Staten Island, New York (he believed the Holy Spirit would never limit God's people to only the AV 1611) once told me that one can become so heavenly minded as to become of no earthly good. Being from Brooklyn, I translated that pious garbage to mean: “Don't study too much, or you'll discover that I'm not as smart as I want you to think I am.” Ignorance of God's word is the reason Christian TV and radio can fleece the flock with more thoroughness than German SS officers employed in running Jewish death camps.

Study is *verboden* (forbidden) by the critics of the AV 1611. Putting your face in that book constantly will eventually show you that the *King James* Bible has authority and power in its pages, and you will either resent that and become a Bible critic, or ignore that power and remain carnal, or submit to its authority and go on to bear fruit. That Book won't leave you neutral; it forces you to take sides. Presently, we are seeing our beloved nation hardening in its opposition to that Book. So this is our future:

“He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy” (Prov. 29:1).

Brethren, the Lord is not going to congratulate you at the Judgment Seat of Christ for being ignorant, so why not study?

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus listened in on two Jews talking about what recently happened in Jerusalem and a supposed resurrection of a corpse from a sealed tomb. The Lord did not excuse the manifest ignorance of these two travelers. He jumped on them and called them fools for not knowing the scriptures (see Luke 24:25–27).

Do you want to get a Bible education at the Judgment Seat with a Saviour and Lord put out with your ignorance because of laziness? Will there be a chart there comparing hours watching TV and time spent reading and studying His word? I hope not.

Imagine walking the streets of glory and running into Haggai, Zephaniah, Amos, et al.; and they are bold enough to ask you if you ever read the words they wrote, which became part of the Bible you carry to church on Sunday. What will you say? “Well I heard of you guys, but I don't recall what you wrote. Was it important?”

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LEARN OF ME

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Often, you don't have the opportunity to do much studying, and God knows that. Sometimes it is too late like the thief on the cross saved just before dying. The Lord is not unreasonable, nor is He a Pharaoh-like taskmaster. You do what you can; I understand that. But remember what Paul wrote if you have time and opportunity to study.

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools [remember the two Jews on the road to Emmaus], but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15–16).

You miss a lot when you don't study. There's so much the Holy Spirit can show you if you allow Him.

“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psa. 119:18).

The jeweler looks at a dirty little stone. He polishes it, puts it into a solution, and polishes it again. Now that stone shows its brilliance. It is a diamond, but it didn't look that way at first. For all the studying the Pharisees did, they didn't see the diamond they had in Jesus. Because of centuries of rebellion and killing prophets, the Holy Spirit took away the jeweler's glass, and they were not able to see beyond the dirt on the stone. After all, Jesus and His apostles did not even wash their hands before eating. How can He be the promised Messiah?

Years ago, in Brooklyn, I attended a university where the majority of the student body was Jewish. This was very good for me. **“Iron sharpeneth iron”** (Prov. 27:17). There I noticed a very clear difference between Jew and Gentile. I engaged in some racial profiling (Brooklyn street wisdom gives you varied, useful survival skills) and discovered that Jews were willing to sacrifice weekend leisure activities for studying and Gentiles were NOT. My Jewish friends looked forward to exams; they prepared themselves. My Gentile friends prepared for the next weekend and how they would entertain themselves. Everyone pretty much knows by now where all of this leads later on in life.

If your powers of observation have not been crippled by too much TV, you will have noticed where many Jews choose to make their livings. They go to the professions of law, medicine, dentistry, teaching, psychiatry, accounting, investment counseling, etc. Sacrifice pays off. The Friday and Saturday nights spent hitting the books gave them a career. While they were preparing for exams, Johnny, Tony, Timmy, Tyronne, and Julio were waxing their GTOs, Mustangs, and Camaros looking to impress Sally and her sorority sisters. Well, the outcome of all this was easily discerned soon enough. Gentiles took jobs with banks, insurance companies, publishing houses, and transportation and communications. Most of their jobs did not pay the big bucks. So when the Gentile needed the services of a lawyer, doctor, dentist, etc, he had to go to the Jew.

When you and I searched for forgiveness, salvation, and power to live cleanly and honestly, we were directed to the Jew. When the Lord decided that a book would be written that would tell men all they needed to know about God, He gave the job to the Jew. The Jew was ready to forego leisure and sacrifice for

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LEARN OF ME

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the future; the Gentile was not.

“Salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22). Many a Jewish surgeon has saved the life of a Gentile. Jewish lawyers have saved countless Gentile clients prison time. Jewish accountants have mastered the complex tax regulations to the relief of many Gentile businessmen. Jewish teachers and college professors have educated millions of Gentiles. You and I read Paul, and we say, “Glory to God that Jew has taught me something.” Studying pays off, now and later.

After getting out of trouble in Thessalonica, Paul and Silas got to a synagogue in Berea. There they found more willingness to hear the gospel. Of the Bereans, the Holy Spirit wrote through Luke: **“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11).

Do you read the fine print on insurance policies you purchase, or do you find out you will not be paid on a claim because you signed without studying? **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”** (Hos. 4:6).

Do you read the contents label on the food items you purchase at the supermarket? When your health is at stake, it makes sense to check carefully what you feed your body. God’s people in America will compare sodium content in soups and sugar content in cereals, but will not study the differences in Bible versions and discover which one has the hand of God upon it. Folks generally do what they want to do, and the effort involved in reading and studying takes time away from entertainment and amusement.

For these last days, Paul wrote, **“For men shall be lovers of their own selves”** (2 Tim. 3:2). The word of God does not flatter men, so don’t expect the study of His word to be a hot item. There are few Bereans around. Notice the adjective the Holy Spirit uses to describe those who are ready to hear and to search the scriptures for themselves. **“These were MORE NOBLE”**: they were a cut above the ordinary. They thought it wise to validate what Paul and Silas were preaching by examining the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. How often have I heard Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, with fifty-plus years of Bible teaching under his belt, say, “Don’t take my word for it; look it up.” Do you?

Fifty-five years ago, I sat in a Jesuit Prep School and heard the Headmaster, Father John Kelly, tell new students that three hours of home study each night was the norm. He said, “Here you will learn to study and look things up, and if you are lazy, you’ll never come back as a sophomore.” Every student was expected to go to college. Those Jesuits, a bunch of lost, cheerless, and unhappy bachelors, knew the art of disciplining young minds. They practiced their craft skillfully. Now we have a Jesuit Pope in Rome. The Lord put him there to seduce the nations and prepare Israel to receive a false messiah. Aren’t you glad you are saved?

Gentiles are jealous of Jews who dominate the professions and have good incomes. Studying was the vehicle by which the Jews escaped the tenements

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LEARN OF ME

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of the lower east side of New York. The Jews who came here quickly discovered that America was indeed a land of opportunity, if you were willing to sacrifice and study. I had a number of Jewish friends who lived in three-room apartments with their parents, where square feet was at a premium, yet there was always a bookcase with loads of books on shelves. School to them was an extension of the apartment. They were always reading; their minds were sharp.

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes” (Deut. 6:6–8).

These verses explain the Jewish addiction to teaching and learning. God’s words were not just to be read, they were to be eaten.

“Thy words were found, and I did eat them” (Jer. 15:16).

When the Lord sets up His kingdom here and sits on David’s throne in Jerusalem, will there be libraries containing shelves and shelves of books that testify to man’s vanity and foolishness? I don’t think so. Finally, the human race will have the Teacher of teachers, a Jew instructing men how to live and get along without war, oppression, deceit, and corrupt officials. The twelve-year-old Jewish lad who astounded the learned rabbis in the temple will be laying down the law and enforcing it **“with a rod of iron”** (Psa. 2:9; Rev. 19:15). Those who survive **“the time of Jacob’s trouble”** (Jer. 30:7) will find their planet “under new management.” No more hot air from the UN, no more “Holy Father” in Rome praying for world peace, and no more gay pride parades celebrating disease and degeneracy with government officials smiling from the reviewing stand.

Christian, if you haven’t yet learned to do so, start eating the Book. Much learning won’t make you mad like Festus told Paul. If you teach yourself to love that Book, you’ll get a lot of loving back from it. This article is finished, and it’s time for my homework again—more reading, more studying, and more joy of soul. What a Book!

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Jailbirds vs. the “Godly Apostates”

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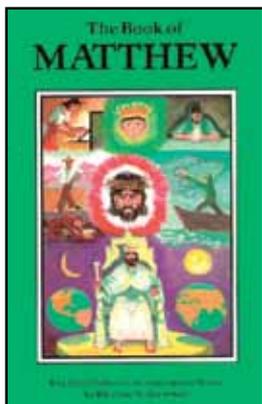
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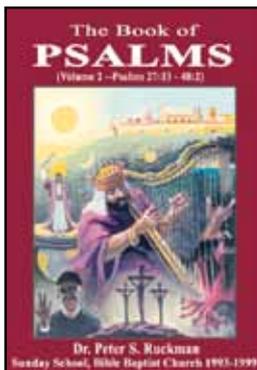
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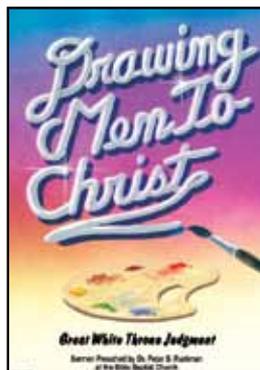
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Thirty Days Under the Crescent Moon

*(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

PREFACE



I have been to the continent of Africa on six separate occasions, once to Algeria in the Sahara Desert while working for Stone and Webster Atlantic Corporation as a steam fitter welder at a gas liquefying plant. The money was good, but the atmosphere was strange: there was something spiritually dead about the whole place. It wasn't until I had been there for a while that I realized that nowhere were there any signs of Christianity, and considering the time of year (it was December 1977), it was absolutely amazing to me that

Christ had been excluded from an entire nation.

I was a new Christian at the time and wasn't exactly a spiritual giant; not that I am one now, but I knew enough then to know that Christ was in me and that I didn't like the environment. I know now that what was happening to me was that the Spirit was being quenched, and any knowledge of Christ was being intentionally repressed. It's peculiar how Moslem nations are allowed to do such things without criticism from the so-called free world, but when it's done to Moslems, they take the position of the aggrieved party as though they've been wronged. What's even more surprising is that the Western World doesn't see the inconsistency of that arrangement.

When I arrived in Algeria, I was made aware by the American contingency that had arrived there before me that several of the American workers had, for no apparent reason, committed suicide. I believed it then without even giving any thought as to why, and I still do believe it because of what I have learned since then about how spiritual depression can lead to suicidal tendencies. Looking back, I remember the oppression I was experiencing myself, and because of the knowledge that I now have about spirits and the influence they have on mankind, lost or saved, I now know what the root cause was of those suicides. I know that man's spirit, to whatever degree, is out of the control of the Holy Spirit of God and, to that same degree, is capable of ungodly behavior (Rom. 6:16).

Spirits have very few abilities in this dimension except by suggestion. The will of man ultimately has the final say in his behavior. Even where complete demonic possession is present, the will of man is responsible by compliance. No one wakes up one morning and decides to commit suicide. It is the result

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of a gradual compliance of man's spirit to an evil spirit. Spirits need bodies to perform or enact what they intend to do. And all that they intend to do is wicked; they have no choice in the matter. They are in darkness and their work is darkness.

Algeria is a totally Moslem nation, and the freedom that I experienced in 1977 as an American citizen is not available there now. The political situation has worsened because the spiritual situation has worsened. The spirit of man governs the body, and the spirit to which he is yielding will determine in what direction he proceeds. **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey . . . ?”** (Rom. 6:16).

The second time I went to Africa was at the invitation of a friend, Brother Brian Donovan, the associate pastor of Bible Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida. The country was Malawi, located in central east Africa. The visit was a missionary trip, of sorts, with the purpose of teaching the local pastors certain basic doctrine that would help them in the ministry. That trip was successful in accomplishing what it was intended to do.

The next four times I went to Africa were to Kenya. On my first trip there, with my friend Bill Eubanks, we visited elementary, secondary, and college-level schools and prisons. Those first three weeks were the most rewarding and profitable experience of my Christian life. I haven't ever seen anything like it, before or since. I am speaking of the number of people that were saved. My next three trips to Africa combined did not produce the number of conversions that we witnessed on that first trip.

Upon our arrival at each school, the officials shut the school down temporarily and transferred the entire student body to an open field. These fields were available at every school, and there we preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No promise of America or a better life, just Heaven and Hell. The outstanding aspect of this effort was the fact that Kenya, and Nairobi in particular, had been occupied by the English for years. The English had taught the locals that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, but what they had failed to give them was the plan of salvation. Simply put, they had not told them *how* to be saved. Here were millions of people that could and would praise the Lord, acknowledge the Bible as the word of God, and admit that Jesus was the Son of God—things that any lost person could do—but if they were asked whether or not they were saved, they could not give us a definite answer! The Bible says, **“be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear”** (1 Pet. 3:15).

I learned on my first trip to Nairobi that the younger the audience the more likely they were to believe that they could be saved by grace through faith plus nothing, minus nothing. I don't believe that particular truth applies to the world in general, but it does in Kenya. Why in Kenya and not in America, for instance? I don't know why; perhaps because they already know some things about the God of the Bible, are acquainted with Hell and eternal matters, and have a genuine fear of going to Hell. The fear of Hell isn't prevalent in the

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minds of mankind in general, especially in Western Europe and the United States. There is no fear of Hell because **“how shall they hear without a preacher?”** (Rom. 10:14).

The subject of Hell is not commonly preached by preachers these days for various reasons. I suppose because it is not genuinely believed by those that are supposed to be preaching it. Another cause for not preaching about Hell might be “the rights of the people.” It is never “politically correct” or theologically popular to disturb the peace of individuals, no matter how truthful the matter might be.

It's almost unbelievable how many souls were won to the Lord on that very first trip to Kenya by simply preaching Heaven and Hell. Preaching at two schools a day and two open air meetings for fourteen days, we estimated that somewhere in the neighborhood of ten thousand were saved during that time. Mostly young people between the ages of seven and eighteen made professions of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. I noticed something interesting about the salvations that took place in the lives of those people. The older the crowd, the less likely they were to profess Christ as their Saviour. Sin has a way of searing the conscience after a while.

Some may ask, “Do you really believe they were all saved?” Well, we preached to as few as a hundred and to as many as 1,500 students at any given time, and they didn't all raise their hands for salvation. If 300 people out of a crowd of 700 requested to be saved, what's a person to do? Take each one individually and run him down the Romans Road? Of course not! Lead them in a prayer and trust that the Holy Spirit of God truly convicted them of their sin and revealed Christ as the answer to their problem.

The Bible says, **“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Rom. 10:13). If a person calls upon the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, knowing that He alone is able to save him, I have to assume that he was saved. The evening that I was saved, I didn't say the “sinner's prayer,” but I was saved because I asked to be saved. That is what these people did, so I assume that they are saved. We'll find out at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Praise the Lord for salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8–9).

The next time that I went to Kenya, I made the mistake of eating raw vegetables, and as a result, I had to be hospitalized for a week. After having spent plane fare and the other costs that go along with traveling and lodging, I began to wonder whether or not the Lord still intended for me to devote the time and money to doing anything further in Nairobi. I later concluded that such a thought certainly had to be a demonic suggestion because **“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”** (2 Pet. 3:9). Whether or not God wanted *me* to carry out His plan for the salvation of the people of Nairobi any further is up for debate, but there is no question that He wants them saved.

So while I was in the hospital, I took the money that was designated for the

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trip and gave it to Brother Eubanks, who was in Kenya at the same time, and requested that he carry out my itinerary. He later sent word to me that he was successful in winning several hundred people to the Lord. A hundred or more were saved in several prisons that had been scheduled, and the remainder of the souls were won in the local schools. God has more than one way to skin a cat. After my discharge from the hospital, I did get the opportunity to preach at one of the local prisons just before returning to the United States. God bore witness to the preaching, and several souls were saved—twenty or so.

What happened during my third trip to Kenya is what prompted me to this writing. Actually, what brought the idea to mind was the suggestion by Dr. Samuel Gipp, an evangelist friend of mine and a good brother. He suggested to me that I write about the events that took place on this particular trip to Nairobi. I wasn't sold on the idea to begin with. When Brother Gipp first suggested that I write about what happened in Nairobi, I didn't want to undertake the effort because I was "**slow of speech**," the same excuse Moses gave in Exodus 4:10 when the Lord commissioned him to deliver Israel out of Egypt. I didn't exactly say I was "**slow of speech**," but rather that I was not accomplished in writing, since I had never undertaken such an effort in the past and there are certain skills required that I didn't believe I possessed.

The fact that I am attempting to do it now doesn't mean I have suddenly acquired the skills required to write a story. The real skill for me is overcoming my laziness. I am not mentally incompetent to write; I am mentally *lazy*: I don't like to exert the effort. For me, that is the appealing aspect of biblical salvation—no effort! I don't mind exerting effort of any kind when I am convinced that the effort is of value to the Lord's intent.

I am not totally convinced that this missionary story is of any real value. There are enough commentaries and missionary stories to fill the Library of Congress. Nevertheless, I'll exert the effort for the sake of the conviction I am under because of my inherent laziness.

I'm a Bible-believer, and as such, I'm convinced that if anyone is going to accomplish anything in the Christian life, or in the work of Christ, it will be by the divine power of the word. The word of God is "**quick, and powerful**" (Heb. 4:12); according to the Hebrews 4:12, it can tell what an individual is thinking and why he is thinking it. It is to what Peter is referring when he says of God, "**According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue**" (2 Pet. 1:3). No doubt the only way to know Him is through the word of God, the Bible. And when I say "the Bible," I mean the *King James* 1611 Bible.

I am dogmatic about that *KJV*. It isn't that the other versions do not contain the words of God, because they do. It is the words that they *do not contain* that cause me to be in objection to their distribution, primarily because the variations in versions prove their inconsistency. The new versions give cause to the unsaved to doubt the Bible as being the infallible words of God, and that, my brothers and sisters, is a damnable contribu-

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tion to the apostasy of Christianity.

If reading about my experiences in Nairobi, Kenya can in some way be an encouragement to others, then praise the Lord, but I stand on the word of God as being the power of God in the life of the individual. It is the memorization of the word that will sustain and encourage the believer. It did for this worn-out and polluted mind of mine. For the first five years of my Christian life, my wife and I were enrolled in a Bible memory program associated with the church we first attended. We memorized 112 verses in a year: 7 verses a week for 16 weeks. We were saved before we started memorizing scripture, but we were transformed and empowered when we hid the word of God in our hearts.

“Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psa. 119:11). Faith and power are going to be sustained by the engrafted

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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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word of God upon the heart. I'd rather someone memorize ten verses of scripture than read a hundred missionary stories. In any event, pray this account is a blessing to everyone who reads it.

This book is dedicated to truth, something I knew nothing about at one time but that now I love (Psa. 119:43, 97). That truth (John 17:17) has set me free (John 8:32) and continues to set me free from the bondage of self, sin, and Satan.

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!! New Commentary on JOSHUA (see page 5) !!

