



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 39 No. 6

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

June 2015

CHRISTIAN IRONIES

Brian Donovan

Throughout the Bible, there are numerous verses to warn the believer that things are not what they appear. As a matter of fact, when a Christian looks at the things in the world, he should notice that they are almost always the exact opposite of what they appear to be. The lost ignore these facts and continue on as if they were not even warned.

As an example, every so often, on a regular basis, a Hollywood star kills himself, and the media reports come across as if everyone is shocked. Anyone spending time in the Bible is not shocked at all. As a matter of fact, we actually expect it. When a John Belushi or a Robin Williams commits suicide, we are saddened that a lost soul who rejected the truth dies and enters a Christless eternity, but to say it is shocking or unexpected is far from the truth.

The so-called Hollywood “comedians” and “actors” are the most miserable people on this earth. They

are living a complete lie in pretense that they are living happy and fulfilling lives. Young people look at all the money, the fame, and the glitter, and wish for that life, unless they go to the Bible and get some wisdom. Pay attention to the following verses and pray hard about the wisdom they contain.

1) Mark 10:31—**“But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.”**

All the big shots in this world who are getting all the attention now are in for a surprise. They have their temporary reward, and if they are saved, they will see a life burn up at the Judgment Seat of Christ. If they are lost, they will be shocked when they wake up in hell after living their lives in luxury here on earth. “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

In a Bridgeport, Connecticut cemetery near my hometown, there are a couple of large monuments where some famous people are buried. Among them are Phineas T. Barnum (better known as P. T. Barnum) and Charles S. Stratton (better known as Tom Thumb). Both have huge structures over their burial plots, and visitors can find them easily. Barnum was born in Bethel, Connecticut and elected mayor of Bridgeport in 1876.

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The Fatherhood of God

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father” (Rom. 8:14–15).

In our text, **“Abba”** is a Hebrew word for “father.” You see the term in the name *Barabbas*. *Barabbas*: *Bar* meaning “son of” (as in Simon Barjona—Simon, son of Jona); *abbas* meaning “father.” So *Barabbas* means “son of the father.”

Don’t you find it “highly instructive” that the Son of the Father (Jesus Christ) had to die for the “son of the father” (Barabbas)? How did all the Greek and Hebrew boys miss that? **“The Son of God”** (Mark 1:1) had to die for **“the son of God”** (Rom. 5:12–15 cf. Luke 3:38).

The same apostle who wrote Romans 8 adds this in Galatians 4:6–7.

“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

As a child of God, you are His heir and a joint-heir with His Son Jesus Christ, and if you **“suffer with him”** (Christ), you will be **“glorified together”** with Him (Rom. 8:17).

These verses have to do with the Fatherhood of God. The Liberals like to talk about “the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man,” which is nothing but hogwash. God most certainly is NOT everybody’s Father. Jesus Christ said of a certain bunch of people, **“Ye are of YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, and the lusts of your father ye will do”** (John 8:44). He said of that same bunch, **“ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the CHILD OF HELL than yourselves”** (Matt. 23:15). The Apostle Paul says a man (or woman) is born into this world a child of disobedience and a child of wrath (Eph. 2:2–3).

Nobody is born into this world as a child of God. That is why a man has to be born again, because his first birth is *wrong*. No religion on earth can fix the problem. Is there anyone stupid enough to think going to church will change your birth? How is being baptized in water going to change your birth? *It isn’t*. The only thing that will fix your first birth is the New Birth: **“Ye must be born again”** (John 3:7).

Immediately when you say something like that, some Christ-rejecting humanist will bring up little children who die in infancy. He does that to absolve himself of his responsibility to a holy God who won’t put up with his devilment. You don’t



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have to worry about babies. No, they are not saved. They are born **“dead in trespasses and sins”** just like everyone else (Eph. 2:1), but the Lord doesn't impute sin to a little child who doesn't know the written Law of Scripture or the moral law of conscience (Rom. 4:8, 15, 5:13; Deut. 1:39). God doesn't charge sin to babies. Until a child knows that the wrong he does is a violation of the Law of God, he is innocent. He is *not saved*, but he is *safe*.

Now, when you are born again, your New Birth parallels your natural birth in that you start out as a baby and have to grow up. A Christian is to grow in the grace, knowledge, and things of Christ (2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:15). The way a baby grows is to drink milk, and that Bible says, **“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”** (1 Pet. 2:2). If a baby is hungry, he will *cry for milk*.

One of the surest marks that you are born again is that you will begin to *pray*. I did not say “say prayers.” Any lost Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist, or Moslem can repeat a mantra (Matt. 6:7). As a Hell-bound Pharisee (Phil. 3:5), Saul of Tarsus *said prayers* (cf. Luke 18:11–12), but it wasn't until he came face to face with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus that God said, **“he prayeth”** (Acts 9:11).

One of the great things about salvation is learning how to pray, learning how to talk to God. I know a sinner can be saved by just believing (Acts 16:31), but it is a natural thing for a sinner under the conviction of the Holy Spirit to call out to God for salvation (Rom. 10:9–10, 13).

There is a movement among Bible-believing Christians that says if you repeated the “sinner's prayer” when you trusted Christ that you are lost because prayer is a work and nobody is saved by works (Eph. 2:8–9; Tit. 3:5). Of course, the ones who say that will have you offer a *prayer of thanksgiving* to God for saving you. According to their teaching, that would be a work, and you are still lost. That is why the ones who teach that make *multiple* professions of faith. They don't know if they believed enough or repented enough or prayed when they shouldn't have or didn't pray when they should have.

Listen, if you cry out to God in faith and sincerity for Christ to save you as the Bible teaches (1 Cor. 15:3–4), there is no way you can be lost, no matter if you prayed or didn't pray. You have the promise of Jesus Christ: **“him that cometh to me I WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT”** (John 6:37).

I'll tell you something else; just because your sins were imputed to Christ on the cross doesn't do you any good if you don't “pick up the check” (i.e., appropriate that imputation to you). It's not just “believing”—because *devils believe* (James 2:19). They not only believe **“there is one God,”** they believe in the Deity of Christ (Luke 4:34). You think the Devil doesn't believe Christ died for sins and rose again? Are you kidding? He was right there when it happened (Isa. 50:8). *The Devil and his devils believe everything in that Book*, and it doesn't do any of them any good at all. That's why it's not just believing; it's *receiving* as well (John 1:12).

So when a person comes to Christ in faith, he is going to call out to God just as

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a baby will cry out to his parents. When a baby cries out of hunger, he wants milk. He's not ready for barbeque pork or sirloin steak; it will strangle him. He needs milk. When a babe in Christ cries out for **"the sincere milk of the word,"** he needs the simple, foundational truths of the Scripture, not **"strong meat"** (Heb. 5:12, 14 cf. 1 Cor. 3:1–2). You don't start out a babe in Christ with the eternal decrees of God made in His foreknowledge before Genesis 1. You don't give him when the Church started and all the finer points of dispensationalism in the book of Acts. You don't put a burden on him like "the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holyghost." You don't start him out on Matthew 16; Acts 2; Hebrews 6; James 2; etc. Things like that will kill a babe in Christ; he'll choke to death on the meat. He needs grounding in the foundational truths of the Bible, what are known as "the fundamentals of the faith": the authority of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, the virgin birth, the great doctrines of salvation, the return of Jesus Christ.

Now as a child grows up, he develops a *great admiration for his father*. A little boy or girl thinks daddy can do or fix just about anything. In any *normal* family (I am not talking about two sex perverts getting together, pretending they are "married" so they can adopt children in order to recruit them into the filthy "lifestyle" of the "parents"), the child thinks daddy is the greatest person who ever lived. Daddy is like God to that little one.

That is a picture, see: it is a picture of how the child of God views his Father. A Christian knows his "Daddy" is the greatest Person who ever lived, and he knows "Daddy" can fix anything. The problem is not whether God *can* do a thing. We know God can do *anything* within the bounds of His nature and character. We don't doubt God's ability, but we sure do wonder about *His will*.

Just because God *can* do a thing doesn't mean He *will* do a thing, and that can shake up a young believer. The young Christian will ask God for something, and if ever he doesn't get the answer he wants, he begins to doubt the Lord and doubt the Bible. But just because God doesn't always give you a "yes" answer to your prayers doesn't mean He doesn't love you and have your best interest at heart.

One time a well-to-do woman was trying to take a nap, and a nanny was taking care of the woman's toddler. As the mother was just about asleep, she heard that little one scream out, "Gimmee!" That mother told the nanny, "Give him whatever he wants so he will shut up and let me sleep." "But ma'am . . ." began the nanny. "No buts," said the mother, "just give him what he wants." "Yes ma'am," complied the nanny. The mother was just about asleep again when she heard a blood-curdling scream from her child. She jumped up and rushed into where the nanny and her son were and said indignantly, "I thought I told you to give him what he wanted." "I did, ma'am," said the nanny. "Well, why is he crying?" asked the woman. "He wanted a *bumblebee*," said the nanny.

That kid wanted something, and when he got it, he found out that it wasn't good for him. If God doesn't answer your prayer the way you want, it may be that it wouldn't be good for you if you got it. You have to trust your "Daddy" is

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looking out for you and working things out for your good (Rom. 8:28). That Bible says, **“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him”** (Psa. 103:13).

The next thing you need to know about your relationship with your Father as a child of God is that sometimes “Daddy” is going to “apply the board of education to the seat of knowledge.” Sometimes a child has to learn things the hard way, and daddy has to *whip him* (Prov. 22:15, 23:13–14, 29:15). The same thing is true of the child of God.

“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Heb. 12:6).

That is just part of you being God’s child and God being your Father. The Lord’s going to take the “switch” to you when you need it, and if He doesn’t, that is a pretty good sign that you aren’t one of His kids (Heb. 12:7–8). As one of His children, God is going to take you from time to time and turn you over on His knee and “let you have it” when you have it coming to you.

There is something else that is true of children and their father, especially in the case of little boys: a child will *follow daddy*. I remember back when I was at Bob Jones University, living in a trailer. I looked out the back window and saw my son David (he was about seven years old at the time) standing on an orange crate preaching. He was following daddy, doing what he saw daddy do. I was up in Mount Airy, North Carolina at Carl Lackey’s campmeeting with David’s two boys, Gus and Matthew, years later. Between meetings I saw them at one point. Gus was standing up preaching with Matthew sitting in front of him saying, “Amen!” Gus said, “You be good to your momma, and you will get rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ.” Matthew said, “Amen! Amen!” That little boy will follow you, daddy; you had better watch your step!

I stayed at a man’s house at a revival meeting in Tennessee one time. That fellow had been a chronic alcoholic for years, and even for a while after he got saved. He told his testimony of how he got off the bottle. One night he was sitting in his living room reading the paper, and his eight-year-old son was across the room reading a book. The Lord told that fellow, “Clear your throat.” He did, and the little boy did too. The Lord then told him, “Uncross your legs.” He did, and the boy, without even looking up, uncrossed his too. When that daddy saw that, he got up, went to his bedroom, got down on the floor, and said, “God, if I have to die in this room, I am never going to drink again. I am going to stay right here until you give me the victory, and if you don’t give me the victory, I’ll stay right here until I die.” *The Lord gave him the victory*. When he told me that story, he hadn’t touched a drop in three years; when I checked on him ten years later, he was still dry. Why? He saw his boy following daddy, and he didn’t want his son to be a sot drunk like he was.

Now Christian, you are to follow your “Daddy.” You are not only to follow where He leads you (Psa. 23:3–4), you are to follow His example. That Bible says Christ left us an example of His suffering that we **“should follow his**

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steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). When you see some wino over in Rome all decked out in fine robes, sitting on a golden throne, living in an 11,000 room palace, riding around in a bullet-proof car, that is not a Christian following the example of his Lord. If you want to see how a real Christian should follow Jesus Christ, get you the biography of Richard Wurmbrand (*Tortured for Christ*) or Haralan Popov (*Tortured for his Faith*). Those two followed the example of Christ's suffering.

And that brings me to the final point: a child will have *some similarity to his father*. Of course, the likeness may not be 100%, but there will be something in the child that reminds people of the father, despite the differences.

Are you a saved child of God? Then there ought to be something about you that reminds people of God, even if it is only one or two things. Something about you has to be like your Father, or you are in the wrong family (2 Cor. 3:18 cf. John 8:44).

There is a poem by Amy Carmichael that says:

"Hast thou no scar?
No hidden scar on foot, or side, or hand?
I hear thee sung as mighty in the land;
I hear them hail thy bright, ascendant star.
Hast thou no scar?"

"Hast thou no wound?
Yet I was wounded by the archers; spent,
Leaned Me against a tree to die; and sent
By ravening beasts that compassed Me, I swooned.
Hast thou no wound?"

"No wound? No scar?
Yet, as the Master shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow Me.
But thine are whole; can he have followed far
Who hast no wound or scar?"

Are you saved? How long have you been saved? Do you have any wounds or scars to show for serving Christ? Your Father (Isa. 9:6) does. Zechariah 12:10 says, "**they shall look upon me whom they have pierced.**" Who was the speaker there? It was "**the LORD**" (Zech. 12:4)—*Jehovah*. That is what drives a Jehovah's Witness up the wall: Jehovah was manifest in the flesh (1 Tim. 3:16; John 1:14) and had wounds (John 20:27–28).

Now Christian, you may not ever be put into a situation where you get literal stripes and scars like your Saviour did, but any Christian can go "**without the camp, bearing his reproach**" (Heb. 13:13). You can take some reviling, persecution, and people talking bad about you for speaking up for Jesus Christ (Matt. 5:11). If the lost world has no love for your Saviour, they shouldn't have any love for you (Luke 6:22; John 15:18–20; 1 John 3:1, 13). If you don't stink in the nostrils of the world, you aren't like your "Daddy" (2 Cor. 2:16).

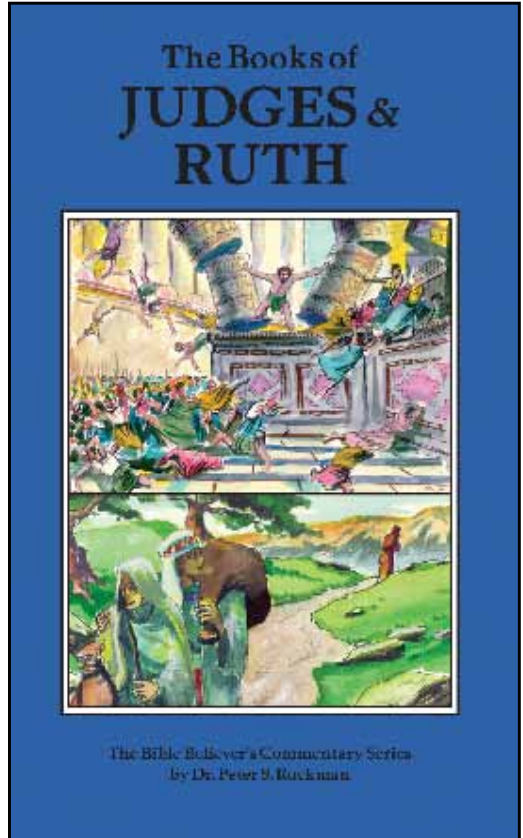
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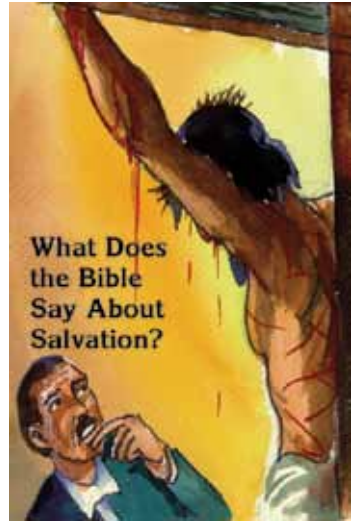
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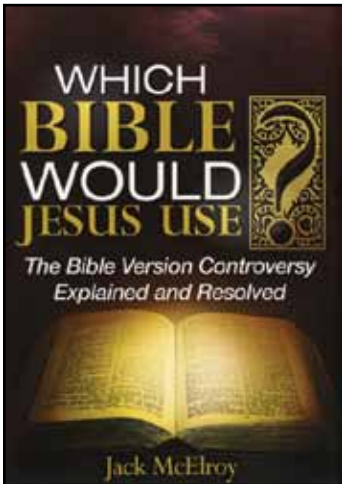
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CHRISTIAN IRONIES

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He became rich enough to own the 325 acres that became Seaside Park, but he got his riches by being a huckster who played the public for every dime he could extract from them. One of his meal tickets was Tom Thumb, the midget at whom people paid to come gawk. Tom appeared before Queen Victoria twice and had an audience with President Lincoln. When he married Lavinia Warren in a lavish ceremony in New York City, there were 10,000 guests watching as the couple stood atop a grand piano.

What is not widely known, is that in the shadow of Barnum's and Tom Thumb's huge monuments, and overlooked by the visitors who go to Mountain Grove Cemetery in Bridgeport, is a small stone that marks the burial plot of a blind woman to whom the world would not give the time of day. Fanny Crosby, the writer of over 3,000 hymns that still give glory to her Saviour today, is buried only yards away from the two who were "first" in their time. When Barnum died, heaven had no idea who he was. He lived for himself and died alone. When Fanny Crosby died, heaven took note and received a saint into the presence of Jesus Christ.

Two other important facts about the life of P. T. Barnum are also not widely known and should be considered in light of Mark 10:31. Jenny Lind, known as the "Swedish Nightingale," toured with Barnum's circus. She earned popularity and over \$350,000, a great sum in those days. But in the midst of the popularity and substantial income, Lind

walked away from it all for no apparent reason. A friend went to see her and found her sitting by the sea, with an open Bible. When she was asked why she left it all at the height of her popularity, Jenny Lind pointed to her Bible and told her friend, "When my success was making me every day think less of this dear Book and nothing at all of the sunset's glories, what else could I do?"

The other part of Barnum's life that will never be presented by a lost world was his connection with a preacher in England named Charles Spurgeon. Seeing Spurgeon's popular appeal in drawing crowds, Barnum wrote to the preacher, inviting him to speak across America in his circus tents. There were no restrictions on what he could say, and he could even supply his own music if he desired. He would be paid \$1,000 per night, probably the equivalent of about \$20,000 per night in today's economy. Spurgeon's short answer to Barnum read as follows: "Dear Mr. Barnum, Thank you for your kind invitation to lecture in your circus tents in America. You will find my answer in Acts 13:10. Very Sincerely Yours, Charles H. Spurgeon." We do not know if Barnum looked up the verse, but if he did, he was slapped with: **"O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"**

It is a great irony that the big shots in the eyes of the world are completely unknown in heaven and the unknowns in the eyes of this world are well known in heaven (see 2 Cor.

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6:9–10).

2) Matthew 10:39—**“He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.”**

The believer finds that when he gives up his own plans for his life and submits to the Lord Jesus Christ, he then finds life. That idea is completely contrary to the philosophy of the world, which says, “Take care of number one,” “If you don’t watch out for yourself, who will?,” “After me, you come first,” and “You deserve a break today.” This philosophy is actually being preached from most pulpits today as Christians are caught up in the selfish spirit of “selfies.” The irony of *“Your Best Life Now”* goes right over the head of this generation.

Recently, I was shown a clip of Osteen’s wife “preaching,” with Mr. Mealey-Mouth standing right next to her and agreeing as she said, “You do not do right for God; you do it for yourself.” That’s right, “selfie,” keep snapping those pictures of yourself; it’s all about you. A plastic surgeon in Manhattan reports that cosmetic surgeries are up in staggering numbers. According to him, clients come into his office showing him selfies that they want to come out looking better!

The Apostle Paul said, **“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me”** (Gal. 2:20). Paul found the irony of losing his life to find it. He found the irony of being weak to become strong (2 Cor. 12:9).

Back in the 1700’s a black woman was taken from what is now Senegal and brought as a slave to America. She was purchased by a tailor in

Boston, and she took on his name, becoming Phillis Wheatley. She became a poet, but not before finding her life in Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. Here is what this African sister had to say about losing her life, in a poem she called, “On Being Brought From Africa to America”:

‘Twas mercy brought me from my Pagan land,

Taught my benighted soul to understand

That there is a God, that there’s a Saviour too:

Once I redemption neither sought nor knew,

Some view that sable race with scornful eye,

‘Their color is a diabolic die.’

Remember Christians, Negroes black as Cain,

May be refin’d and join th’angelic train.”

Phillis found that in losing her life, she found it. The world would say that she was denied her rights and racial equality, but Phillis says otherwise.

3) 1 Peter 5:6—**“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.”** For the Christian, the way up is to get down. If a Christian stays in his Bible daily, he will be able to keep the right perspective on himself and not be caught up with all this self-promotion. A good way to check yourself on this is to watch how you respond when someone talks bad about you. What is your first response? Is it: **“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing”** (Rom. 7:18)? Or is it, “Who do you think you are, talk-

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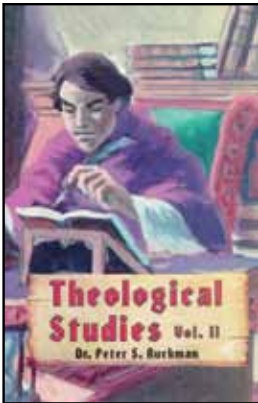
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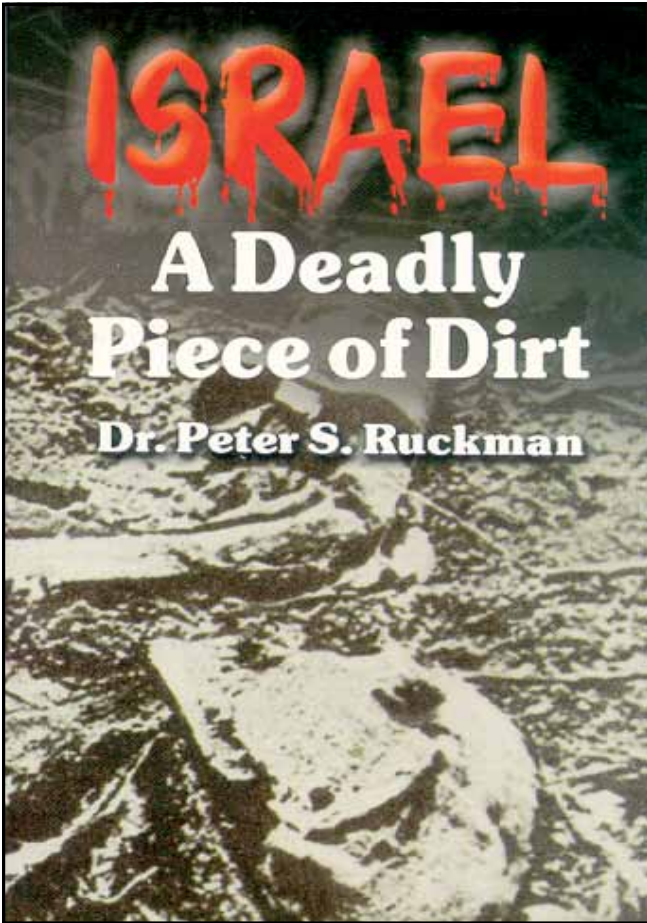


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CHRISTIAN IRONIES

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ing about me like that?" Don't be so quick to defend yourself, Christian, and thank God they do not know the whole truth. Stay down, let them talk, and walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

4) Luke 6:38—**"Give, and it shall be given unto you."** The way to get rich is to give it away. For the saved, the only riches he will get to store up is what he puts in an eternal bank, where moth and rust and thieves cannot get to it. The world says, "Save for a rainy day," and "Get all you can and can all you get." But the Christian is to handle his money as he is to handle his time and health and strength. First Corinthians 10:31 says, **"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."**

Whatever money you put into the Lord's ways and the Lord's work, you will see again. Do you have a good bank account? Are missionaries able to stay on the field in part because of your bank account? Are you going to be able to stoop down into some ashes at the Judgment Seat of Christ and pick out some gold, silver, and precious stones to present to Him? Money is just another tool put into your hands as a steward of God to use for His pleasure. **"Give, and it shall be given unto you."**

We could go on and on with the ironies of verses like: **"If we suffer, we shall reign with him"** (2 Tim. 2:12), and **"my strength is made perfect in weakness"** (2 Cor. 12:9), and **"As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, but yet possessing all things"** (2 Cor. 6:10). In this present world, if you will

look through spiritual eyes, you will find that the thing is almost the exact opposite as it first appears. Only the Bible shows the believer the end of a thing and not just the beginning. Satan loves to present only the beginning of a thing.

In a great psalm, Asaph came to a conclusion that was ironic. After being envious when he saw the prosperity of the wicked, he looked further down the road. He didn't stop with the limousines, the jets, and the mansions, but looked to the end. Thank God Asaph saw the irony and wrote in Psalm 73:16-17, **"When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end."**

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

June 5-7

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Pastor John Haveman
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Pastor Paul Sherrouse
(479) 650-4028

August 28-30

For His Glory BBC
92 Butler Rd.
Union, ME 04862
Pastor Mike Kee
(207) 701-1962

The Seven Major Problems of Mankind

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The Bible deals with seven major problems of man which have never been fixed or solved by *anybody*, *anywhere*, on *any* continent, at *any* time. They are:

1. Religious disunity.
2. Sickness.
3. Poverty.
4. War.
5. Death.
6. Crime.
7. Natural disasters.

Science, religion, philosophy, and education *combined* have never been able to solve any one of these problems. They are further from it *now* than they were in 1000 B.C., A.D. 800, 1500, or 1900. Every one of them has taken a downhill slide.

There is more religious disunity

now than there ever has been. The number of denominations in Christianity alone ranges anywhere from 33,000 to 43,000. Mohammed "prophesied" of 72 Islamic sects that would destroy all the other religions in the world before turning on each other and killing each other until there is only one.

The Catholic Church may brag about being the "one, catholic, holy, apostolic" church, with "one flock and one shepherd," but as anyone knows who has studied church history, in 1,600 years of history (there was no "Roman Catholic Church" before A.D. 325), Catholics have never agreed amongst themselves on anything except their own "rights," privileges, and *lusts*. For example, Pius XII said *no*

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The 7 Major Problems of Mankind

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person could deny the literal historicity of Adam and Eve and be a Christian (*Vatican Imperialism in the Twentieth Century*, Zondervan, 1965, pp. 105–107), while John Paul II turned right around and declared his “infallible” predecessor to be a liar by telling *Omni* magazine: “*Genesis is a myth.*” For example, all Popes from A.D. 325–1945 called Jews “Christ killers” and recommended they be confined to ghettos; John XXIII, Paul VI, and John Paul II declared their papal predecessors to be in error and Jews should be welcomed into ecumenical dialogue.

The Dominicans split with the Augustinians (Short History of the Catholic Church, *Nihil Obstat*, pg. 48). The Humanists split with the Scholastics (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. XII, *Nihil Obstat*, pg. 701). A Bible-reading Christian is a heretic (*Catholic Dictionary*, pg. 82, Brennan, History of the Catholic Church, pg. 242), but he is not according to Pope John XXIII (Vatican II). Pope Alexander V said Pope Gregory XII was a heretic (*Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. I, pg. 28, *Nihil Obstat*), and Pope Clement XI condemned the propositions of Pope Pius X (*Catholic Dictionary*, pg. 82, *Nihil Obstat*). That’s two “infallible teachers of the truth” calling two other “infallible teachers of the truth” *fallible teachers of error*.

No, the Roman Catholic Church is far from being the ONE, holy, catholic, apostolic church she pretends to be. The most *nonecumenical* church in the world is the Vatican hierarchy, and you can find 300 instances of it contradicting itself in its *official publications* (“*nihil obstat*” with the imprimatur of the Bishop) documented in two volumes by an Alabama Campbellite

elder named O. C. Lambert (*Catholicism Against Itself*). No, the Catholic Church is certainly NOT the answer to religious disunity.

Science and medicine have never conquered *sickness*. When one lethal disease is eliminated, like polio or smallpox, it is simply replaced by another lethal disease, like EBOLA or GRID (now called AIDS by the news media trying to cover up for the sex pervert “community”). Alzheimer’s is *up*; diabetes is *up*; heart disease is *up*; autism is *up*; cancer is *up*. “Modern breakthroughs in medicine” have done nothing to stop this; “health insurance” has done nothing to curb this. All “Obamacare” is going to do is make it more difficult for rich and poor alike to get treatment. (“Socialism reduces everyone to the *lowest common denominator.*”)

The problem of *poverty* has never been solved. Jesus said, “**the poor always ye have with you**” (John 12:8), and nothing any government has done in the last 1900-plus years has changed the truth of that statement. LBJ’s “War on Poverty” was a *joke*. More people have gotten on food stamps under Bush and Obama than have gotten jobs. Marxism, in *any form, wherever* it has been tried, has done nothing but leave any country that has tried it economically *bankrupt*. What you are seeing now under Obama and the Democrats in this nation is the *destruction of the middle class*, leaving only two classes: the *very rich* and the *very poor*. In other words, you are returning to the economic situation of the Dark Ages under feudalism with a *ruling class* and a *slave class*.

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The 7 Major Problems of Mankind

Continued from 15

“World peace” is a sad joke. According to the *Encyclopedia of Military History* (1986), there have been 4,345 battles from 3500 B.C. to the present. No matter whose figures or estimates you get on the number of wars there have been at any point in history, the average comes out to be about one

every nine to ten months; i.e., some form of military engagement has taken place every year since Genesis 14.

With every Pope in the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries praying for “world peace,” do you know what you have? Well, according to Professor

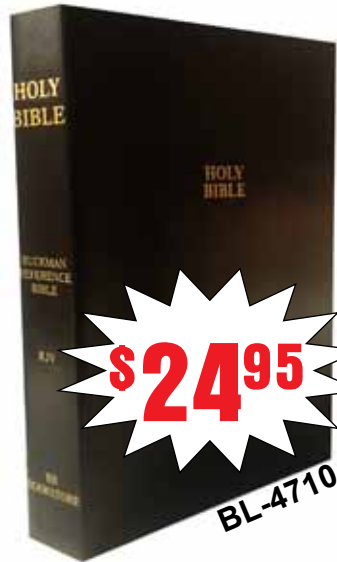
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The 7 Major Problems of Mankind

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Rudolph Rummell of the University of Hawaii, *38.5 million people* died in war from 1900–1987, with another *170 million* killed by their own governments in genocides (Germany, Russia, Cambodia, Rwanda, etc.). Of the bloodiest battles in history, the *top twenty* took place in World Wars I & II. In fact, more people died in wars in the Twentieth Century than died in all the wars from Genesis 14:2 to A.D. 1900, so much so that Time-Life books dubbed it “The Violent Century.” The most Americans to die in a single battle was at Meuse-Argonne in World War I (1918), where 26,277 American boys died. America spent \$288 billion on World War II, and 295,790 Americans lost their lives.

In 1880, England dumped the *Textus Receptus* and the *Authorized Version* for the corrupt Westcott and Hort Alexandrian Greek text and the

Revised Version; in 1901, American dumped the *Authorized* text for the *American Standard Version*. Do you know what the *fruit* of the new “Bibles” was? It was the Boer Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Sino-Russian War, the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, World War I, and World War II. England ended up losing every colonial possession it ever had so that the sun finally set on the British Empire.

In 1945, the UN was founded as mankind’s “last, best hope for peace.” What followed was *177 wars*; i.e., *the pace picked up*. Instead of one war a year, there were *three* per year. Not only did you have Korea, Vietnam, the first Gulf War, and Bush’s “War on Terror,” you also had conflicts in Indonesia (1945), Greece (1946), the Philippines (1946), Indochina (1946), Israel (1945), Suez (1956), Sinai

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The 7 Major Problems of Mankind

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(1956), Tibet (1959), Formosa (1959), Laos (1960), Congo (1960), Thailand (1964), Beirut (1975), Nicaragua (1983), Haiti (1991), Bosnia (1992), Afghanistan (2005); that's about a *tenth* of them. Of those 177 armed conflicts, twelve were major wars, 21 were secondary wars, 39 were revolutions, 36 were civil wars, and 24 were "military interventions."

The cost of "bringing in the kingdom" shows that *only the rich can afford wars*. During the Civil War, it cost \$2.00 to kill a man; during World War I, it cost \$50.00; during World War II, \$200.00; Korea, \$3,000.00; Vietnam, \$6,000.00. That is what Darwin calls "progress." World War II cost the United States \$750 million a day for 1,364 days; at \$1,000 a day, it would take 789,041 years to pay that back.

When it comes to "world peace," do you know what you can expect? You can look forward to *bigger and better wars*, with *three world wars* waiting in the wings (Rev. 6, 19, 20).

No one has ever solved the problem of *death*. The death rate for mankind is *100%*: for every person born, *one dies*. That has gone on without a let-up since Genesis 4. "Longer lifespans," man on the moon, "wonder drugs," computers, "Internet," DNA testing, the "Atomic Age," the "Space Age," etc., have done nothing to change the fact that *you will be put to bed with a shovel*.

There is more *crime* now than there ever has been; in fact, in many cases, it is a *booming business* (pornography, drugs, the Mafia, etc.). In the United States, one out of every 142 people are "in population" (*prison*); that's around *seven million* in "correctional facilities." I have preached in prisons

for juveniles where you had to have *three felonies* before you were seventeen to get in. You have kids going into their schools and shooting up the place; you have kids shooting their parents or siblings "for kicks." Education, welfare programs, and housing projects have done nothing to stop this.

Science has not stopped natural disasters, Hurricane Ivan came through here and tore up Pensacola (2004); Hurricane Katrina drowned out New Orleans and did a few billion dollars worth of improvements (2005). Hurricane Andrew wiped Homestead, Florida off the map (1992). Do you know what you do when a storm like Hurricane Camille comes through with winds at 200 miles per hour (1969)? You either run, cuss, or pray (and some probably did all three); but *you won't stop it*.

Back in 2013, about five to ten thousand Filipinos died when a "super-typhoon" named Yolanda came through. In 2010, 159,000 died in an earthquake down in Haiti. In 2004, 230,000 died from a tsunami in the Indian Ocean. In 1931, over a million people died from flooding in Central China. That's "Mother Nature" for you. No one's going to stop stuff like that any more than the people of Pompeii could stop Vesuvius from going off.

Now what's the solution to all this. Well, like I have said, it's not science, religion, education, or philosophy—the main clowns in the circus. All of them combined are *utterly useless*. If you are going to solve any and all of these problems, you will have to go to a *Person*, not some *thing* (see Israel's problem in 1 Sam. 4:33); it is the *Lord*

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The 7 Major Problems of Mankind

Continued from 19

Jesus Christ. There isn't one problem this world has that couldn't be solved by the return of Jesus Christ.

You take religious disunity. When Jesus Christ comes back, He burns that Catholic Church (Rev. 19:1–3) and puts down every false religion and every false god. When He does that, you will bow down to Him and kiss His feet or get a two-inch iron pipe upside the head (Psa. 2:9–12, 72:9; Rev. 19:15). When Jesus Christ comes back to rule this world from Jerusalem (Zech. 14:9; Psa. 2:6), all nations will come to worship Him at the temple in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2–3), and if they don't, He will shut off the rain to those that don't (Zech. 14:16–19). There will be absolute religious unity with *Him* as the object of worship.

He will get rid of all disease and sickness. The Charismatics and Holiness will finally come into their own. They teach that there is physical healing in the atonement. That's absolutely true (see Matt. 8:17), but NOT NOW. With the end of the ministry of the apostles, the apostolic gift of healing *ended* (see 2 Tim. 4:20 where Paul couldn't even heal Trophimus) because it was a sign to Israel (1 Cor. 1:22 cf. 1 Cor. 12:9; Mark 16:17–18) and the Holy Spirit turned to the Gentiles because Israel, *as a nation*, rejected the Gospel (Acts 28:25–28). But when the King of the Jews returns, it will be:

“Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: WHO forgiveth all thine iniquities, WHO HEALETH ALL THY DISEASES” (Psa. 103:2–3).

When Jesus Christ reigns, poverty will be eliminated. During Solomon's reign, which was a picture of the fu-

ture Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, silver and gold were as common as stones (2 Chron. 1:15). You want an “economic recovery plan”? *Then pray for Jesus Christ to come back.*

You want world peace and for war to end? Well, don't look to the UN in downtown New York. They took the last two-thirds of Isaiah 2:4 completely out of its context and stuck it on their “Isaiah Wall” and gave themselves credit for **“neither shall they learn war any more”**: *over 177 wars followed.* Listen, no one is going to beat any sword into a plowshare or spear into a pruning hook until Jesus Christ comes back to **“judge among the nations, and . . . rebuke many people.”** There will be no peace without **“The Prince of Peace”** (Isa. 9:6).

You want to get rid of death? Then bring back the One who conquered death (1 Cor. 15:54–57). The Bible says:

“For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (1 Cor. 15:25–26).

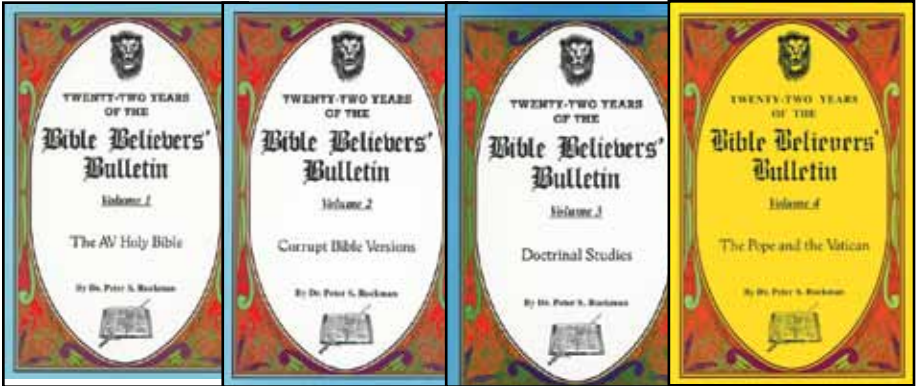
When Jesus Christ comes back, He does away with crime. You will either follow the Sermon on the Mount or be cast into a lake of fire (Matt. 5:22). The Liberal will finally get the chance to show what a fine, outstanding fellow he is.

And when Jesus Christ comes back, all nature is in subjection to *Him* (Isa. 11:1–9). Now do you want all your problems solved? Then pray for the King to come back.

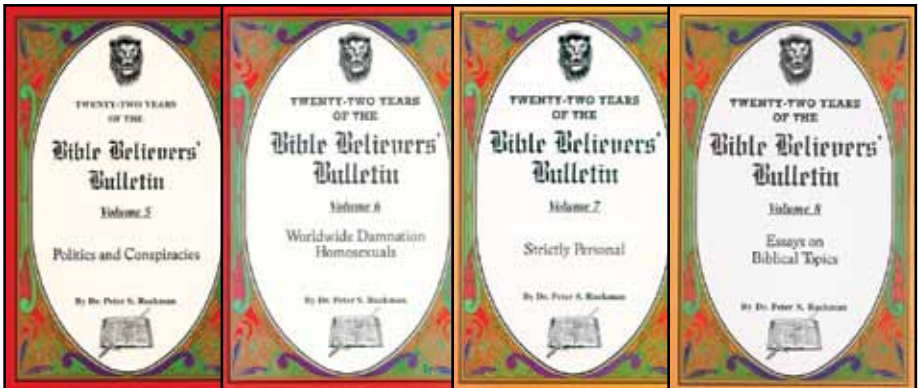
“Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?” (2 Sam. 19:10).

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

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The Master of Hate Literature

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The master of the greatest “hate literature” in the world is the *Lord God Almighty*. That is perfectly apparent to anybody who has read the Bible clear through from cover to cover more than a couple of times.

The greatest “hate literature” ever published *against the Jews* (anti-Semitism) was put out by the One who chose them to be His people. If you don't believe that, then quit trying to pretend you know anything about the Bible at all. Spend some time reading Jeremiah 1–23, Ezekiel 1–20, and Deuteronomy 28–32; then you'll know about what you're talking.

The Bible is addressed *negatively* to humanism and everything connected with it. That is why the Bible has not only been the most loved Book in the world, but the most *hated* as well. That's why it isn't allowed to show up in a courtroom, public building, or public school anywhere in the United States; and it is forbidden to be quoted in the United Nations at *any time* and in *any place*.

The Book is solidly anti-humanism from start to finish. That is why for years and years it came in a black cover. Black is the color of *death*. The Bible gives the *cause* of death, the *cure* for death, and why you *need* the cure. Man is subject to death (Heb. 2:15), so he needs a Book that deals with death.

In this article, we are going to show you the nature of the Bible; i.e., *what God thinks of man*. According to the Book, the wisest man ever to show up on this earth—apart from the God-man, Jesus Christ (Col. 2:3)—was *Solomon* (1 Kings 3:12). Solomon was an *idolater* (1 Kings 11:5–8). Because of his idolatry, Solomon didn't even live to be the standard “**threescore years and ten**” (Psa. 90:10). Did you get that? How did you miss that?

Solomon was a “**child**” when he got on the throne (1 Kings 3:7; 1 Chron. 22:5, 29:1), and he reigned forty years (1 Kings 11:42). He didn't reach seventy years because he went after “**strange women**” (1 Kings 11:1) who turned his heart to idols. That's the wisest man who ever lived, according to that Book. Think about that for a while. Solomon's mother raised a *fool*; that should show you that it will take a woman wiser than Solomon to raise a good boy.

The Bible says, “**Ye have heard of the patience of Job**” (James 5:11). Patience?! Why, the most patient man on earth “**cursed his day**” (Job 3:1).

Now do you know what you learn from those two examples from Scripture? God is showing you that “**every man at his best state is altogether vanity**” (Psa. 39:5). It shows you “**there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not**” (Eccl. 7:20). It shows you “**men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie**” (Psa. 62:9). In other words, God's estimation of human beings is that they all are a *perfect blank*.

Listen, the Apostle Paul was the greatest Christian who ever lived, and he *disobeyed the direct will of God*. The Lord told him five times not to go to Jerusalem (Acts 20:22–23, 21:4, 10–14), and *he went anyway*.

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The Master of Hate Literature

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Moses was the meekest man on earth (Num. 12:3), and he killed a man **“and hid him in the sand”** (Exod. 2:12). You say, “That was before God called him.” Well, do you know what he did *after* he had been serving the Lord nearly forty years? He *lost his temper and disobeyed God*. He smote the rock when he should have spoken to it, thus messing up a type of the *one* effectual sacrifice of Christ—you can read the account in Numbers 20. That “slip-up” cost Moses a trip into the Promised Land.

Doesn't your Bible say, **“holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost”** (2 Pet. 1:21)? Do you know who one of those **“holy men”** was? It was *David*. He wrote over half the Psalms; he was called **“the sweet psalmist of Israel”** (2 Sam. 23:1). Do you know what that “holy man” did? That **“sweet psalmist”** committed *adultery* and *murder*.

Now you see why every major economic, social, philosophical, scientific, and political leader on this earth in six continents doesn't want the Book to be read or known. The world has shut the Book and ignored what it says about them. In the Book, the world ends up in total catastrophe and disaster. In the

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The Master of Hate Literature

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latter half of Daniel's Seventieth Week, the world ends up in the hands of Satan, eventuating in over three billion of the earth's inhabitants dead from famine, disease, and war, and 200 million UN troops slaughtered in Palestine.

In that Book, the best a man can do—*any* man—will wind him up in a *Lake of Fire*. Do you know who said that? Your *Creator* said that in His Book—the Holy Bible. You won't see it on CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, or FOX. You won't read it in *Time*, *Look*, *Life*, *National Geographic*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, or *U.S. News and World Report*. You won't hear it on National Public Radio or International Public Radio. You won't get it through the International News Service, the United News Service, or the Associated Press. You won't find it in 100 years of news media publications or broadcasts. Why? Because it's the *truth*.

Do you know what you have today? You have 192 (+/-) world leaders directing the path of "man" through some "global community" or some "New Age" or some great "United Nations" where everybody is together in one big family *without reference to anything in the Book*. That is the path to *international suicide*. That's the course of NATO, the European Union, the Arab League, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Roman Catholic Church, the UN, and the *Congress, Supreme Court, and Presidency of the United States of America*.

All the trouble into which men have ever gotten comes from one of two sources: they either *didn't know* what God wanted them to do, or they *knew it and didn't obey it*. Either way, they *ignored* the absolute source of authority—the Holy Bible. Men either don't read that Book, or they read it and don't obey—that's why men get into trouble. And by "men" I mean *any* and *all* men *everywhere*. I mean YOU; I mean ME; I mean the *best person you know*, including your mother, your father, your grandparents, or your minister.

Why do you think much of the Bible deals with *combat*? The Bible records 78 deliverances of a military nature, thirteen civil wars, 34 defeats, and the deaths of over two million people in battle. In the Bible, it is warfare from Genesis 14—Revelation 20 without let-up. That is how human history runs from 2000 B.C.—past A.D. 2015. War is the natural order of the day. Bob Jones Sr. said, "War is God's judgment on sin here; Hell is God's judgment on sin hereafter."

It's man's nature to *kill* to stay alive; that's what the Book says (Job 2:4). That's what men have always done, and that's what they'll always do until the White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20). That's why the Book has a black cover: it deals with death.

The trouble is, the Book attributes death to *the judgment of God on man's sin* (Rom. 6:23, 5:12; Ezek. 18:4, 20; James 1:15; Rev. 21:8). That's why men don't want the Book around: they don't want to give account to their Creator. That is why the Bible is the greatest "hate literature" in existence; it is put out by the Master of perfect hatred (Psa. 139:21–22 cf. Deut. 12:31, 16:22; Psa. 11:5; Prov. 6:16, 8:13; Hos. 9:15; Zech. 8:17; Mal. 1:3; Rom. 9:13).

Airbrushing Jesus

Robert Militello

“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached” (2 Cor. 11:4).

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

If you fail to become intimately acquainted with that which is true, how then can you identify that which is false? For some reason, this bit of ordinary common sense is lacking in today's Laodicean church period. America's pulpits and Christian TV and radio preachers have been presenting nothing but an airbrushed "Jesus" for years. He is NOT the Jesus of the New Testament. He's had a "makeover." He is a condescending, fawning, neutered Jewish male teaching the virtues of positive thinking and conflict resolution. He's out to relieve your stress and brighten your world. Isn't that comforting?

“Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?” (Matt. 23:33).

How's that for reaching out to those who question your authority to heal on the Sabbath and forgive sins? I have Christians telling me that such sharpness is counterproductive and that using honey is the best approach. Can anyone who claims to be saved be so dumb? Certainly, if their desire to get along in this world is their accepted philosophy on how best to spend their years on this earth. Folks who think like this find it necessary to quickly abandon the biblical Jesus and find one that has been carefully airbrushed. A Jesus showing anger, cynicism, sarcasm, and total distrust of human nature must be softened, toned

down, and carefully repackaged. Such is the church of the Laodiceans. Luke-warm food is for lukewarm saints, or haven't you noticed?

“For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him” (Psa. 103:11).

Any soul caught in a web of sin and sick from the consequences of his sins can find in Jesus an unimaginable store of forgiveness, compassion, mercy, gentleness, and comfort. Anyone reasonable enough to admit to being a sinner and to being unable to save his/her own soul finds the arms of the God-Man wide open, ready to embrace the worst of lepers. Has this not been so for almost 2,000 years everywhere the gospel of grace has been preached?

There is a tenderness, a pity, a depth of caring flowing out of the Lord's heart toward every sinner approaching Calvary and acknowledging its truth: **“in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing”** (Rom. 7:18). “Amazing Grace” contains the phrase: “that saved a wretch like me.” Many saints have a problem remembering that.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Tit. 2:11-12).

This is the kind of scripture that stimulates the desire to airbrush the biblical Jesus. Putting folks under obligation and suggesting that, if redeemed, they are debtors will cause discomfort.

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord,

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Airbrushing Jesus

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and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Once upon a time, the marriage vows written in the ministers' handbooks called upon the bride to obey her husband. Naturally, this also had to be airbrushed. The "Jesus" being presented to congregations these past four or five decades had to be less male dominant, less assertive and dogmatic, because this was what the world spirit was injecting into the subconscious mind of millions through television. Let me explain.

Early television (fifties and early sixties) did not, by and large, attack male authority. Shows such as "Father Knows Best," "Leave it to Beaver," and the "Donna Reed Show" all portrayed a sensible, self-confident, upright male figure as husband and father. Still, there were shows where the male was seen as a bumbler, like "The Life of Riley" or "The Honeymooners," where Alice was never afraid to utter some things that cut her husband, Ralph, down to size. Yes, these shows were humorous, but humor can be a deadly form of preaching without you knowing it. Comedy can convey or twist truth, depending on your point of view.

A wicked, anti-biblical strategy, spawned in hell, made use of comedy shows to undermine male authority and set the stage for a new mindset: women empowerment. Male dominance received its nastiest wound in the Seventies when "All in the Family" became a mega-hit. The dominant male, Archie Bunker, was cast as a racist, minority-hating chauvinist, while his wife, Edith, was portrayed as a sensible, caring, loving woman who wouldn't hurt a fly.

Authority figures such as police

were cast as idiots in "CAR 54." Military officers in such programs as "Sgt. Bilko" and "M.A.S.H." were easily fooled by subordinates. Teachers, bosses in the workplace, and any other male authority figures were fair game in these popular comedies. Television since the late Sixties has been a most effective tool in the devil's hand with which to set the stage for female assertiveness.

"For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man" (1 Cor. 11:8-9).

There is so much in God's word that a Laodicean would not dare touch today. The idea of the woman being a secondary creation is under attack in all segments of our society. Male strongholds in the military, sports, finance, journalism, law, and commerce have fallen like dominoes. Hollywood, the media, and academia are working overtime to prepare America for a female president. The descendants of Japheth throughout the western world have grown increasingly comfortable with female heads of state. Even the male dominant Germans yielded to the persuasiveness of Angela Merkel, making her the first female Chancellor. Before that, the men of the U.K. felt the strong-willed Margaret Thatcher was what their country needed.

"For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God, but the woman is the glory of the man" (1 Cor. 11:7).

When little boys grow up, shouldn't they become men? Why are so many men finding it necessary to hide behind their wives? The established

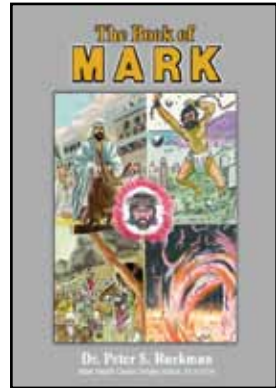
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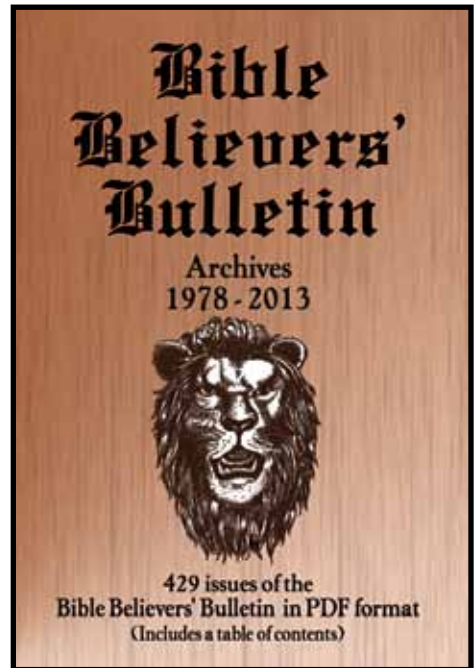


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Airbrushing Jesus

Continued from 26

order of God's creation is being dismantled. Those pushing female empowerment and "gay" rights hate God's word. Their aim is to totally eviscerate the White, Anglo-Saxon Protestant (WASP) in America, especially if he believes the Bible.

Looking to a female rather than a strong male was something I saw in Catholicism. Devotion to Mary the "Mother of God" was a centerpiece of Catholic worship.

Jesus could be reached through His mother. He would not deny His mother because she owned His heart. Christians know that this Catholic superstition is perverse; nevertheless, the power of the female spirit to undermine male assertiveness is ubiquitous in Laodicean churches. Jesus, as a dominant, self-confident, assertive, Jewish preacher having no tolerance for compromisers and hypocrites, has been airbrushed. If the Lord doesn't come soon for His church, the lukewarmness in Laodicea will make male Bible believers appear as rabid psychopaths.

"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" (James 1:8).

Have you ever spent time around a success-oriented, determined Jewish male? Those who misrepresent the Lord, innocently or willingly, have not really spent quality time in His classroom. The force of the Lord's personality has not been grasped by these believers, and that is tragic. By God's grace, I was early exposed to many forceful Jewish males. Double-mindedness is something they believe belongs to a Gentile much more than to a Jew. My experiences in college with Jewish professors, and later working in New York City government

with Jews at various levels, gave me valuable insights into their thinking and how they set priorities.

"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49).

A Jew fixated on a goal to be reached, a mission to be accomplished, or a success to be acquired is not easily deterred. Jewish males set on a course they believe is right may appear brusque or overly self-confident. Jesus taught with all authority and not as one of the scribes. His manner was forthright, and He got to the core of a problem quickly (e.g., the woman at the well). Engaging in light chatter or "beating around the bush" was not His style.

New York City's former mayor, Ed Koch, had that quality. I watched him closely for twelve years managing the most difficult and perplexing city in America. The love of his life was New York City, and if he thought you put your own interests first, you should then live and work somewhere else.

My Saviour is like that. It's His way or the highway. He wants to fellowship with those of similar disposition. His first choice of disciples was commercial fishermen, not seminary students or pop psychologists. The Lord did not hesitate to insult an elder, a member of the Sanhedrin seeking understanding. Jesus told Nicodemus plainly, **"Ye must be born again"** (John 3:7).

"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:9-10).

How's that for affability? In other
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Airbrushing Jesus

Continued from 28 words, the Lord wondered how Nicodemus could be a teacher and not know that God's word says, "**there is none that doeth good, no, not one**" (Rom. 3:12). That is Psalm 53:1, and every Yeshiva student was expected to know those scriptures.

I suspect the Lord had many, many more private exchanges with the common foes, as well as the high brows, where He did not hesitate, if necessary, to startle, upset, and upbraid His

listeners. A Jew trying to build a successful business is not long on sentimentality. That's how he gets ahead. Read how the Jewish studio heads running Columbia, MGM, Universal, Paramount, and Twentieth-Century Fox handled their "stars" during contract negotiations.

A broken, sorrowful, repentant sinner receives nothing but love from the Lord, and with His dying breath, Jesus showed that side of Himself to the

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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.

Airbrushing Jesus

Continued from 29

thief on the cross who sought mercy. Now that's the kind of Jesus to whom folks warm up. They prefer that sort of Jesus to be preached to them, even though many walk still in their sins and live to satisfy their worldly desires.

“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things” (Phil. 3:18–19).

These are they who airbrush the real face of Jesus. They read the New Testament and see a verse such as this:

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matt. 10:3).

They wish they had a bottle of white-out nearby because the Jesus from whom they want to hear loves everybody and is very careful to consider the feelings of His listeners. There are just too many verses in the gospels that show Jesus to be a real man with absolutely no interest in winning a popularity contest. I readily submit that it is difficult, and sometimes awkward, for many preachers to present this real Jesus to their congregations. Doing so might limit the size of the crowd that

shows up on Sunday.

It appears the drift away from real masculinity is irreversible. Modern Bible versions that rob the *King James Bible*, the real Bible, of its power have helped give Christians what I call a “Mary spirit”—a wishy-washy mindset nurtured by the fear of man, not the fear of the Lord.

“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so” (Jer. 5:3).

Isn't that sad? America wants a matinee-idol “Jesus,” and that is what the Holy Spirit is letting them have in these last days. There's a day coming when those who asked Jesus to save their souls will meet the real Jesus. He will address them at His Judgment Seat with a sharpness and clarity that rarely showed itself in the ministers they heard on Sunday. What a day that will be! No glossy, airbrushed photo in front of them now; where will they hide?

We will all very soon be staring at the face of a Jew wanting an accounting from us. Did you misrepresent Him to your family, your friends, your neighbors, your coworkers, and your acquaintances? Was He misrepresented to you by the preacher? Did you spend enough time in His word to discern the real Jesus? Seek Him with all your heart while you can; time is running out.

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