



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 39 No. 8

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

August 2015

The Punctuation of the King James Bible

By Brian Donovan
(Part two of two)

In our last article, we covered three of the seven passages in the *King James Bible* that do not end with any punctuation marks and continue the sentence into the next verse. The first two passages at which we looked are connected to the purchase and ownership of the land of Canaan (Gen. 23:17–18; 1 Chron. 21:11–12). Abraham bought the deed to the land in Genesis 23. This was the same area called “Shechem” in central Palestine that the Lord previously promised to give him when he passed through earlier in Genesis 12:6. Shechem was renamed “Nablus” by the Romans after their conquest of the area in A.D. 72. Nablus is presently in the media-doublespeak area called “the West Bank.” It is controlled by Moslems and is therefore unsafe for visitors. In the year 2000, Moslems rioted and destroyed

the traditional site of Joseph’s tomb and looted Jewish artifacts inside.

The other case at which we looked was in 1 Chronicles 21, when David bought Mt. Zion, after being punished for numbering the people. David would not take the land without cost to himself, so he purchased it outright from “**Ornan the Jebusite.**”

The third case that we covered was in Romans 11:7–8, which points to the spiritual blinding of the nation of Israel as she is cast out of that same land for her disobedience in rejecting the Messiah, Jesus Christ. For about 1,900 years, Israel was denied the land purchased and conquered by their fathers, and promised by the Lord God.

The next two passages without punctuation, about which we want to speak, put an emphasis on the pardoning mercy of God. The first is on the Jews under Hezekiah’s revival of the keeping of the Passover in 2 Chronicles 30:18–19. Here we notice at the end of verse 18, leading into verse 19: “[vs. 18] **The good LORD pardon every one** [vs. 19] **That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.**”

In their disobedience, Israel had

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Hidden Wisdom

The word *philosophy* comes from two Greek words: *phileo* (to love) and *sophia* (wisdom). Philosophy is supposed to be a love of wisdom, and a philosopher is supposed to be a lover of wisdom. The problem is that there are two kinds of wisdom. There is **“the wisdom of this world”** (1 Cor. 3:19) that **“is earthly, sensual, devilish”** (James 3:15); and there is **“the wisdom that is from above”** that **“is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy”** (James 3:17).

The former wisdom **“is foolishness with God”** (1 Cor. 3:19), and God says His foolishness is wiser than that wisdom (1 Cor. 1:25;). Paul claims that that wisdom was the source of man’s damnation, for it was man’s alibi for rejecting what God said (1 Cor. 1:21).

The latter wisdom, on the other hand, begins with **“the fear of the LORD”** (Psa. 111:10; Prov. 9:10), and it involves departing from evil (Job 28:28). If you are going to attain to this wisdom, there are three things you should do:

1. Accept **“the foolishness of God”** as superior to all the so-called “wisdom” the world has dredged up from Thales to Sartre (1 Cor. 1:23–25).
2. Become a fool **“for Christ’s sake”** (1 Cor. 4:10).
3. Be busy winning souls for Christ (Prov. 11:30).

Now before I was saved, I professed to be in a search for wisdom. I read all the Greek philosophers, all the philosophers of the Enlightenment, and all the modern philosophers. When I was stationed over in the Philippines just after World War II, I was given the opportunity to return home to the States to my wife and baby or to go to Japan. I headed to Japan, with the goal of eventually making it to Tibet. I was looking for the “hidden wisdom” in the eastern religions; you know, Buddhism, Prajna, the Dalai Lama, Shangri-La, “Lost Horizon,” and all that stuff.

It wasn’t till I got back to the States and stole a dime-store *King James Bible* from a flop house that I discovered where real wisdom was “hidden.” Speaking of Jesus Christ (Col. 2:2), the Scriptures say, **“In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”** (Col. 2:3). When I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour, I finally had access to wisdom that Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Descartes, Hobbes, Dewey, James, Nietzsche, et al., never had.

Since I have been saved, I have collected some pieces of wisdom, both in and out of the Scriptures, that seem to have escaped the educated intellectuals. Some of this “hidden wisdom” came from people who never went to College. A College education doesn’t guarantee any level of wisdom; quite often all it



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Hidden Wisdom

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means is you blew your money down a rat hole. Some of this "hidden wisdom" I learned from personal experience. Some of it comes from an Alabama peanut farmer who went on to build a University of over 6,000 students, although he himself never graduated from College. Some are little bits of verse that express some profound truths.

1. "**EVERY WORD of God is pure**" (Prov. 30:5). That's a nuclear bomb to every Conservative, Evangelical, and Fundamentalist who professes faith in "the preserved Word of God" (which means nothing). To the Bible-correcting Fundamentalist, the "Word" of God (capital W) means "the message," "the principles," "the fundamentals," "the teachings"; never the individual *words* of Scripture that Jesus called "**spirit**" and "**life**" (John 6:63). The *words* are subject to the whims of professors, scholars, textual critics, and translators.

In that Bible, if you are "**of God**," you will hear his "**words**," not just His message (John 8:47).

It is the "**words**" that are pure and preserved (Psa. 12:6-7), not just the fundamentals.

The believer is to "**live**" by "**every word**" of God (Matt. 4:4), not just the principles.

It is the individual "**words**" that are true (2 Sam. 7:28), not just some nebulous "Word."

And it is the individual "**words**" that the believer is to esteem above his "**necessary food**" (Job 23:12), not just the teachings.

Let me ask you something: do you have God's W-O-R-D-S? If you have the *NIV* you don't; they're missing over 64,000 of those words. If you have an *ASV* or *NASV* you don't; they're missing about 36,000 of the words. If you have a *New Scofield Study Bible* or a *New King James* you don't; they're missing 500 of the words. Ditto the other 328 counterfeit Bibles that have come off the press since 1880.

I have God's words. I have them in my language. I have every word God wants me to have, exactly as He wants me to have them, and I don't have to correct one word in that *King James* Bible because "**Every word of God is pure.**"

2. "**If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God**" (James 1:5). there is a hidden nugget of wisdom that has completely escaped the notice of nearly every College, University, and Seminary. How could you profess to be seeking wisdom and miss where to go to get it? All the "lovers of wisdom" talk about naturalism, idealism, realism, pragmatism, altruism, existentialism, phenomenism, theistic atomism, animism, logical empiricism, nominalism, and on and on *ad nauseam*, and completely miss the source of wisdom and how to access it. Solomon knew what to do to get wisdom all the way back in 1000 B.C. (1 Kings 3). Amateurs like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle wouldn't know wisdom if it walked up to them in broad daylight at high noon and slapped them in the face.

3. The man who can smile when things go wrong is the man who thought of someone to blame it on. That will hold true nearly 70% of the time. Occasionally you will run into someone like Billy Bray who is cheerful under the most trying

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Hidden Wisdom

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of circumstances because he is looking past his troubles to the promises of God, but not often.

4. The news media will get you killed. That's a "Ruckmanism." The examples of its truthfulness are too numerous to list. The news media will build up an international incident to start a war; then it will make sure the public sees all the horrible results of the war to demoralize them so the war will be lost. The news media will take a situation where a punk kid attacks a policeman (after robbing a convenience store) and is shot to death, and it will slant the report (or withhold certain facts) and make it look like "racism" so there will be riots and lootings. The news media will show a video of a black man being beaten by five cops without telling you that his blood alcohol was twice the legal limit, and when ordered to pull over, he fled the police at speeds of over ninety miles per hour, threatening the lives of other drivers on the highways and in residential neighborhoods. The result? Riots, lootings, businesses burned to the ground, innocent drivers dragged from their vehicles and beaten. The news media will get you killed.

5. "No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session." Mark Twain said that, and it is absolutely so. The job of the Senate and Congress is to take as much of your money as they can get away with, to pass "regulations" so you have no rights to do what you want on your own property, to strip you of as many liberties as they can and make you subservient to the State, and to try to "help you out" with laws like "Obamacare" until your very health and life are threatened.

6. "If it don't make sense, there's a buck in it." Another "Ruckmanism." If a law, regulation, or action makes no sense whatsoever, mark it down, someone, somewhere, is out to "turn a buck."

7. "Prepare for the worst and hope for the best." That's from Bob Jones Sr. The idea is you will nearly always come out better thinking *negatively first*. If you count on the positive, you will be disappointed more often than not. You had better prepare for the worst case scenario, and if it doesn't happen, you will be delightfully surprised.

8. "I had an ambition by which sin angels fell; I climbed up step by step and ascended into Hell." A great verse of hidden wisdom. If you believe Darwin's fairy tale (puddle to Paradise) instead of the Bible's account (Paradise to puddle), the only place to which you'll "climb" is *Hell*. You say, "That can't be." It is in Isaiah 14: Lucifer tried ascending to the throne of God and ends up in the Bottomless Pit. It is in John 10 where if you try climbing into Heaven by works and religion, you are kicked out as a thief and robber.

9. If it says "one size fits all," it doesn't fit anybody. That's a corollary to Murphy's Law.

10. Simplicity is truth's most becoming garb. That is, a truth can be stated simply and plainly while a lie has to hide behind "trademen's terminology," jargon, and a smokescreen of verbiage so you won't find out it's a lie. The old parable goes that Truth and Error went swimming together. They took their clothes off

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Hidden Wisdom

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and left them on the bank by the swimming hole. But when Error got out, he stole Truth's clothing, so now Error parades around like Truth. Truth, though, decided he would rather be the naked Truth than look like Error. The Bible version is don't **"be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ"** (2 Cor. 11:3).

11. The difference between a dog and a man: feed a starving dog, and he won't bite you. *A man will.* Profound, boy. One time, J. Frank Norris was walking down the street in Ft. Worth with a friend when some fellow, whom neither of them knew, crossed the street in front of them and cussed Norris out and shook his fist at him. Norris' buddy asked him, "Who in the world was that?" Norris replied, "I don't know; probably just somebody I did a favor for."

12. "Let dogs delight to bark and bite, for God hath made them so. Let bears and lions growl and fight, for this is their nature too. But children never let such angry passions rise; your little hands were never made to tear out each others' eyes." So in today's public school system that's exactly what they do. Why? Because they were taught that God didn't make them. They were taught evolution where they came up from the dogs, lions, and bears. If you teach five generations that they came from animals, don't be surprised when they act like animals. Back before Bible reading and prayer were kicked out of the public schools by the Supreme Court, the problems in public schools were talking in class, chewing gum, and running in the hallways. After 1964 (the Civil Rights Acts), the problems are drugs, teenage pregnancies, rape, assault, and murder. What did you think they were going to do, play chess?

13. An ounce of image is worth 10,000 tons of performance. That is true out in the world. One radio talk show host put it like this: "Symbolism over substance." The news media will puff a man or woman, and make a god or goddess of that person without he or she ever having done anything substantive or meaningful. That's Hollywood. John Wayne was no "hero." He never fought at the Alamo or in World War II or Vietnam; he never fired anything but blanks on a Hollywood set.

Obama is like that. Before becoming a Senator, he never held down a real job; he never managed a small business. All he did was be a "community organizer" (a Socialistic grass-roots politician). As a Senator, he never authored any meaningful legislation, and he missed most important votes. When he became President, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize without ever having brought peace to anywhere. But you see, he had a good news media image; he had good publicity. Out in Texas, they called him a "post turtle"—a turtle that has been put on a fence post. It didn't get there by itself, it doesn't belong there, and it can't get anything done while it's up there.

14. When science and philosophy light their candles all about, along comes the Book and quietly blows them out. You can't find one thing in the 23 million books in the Library of Congress, *that's worth knowing*, that isn't found in a *King James Bible*. If you do, it will be *trivia* every time.

15. Another tremendous bit of wisdom from Bob Jones Sr.: "War is God's judgment on sin here; Hell is God's judgment on sin hereafter." Proof? Six thousand years of human history.

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Hidden Wisdom

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16. Life is short, death is sure. Sin the cause, Christ the cure. Wisdom that is good for sixty centuries.

17. Only one life; 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last. Paul said, **“ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”** (1 Cor. 15:58). The Scriptures say, **“For God is not unrighteousness to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name”** (Heb. 6:10).

Those are just a few of the nuggets of “hidden wisdom” I have gleaned over the years. The only “secret” left that I wish to discover at 93 is the ultimate reality of God Himself and the New Jerusalem.

“Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But O the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

“And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace,
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace.”

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The Punctuation of the King James Bible

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ignored the yearly observance of the Passover (2 Chron. 30:5—**“for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written”**), just as they had ignored the sabbatical land rest, commanded in Leviticus 25:4, for 490 years (from Saul’s kingship in 1096 B. C. to Nebuchadnezzar’s captivity in 606 B.C.), and just as they had ignored the Feast of Tabernacles for 1,000 years from Joshua in 1450 B.C. to Ezra in 450 B.C. (see Neh. 8:17). Hezekiah tried to restore the Passover observance on **“the fourteenth day”** of **“the first month”** (Exod. 12:2, 6), but neither the priests nor the people were sanctified in time to keep it (2 Chron. 30:2–3). As allowed in the Law back in Numbers 9:10–11, any Jews who were defiled in the first month were allowed to keep the Passover in **“the second month.”** So Hezekiah’s prayer is without punctuation between verses 18 and 19 of 2 Chronicles 30 to call attention to the great mercy and pardoning power of the Lord God.

The next passage without punctuation at which we look brings attention to the mercy of God on unsanctified Gentiles in the Church Age. In Colossians 1:21–22, we read: **“[vs. 21] And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled [no punctuation] [vs. 22] In the body of his flesh through death.”**

Here we have the Holy Spirit glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ through His pure words by pointing the reader to the finished work done by the Saviour on the cross. Just think of the **“mystery”** (Col. 1:27) involved in reconciling filthy sinners to **“the only true God”**

(John 17:3). **“When we were yet without strength,” “ungodly,” “sinners,”** and **“enemies”** of God (Rom. 5:6–10), the death of Jesus Christ reconciles those who will receive Him, and it makes them the children of God.

The last two passages at which we will look are aimed at the day that the Lord **“will perform”** with much **“zeal”** (Isa. 9:7), which, of course, is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. It is called **“the day of the LORD”**; it is when He returns to forcibly take what is rightly His—**“the kingdoms of this world”** (Rev. 11:15). The two passages are found in Psalm 96 and Psalm 98. In both instances, the lack of punctuation calls extreme attention to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, with the physical world of nature bowing and rejoicing before **“the King of kings”** (1 Tim. 6:15).

This fallen, sinful world cannot be restored to its original beauty until that day. No amount of political kingdom building can work without the appearance of the King **“whose right it is”** (Ezek. 21:27). Fallen man has had 6,000 years to bring in his “Shangri-La,” and he has repeatedly proven that he is incapable of doing it. Man’s way to bring in peace is to kill, maim, murder, and subjugate any and all who will disagree with him. This is not only true of the Moslem killers, but also of the Communist killers, Roman Catholic killers, and Protestant killers; as well as Republican and Democratic killers. Right-wing Republican voters will hit the voting booths as “the Christian right” who are going to “take back America,” but let someone try to mess with their “God-given rights”—like

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The Punctuation of the King James Bible

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driving their automobiles by denying affordable oil—and watch how interested they become in the Middle East. Of course, it would not be called “killing” or “murder,” but simply “stabilizing the region.”

So we come to Psalm 96:12–13 and the prophecy of that great day when the Lord returns to reign on this earth. We read: “[vs. 12] **Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice** [vs. 13] **Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.**”

The same phenomenon is found in Psalm 98:8–9 regarding this majestic subject. There we read again: “[vs. 8] **Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together** [vs. 9] **Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.**”

The main subject of the Bible is this very kingdom. It is “**the day of the LORD**” found throughout the prophets in hundreds of verses, and often covering whole chapters. Both of these passages in Psalm 96 and Psalm 98 break the sentence midstream between two verses to make the reader pause and consider the topic.

“**The field,**” “**the trees of the wood,**” “**the sea,**” “**the hills,**” “**the floods,**” the whole “**earth,**” and even “**the heavens**” will one day soon “**re-joyce,**” “**be glad,**” “**roar,**” and “**clap their hands**” to acknowledge the “**King of kings**” and “**Lord of lords**”

(Rev. 17:14) ruling over His kingdom in righteousness. It may sound ridiculous, but I take the verses literally and believe the waters and trees will “**clap their hands**” to praise the King. The prophet Isaiah backs up this thought in Isaiah 55:12, where he says, “**all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**”

The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 8:22–23, “**For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit the redemption of our body.**” The physical part of our salvation still awaits completion.

When the Lord saved you, He did nothing with your body except to cut it away from touching your soul so that you as a Christian are no longer attached to the dead corpse of the old man (Col. 2:11–12). But there is coming a day when the Lord shall “**change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body**” (Phil. 3:21), as well as remove the physical curse of nature. Once again, I believe Isaiah speaks literally when he says of that day: “**The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them**” (Isa. 11:6).

One day when Jesus Christ was on this earth the first time, as He was getting the praise He so rightly deserved from the crowd, the common men

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The Punctuation of the King James Bible

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cried out, **“Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord”** (Luke 19:38). When the Pharisees heard this, they naturally objected, being led of their **“father the devil”** (John 8:44). When they told Christ to rebuke the people, Jesus **“answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out”** (Luke 19:40). Psalm 96:12–13 and Psalm 98:8–9 call attention to the whole natural creation coming **“Before the LORD”** to recognize His kingship with the release of their bondage at the Second Coming of Christ (Rom. 8:21). The thousand-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ will bring in the peace of which mankind has only dreamed, and for which the physical creation has waited and groaned.

These seven passages are the only places where the *King James Bible* does not use punctuation at the end of a verse. The reader should be aware that neither the manuscripts of the Old Testament in Hebrew nor the manuscripts of the New Testament in Greek contain punctuation marks. The 1611 *KJV* has been standardized in this regard through the works of Dr. Paris in 1762 (Cambridge edition) and Dr. Blayney in 1769 (Oxford edition). Blayney mainly followed the work of Paris, and so they are in agreement. The work of punctuating the *King James Bible* was done long before the advent of the lukewarm Laodicean age, so the Bible student should be warned when listening to the modern “scholars” who try to point out errors in either translation, italicized words, spelling, or punctuation.

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S I N

The Terrible Word

(Part One of Two)

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The word *sin*, in one form or another, occurs about 500 times in the Bible. It is all but ignored in public school and College textbooks, and when it is used, it is usually spoken of with *derision* as though it didn't exist. But the greatest Book in the world, the Book that has sold more copies than any other five books combined, has plenty to say on the subject. It occurs *eight* times in the very first book of the Bible, and it occurs *seventeen* times in a book written 300 years before Moses penned Genesis (Job).

Educated people always treat sin lightly. The Greeks called sin "dualism." Among the modern philosophers, Liebmann called it "privation"; Spinoza said sin was an *illusion*; Schleiermacher said it was "opposition to the kingdom." International Socialists all teach that sin is "failing to change." That's why the teachers in government (formerly *public*) schools are said to be "change agents"; the idea is to convert your children into becoming part of a Communist community where the State dictates their beliefs and actions instead of God or their parents. The news media calls sin a person's "lifestyle" or "preference"; it is sometimes referred to by the government as "sexual orientation." Sociologists have come up with a nice word to make sin look good: "cultural lag." According to the psychologists and the psychiatrists, it's *irrational thinking*, and according to humanists, it is

a *lack of faith in yourself*.

Now the Bible is the definitive work on sin. It tells you what sin is, as defined by an absolute standard of what is right. John, the beloved apostle, sums up what sin is in two terse statements.

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SIN, the terrible word

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“Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4).

“All unrighteousness is sin” (1 John 5:17).

The Lord has laid out for you what He expects in the Ten Commandments. Whenever you break one of those commandments, *that's sin*. James wrote, **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all”** (James 2:10). You only have to break one law to be a sinner.

Moreover, if something is *not right*, it is sin. It's not just a question of what's *wrong* with a thing; it's what's *right* with it. Again, James said, **“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”** (James 4:17). So sin not only can be a sin of *commission*, but a sin of *omission* as well.

The greatest type of sin in the Bible is a disease called “leprosy”: it is a *plague*; it is *incurable*; it is *hereditary*; it is *communicable*; it will *kill you*. Sin is likened to a thief, to a poisonous serpent, to an unpayable debt, to a deadly wound, to a burden you can't get rid of, and to *puke*.

The Bible lists all kinds of different sins. There are *religious* sins, *social* sins, *military* sins, *political* sins, *agricultural* sins, *commercial* sins, and *intellectual* sins. People tend to pick out one or two sins they don't commit and think of themselves as “not that bad.” Sin goes far beyond what you *do*; it has to do with your *thoughts* (Prov. 24:9) and your *motives*—*why* you do what you do. If you don't act out of what I call a “holy principle,” I don't care how “good” you think you are, what you are doing is *sin*.

For God to accept what you do,

your actions have to be based on *what God says* and not what *you* think is right. The Bible says, **“whatsoever is not of faith is sin”** (Rom. 14:23). If what you do isn't based on what God says in His Book (Rom. 10:17), you are *sinning*.

Many good works that people do have no relation to God at all, because the motive for doing them wasn't *what God said*. That's why the Bible says, **“all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”** (Isa. 64:6), and **“every man at his best state is altogether vanity”** (Psa.

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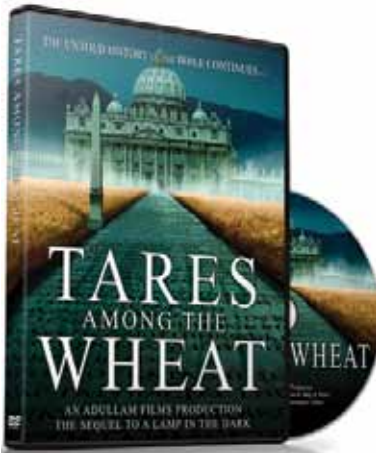
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SIN, the terrible word

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39:5). What good we do is tainted by wrong motives and the wrong spirit.

Some people do good because they are too old, too infirm, or too feeble to do bad. They don't have the energy to do what they want. Some people do good to try to atone for their own sins, and that won't work either (Eph. 2:8-9). Some people do good because they're afraid to do bad. They fear the consequences of sinning, and that's no good because it's not a spiritual motive. Some people don't do bad because they don't have the *money* to do what they want. Sin has to do with your *motive*.

I have something I call "the Holiness nightmare." In other words, when you think you've overcome sin in your life, run over this list and see how you check out.

"Sin is to feel a secret pride in success, training, or appearance. It is to feel an important, independent spirit. It is to feel bitter over what someone has told you about the success of another.

"Sin is a hard, sarcastic, or unyielding spirit. It is a touchy, bitter, sensitive spirit, resigned to attract the attention of the opposite sex, to say and do things to attract attention to self. It is a constant complaining and a desire to quit trying to do right. It is abusive acts to self and others. It is a deceitful or an evasive spirit that seeks to create false impressions, depict flaws, and criticize when set aside unnoticed.

"Sin is lustful and wandering eyes, a shrinking from duty and reproach, a tendency to retaliate when crossed, and permitting things you do not permit in your idea of a consecrated Christian.

"Sin is a shallow stinginess, an uncleanness in thought or desire. It is a joke that reflects the vain or light manner of conversation of life of the jester. It is being unwilling to put out for others unless personal advantage is involved; it is partiality to certain persons or classes or denominations in your dealings.

"Sin is always thinking of what might have been if certain things hadn't happened. It is an unthankful, unappreciative attitude toward your lot in life. It is living in constant fear of failure; it is taking an unmerciful attitude toward those who do fail. It is taking an inferior attitude toward those of wealth or position.

"Sin is putting on a false or exaggerated humility, or imagining how others are praising you or speaking well of you. It is straining at the truth, showing an apathetic attitude toward being caught in sin, or shirking responsibilities.

"Sin is the feeling of nervousness you get when you watch somebody do something you think you could do better."

What I gave you there wasn't a *list of sins*, it was a *description of sin*. That is the *nature in you* that produces the *outward sins*. Going to church, paying your debts, being true to your spouse, not having a TV set, not smoking, drinking, or doing drugs, not attending the movies, not cursing or lying, having three-quarter length sleeves and dresses down to your ankles, and not supporting false doctrines has no effect on those sins. Those are matters of the *heart*: **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked"** (Jer. 17:9).

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SIN, the terrible word

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There are all kinds of sinners. There are moral sinners and immoral sinners, open sinners and secret sinners. You may have two garbage cans. One may be bent up, with rust and holes all through it. It may smell from years of coffee grounds, dead vermin, vomit, rotten eggs, dead shrimp, fish guts, sour milk, etc. The other may be brand new, made out of galvanized steel, and shiny. What's the difference between the two? One looks better than the other and doesn't smell as bad. *They are both garbage cans and contain garbage.*

If there is one thing the Book makes clear, it is: **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23); **“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not”** (Eccl. 7:20).

The Apostle Paul wrote, **“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one”** (Rom. 3:10–12). When it comes to this matter of sin, **“there is no difference”** (Rom. 3:22). There's no difference between man and woman, between adult and child, between black and white, between Oriental and Occidental, between rich and poor, between liberal and conservative, between Catholic and Protestant, between Jew and Gentile, between Moslem, Christian, Hindu, Buddhist, atheist, etc. Every man, woman, boy, and girl, regardless of nationality, class, religion, or political viewpoint, was born into this world

“dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). They are all **“by nature” “children of disobedience”** and **“children of wrath”** (Eph. 2:2–3). That thing is so strong that even the necessary things, the legitimate and right things, a sinner does are considered *sin* (**“the plowing of the wicked, is sin”**)—Prov. 21:4).

There is only one man who lived on this earth who never sinned, and that was the God-man, the Lord Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews says He **“is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners”** (Heb. 7:26). The Bible says He **“was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”** (Heb. 4:15). The judge who condemned Him to death said he could find **“no fault”** in Him (Luke 23:4, 14; John 18:38, 19:4, 6). The man who betrayed Him confessed He was innocent (Matt. 27:4). The soldier who crucified Him said He **“was a righteous man”** (Luke 23:47). The thief who died at His side said, **“this man hath done nothing amiss”** (Luke 23:41).

Because He was **“without sin,”** He could be accepted by God as the perfect sacrifice for our sins (1 Pet. 1:18–19). Jesus Christ, **“who did no sin,” “suffered for us”** to **“bare our sins in his own body on the tree”** (1 Pet. 2:21–22, 24).

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor. 5:21). That's *imputation*. Your sins were imputed (i.e., attributed to) Jesus Christ on the cross, and when you trust Him as your Saviour, His righteousness is imputed to you (Rom. 4:22–25).

Next month, we will look at the *affects* of sin.

The Only Book That Stands the Test

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

For some time now, I have cited for you the one sure proof that the Holy Bible is *far superior* to the *Koran*, Catholic tradition, or anything Buddha or the worshippers of Krishna and Brahma ever produced. The Bible is the *only* Book that can stand the test of *mathematics*.

There are over 23 million books in the Library of Congress, and *not one* of them, outside of the Bible, can stand the test I am about to give you. If you had a computer that could put together 150 trillion facts per second, it wouldn't compete with what I'm going to show you.

When people ask me *why* I believe the Bible is the word of God, I tell them, "Because of the *science of mathematics*." I don't even talk about the doctrinal content or the plan of salvation. The Bible isn't a "religious" Book. It's a *scientific, historical* Book.

My belief in the Bible as *infallible, absolute truth* and God's *final authority* is based on the *science of mathematics*, which is the most *exacting* of any of the "sciences"; it is greatly more reliable than *philosophy* or *psychology*. Mathematics shows you that the Bible is the word of God and that anyone who denies the Bible to accept evolution (like Einstein, Darwin, Hawking, Sagan, et al.) is crippled too high for crutches; anybody who denies the absolute, final authority

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The Only Book That Stands the Test

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of the word of God has a mental problem that is incurable by any natural means (like education or religion).

Now I am going to give you a brief synopsis of this material. The “original” was put into print by a professor of mathematics named Peter Stoner in his work *Science Speaks*. Professor Stoner tested the accuracy of the Bible on the basis of the laws of *statistical probability*. If you are an unbeliever reading this, all you can do (outside of repenting of your unbelief and accepting what God says in His Book) is either *ignore* or *reject* the science of mathematics. You will have to throw *all* College educations out the window where they deal with *numbers* in order to find *any* book on earth that could meet *a tenth* of the requirements met by the Holy Bible.

What I am about to give you from Professor Stoner has nothing to do with “religion” or “faith”; it has to do with the cold, hard *facts of mathematics*. One atheistic jackass tried to dismiss this evidence by asking a Christian who brought it up, “Would that be the Peter Stoner who graduated from Wheaton College (a *Christian* institution)?” The idea was that because a *Christian* came up with the evidence, it could be dismissed because it came from a prejudiced source. The Christian wisely replied, “That would be the Peter Stoner who did *the mathematical calculations on the facts of history*.” “Faith” doesn’t change the figures and the calculations; *they are so* no matter what you “believe.” These statistics show you the *supernatural, miraculous* nature of the Book, and opinions to the contrary are only proof that the person who holds those opinions is a candidate for the rubber room.

Stoner started out by examining the prophecy concerning the birthplace of Jesus Christ—Micah 5:2. To calculate the chances of one particular man being born in Bethlehem, Stoner took the average population of Bethlehem in Micah’s day until the time of his writing and divided it into the average population of earth in the same time period. That would be 7,150 divided by two million, which turns out to be one in 2.8x10,000. So the chance of Jesus Christ fulfilling Micah 5:2 would be one out of 280,000.

But Stoner found 47 more prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ at His First Coming. These were given in the Old Testament. They were all written 400–1,500 years before Jesus Christ was born. This is what Christ meant when He said, “**Search the scriptures . . . they are they which testify of me**” (John 5:39). “**The scriptures**” were Genesis–Malachi, because when Jesus spoke those words, there was no New Testament. So these are *not* “prophecies” given *after the fact*. They are *real, actual* prophecies, made at least 400 years ahead of time, which were *fulfilled in history*. Amateurish works like the *Koran*, the *Tripitaka*, the *Zend Avesta*, the *Vedas*, and the *Bhagavad Gita* have nothing like it. So here are some of the estimates of one man fulfilling each one of these prophecies individually.

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- 1. Only one in 1,000 would have a forerunner (Mal. 3:1).
- 2. Only one in 10,000 would enter Jerusalem on **“the foal of an ass”** (Zech. 9:9).
- 3. Only one in 1,000 would be betrayed by a close friend so that he was wounded in the hands (Zech. 13:6).
- 4. Only one in 10,000 would be betrayed for **“thirty pieces of silver”** (Zech. 11:12).
- 5. Only one in 100,000 would have that silver cast down in the Temple (Zech. 11:13).
- 6. Only one in 10,000 would make no defense for himself when he was oppressed, afflicted, and put on trial for his life (Isa. 53:7).
- 7. Only one in 10,000 would die by crucifixion (Psa. 22:16).

To get the probability of one man fulfilling all eight of the prophecies above, you have to multiply all the estimates together. When you do that, the chances of one man fulfilling only *eight* of the 48 prophecies would be one in ten with 28 zeros after it.

Now let me ask you something: *would you take chances like that?* A professional gambler wouldn't. You would be *insane* to take a chance like that, and that is not even the chances of *all 48 prophecies* being fulfilled. By the time you

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The Only Book That Stands the Test

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allow for all 48 prophecies, the odds would be one out of ten with *157 zeroes* after it. Why, there are not that many electrons in three universes the size of ours.

To get a grasp of the chances involved in one in 10^{157} , try to imagine counting out electrons. If you counted 250 electrons a minute, it would take *nineteen million years* to count the electrons in an *inch*. A cubic inch of electrons would take 1.2×10^{38} years to count. At that point, you would have counted only 10^{21} electrons in a cubic inch. In a cubic foot, you would only have 10^{24} electrons, and only 10^{33} electrons in a cubic mile. By the time you count out 10^{69} electrons, you would fill 100 billion cubic miles, and 10^{87} electrons would fill a cube one million billion cubic miles in size. Known space is *six billion light years* in all directions. By the time you use up all 10^{157} electrons, you would have filled up that space a total of 6×10^{28} times. Now, mark one of those electrons, stir thoroughly, blindfold a man, and have him pick out the marked electron on the first try.

You say, "It can't be done." Exactly! According to *Pierre Lecomte du Noüy*, if the chances of a thing taking place are over one in 10^{50} , the event will *never* happen. Yet there sits the Holy Bible. It records the history of one man who fulfilled 48 prophecies that were in print 400 years before He was born. The odds of that taking place is one out of 10^{157} . It shouldn't have happened, *but it did*. It can't be explained *naturally*, it was *scientifically impossible*, but there it is. *It took place*. The only explanation that makes any sense is that a God who knows the beginning from the end (Isa. 41:26, 46:10, 48:3) supernaturally revealed the Book and then brought it to pass.

If you have a *King James Bible*, do you know what you've got? You've got a Book that makes every evolutionist, humanist, atheist, Mohammedan, Buddhist, and Hindu look like a *fool* (Psa. 14:1; Luke 24:25). Einstein was one of the biggest fools who ever lived. You say, "He was a genius." He was an apostate Jew who *rejected both Testaments*. So did Marx. Neither man had a brain in his head.

Einstein was supposed to be a mathematical genius, was he? Well, he sure lost his shorts on what you just read above. Only an idiotic fool would say that the Bible is not supernatural, given the mathematical evidence above, because *there is no natural explanation for the Book*. Einstein just slit his spiritual throat from ear to ear. So does every College professor in America who takes that Book lightly.

A Lutheran pastor witnessed to Einstein before he died, and Einstein told him, "I cannot believe in a God who is not a *mathematical formula*." Well, Einstein was a short-sighted idiot. God is a *person*, not some impersonal mathematical formula. But God gave Einstein *mathematical proof* that what He said was so, and Einstein went right on by it as if it weren't even there. You talk about a fool!

The Book says, "**Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed**" (Prov. 13:13). Jesus said, "**if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are**

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not of God" (John 8:46–47).

You are as mad as a March hare if you think that Bible is a *normal* book. It's time for the men in the white coats with the butterfly nets to pick you up and haul you off to the funny farm. You're not *thinking*. That goes for *every College professor* and "Mensa" member. They are all just as blind as a sightless bat backing into a blizzard.

They are all taking a chance on their eternal destinies which no professional gambler would take on a bet. They are pretending they can dive without a parachute out of a "747" flying at 30,000 feet and land feet first on cement without breaking a bone in their bodies. That is the intellect of anyone who thinks the Holy Bible is in the same league with the "*Noble Koran*," the "*Holy*" *Hadith*, the *Book of Mormon*, *The Secret Doctrine*, the Harvard Five-foot Shelf of Classics, or the *Encyclopedias Britannica* and *Americana*. No book in that list can pass the scientific test of mathematics in regards to statistical probability.

P.S.: There are *400 more prophecies* about the same man yet to be fulfilled. You can bet on those 400 just like you could the first 48.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

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December 11–13

Anchor Baptist Church
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Pastor Bob Joseph
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The Infallible Agnostic

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

Many times in the *Bulletin* we have commented on the works of Karl Keating, a Roman Catholic lawyer out in California who has taken it upon himself to defend his church from the soulwinning efforts of Bible-believing Fundamentalists. Part of what Keating tries to do is to explain Roman Catholic teaching so that “ignorant Fundamentalists” can “understand” it—and consequently QUIT CRITICIZING IT. In doing this, he comes to some remarkable conclusions which both Catholics and Fundamentalists had better consider before taking Roman Catholicism seriously.

Now as we examine these conclusions, we are not going to “misrepresent” what anyone, whether it be Karl Keating or his church, teaches. We are going to refer you right to his work *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*; specifically his chapters on “The Inspiration of the Bible” and “Salvation.” But in going right to the root of Karl Keating’s (and his church’s) conclusions, we may shock the tar out of some people who haven’t thought things through.

Let’s just face it, shall we, most Catholics think NOTHING through which they believe. I don’t know of five Catholic Priests in America who have ever even *read* Psalm 69:8–9, much less considered the implications of the passage on the doctrine of the Perpetual Virginity of Mary. Karl Keating certainly didn’t: in over 300 pages, he never mentioned the verses one time. That’s a Messianic psalm (cf. John 2:17) where Jesus Christ is speaking through David as a prophet (see Acts 2:25–31) and talks about *His own family*: He calls His

brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3) “**my MOTHER’S CHILDREN.**” They were no more His “cousins” than they were your nephews and nieces.

Now in Keating’s chapter on “The Inspiration of the Bible,” he is absolutely clear on three things; one cannot mistake or misread his intentions or his Catholic beliefs.

1. It is the Roman Catholic Church that has the right to interpret the Scripture.

2. This interpretation is so protected by the Holy Spirit that the Catholic Church is *infallible* when it teaches the Scripture.

3. No man can know the Scriptures are inspired unless he believes what the Roman Catholic Church says about them.

You will find those three propositions clearly presented on pages 125–127, 133 of Keating’s book. They are not the statements of some egotistical, idiotic individual making an official declaration “from the seat” (*ex cathedra*) regarding “faith and morals” on some doctrine which has been “called into question.” (Yes, dearies, we know *exactly* what Catholics teach and believe; and all their ducks, dodges, twists, casuistry, sophistry, and equivocation have never prevented us from *knowing* exactly what they really teach and *why* they teach it.)

In the chapter on “Salvation,” Keating makes three more things abundantly clear, for he claims to be explaining (and explaining *properly*) the *real truth* about Catholic doctrines. Of course, those of us who have dealt with hundreds of Catholics face to face know that many of them

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would *deny everything* Keating says about salvation, but as far as that goes, I have heard *Jesuits* say that no Catholic worships Mary, even though she has to be *omnipresent* to be able to hear 900 million Roman Catholics all around the world praying to her at the same time (the Legion of Mary goes further and claims the attribute of Deity *omnipotence* [all power] for her). I have had *Priests* tell me that no Roman Catholic confesses his sins to a Priest, even though the confession is *addressed to the Priest in the confessional* (“Forgive me, Father, for I have sinned”), and it is the Priest who subscribes the manner of penance for the sins. And that isn’t even dealing with the fact that *every believer on earth* is a priest (1 Pet. 2:5, 9) with the power to forgive sins (2 Cor. 2:10) through the preaching of the Gospel (Luke 24:47) and the efficacy of the blood of Christ in the life of the believer (1 John 1:7–9).

No, the cute little twists, ducks, dodges, and spirals don’t sidetrack us. We will get to the heart of the matter and go as straight for the target as a German .88. Keating says:

1. A Catholic has to be changed by “sanctifying grace” and die in a “state of grace” in order to be saved.

2. Believing in Jesus Christ and trusting His finished atonement on the cross will guarantee salvation to *nobody*.

3. *No one on earth* can have assurance of eternal life, for no one knows for sure where he will go until he is dead.

If you are a Catholic and don’t believe those three things, you are an

apostate according to your Priests, Bishops, Cardinals, and Pope, because, according to Karl Keating (pp. 166–168, 174), *that* is the official Catholic position.

We shall now put two and two together and get thirteen. If you will carefully examine the six things listed above—which are in black and white, and in no uncertain terms in Keating’s work *Catholicism and Fundamentalism*—you will, without a doubt, arrive at these fantastic conclusions:

I. It is *infallible truth* that no one can know where he is going until he dies.

II. This is the infallible teaching of the infallible teaching church that *cannot err in defining doctrine*.

III. If you do not believe those two things, and if you contradict them, you are not only a liar, you are a *deceived liar*.

From that, we may extrapolate that *Paul* was a liar (2 Tim. 1:12), *Peter* was a liar (1 Pet. 1:4), *John* was a liar (1 John 5:13), and all the following are deceived liars: William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Curtis Hutson, John Rawlings, M. R. DeHaan, Theodore Epp, Billy Graham, John Knox, Jonathan Edwards, William Booth, Billy Sunday, J. Frank Norris, Gipsy Smith, R. A. Torrey, and ALL THEIR CONVERTS.

Now I am going to pretend for a moment that Karl Keating has enough sense to blow his nose when it is stopped up. He believes in his church, he accepts what it teaches, and what it teaches is that every born-again Baptist on the face of the earth is a *liar*.

Why didn’t he just say that? Why

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didn't his *church* say it? Why doesn't his Pope say it (any of them: John Paul II, Benedict XVI, or "Francis")?

You see, *every saved Baptist knows where he is going when he dies*, but an "infallible teacher" of an "infallible church" says he doesn't. So who is lying: the saved Baptist or the "infallible teacher" and his church? Keating says (pg. 125), "We can take the CHURCH'S word for it precisely because THE CHURCH IS INFALLIBLE."

Blow it out your nose, fella! Of course, comments like that "turn off" the thin-skinned brethren who are always interested in "communicating" and "reaching out" with "dialogue" to *leaven the truth*. But when you consider that this man just called *my belief* a lie, *me* a liar, and *the men* I believe (Paul, John, and Peter) liars, and that *only his church* had the truth, have I really been that hard and hateful? Blow it out your nose again!

Now get ahold of yourself and *think* for a minute. If Karl Keating were right in what he wrote, did you ever sit down for ten seconds and think about what he is trying to get you to do? Surely he is trying to get you to believe *the truth*, is he not? Why, certainly! A man doesn't write 300-plus pages on Bible doctrine unless he is trying to get someone to believe what he considers to be the truth. All right then, did you ever stop to think what are the consequences of Keating and his church's "infallible teaching"?

Why, they are trying to get you to *throw out the promises of God* (like Rom. 8:29; Phil. 1:21–23; 1 Cor. 1:8–9) and *give up the assurance*

of your salvation (1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 5:10–13). They want you to be *agnostic like themselves*.

And there it is just like a rotten egg: you can't beat it but it sho' do stink. Popes, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops, Catholic Priests, and Catholic apologists like Karl Keating want you to be as *ignorant as they are*. To accomplish that goal, they would thrust an "infallible interpreter of Scripture" on you so as to talk you out of *believing what God said in His Book*.

Woe to the sinner who exchanges Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:13; Ephesians 1:4–5; John 10:27–29; and Romans 8:38–39 for some "infallible church" whose members and leaders don't even know where they are going when they die. Woe unto you, bub, if you trade the living words of the living God for that stale crust of mouldy Roman bread.

No, we will *not* take Karl Keating's advice. How would becoming an *agnostic* fit into growing "**in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ**" (2 Pet. 3:18)? Why make a *liar* out of God Almighty—that's what the Apostle John called it (1 John 5:10)—just to please some monkey man (all modern Popes believe in evolution) in a Halloween costume who thinks his ecclesiastical machine is "infallible"?

Stick with the Book. Karl Keating will never have as much truth as the children in our DVBS, because *they* know something he *doesn't know*, and if he sticks with his church, *he will never know it*. A sinner on this earth needs Keating's religion and "infallible church" like he needs a broken spinal column.

Paul and Cleanliness

By Robert Militello

“And when they opposed themselves and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I AM CLEAN: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles” (Acts 18:6).

Before Paul's conversion, his passion as a Pharisee was ritual cleanliness. Pharisaical fanaticism for cleanliness was the religious “OCD” (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) of his day. Jesus mocked this behavior as a device used to undermine **“the commandment of God.”**

“For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do” (Mark 7:8).

A much more destructive fanaticism got hold of Paul's heart regarding those Jews who believed Jesus rose from the dead and was the Prophet of whom Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 18:15–19. Paul was given authority by the chief priests to imprison, torture, and kill fellow Jews who fell in with the sect of Nazarenes. This way of dealing with perceived apostates was later to become the *Modus Operandi* (MO) of the Roman Church and the followers of Mohammed.

Paul was devoted to his assignment. With German-like efficiency, he hunted down apostates not only in Jerusalem, but elsewhere (see Acts 26:11). Like a Mafia enforcer, he washed his hands in blood and carried out the contracts of his bosses who hated those who failed to wash before eating. This horrific episode in Paul's life would help him become a fanatic for Jesus. He would strive to keep himself from bloodguiltiness by urging all to repent and believe the gospel (Acts 17:30).

“Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men” (Acts 20:26).

Imagine every Christian earnestly striving to follow Paul's example for fear of appearing before the Lord with the blood of lost loved ones, relatives, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We are told plainly to take up Paul's obsession with bringing truth to lost souls.

“Be ye FOLLOWERS OF ME, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Cor. 11:1).

Paul had a clear understanding regarding his calling. He was no longer a Pharisee looking to the traditions under which he was brought up. His charge from the Lord was certainly not making sure his hands, pots, and pans were thoroughly washed before eating. His passion for cleanliness was redirected by what he read in Ezekiel 33. Now that his eyes had been opened by the Lord to see the spirit of the law and not just the letter, he became the greatest salesman for truth the Roman world had ever known. He was determined to keep his hands clean of blood.

“When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; BUT HIS BLOOD WILL I REQUIRE AT THINE HAND” (Ezek. 33:8).

Will the Lord have a bride without **“spot, or wrinkle”** (Eph. 5:27)? Well, after

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Paul and Cleanliness

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the Judgment Seat of Christ tries by fire the works of the last Christian to appear before it, spots and wrinkles are gone forever. Who is going to appear before the Lord spotted with blood?

“How hast thou counselled him that hath no wisdom? and how hast thou plentifully declared the thing as it is? To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?” (Job 26:3–4).

Are you prepared for this kind of interrogation? Paul was. Are you?

“For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God” (Acts 20:27).

Paul made it clear to the Ephesian elders that his labor of love was so thorough, so passionate, so fearless that it allowed him to state honestly, **“that I AM PURE FROM THE BLOOD OF ALL MEN”** (Acts 20:26). Talk about keeping a good conscience, this Jewish tentmaker was all business, just like his Lord.

Some years ago, as a Catholic young man, I was told that it was important to examine your conscience before confessing to the priest. Back then, confession was known as the “Sacrament of Penance.” The church had seven sacraments. Today, confession is called the “Sacrament of Reconciliation.” What’s involved in it is telling the priest what you thought to be sin and asking God’s forgiveness through the priest. That kind of confession and examination of conscience had all to do with guilt over wrongdoing. Failing to do right seemed inconsequential in the examining process.

Some months ago, Bible Baptist Church had a Communion service. Pastor Donovan told us the importance of self-examination before taking the elements.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep” (1 Cor. 11:28–30).

My examination of thought, word, and deed are far different today than those I had as a Catholic. Failing to do right when opportunity presents itself is now the most critical factor in the life of a Christian. Omission has eclipsed commission as a method by which to gauge spiritual development. Paul set a very high bar by which we measure our service to the Lord. How can any believer hope to avoid a guilty conscience, if he or she is not striving to warn the lost to come out from under the wrath of God?

America’s noticeable slide into the moral septic tank in which we now find ourselves is the direct result of bloody pulpits. Pastors, in their desire to become all things to all people, became more enthralled with Cicero (a great Roman orator) than with Paul. Gone was the passion for rescuing the perishing, and in its place, America got “the power of positive thinking” and “your best life now.” What replaced this duty? **“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and COMPEL THEM TO COME IN, THAT MY HOUSE MAY BE FILLED”** (Luke 14:23).

What is really the cause of our nation’s spiritual degeneracy?

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Men called to the ministry are in the rescue business, whether they know it or not. Those in danger of losing their souls are spiritually asleep and often resist rescue.

Some years ago, there was a fire at the Willowbrook Developmental Center on Staten Island, New York. Willowbrook was a sprawling New York State facility for the mentally disabled. When the New York City fire trucks arrived, there was chaos. Staff had desperately tried to escort the patients from burning buildings. This effort was failing. Patients frozen in fear would not move.

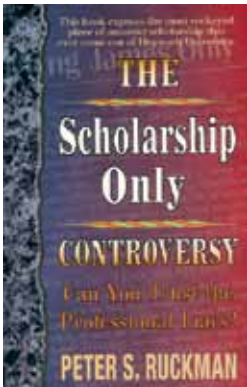
When the firefighters realized that the patients were resisting and not evacuating the buildings, they forcibly removed as many as could be found.

These poor, unfortunate people did not understand the danger they were facing. Patients in a facility such as this, where they are treated and cared for, grow comfortable in their surroundings. The attachment to their rooms, to their beds, and to their personal belongings becomes almost fanatical. They will resist with all their might any attempt to remove them from their comfort zone. Firefighters were pummeled, kicked, and scratched as they brought out the frightened,

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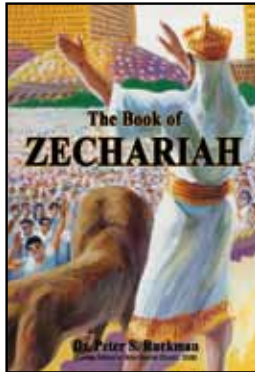
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Paul and Cleanliness

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pathetic souls, many of whom were naked.

If God's ministers did their job and performed spiritually like the firefighters did physically, our communities would be a lot safer. Prisons would not be one of America's leading growth industries. Where is the real Pauline ministry in our churches? Why does the Lord keep us here after saving our souls? When saved, we are immediately seated **"in heavenly places"**: **"And hath raised us up together, and MADE US SIT TOGETHER IN HEAVENLY PLACES in Christ Jesus"** (Eph. 2:6). We remain here as witnesses to God's grace and as rescue specialists employed by the Lord.

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world" (John 17:15). What is the Father's business if it is not to fill up His house for His Son?

"Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come" (Acts 26:22).

First responders to any tragedy are charged with saving lives, rescuing the trapped, and treating the wounded. Pulpits today are filled with men and sometimes women (Lord, help us!) who are unable or unwilling to see the tragedy in going to hell at death. There is a good deal of unpleasantness in talking about hell. Folks get somewhat unnerved by plain preaching.

"And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, FELIX TREMBLED, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee" (Acts 24:25).

Years ago, I listened to a few of the "Hour of Power" broadcasts by D. Robert Schuller (recently deceased) from his Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. I don't know if that man ever made anyone to tremble by preaching on judgment to come. Who puts men like that in the ministry, the Lord? Ministers, if saved, who love to eat with clean hands and are afraid to preach on hell, will meet the Lord at His Judgment Seat. Who will tremble then?

"Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor. 11:27).

Paul's examination of himself was simple. It was stated clearly in a number of places.

"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience" (2 Tim. 1:3).

"I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (Acts 23:1).

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16).

It must be hard to sleep peacefully with a bad conscience if you believe you will stand before God one day and give an account of your service. When I made my examination of conscience before going into the confessional, I was without the Holy Spirit and knew little of God's word. Added to that, my conscience had been somewhat polluted by Catholic traditions taught by nuns and later by Jesuit priests.

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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.

Paul and Cleanliness

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For example, I was taught that eating meat on Fridays during Lent (the forty-day period before Easter) was a mortal sin and could put me in hell. Well, I had eaten a few hot dogs one Friday from a street vender with the idea that confession the next day would “save” me. If I had died before getting to the priest Saturday at 3:30 p.m., I was going to burn. If there is a more devilish way to teach the things of God like the manner in which the Roman Church employs, will someone please prove it?

Things are so much better now. God’s word tells me how to deal with filthiness.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

Two things are promised to the saint who believes in confession: forgiveness and cleansing. No priest can give you that plus what you need most—peace with God. If you are in Christ, you have been washed in the blood of God’s Lamb. You are clean, but you’ll get dirty walking in this world of filth.

“Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean” (John 13:10).

Thank God, **“the gospel of the grace of God”** which Paul preached (Acts 20:24) takes care of our eternal destiny. Nevertheless, our soon appearing at the Judgment Seat of Christ is where our attention needs now be focused. One man’s obedience to the Holy Spirit over 37 years ago got me saved. That man told me I was going to hell and that Catholicism was of no value. He reasoned with me and his boldness affected me.

Every minister should be a fireman sent by God to rescue the perishing. To keep God’s servants from doing their jobs, the devil has them involved in all kinds of pursuits. This has been his strategy since the Church began. The apostles had to appoint deacons to handle various matters.

“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

Paul’s focus was always on keeping his hands clean by warning the lost and preaching judgment and **“repentance toward God”** (Acts 20:21). America’s churches, for the most part, have turned from Paul as they have from the *King James Bible*. What they offer on Sunday is nothing but brackish water in a shiny cup. The poor suckers who drink this stuff think they are getting spring water. Holy water is not just for Catholic churches. It is available in many other churches, but it is called “Bible preaching.”

“Hold the fort!” Be encouraged. Our rescue is at hand!

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