

Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 38 No. 11

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

November 2014

"MARY," The Mother of Harlots

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman (Part One of Two)

As any *Bible* reader knows, there are *two* "Marys" found in "Christendom." To the Bible-believing segment of "Christianity," there is the Jewish maiden of the Gospels. Jesus Christ *never* calls her "mother": He *always*

Thank God For America

By Robert Militello

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

When heads are bowed and prayer is made over the Thanksgiving feast, remember the verse below.

"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3).

If ever you should inquire as to what really made America great, it was the Almighty keeping His word. This nation's power and prosperity is a direct result of the words spoken to Abraham being fulfilled some

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refers to her simply as "woman" (see John 2:4, 19:26). She was a Jewish sinner who had to offer up a purification for her sins (Luke 2:22–24 cf. Lev. 12:6). This Mary was a member of a local assembly of believers at Jerusalem (Acts 1:14), and she was never consulted by *anyone* before *any* spiritual decision was made.

On the other hand, there is an hallucinatory concoction by sinners called "the Queen of Heaven" (this was done by perverting Rev. 12:1–2 to apply to a pagan goddess [Jer. 44:17–19, 25] instead of Israel, after saying Revelation is "hard to understand"). This "Mary" is a "mediatrix" with peculiar omnipresent powers to be able to hear 900 million people praying to her at the same time. She is a female "principality" so powerful that you cannot even get to Christ or God without coming to her first. Obvi-

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- STRICTLY PERSONAL-

The Method in the Madness

Most of the criticism I get from "the brethren" is in regard to three things. Two of these are immaterial because I have proven my point on them "beyond the reasonable shadow of a doubt" so many times that all anyone has to do who is worried about them is buy the material I have written on them and *read it*.

The first thing is the foolproof thesis, documented on at least a dozen occasions in the *Bulletin* (see *Twenty-two Years of the Bible Believers' Bulletin*, Vols. 1 and 3), that what the apostate Fundamentalists call "the original Greek text" cannot only be profitably corrected by the *King James* Bible (*any* edition, in *any* century), but *should be*. God will honor such corrections and bless them. That isn't just something I "believe"; I have demonstrated it time and time again, and the material is in print. No "manuscriptolater" in the Scholars' Union has ever been able to refute a word of it, and they are not going to.



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

The second thing is the teaching that Tribulation salvation and salvation under the Mosaic Law differ from salvation under "the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24). There is an element of works present in the Old Testament and the Tribulation which is found nowhere in Paul's Gospel (2 Tim. 2:8; 1 Tim. 1:11; Gal. 1:11–12). I have gone into detail on this in *The Bible Believer's Commentaries on Revelation, Hebrews, and Matthew.* You can get the material there and in a tract offered by the Bookstore called "The Big Flap" (TR 11 @ 50¢), and in our work *How to Teach Dispensational Truth* (RK-103 @ \$9.95). The only rebuttal to it is that Hebrews 3, 6, 10; Revelation 12, 14, 22; Matthew 5–7, 24–25; Ezekiel 18; Deuteronomy 30; and Psalm 18 don't mean what they say. The critics of the teaching have to go to "the original" to force those passages to line up with Romans and Ephesians.

The first two criticisms amount to little more than hot air from milksops who don't know the Bible and have no intention of learning it. The third criticism is more serious. It is about my "language." The "brethren" don't like the way I *talk*. They want to know why I am always "putting down," "attacking," and "slandering" the "great," "good," and "godly" *critics* of the *AV* Holy Bible who have reputations for being "spiritual" and "soulwinners."

"Who does Ruckman think he is, classifying Torrey and Broadus with Dean Luther Weigle and Bloody Mary? How do Bob Jones III and Robert Sumner end up in the same list as Darwin, Marx, and Huxley? How dare you call those with whom you differ 'meatheads,' 'blockheads,' 'wimps,' 'greenhorns,' 'dudes,' 'jacklegs,' and 'blind, blithering, stumbling idjits'!"

The Method in the Madness

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Now why do I do that? Is there a "method in my madness"? Yes, there is.

My first purpose is to ALIENATE MYSELF from every Fundamentalist, at any time and in any place, who corrected the Book by sitting in judgment on it. If I can just insult these men enough, after my death (or theirs), no one will ever connect anything I wrote about the Bible with anything those men wrote or said about the Book. I must see to it that my name goes down as MUD, with a capital "M," in the minds and writings of every Bible corrector so that, in the future, not one of them will ever be able to use me as a reference for anything he believes.

I must "draw the line" between Bible believers and Nicolaitans who judge the Book. Their opinion of me must be as low as mine is of them so that no one—but NO ONE—will ever confuse us as being the same "breed." I know exactly how to do this. You see, they are more afraid of RIDICULE than they are of God or the Judgment Seat of Christ, so I let 'em have it.

My second purpose is to display the "apostolic succession" in regards to their apostasy. It began with the Gnostics, Origen, and Augustine; came up through Jerome and the Popes; and blossomed under Westcott and Hort to produce modern "Biblical scholarship" (Farstad, Hodges, Custer, Neal, Afman, Zodhiates, Robertson, Sumner, Price, Martin, Panosian, Bruce, Archer, English, et al.).

The trick is to disengage the soulwinning street preachers, church builders, and missionaries from the *places where they went to school* and from *the men who taught them to correct the AV*, if any of them yielded to that temptation. This is best done by *attacking the works of the scholars* at the Universities and Seminaries, and showing that they were *not* soulwinners, *not* church planters, and *not* street preachers. When it came to those things, they were deader than a hammer left on the beach last week.

It was "Conservative scholars" who taught R. A. Torrey to quote an *RV*, but he was afraid to tell anyone WHO they were and WHEN they did it. It was "Conservative scholars" who taught J. Frank Norris the standard cliché about "original autographs"—*Southern Baptist scholars* at Louisville Theological Seminary—but he wouldn't give you their NAMES. The "apostolic line" of apostasy is carefully *hidden* and preserved intact from generation to generation. In the past, we have challenged Curtis Hutson, Robert Sumner, Doug Kutilek, et al., to send us a testimony of who it was who first taught them the *AV* was NOT the Scriptures and that it needed to be corrected. It got quieter than a turkey farm on Thanksgiving afternoon. Not one of them would tell you the name of the scholar or teacher who undermined his faith in the Book.

I tell you. I name the men; I name the schools. I want you to know who they are, where they are, and what they are doing to produce the current Laodicean debacle in American "Christianity." I want you to realize that the real Bible-believing, soulwinning preachers, evangelists, missionaries, and teachers are those who refuse to abide by the instructions given them in Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries. Further, where any of the real Bible believers quote the clichés of those schools, they are following a man at that point (as the Bible

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believers are accused of doing) instead of the Holy Bible.

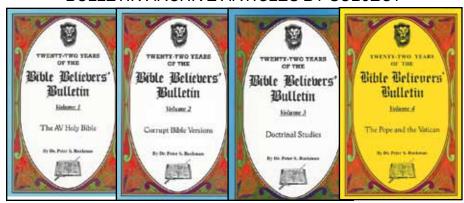
The "method in my madness" is simple: I have nothing personal against any of my critics, including the most vicious ones. I never take issue with any man unless the issue is *final authority*. I do not "attack" any man until he attacks *the Book first*. If you mess with my Book, I'll mess with you. Tit for tat. No quarter given; no quarter asked.

My "method" is to alienate, *permanently*, every fence-straddling, man-pleasing, man-following, pseudo-intellectual Nicolaitan Fundamentalist on this earth who thinks he is smart enough to correct *my Bible*. To *me*—and I'll speak for myself, John Alden—the Bible is *holy*. It was the Book God gave to me personally, and it was the kiss of God on my poor, lost soul.

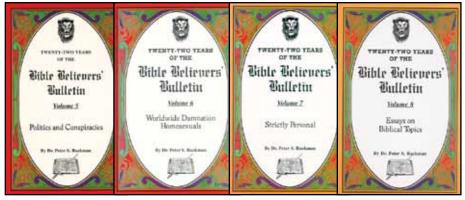
I intend to describe its critics and judges in language any ten-year-old street urchin could understand. And when I am dead and gone, no one—BUT NO ONE!—will ever mistake me for a "scholar," a "godly teacher," or a *Bible critic*. "The brethren," especially the *educated* brethren (i.e., the ones who have been *educated out of their belief in the Book*), will put me down as a *junkyard dog*. The scholars have taken that Book and pitched it into the junkyard; I want to be a growling, snarling mongrel placed there to take the seat of the britches out of any scoundrel who wants to sneak back in there and recover it so he can "use" it for his own purposes. That is just the way I want it to show up at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and I will do everything in my power to make certain it shows up like that. That is the "method in my madness."



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"Mary," the Mother of Harlots

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ously one of those "Marys" is a first-class hoax, if not a demoniac blasphemy. Now Catholics in America, like *Our Sunday Visitor*, the Catholic Antidefamation League, and Karl Keating's Catholic Answers, are famous for their "persecution complex." They don't have one in Italy, Spain, Mexico, and South America—where they are in charge—but in the good old USA, they are obsessed with the idea that anything that is "anti-Catholic" has to be falsehood, slander, libel, etc. So lest we offend these thin-skinned hypocrites, we shall here give you only what *Catholics themselves* wrote, with the approval of their own Bishops and Archbishops.

The material we cite in this article is from *The Official Handbook of the Legion of Mary.* The edition I have is from 1941 and bears the imprimatur of the Archbishop of Dublin, Ireland (Edwards) and the Archbishop of Ludovicopoli (Joannes). But lest we be accused of not being "up to date" by the likes of Karl Keating, you can access the 2005 edition, bearing the imprimatur of the current Archbishop of Dublin, Diarmuid Martin, on the "Internet" at www. legionofmarytidewater. com. Both copies bear the stamp of approval, "*Nihil Obstat*," which means there is "nothing objectionable" in the book to Catholic doctrine, according to the Catholic hierarchy.

So what I am giving you in this article is the *official position* of every Roman Catholic unless he is a disobedient Catholic "out of fellowship" with his superiors. No one is going to "libel" anyone. We quote directly from official Roman Catholic teaching from the "Legion of Mary," leaving the statements in the context in which they appear.

- 1. Mary is the "Mediatrix of all graces," and Song of Solomon 6:10 is not a reference to the Church, the Bride of Christ, at all, but to *Mary* (pg. 9). According to the apostle who founded the church at Rome, there is only "one mediator between God and men," and *it ain't Mary* (1 Tim. 2:5).
- 2. "The first corporate act" of the "Legion of Mary" was on September 7, 1921, in Dublin, Ireland. "The invocation and prayer of the Holy Spirit were said; and then through the fingers which had, during the day, been toilsomely employed, slipped the BEADS of the simplest of all devotions. When the final ejaculations died away, they sat up, and under the auspices of Mary (AS REPRESENTED BY HER STATUE), they set themselves to the consideration of how they could best please God and make him loved in his world" (pg. 10). Where do you find *beads* and *statues* used by any apostle or "early Christian" in the New Testament?
- 3. "Mary is the living mould of God . . . and it is in her alone that man can be properly and in a life-like way formed into God" (pg. 11). That's a crockload of baloney quoted from whom Philip Schaff calls "the first real Roman Catholic": "Saint" Augustine. The Apostle Paul thought so little of "the living mould of God" that he forgot to mention her name the only time he brought her up (Gal. 4:4). And in the same chapter of the same book (Gal. 4:19), Mary has nothing whatsoever to do with anyone being "formed into God" or Christ

"Mary," the Mother of Harlots

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being formed in him. A Christian is "conformed to the image of his Son" by God Himself (Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:49). Practically speaking this side of the Rapture, we are "changed into the same image" by the *Holy Spirit* (2 Cor. 3:18) as we "put on the new man" in Christ (Eph. 4:24; Rom. 13:14). Mary has *nothing* to do with it.

- 4. "The object of the Legion of Mary is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation, under ecclesiastical guidance [i.e., the direction of the Vatican hierarchy], in MARY'S AND THE CHURCH'S WORK of *crushing the head of the serpent* and *advancing the reign of Christ*" (pg. 11). Note three *blasphemies* in the quote: 1) crediting the Roman Catholic Church for what God will do (Rom. 16:20), 2) crediting Mary for what only her Seed would do (Gen. 3:15), 3) declaring Christ to be reigning now when He hasn't returned yet (Rev. 11:15, 20:1–6).
- 5. "Thus, the prayer and loving service, with which we recompense Mary, our mother and HELPER OF OUR SALVATION, can represent no loss to him who made her so" (pg. 19). In other words, service to *Mary* is service to *God*. Don't believe me? Keep reading: "What is given to *her* goes none the less surely and fully to *him* As it is the pleasure of the Eternal Father so to receive through *Mary* the homages intended for *him*, so too he has been graciously pleased to appoint *her* to be THE WAY by which shall pass to men the various outpourings of his munificent goodness and omnipotence" (pg. 19).

Absolute blasphemy from start to finish. Not one verse of Scripture, in either Testament, in any Bible, would even suggest that God receives "homage" through Mary. In fact, it is the exact opposite.

"I am the LORD: that is my name: and MY GLORY WILL I NOT GIVE TO ANOTHER, neither my praise to GRAVEN IMAGES [like statues of Mary—see point 2 above]" (Isa. 42:8).

God receives homage "THROUGH JESUS CHRIST" (Rom. 16:27), not any "Mary." Mary, in her present state, couldn't help save a doghouse from burning down. The one time in the Gospels where she tried to "help" some folks out, she had to refer them to her Son (John 2:5). Moreover, not one Christian in the Bible, anywhere at any time, ever asked Mary to help him or the church with anything, let alone salvation.

I'll tell you what, do you want "the way" to God? Come through *Jesus Christ* (John 14:6) and bypass Mary altogether. Do you want "help" from God? Go right past the "secretary" into the "main office" (Heb. 4:16).

6. "The Legion's trust in MARY is LIMITLESS, knowing that by the ORDINANCE OF GOD, her power is WITHOUT LIMIT" (pg. 19). Chapter and verse? Care to show me where God ordained Mary to do anything other than give birth to the Son of God in His flesh (Rom. 1:3)?

Your "trust in Mary is limitless," is it? Why, God puts no trust in His saints (Job 15:15); why would you? You won't find one command in the Bible for

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anybody to trust Mary, but you will read over and over again to trust in the Lord.

"Her power is without limit"? In theology, that is known as *omnipotence* ("all power"). Christ's attribute of Deity (Rev. 19:6 cf. Matt. 28:18) has been stolen from Him and given to "Mary," thus making her a *goddess*.

- 7. "She is the spouse of the Holy Spirit" (pg. 19). Now we know from where Mohammed and Joseph Smith got the idea that for God to have a Son, He had to have relations with a woman: they got it from *the Catholic Church*. Mary "is the spouse of the Holy Spirit"—malarkey! You never read anything like that in the Scriptures. That's just an outlandish private interpretation placed on Luke 1:35. If you want the interpretation of the Holy Spirit Himself on what happened, read Hebrews 10:5, 2:14; John 1:14; Galatians 4:14; and Philippians 2:7. There's nothing even remotely in any of those passages about the Holy Spirit being anyone's "spouse" or anyone (much less Mary) being His "spouse."
- 8. "She is the channel of every grace which Jesus Christ has won" (pp. 19–20). She is?! Don't you find it interesting that with Paul opening most of his epistles with "grace," and closing all of them with it, and talking about grace all through his writings, that he NEVER mentions "the channel" of that grace one time? Quite an oversight, wouldn't you say? Kind of like writing to the Roman church and failing to mention their pastor (Peter, according to all the Popes). Peter writes about the "grace which Jesus Christ has won," as do James, Jude, and John; none of them say anything about Mary.
- 9. "The Immaculate Conception [the doctrine that *Mary* was *conceived* without sin] is referred to by God in the same sentence in which Mary herself is first promised to us. The privilege is part of Mary: Mary is the Immaculate Conception" (pg. 20); Genesis 3:15 is then quoted. Read Genesis 3:15; read it in any translation you want. There is no mention in any Bible or any translation of any woman being conceived sinless. That's just more blasphemous Catholic private interpretation.
- 10. "Together with the privilege, prophecy is made of its heavenly sequel: the Divine Maternity, the crushing of the serpent's head in Redemption, and Mary's Motherhood of men" (pg. 20). More pagan blasphemy. It was the "seed" who would bruise the Serpent's head, not "the woman." Moreover, it didn't take place at "Redemption"; it's still future at His return. How do you know both those statements to be so? Because the Holy Spirit told you so in Romans 16:20 and Habakkuk 3:13—READ THEM! In her present condition, Mary couldn't kill a cockroach.
- 11."The Legion of Mary is apostolic duty decked out in attractive and alluring form" (pg. 61). We are dealing with two different "Marys." Evidently the "Mary" of the Legion of Mary must be connected with that "MOTHER OF HARLOTS" who is "decked with gold and precious stones and pearls" (Rev. 17:4–5). A whore has to be "attractive and alluring" to attract her customers.

We will conclude this examination of the "Mary" of Roman Catholic demoniac fiction in our next issue.

Spiritual Discernment

By Brian Donovan

The scriptures declare that in the last days there will be an increase in the work of unclean spirits, bringing about even more spiritual deception than in previous generations. These are called "seducing spirits" (1 Tim. 4:1–4), and their work is concentrated on believers. They will cause many to "depart from the faith," and as a result, we are warned to be sober and vigilant as our adversary walks about seeking to devour (1 Pet. 5:8). When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth the first time, devils were everywhere around Him (Mark 1:23, 34, 39, 3:11, 6:7, 13; Luke 4:41, 10:17). When He returns the second time, they will be prevalent again (Matt. 24:3–11).

Particular attention should be paid to the timing of these seducing spirits. Every time Jesus Christ and the scriptures are about to be magnified, the unclean spirits try to interfere. In Matthew 3:16–17, Christ is baptized, and the Father's voice from Heaven points to Him as the one with whom He is pleased. Immediately up shows Satan to tempt Jesus in the wilderness (Matt. 4:1–11). In Matthew 9:1–2, the Lord forgives sins, and the scribes charge Him with blasphemy (Matt. 9:3). In Matthew 9:32–33, the Lord casts the devil out of the dumb man, and the Pharisees charge Him with doing the work of the Devil (Matt. 9:34). In Matthew 13:3–4, just as soon as the word of God is sown, the devils are there to prevent it from being heard. The classic interference along these lines is found in Matthew 16:13–23. In that passage, Peter is led of the Father to claim that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God." No sooner is that said than Satan enters Peter to try to get him to violate the scriptural prophecies that Jesus must fulfill.

An important thing to learn from these scriptures is that unclean spirits are at work in everyday life. Many get the idea that only missionaries in Africa and third-world countries are the ones who experience the manifestations of devils in the "heathen." Devils are equated with foaming at the mouth, screaming, and tearing things up; but in the "civilized" USA? Educated Americans have different names for these unclean, seducing spirits (OCD, ADD, schizo, paranoid, etc.), and they are masked by a myriad of drugs and lockups.

Christians in America are as deceived as anyone when it comes to having discernment regarding devils. Christians today are full of devils, and they sit in church services right next to you in Bible-believing congregations. They rise up in complete subtlety as soon as the word of God is magnified, and the Son of God is being glorified. They cannot stand to allow God to get any glory. Their hearts and minds are so full of self, they are pawns in the hands of Satan for just the right moment. This last generation has been raised on self-glory, self-consumption, and "selfies." The result is total ignorance of spiritual things, with self-deception running rampant. Even their own teachers tell them that a Christian cannot have a devil.

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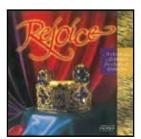
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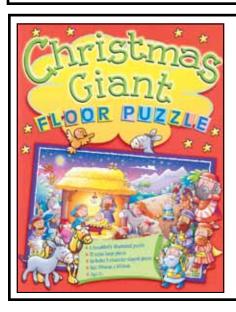
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Spiritual Discernment

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Despite the repeated warnings throughout the New Testament not to be deceived (Luke 21:8; 2 Tim. 3:13; Eph. 5:6; 2 Thess. 2:3; 1 Cor. 6:9, 15:33), Christians do not even bother to check themselves with the scriptures or "try the spirits" (1 John 4:1) to see if they might be deceived. Unable to recognize the works of the devil, they blindly follow his lead to try to divide and destroy Bible-believing churches. Of course, their motives are always righteous as they piously stand for what is right. They are "doctrinally sound" and often "super separated" as they harbor selfish desires with every sermon preached and every hymn sung. They usually walk around in a passive, almost robotic state as they smile and make friends, so much so that when they finally are exposed, you will hear comments by many Christians like, "I thought he was a good deacon," or "He was always so nice and quiet." Even though he never went on visitation or made hospital visits, he could let the right folks know when he didn't agree with the preacher or the special music..

The Christian life is a warfare, and the work of the Holy Spirit is never passive. He leads a man to control his thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5), control his ears (Prov. 17:4, 5:13, 25:12), control his eyes (Psa. 101:3; Matt. 6:22), and control his tongue (Prov. 18:21, 10:20, 12:18, 15:2, 16:1). His work is geared for eternity, while unclean spirits are interested in the temporal. The work of the Holy Spirit will try a man to make something of him for the long haul (Heb. 12:11), while the unclean spirits seduce a man to try to get his way right now. The right spirit breaks the old man, while strengthening the new man. The seducing spirit grieves the spirit and entices the flesh. The New Testament teaches that when a Christian lives right, he will sometimes be troubled, perplexed, persecuted, and cast down (2 Cor. 4:8-9), but not forsaken (Heb. 13;5), destroyed (Luke 9:56), or in despair (2 Cor. 1:8). The distinguishing mark of the work of God is that He will try a man to strengthen him, while the unclean spirit tries to break the man with the attempt to make him guit. A trial of Satan will bring anxiousness. confusion, and hurry, while the work of the Holy Spirit has an underlying joy and calmness that cannot be explained in the midst of troubles (1 Pet. 1:6-7).

Most of the saved, Bible-believing Baptists today spend so little time in the scriptures that they are fooled by the counterfeit spirits all around them. They believe a good meeting is when their feelings were touched. God has "shown up" whenever they feel good. Ask any Bible believer what he thinks constitutes a great meeting with the presence of God manifested, either alone or in a service. Most will just blink, while others will point to times when there was a great deal of shouting. Scripture? It doesn't even enter his thinking. As long as "we got it on" (whatever that means), the Lord is happy. Have you never read the scriptures that you claim to believe? Of course the Lord should be praised with a loud voice, but noise is not the manifestation of His presence. In 2 Chronicles 5:13, the trumpets and singing praises to God bring the Lord down, but when His presence is known, "then" they could not even stand to minister due to the glory of God.

Oftentimes, rather than noise and shouting, the presence of God brings
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Spiritual Discernment

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silence and a hanging of the head. The scriptural examples of men reacting to their recognition of the presence of God is not about what Christians speak today. Moses was afraid to pick up his head (Exod. 3:6), Job abhorred himself (Job 42:6), Peter fell down and thought he did not even belong in the same boat (Luke 5:8), and John fell down as dead (Rev. 1:17). Today's evangelists talk about revivals when a bunch of shouting takes place. The way Christians are living in Laodicea today, do you really think the manifestation of God's presence would bring shouting? That is the spiritual deception about which we are talking. Shame, contempt for "selfie," and a flood of tears would be more like it. Victory over sins and concern for the lost would be a good start. Shutting down the Facebook pages and tweeting and texting would be a revival in today's churches. No more unforgiving spirits in the local church, no more gossip, and a bunch of male men going out into the streets to preach with power would be a lot closer to a manifestation of the presence of God than this "getting it on" stuff. But that is to be expected if you believe the Bible prophecy regarding the last days.

In these last days, there is a need for some Christians to have their spiritual senses exercised "by reason of use" (Heb. 5:14) in order "to discern both good and evil." That requires a complete diet of the word of God for your milk (1 Pet. 2:2), bread (Luke 4:4), water (Prov. 25:25), honey (Prov. 25:16), and meat (Heb. 5:12, 14). Deception can be prevented by taking heed to the word of God

Bro. Donovan's Schedule

November 7-9

Bible Believers Baptist Church 128 Goodman St. Munfordville, KY Pastor Sean Riggs (270) 524-5678

December 12-14

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

January 9-11

Bible Believers Baptist Church 3857 Hartley Road Jacksonville, FL 32256 Pastor David Peacock (904) 334-5783

February 13-15

Open Door Baptist Church 7688 Market Ave N. North Canton, OH 44721 Pastor Bob Butterfield (330) 434-9774

SEPTEMBER SERMONS

Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

How You Can Know You Are Saved When God Remembers The Boy Who Helped Jesus

Brian Donovan

Abraham, God's Friend

The Revelation Of The Word Michael Matheny

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By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

Few things could be more enlightening for an American than a good study of Catholic books, written by Catholics, bearing the imprimatur of the Catholic censor—"nihil obstat." Those Latin words mean "nothing objectionable." In other words, the Catholic censor has read the book and "checked it out" thoroughly, and has come to the conclusion that there is "nothing objectionable" to Roman Catholic doctrine in it. "Nihil Obstat" printed at the beginning of a Catholic book by a Catholic author is the sign that the contents of that book are accepted by the Catholic hierarchy, and are therefore to be accepted by all good Catholics as sound Catholic literature, officially approved by their Priests, Bishops, Archbishops, and Cardinals.

Since few, if any, Congressmen, Senators, reporters, editors, journalists, newscasters, or "talk show personalities" read such books, I thought it might be interesting to our readers to cite from them so they can see for themselves why no country or freedom-loving people should follow Rome ten feet politically or religiously. What follows is official Roman Catholic literature by approved Roman Catholic writers who swore allegiance to the Pope when they received "Holy Orders." No Pope in history from 1500-2014 has ever corrected one word of the following, for all of these publications bear the official imprimatur of the Roman Catholic censor: nihil obstat-"nothing objectionable." If you find "nothing objectionable" in it, you are a loyal Roman Catholic in good standing with your church; if you find any of it objectionable, you are a

heretic and bigot in the eyes of Pope "Francis."

- 1. The Pope is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice, NOT the Bible (Catholic Encyclopedia, Catholic Encyclopedia Press, NY, 1913: Vol. XIV, pg. 371; Vol. IV, pp. 383, 390-391; Vol. XV, pg. 391; Vol. X. pq. 14; Vol. XIV, pg. 714). That is, all professions about "tradition and the Bible" mean nothing. The references I gave you show that the Pope is the final authority, no matter what "tradition" or the Bible says—separately or together. That is "not objectionable" to the official Roman Catholic publishing company of those Roman Catholic volumes, with the official Roman Catholic "nihil obstat" stamped on them.
- 2. Tobit, Judith, Bel and the Dragon, and the books of Maccabees are as inspired by the Holy Spirit as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John (Ibid., Vol. VI, pg. 406). You are *damned to Hell* ("anathema") if you don't believe that (Council of Trent, Sess. IV).
- 3. No Catholic in the world is to read a *King James* Bible or Martin Luther's translation under penalty of the law, fines, and "the pain of the anathema" (Council of Trent, Sess. Four).
- 4. Pope Stephen VI (A.D. 896–897) had three fingers cut off the dead corpse of his political opponent, the former Pope; Pope Leo V (A.D. 903) was kicked out of St. Peter's chair and died in prison; Pope Sergius III had pity on two other Popes who were languishing in prison, and he had them both put to death; Pope John XIII (A.D. 965–972) had his enemies hanged; Pope John XVIII (1004–1009) was a "youthful libertine who lived a disgraceful life" (Ibid., Vol. XIV, pg.

Continued on 14

Continued from 13 289; Vol. III, pg. 729; Vol. IX, pg. 159; Vol. VIII, pg. 427; Vol. IV, pg. 13; Vol. II, pg. 429).

- 5. Every Roman Catholic Priest in the world, on Sunday morning during the Mass, turns fermented liquor into THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, although it is still an "unbloody sacrifice" [Durieux, *The Eucharist (Law and Practice)*, O. Dolphin, Faribault, MN, 1926].
- 6. The Mass is the "VERY BODY and VERY BLOOD of Jesus Christ" in a "bloodless manner" (John O'Brien, The Faith of Millions, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, 1974, pg. 382). Do you find anything "objectionable" about drinking Jesus Christ's literal blood and eating His literal flesh in a "bloodless manner"? No Roman Catholic does.
- 7. The Pope believes that separation of Church and State is absurd and that he should be obeyed as God Himself, because he as Pope holds the place of Almighty God on this earth (The Great Encyclical Letters of Pope Leo XIII, Benziger Bros., New York, 1903, pg. 160). As an American, do you "object" to that? If you're a Roman Catholic, you shouldn't, because it's "nihil obstat"—nothing objectionable.
- 8. No Catholic Priest is subject to the laws of the United States since he is under a foreign ruler of a foreign State, with its own government and its own laws (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. XIV, pg. 779). This means that every Cardinal, Bishop, Archbishop, and Priest in America can be a subversive agent employed by a foreign State—the Vatican State—to overthrow the Constitution of the United States.

- Catholics find "nothing objectionable" about that, and if any of them do, they are not good Catholics.
- 9. Roman Catholics (a canonized "saint" this time) affirm that on the testimony of one man an "anti-Catholic" can, and should be, put to torture (St. Liguori, Moral Theology, Venice, 1928, Vol. IV, pp. 209–239). Do you find such a teaching "objectionable"? Six of your Supreme Court judges don't: they're Roman Catholic. If they do, they're sorry Catholics.
- 10. No Catholic has to abide by any oath he swears in court if his answer under oath would injure the Roman Catholic hierarchy in any way (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. X, pg. 195; Vol. XI, pg. 696; Stapleton, The Explanation of Catholic Morals. Benziger Bros., New York, 1904). Any "objections" yet? Both publications I gave you are official Roman Catholic records of Roman Catholic doctrines. by Roman Catholics, with the Roman Catholic Bishop's imprimatur on the frontispiece: "Nihil Obstat"—nothing objectionable. Not objectionable to whom? An alley cat?!
- 11. All Catholic Priests should be tax-exempt; none of them should have to pay taxes to *any* government in *any* country where they live, although Protestant and Evangelical ministers are required to (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. II, pg. 666).
- 12. No Catholic Priest should be excommunicated for keeping concubines (Ibid., Vol. III, pg. 486; Vol. I, pp. 289–293; Vol. VIII, pg. 562; Vol. IV, pg. 207; Vol. III, pg. 486). Nice set up for an unmarried bachelor, don't you think?
 - 13. Roman Catholics teach and be-Continued on 15

Continued from 14

lieve—with no objections—that when you obey a Roman Catholic Priest or Bishop, you are doing the will of God with more certainty than if you obey JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF. In fact, it is impossible for a Catholic to go to Hell if he does what the Priests and Bishops tell him to do, for the Priests' power "surpasses all the power of heaven and earth" (St. Liguori, *The True Spouse of Christ*, pp. 92–93, 352).

Good, sweet, kindly Pope "Francis" believes, according to the official literature of his church which has been checked by his church's Bishops (*nihil obstat*), that the Priests of his church are "visible Gods" and that every Catholic Priest is "a God who makes Gods" (John Eudes, *The Priest, His Dignity and His Obligations*, 1947, pg. 1770).

14. All the talk about "human rights" and "civil rights" is contrary to official Roman Catholic theology as established by all Roman Catholic Priests, Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals, and Popes—at least up to 1957. In 1957, you could walk into the campus bookstore of Notre Dame and purchase a book entitled Moral Theology—an official, nihil obstat Catholic publication—that stated on page 68 exactly what the Catholic Encyclopedia states about Catholic doctrine on "rights," which position the Catholic Church has taken for 1,400 years. All civil, human, and religious rights in which Rome professes to believe are for herself alone to the total exclusion of all other churches and religions (Catholic Encyclopedia, Vol. VIII, pp. 335-336; Vol. XIV, pg. 369).

15. The most glorious period in his-

tory for all mankind, as far as "rights" are concerned, was the *Dark Ages* (A.D. 500–1500) (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. VII, pg. 262; Vol. I, pg. 610; Vol. XIV, pg. 593; Addis and Arnold, *The Catholic Dictionary*, 1929, pp. 41–42, 105).

16. Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell, Ronald Reagan, Harry Truman, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Lester Roloff, Lee Roberson, Bob Jones Sr., John R. Rice, Andrew Jackson, John Wesley, M. R. DeHaan, and George W. Bush are all cursed of God according to all Catholic literature on orthodox Catholic beliefs bearing "nihil obstat" (Addis and Arnold, 1929; Catholic Encyclopedia, 1913; Gibbons, Faith of our Fathers, Baltimore, 1917).

Now this is what Pope "Francis" and his church really believe. They confess there is "nothing objectionable" with the content of the sixteen items listed. If you believe Rome has changed since Vatican II, you are crippled too high for crutches. Not only was everything I gave you printed in the Twentieth Century (not the Dark Ages), all of the material, no matter when it was originally written, is reprinted every few years and reissued with a fresh "nihil obstat" placed on the work. When I pulled some of this stuff on Karl Keating in that debate out in California, he broadly insinuated that the material was not valid because it was not "up to date" - after admitting the Catholic Church does not change doctrinally. Well, the Catholic publishing companies and Bishops reissue the material as their *current* position; there's nothing "out of date" about it at all.

Continued from 15

There are no reporters, journalists, anchormen, or news editors in America who would dare print or broadcast the material found in official Catholic literature bearing the official stamp of approval by the official Roman Catholic censor ("nihil obstat"). As we have stated on numerous occasions, the news media in this country is pro-Catholic; their stand on things

like abortion or sodomy does not stop them from covering up for Rome on what you just read. The news media finds "nothing objectionable" about what you just read, and if you do, you are a "hate-inflamed bigot" guilty of "religious prejudice" and "defaming someone's faith." But as some wit has observed, "It may be 'wrong' to speak out against the Catholic Church, but it is never a mistake."

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4,000 years later.

Almost 200 years after God gave the promise of Genesis 12:3, the first Gentile to get a good understanding of the effects of that promise makes this noteworthy observation:

"And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: FOR I HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT THE LORD HATH BLESSED ME FOR THY SAKE" (Gen. 30:27).

Before you lift that first forkful of your Thanksgiving meal, will you make the connection that Laban made and thank God our nation opened its arms to the Jews? Laban asked Jacob to stay and not return home because Laban saw clearly how much better off he was with Jacob around.

Most Americans will retain the fiction that the free-enterprise system made America great, and this is because they are biblically ignorant. History shows that numerous civilizations and societies were great and powerful without a free enterprise or capitalist system.

Today, we are a consumer society where buying and selling can make many rich and many poor. If you haven't noticed, the income gap between the rich and poor has widened considerably in the last fifteen years. The so-called middle class is disappearing like moisture under a desert sun. Solomon made this observation of capitalism about 3,000 years ago:

"There is a SORE EVIL which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt" (Eccl. 5:13).

When a society abandons the fear of God, greed runs rampant, among other Continued on 19

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things. "For the love of money is the root of all evil" (1 Tim. 6:10).

No, our greatness is not the result of an economy built on the capitalistic model. Our Founding Fathers were led by a gracious God to craft a system of self-government that would give political stability and economic opportunity to all who made America their home. This grace given to our Eighteenth Century forbearers led to the framing of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Most of the men who founded our republic were not saved men, but almost all were greatly influenced by the Bible (*AV* 1611).

A benevolent God gave the colonists victory over England so that He could gift the Gentile world with a nation that would serve as a friendly and welcoming refuge for Jacob's posterity. There isn't an economics, sociology, or political science professor at any American university that knows why America became great. A *King James* Bible read and studied prayerfully will give you a thousand times more understanding than a liberal arts curriculum at any prestigious lvy Leaque college.

Now we know "God is no respecter of persons," as Peter observed after witnessing to Cornelius and his family (Acts 10:34). Salvation, as a gift, can be received by man or woman; Asian, African, or Caucasian; rich or poor; or adult or child with understanding. Nevertheless, I do find in the New Testament two places where kindness to Jews opened the door of God's grace, and blessings followed. Our Lord was not sent to the Gentiles, but He did make exceptions. Besides the Samaritan woman at the well, He acquiesced to the urging of the Jewish elders in Capernaum when they besought Jesus for a Roman centurion's servant who was ill.

"And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That HE WAS WORTHY for whom he should do this: For HE LOVETH OUR NATION, and he hath built us a synagogue" (Luke 7:4-5).

The faith of the Roman centurion amazed Jesus (Luke 7:6–9), but before the centurion evidenced his faith in the Lord's power, he had a reputation among the Jews. This was a Gentile who by God's providence was stationed in Palestine, a backwater locale not high on the Roman soldiers' favorite places of deployment. Somehow, the centurion was drawn to sympathize with the local population and exhibit his goodwill in tangible form by building a synagogue. No doubt the elders of the Jews in Capernaum wanted to repay him somehow for his kindness, and the God of all mercies just happened to be in their village at that time. America has been blessed many times over for its kindness to the Jews, wouldn't you agree?

Fast forward to Acts chapter ten. Another Roman centurion becomes the recipient of God's wonderful grace. Verse two describes this man Cornelius as "a devout man" who "feared God with all his house." Why was he given an opportunity to be saved? Besides fearing God, Cornelius "gave much alms to the people" according to the verse. What people? Obviously, Cornelius was a blessing to the Jews. His piety and fear of God did not stop at his prayer closet. He reached into his pocket and made sure some poor Jew could get

Continued from 19

something to eat. So according to Genesis 12:3, the Lord arranged a blessing for this man and his house.

Incidentally, Cornelius' almsgiving and "good report among all the nation of the Jews" (see Acts 10:22) did not get him saved. He still had to hear words from a commercial fisherman turned preacher, words of life that would save his soul. Those words concerning Jesus of Nazareth and His resurrection from the dead had to be believed. Grace was given him to believe those words and trust his soul to a dead Jewish rabbi whom Peter said was alive and not in a tomb. Obviously, being stationed in Palestine was the best thing to happen to a number of soldiers serving Rome.

There was another centurion who happened to be at the right place, at the right time.

"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54).

America's success is tied to a Jewish book containing words of life to any and all who believe those words and act upon them. Thank God, the father of our nation, George Washington, was kindly disposed toward the Jews. He made them feel welcomed here and thanked them for their support during the War of Independence. Thirteen English colonies might never have become the United States of America without the financial help of Haym Solomon. There were only some 200 Jews in the colonies out of two million colonists in 1775, but what is little when the Lord puts things in motion?

After the Revolution, President George Washington sent the following message to the first synagogue in America at Newport, Rhode Island. It was read to the congregation in August, 1790.

"May the children of the stock of Abraham who dwell in the land continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other inhabitants. While everyone shall sit safely under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

Obviously, our first president was familiar with Micah 4:4. Thank God for America and for our founding father who started us on the right foot and opened the door to God's blessings for the next 224 years.

Historians refer to the Twentieth Century as "America's Century" because we became a world power in that time. Coincidentally, at the beginning of the last century, Jewish immigrants landed by the millions in New York. No city in the world has come near to equaling New York in providing the benevolent treatment it gave to the Jews. For this, the blessing of Genesis 12:3 fell upon that city, and it became the commercial, finance, and, later, media capital of the world.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38).

Thank God for America. It is a giving nation and has done more for distressed nations and oppressed people around the world than any nation in history. We

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sent our young men to die for nations that enjoy freedom today, but that now seem to have forgotten how badly they once needed us. Still, we are the envy of the world.

Half the world's population would immigrate to our shores if they could. It's only natural to desire a better life. That's what made my great-grandfather leave Sicily for America over 115 years ago. He loved America and raised his five sons and one daughter to cherish this country.

No nation has come close to receiving the blessings God has given to us. No one but Americans were allowed by God to put their feet on the very moon that He set in the heaven above us. He made the U.S. dollar the strongest currency in the world. He enabled us to defeat the world's greatest power, Britain, to obtain our independence. Almost thirty years later, he thwarted Britain's attempt to destroy our young republic. In World War II, He gave our navy mastery over the two great oceans: Atlantic and Pacific. Why was the Lord so inclined to favor our nation? If Genesis 12:3 is not the reason, then what is?

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).

There's a great sadness today among God-fearing people in America. "The bloom is off the rose," as the expression goes. We are sinking in the muck and mire of sin. Where did the fear of the Lord go? Blessings of prosperity and "fulness of bread" can cause a nation to forget God (Ezek. 16:49).

"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Rom. 1:28).

Jeremiah was scorned and put in prison for prophesying the destruction of Jerusalem. The fact that the Temple of God and the Ark of the Covenant were in the holy city led the inhabitants to believe that the God of Jacob would not give them up. Such a thing was inconceivable with the Holy One of Israel present in the Temple. We have had political stability in America for 217 years, beginning with the peaceful transition of power from George Washington to John Adams. We take it for granted that this will always be the case. Would God there were a modern day Jeremiah in Washington, D.C. right now preaching in front of the White House.

When Lot was told to flee Sodom, he didn't bother to check with the city fathers to see if they thought their fair city was about to experience divine judgment. What about Noah?

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, MOVED WITH FEAR, prepared an ark to the saving of his house, by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Heb. 11:7).

How can I or any Christian best express his thanks to God for America? You really should not hesitate to answer this. Boasting about the Lord Jesus Christ and His willingness to save all that come to Him is the best way to keep America strong and free. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," and Jesus Christ is God's

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righteousness (Rom. 10:4). Because of His blessing upon us, there has never been a famine in our land. We help feed other nations. Thanksgiving Day tables in every state and county testify to the kindness and goodness of God toward us. Is our land so abundantly populated with pious and God-fearing citizens that we merit such bounty? I don't think so. It is the grace of God that feeds us; that same grace saves any sinner willing to trust Him with his soul.

Personally, I'm especially indebted to America. My mom and I arrived here in November, 1946. My mom was seventeen, and I was an infant of four months being carried in her arms. At LaGuardia Airport in New York, my dad, his parents, and his grandmother waited to greet us and drive us home to Brooklyn. We had been rescued from a devastated country. Food in Germany was scarce, and my dad, discharged from the U.S. Army soon after the war, was anxious to get us out of there.

This same America that allowed my father's parents to live and raise a family now opened its arms to a young German girl and her baby. Thank God for my dad, a combat veteran who struggled tirelessly with the authorities to get my mom and me on a plane to America. There's a lot more to this story, but this is not the venue to explore all that. Just last year, my dad, now 93, was awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor medal at an award ceremony conducted by the Deputy Consul General of France. He was cited for his role in the liberation of France.

Daniel Militello, my dad, was born in 1921, just like Dr. Ruckman. He has witnessed the sad decline of the nation for which he fought. Thank God, he and my mom, now 85, put in reservations for a new home in Heaven when they were born again over thirty years ago. Thank God for America, because here I was given the Gospel of my salvation, and I gave it to my family, my parents, my in-laws, sisters, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends. I witnessed the grace of God save some three dozen of my loved ones and dear friends willing to put God's word over the traditions of Romanism. I don't think this would have happened in Germany. I thank God for America.

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The Bookstore has developed a basic Christmas tract for holiday distribution.

Illustrated with Dr. Ruckman's artwork, this tract presents Christ as Saviour, coming King, and Judge. TR 25C (English)

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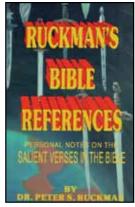
"Count Your Blessings" is one of the hymns we sing in church. It's a shame how often we lose sight of those blessings. One particular blessing I remember often is my father's father getting saved. It was around 1981, and he had never been in a Baptist church. He was 84 and not at all religious. He heard the Gospel preached clearly and took an altar call for salvation. I asked him later what moved him to go forward. He looked at me and said, "I know a good deal when I hear it."

Is not the grace of God extraordinary? Thank God for America. My grandfather would never have heard that Gospel had his father stayed in Sicily back in the Nineteenth Century.

Thank God this Thanksgiving for every preacher who believes God's word and preaches it without fearing man. I thank God personally for Dr. Ruckman reaching 93 this month. Thank God for his stand on the King James Bible and his 65 years of dedicated warfare against the critics of God's holy word.

"And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And TO ESTEEM THEM VERY HIGHLY IN LOVE FOR THEIR WORK'S SAKE. And be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

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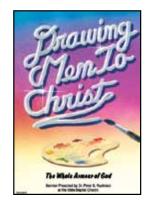
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*(Editor's note: The following is a book which we are publishing here in the *Bulletin* in serial format. The work consists of a preface and seven chapters, some of which have had to be divided between two issues due to length.)

By Andrew Saucier

CHAPTER 5

CONFOUNDING THE WISE

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty" (1 Cor. 1:27).

The trial was an exhibition of God's confounding the so-called wise (1 Cor.

The trial was an exhibition of God's confounding the so-called wise (1 Cor. 1:20), using their own words against them. What we didn't know then was that the Lord had already gotten the heart of the judge, and the "fix" was in. Judge Wasilwa, we learned later when we were introduced to her after the trial ended, was a born-again Christian; her daughter was in the United States at the time studying Medicine at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. The Lord had quite a set-up.

"'Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding,' and He'll fix the trial"—that's my new "rendition" of Proverb 3:5. One of the problems with Christians is that they will not trust God through to the final outcome, especially the American Christian. He is so accustomed to having things right away that he fails in his impatience to "wait upon the LORD" (Isa. 40:31).

The "fix is in" for the Christian, no matter how it seems at the moment. The "fix is in," and no matter how it turns out, the Christian is always a winner if he loves God, according to Romans 8:28. The circumstances of life are created by Him so that His children might come to "the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16).

Grace precedes the circumstance or conditions. We are to "obtain mercy" to find the grace that is already there. God's intent is not to hurt for the sake of hurting. "God is love" (1 John 4:8). His love for his children causes Him to act on their behalf, no matter how it might seem at the time. "For all the promises of God in [Christ] are yea" (2 Cor. 1:20).

As for myself, was there some apprehension on my part at times? Yes, there was, but it didn't last for long. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21). I believe that verse! So they'll have to find something other than death with which to threaten me. I can't be threatened with *success*.

Calvary fixed everything for everyone whose faith is in the finished work of Christ. The final outcome is what we're all interested in. Amen? Why, of course it is! The exception, of course, is someone caught up in the world or the flesh, whose affection won't be set on heavenly things or eternal matters but rather on temporal matters; all the circumstances of life, in such a case, will have unintended side effects.

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UPS/FED-EX will be closed, and no deliveries will be made, on November 27 (Thursday), November 28 (Thursday), December 25 (Thursday), December 31 (Wednesday), or January 1 (Thursday). The Bookstore will be closed and will not be taking orders on November 27–28, December 24–25, and January 1.

We hope this information will help you in preparing your orders. In addition, we trust the Lord will give you a blessed holiday season.

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The Bible says in Romans 8:28, "all things [circumstances included] work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." The conditional clause to make Romans 8:28 effective in the life of the individual is loving God. There is always an exception to a rule, but the exception always proves the rule.

Having said that, let me say that loving God is conditional upon understanding how greatly He loves His children. The Bible says that we love God "because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We understand that love is not dependent upon love to exist. If it were, it could never come into being. God initiated the love between Himself and mankind by sacrificing His Son on our behalf (John 3:10; Rom. 5:8). "He gave his only begotten Son" to die for sinners while they were yet His enemies (Rom. 5:10).

The real question is, is He Lord as well as Saviour? The Lordship of Jesus Christ is the proof of a Christian's love for Him. If an individual is caught up affectionately with himself or the world, he'll never know the security that is Romans 8:28, because his love is misplaced. When Jesus was asked what is the first and greatest of all commandments, He replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matt. 22:37).

The country-and-western song by the name of "Live Like You Were Dying" has some good lyrics. The truth of the matter is *everyone* is dying. Death begins at birth. The knowledge of that truth should cause Christians to act a little differently when it comes to trusting the Lord for the outcomes of matters related to one's eternal well-being. God has the fix for the lost if they'll take it, and He has the fix for the life of every child of God who will only trust Him.

Trust Him. No one can go wrong by relying on someone who truly loves him when the One who loves him just happens to be omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. Ever think of the stupidity it is not to trust a loving God, knowing that all that He is and has is to be used on the behalf of them whom He loves? Why, it is insane not to trust that kind of love from Someone who will never lose sight of His child and who has the wisdom to know what is best and the power to provide it. The "fix is in": the fix for the lost if they will take it, and the fix for the saved if they'll rest in Him.

The main focus of the prosecution was the content of the Gospel tract "Allah Had No Son." The reason for the selection of 1 Corinthians 1:27 as the title verse for this chapter is the way the Lord used the prosecution team against themselves. What the prosecutor thought was wisdom in his examination of his witnesses was actually a way for the Lord to get the Gospel to those who would otherwise never have stood still for a second to listen to the words of that tract. What was so amazing about the whole matter was the prosecution's continual repetition of the content of the Gospel tract, almost in its entirety, every time he

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questioned any of his witnesses. It was wearing on the nerves of the Moslem spectators in the court room. Imagine the number of times that the entire Gospel was recited in detail, verbatim, presenting such doctrines as the Deity of Christ, the Sonship of Jesus to God the Father, the fact that Allah had no son, and on and on and on. The greatest majority of the audience that heard it were Moslems. It was all they could do to contain themselves under so much truth. In fact, on several occasions, they were not able to restrain themselves from outbursts in the courtroom; subsequently, they had to be threatened by the judge.

The intent of the prosecution was to quote repeatedly from this particular tract, thinking that doing so would impress upon the judge the severity of the insult it was to Mohammed and Allah, and, consequently, elicit a guilty verdict under the assumption that the court was as sympathetic to Allah as was the prosecution. He honestly believed the rioting was justified by our unbelief in Mohammed and Allah. Our defense was that there is no one that is above criticism, Allah and Mohammed included; that we were justified by our freedom to express, in a legal manner, our opinions concerning Christ and Mohammed; that the mere fact that we favored Christ over Mohammed did not give the Moslems the right to riot; and that they were the ones that should be charged with disturbing the peace.

One of the things I observed about Moslems is that they are like children in many respects. In addition to being selfish and egotistical, they must have their own way, and they will do anything they can to get it. Unfortunately, Moslems have a little more available to them than just pouting, crying, and kicking their feet to get their way. The world's political process has tried reasoning; that doesn't work. Some of the world's political players have tried punishment; that doesn't work either. Why? Because only *some* agree with the punishment. Consider the outcome of a child's discipline when he knows one parent is not in agreement with the discipline. It doesn't work! And the reason it doesn't work is twofold. First, the child now thinks the punishment is unjust because not everyone is in agreement with it. Second, now the administrator of the punishment becomes the villain. And third, he now has found an ally in his rebellion.

At one point in the trial, an Imam, who seemed to be regarded as someone of importance, was recalled to bear witness against us. He was asked to locate a particular verse in the *Koran* that was handed to him by our lawyer. The trick on our part was that the particular version of the *Koran* that was handed to him was in *Arabic*. While being examined by the prosecution, he freely quoted Arabic verses from the *Koran*, which suggested that he was able to read and understand Arabic; he demonstrated his skill by reading and interpreting a few select verses the prosecution provided him. However, we were not convinced of his linguistic ability simply because he was able to recite several verses in Arabic. I reminded our lawyer that a similar deception is perpetrated on Christians

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in the United States by preachers in their effort to correct the Bible in order to portray themselves as Greek or Hebrew scholars when they are not by saying, "the original Greek says" or "a better rendering would be." In truth, they are not able to read or write Greek or Hebrew; they are only mimicking or quoting something they have read or memorized for the sake of pretension—pretending to be versed in Greek or Hebrew to give credibility to their corrections of the Bible.

Let me add, however, that even in the cases where certain individuals are able to read or write Greek and Hebrew, since no one has absolute knowledge from a human perspective, why attempt to correct something that claims *perfection* for itself? The only absolute knowledge mankind has is the *word of God*. Any attempt to correct the word is an attempt to correct God Himself, since He is the Word (John 1:1). This Imam fell into that category, as do most non-Arabic Moslems when they recite their *Koran* and prayers in Arabic. It is something like a Catholic altar boy—as I once was—who recites the Latin prayers at the Mass when he doesn't have a bit of knowledge of Latin apart from the few prayers he is reciting at the time.

When our lawyer handed the Arabic *Koran* to the African Moslem Imam, the Imam was absolutely lost in his attempt to locate the specific verses our lawyer requested. Even when he was given the location, he was unable to read the verses. The judge recognized his masquerade and his lie that he was able to read Arabic when in truth he couldn't; in open court the judge called him a liar. That comment went over like a lead balloon with the Moslem audience. God will always catch a fool in his own wisdom (1 Cor. 1:20).

The trial was a victory of Jesus Christ! I learned through this ordeal that it wasn't an ordeal at all. It was the way of God, and we were fortunate to be used by the Lord through it. The way of God is perfect in accomplishing what the Lord wants done. If God has a problem in getting anything done, it's with the Christians' unwillingness to trust God.

We had no idea at the time of our departure from the United States that we would be arrested and tried as criminals for distributing Gospel tracts, but God knew it! We thought we were on a mission for God, and we were, but we had no idea of the particulars related to that mission. They were the ways of God. Not informing us of His intent allows Him not only to accomplish what He did through the trial, but also to perform in us a work that required faith on our part. We are saved by faith (Eph. 2:8); we are to "walk by faith" (2 Cor. 5:7); and "without faith it is impossible to please [God]" (Heb. 11:6). Had we accomplished what we initially intended, which was to win souls, the outcome would not have been as pleasing to God, at least on our part, as was our faith in trusting Him in this time of trouble. "And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psa. 50:15).

The work of God through faith raised up Jesus from the dead: "Father, into Continued on 30



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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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thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). The work of faith is the key element of life and death for all of mankind, lost or saved. The unsaved man believes the way he is headed is in the right direction, but he's deceived by "a lying spirit" (1 Kings 22:22; 2 Cor. 4:4).

"There is a way that seemeth right" (Prov. 14:12). No one undertakes the way of life with the intent of going to Hell or failing in life. The individual's success in life, whatever he might deem as success, will dictate the course of conduct in his life. The individual is doing what he regards as best for himself, whatever it might be. "Every way of man is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 21:2).

Life for the believer is faith in the love of God, no matter what the circumstances might indicate to the contrary. The love of God is absolute, and it has no boundaries. It is perfect in its wisdom, in that it is able to discern the need of the object that is loved. It is perfect in its ability; it has no limitations in providing what the object needs. It is perfect as to its own self in that it is everlasting, proving its genuineness. It doesn't need in order to be; it is eternal. The faith of mankind, in whatever endeavor, is without absolute wisdom and is not able to discern the true need; it is limited in its ability to provide, and most of all, it is vain, since it is unstable and itself has needs in order to be.

The knowledge of God's love is all that a man needs to be confident of his position, whatever or wherever that position might be. Daniel had it in the lion's den. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had it in the fiery furnace. Joseph had it throughout his entire ordeal. Any Christian can have it when he rests in the confidence of God's love, because it does have wisdom, ability, and perfection. Faith without the knowledge of God's love won't stand the test of trouble.

"In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Hallelujah!

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