



# Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 40 No. 7

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

July 2016

## THE LAST DAYS

By Brian Donovan

When the Apostle John was “caught up to the third heaven” (cf. 2 Cor. 12:2) and shown the “things which must be hereafter” (Rev. 4:1), he no doubt was in awe of the events that played out before his spiritual eyes. He looked on things taking place that were 2,000–3,000 years ahead of where he lived in history. The brilliance of the scenes of “the third heaven” were followed by him having to be persuaded to “Come and see” the events that would take place on the earth (Rev. 6:1).

John had to turn his gaze from the glorious sight of the “sea of glass,” the emerald rainbow, and the white throne with Him that sat upon it, to look down on the sinful world that had been given almost another 2,000 years to add to the cup of its iniquity since A.D. 90. It must have been confounding to watch a future world come to life before his eyes. The reader should remember that John writes at a time (A.D. 90–95) when he is already aware of the New Testament writings of Paul, which speak of the “man of sin” being revealed

before “the day of Christ” comes (2 Thess. 2:2–3), and that IS what it says.

The first thing John records of what he sees on the earth is the coming of the antichrist on his white horse, conquering peaceably (Rev. 6:2). He is then shown the beast’s 42-month ministry and gives the details in chapters 12 and 13. This is the character who will shortly burst on the world scene with all the answers to bring world peace. He will maneuver in such a political way (Dan. 11:27—“shall speak lies at one table”) so as to get the Roman Catholics, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Jews to come together under his control. He will be the consummate politician.

He is the second greatest person ever to appear as a man, after the incomparable Lord Jesus Christ. His imitation is so complete that the Bible says he, as Christ, will perform miracles (2 Thess. 2:9); he, as Christ did, will have a three-and-one-half-year ministry (Rev. 12:6, 14, 13:5, 11:2); and he, as Christ did, will rise from the dead (Rev. 13:3). He is Satan incarnate, the perfect imitation of the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ.

The world has been getting ready for him for the last seventy years; in particular, through their dreams of

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# What Time Is It, America?

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

**“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD . . .”** (Psa. 33:12).

**“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and ALL THE NATIONS that forget God”** (Psa. 9:17).

**“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to ANY PEOPLE”** (Prov. 14:34).

The United States of America did not have its roots in “gay liberation,” “women’s lib,” or “black power.” America was originally founded by European Protestants. Protestants were called “Protestants” because the leaders of the Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox, et al.) *protested* against a church that is, to this day, a *political State*.

The Roman Catholic Church—I am talking about the organized hierarchy; not necessarily the individual members—is a political, governmental entity that hides behind a profession of Christianity. It is a political State called the Vatican State, with its own government, postal system, bank, army, and head of the State. It stands *alone* in this regard. There is no such thing as the “Baptist State” and never has been. Even State churches, like the Orthodox Church in Greece and Russia, the Lutheran Church in Germany, or the Anglican Church in England, are not political States in and of themselves.

The people of Europe got tired of living under the thumb of that political State, so they broke away from it. They left the Pope because he had ambitions to rule the world. That is not anti-Catholic bigotry; that is a statement of *historic fact* (see Boniface VIII’s Bull *Unam Sanctam*). Read Schaff’s church history; read Froom’s church history; read Latourette’s church history; read *Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*; read d’Aubigné *History of the Reformation*. BUT DON’T BE IGNORANT ALL YOUR LIFE!

In 1534, Henry VIII broke away from the Roman church and founded the Church of England. But the Anglican Church never did manage to shake off its Roman Catholic heritage. Through such decrees as the 1604 Canons, the Uniformity Acts of 1558 and 1662, and the Five Mile Act of 1665, a Christian man was forbidden to preach unless he had been licensed by an Anglican Bishop; the “nonconformists” (Puritans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists) weren’t allowed within five miles of any town; the State religion would be the Anglican faith; and babies were to be baptized by an ordained Anglican minister. Sounds kind of Roman, doesn’t it? When the Pilgrim forefathers came to this country, that’s the kind of mess they came over here to escape.

The forefathers of this country came over here to get away from a State religion. They didn’t believe any government had a right to tell them whom to baptize, where to worship, or when, how, or where to preach. They weren’t “dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” (Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address); they were “dedicated to the proposition” that *no one* could dictate to them how to worship God. It was a *spiritual* issue; not some “socio-economic” one.

In that Mayflower Compact the Pilgrims set up before coming ashore in this

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land, they said, "Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith . . ." The reason they set up a government of "just and equal laws" was for those two purposes, and they sent out some great preachers to accomplish them.

John Elliot and David Brainerd went out and won the Indians to Christ. Roger Williams helped found the first Baptist church in the colonies. He was such a "separatist" that he even ended up separating from the Baptists, but if it had not been for him, we would not have religious freedom or separation of Church and State in this country. God used Jonathan Edwards and his sermon "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God" to start a Hell-fire-and-damnation, Holy-Ghost revival (the Great Awakening). As a result, not only were a lot of those Puritans, who had been depending on their church attendance, creeds, and sacraments to get them to Heaven, saved; but schools were set up to train preachers and missionaries—Harvard, Yale, and Dartmouth. You would never guess that now by the Communists, Socialists, and queers those schools put out.

The thing you need to get down is that the first successes this country ever had were due to exalting God and the Book. God blessed this nation and made it a great nation, but it had nothing to do with anything the news media has pushed for the last seventy years.

But when the Founding Fathers sat down to draw up the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, no mention was made of Jesus Christ, even though the citizenry considered themselves a "Christian nation" (there is no New Testament theocratic government like that of Israel in the Old Testament, but because the Christians were in the majority at the time, they figured their nation must be "Christian"). That means, under the founding documents of this country, *God has no rights*.

According to the Declaration of Independence, you have "certain inalienable rights." Those are rights that are supposed to be from God and cannot be taken away by the government. Those rights are supposed to be "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." *Don't you believe that for a minute.*

According to that Book, "**the wages of sin is death**" (Rom. 6:23). According to what *God actually said* (not something John Locke wrote), you have a right to *drop dead*. You earned it and have a right to it.

A right to "liberty"? Don't be funny. Jesus said, "**Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin**" (John 8:34). Even if you aren't "**the servant of sin,**" you will be someone's "**servant.**" Paul wrote, "**his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness**" (Rom. 6:16).

If you pursue happiness at the expense of the word of God, you'll see what happens. That Book says you'll be happy when you fear God and walk in His ways (Psa. 128:1–2), and if you don't, forget being happy. If your god is peace and prosperity (Deut. 23:6), you won't be happy (Lam. 3:17), because "**happy is that people, whose God is the LORD**" (Psa. 144:15).

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This country set up its States, its Constitution, and its government; and it didn't give God any "rights."

Whenever America got proud, the Lord would send another war. It won the Revolutionary War, and then a few years later, along came the War of 1812. It won the War of 1812, and then it had a war with Mexico. It whipped Mexico, so God set the nation against itself with the Civil War. It recovered from the Civil War and then got involved with the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection. Having been successful in both those actions, just a few years later it had to go overseas to Europe in World War I. With the help of America, Kaiser Bill got whipped, and FDR vowed, "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." It was barely a year after he said that that he was sending them into two theaters of war.

We beat Germany and then Japan, and became a "super power." What happened next? We go into Korea and got our hats handed to us. Then we went into Vietnam and got the socks beat off us. Then we went into the Middle East, and we've been there ever since (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, etc.). Then just for good measure, in 2001, the Lord let the Mohammedans come bring the "War on Terror" to our own shores, and we've been trying to stave them off ever since.

As all of that was going on, the Lord would send great preachers to call the nation to repentance and faith. God sent Peter Cartwright riding into the backwoods of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. Cartwright was a tough backwoods circuit rider. If a fellow wouldn't get saved, he would knock him down, sit on him, and say, "Dost thou not feel the Holy Spirit striving with thee, friend?"

One time, Cartwright was preaching down in New Orleans when General Andrew Jackson entered the service. The pastor told Cartwright, "The General's here," to try to get him to tone down his message. Cartwright said in a voice loud enough for everyone, including Jackson, to hear: "You tell General Jackson that if he don't repent, he'll go to Hell just like any guinea-stealin' nigger." (Cartwright wasn't worried about being "politically correct.")

Do you know how General Jackson reacted to that comment? He came up to Peter Cartwright after the service and said, "If I had ten men like you, I'd cross the Atlantic and take England tonight" (the War of 1812 was going on then). He appreciated Cartwright's candor.

My, haven't folks changed. Your ancestors in this country had an iron and a metal in them that you can't find in this generation. Unsaved men back in those days had more guts than Christians do today.

Having beaten the greatest military power in the world twice (Revolutionary War and the War of 1812), the people of this country started talking about bringing in the kingdom *without the King coming back*. That's what the abolitionist movement was. How do you know that? By their *music*.

"Oh the masters say ha, ha!

And the darkies say ho, ho!

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# What Time Is It, America?

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For it must dat *de kingdom am a 'comin'*

In de year of Jubilo."

That's what the black sang. The whites sang this:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;

He is tramping out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;

He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:

His truth is marching on."

What was that? That was some deluded Unitarian woman, who didn't even believe Jesus Christ was God, talking about the Second Coming being Yankee troops going down to kill Southerners. "His truth is marching on"—your foot! She didn't see the Lord coming in His glory, she didn't see Him loosing any lightning from any sword, and she didn't see His "truth . . . marching on." That Bible says "**truth is fallen in the street**" (Isa. 59:14), and "**truth is perished**" (Jer. 7:28).

After having fought a war for independence where no centralized government could tell the individual States how to run their business, Abraham Lincoln started a war to tell the people in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, etc., what laws they could and couldn't pass, and what laws they could and couldn't enforce.

Don't believe me? Do you know what you have seen in the past few years? The citizens of something like 38 States voted to define marriage as between

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# What Time Is It, America?

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one man and one woman. In every case, Federal and U.S. Supreme Court judges overturned the votes of the majority of people in 38 States and forced them to accept two sex perverts and two dykes pretending to be "man and wife." That comes from the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments the Southern States were forced to ratify to be readmitted back into the Union after the Civil War.

That's why I say the Constitution is a joke. The Federal government can tell any State in the Union with whom its citizens must associate, what to teach in its schools, where to spend its tax money, and what its people can and cannot say. That goes against everything in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The way to enslave a free people is to have a war promising liberty. You promise the French people "liberty, fraternity, and equality" in the French Revolution and then behead 40,000 people in the Reign of Terror. You "liberate" Poland and "liberate" Czechoslovakia and "liberate" France, and then kill six million Jews and six million others in concentration camps. You hold a "Bolshevik Revolution" to overthrow the Czar and then kill four million of your own people (Lenin) or fifty million of your own people (Stalin). You have a "Great Leap Forward" and a "Cultural Revolution," and kill nearly eighty million of your own people.

**"While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage"** (2 Pet. 2:19).

Listen, people, you couldn't "free" anybody if you tried, without Jesus Christ.

**"Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever cometh sin is the servant of sin . . . . If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"** (John 8:34, 36).

John Knox, as a galley slave, was freer than Martin Luther King Jr. making six figures and flying around in a private jet from JFK.

After the Civil War, the North went back to its factories and its prosperity, and *dumped* Jesus Christ and the Book. The South was left devastated and had nothing but the Book left; that is why it became known as the "Bible Belt." And when the South finally became prosperous again in the latter half of the Twentieth Century, that's when it dumped God and the Book too.

**"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon"** (Luke 16:13).

So from this we learn two important lessons:

- 1) When a country trusts God and the Bible, even when it loses, *it wins*.
- 2) When a nation looks to its allies, its military, its power, and its money to save it, even when it wins, *it loses*.

During the time when the States lost their rights, God sent along some great preachers, which is why this country continued to have so much freedom for so long. He sent Dwight L. Moody to preach. The estimates are he led two million people to Christ. And of course, there were many others. There was

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# What Time Is It, America?

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Sam Jones, the old-time Methodist evangelist; there was J. Wilbur Chapman and his song leader, Charlie Alexander; there was R. A. Torrey, who worked with D. L. Moody.

During that time, God blessed this country and let it expand from the Atlantic to the Pacific. God blessed it militarily; He blessed it economically; He blessed it technologically; He blessed it spiritually. Everything was going so well that the Postmillennialists had their heyday; they thought the Kingdom was coming at last.

Back then, America was an eagle, and everyone took care how they treaded on the tail feathers. Somewhere around the turn of the century, an American overseas was about to get shot. He wrapped an American flag around himself and said, "Shoot if you dare." And brethren, *nobody dared shoot*. They would now. They would shoot the guy, take the American flag off him, and burn it in front of the TV cameras for everyone in the world to see. That is a shame and a disgrace.

And of course, when America got big, she got full of pride, and the Lord sent along World War I to take the nation down a notch. That was God's way of telling this country to *get right*. Before World War I, the Christian scholars (Conservative and Liberal) dumped the *King James Bible* for an *American Standard Version* that attacked the Deity of Christ in 1 Timothy 3:16, the virgin birth of Christ in Luke 2:33, the blood atonement in Colossians 1:14, the Trinity in 1 John 5:7, etc. God said, "I'll show you what I do to a nation that treats my words like that," and 116,708 Americans died. A country no bigger than the size of Oregon took on Britain, France, Italy, Russia, and America; and *almost won*. God told those Jews when they didn't do right and keep His commandments, He would let the heathen come in and "**one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight**" (Deut. 32:30).

In 1908, the Federal Council of Churches was formed. Eventually, it would become the National Council of Churches, one of the greatest instigators of

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# What Time Is It, America?

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Marxist revolutions in the world. They said, "You know what our problem is? The reason we have wars is because we're all split apart. We need to all get together. Let's mix the Christians in with the Buddhists and Hindus; let's get the Protestants together with the Papa over in Rome. It's up to us Christians to get everyone together. Hey, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, how about a few hundred million dollars to help us bring in the kingdom." And God said, "I'll show you how to spend money." America went \$25 billion into debt over World War I. To this day (2016), America has not yet fully paid off its debt from that war.

America came out of that mess with flying colors. We won; the Lord spared us. But like always, we got too big; we got too proud. Through the efforts of Billy Sunday in the North and Mordecai Ham in the South, the Eighteenth Amendment getting rid of liquor was passed. Immediately, the news media began working to get it back in until FDR came along. God let the bottom fall out during the Great Depression. When FDR came in, he said, "The problem is we need to change the law to bring the liquor back in legally so the *government* can make the money off it."

So in 1933, Prohibition was repealed, and God said, "I'll show you what happens to a nation that votes to put the bottle to its neighbor's lips to make him drunk" (Hab. 2:15). So the next year, the Lord sent the "Dust Bowl" and destroyed the crops. I saw a picture of a sign to FDR in front of an abandoned farm house: "You gave us beer; now give us rain." He couldn't; only God could do that.

The reason the news media pushed for repealing Prohibition was the gangsters killing people to run bootleg liquor. Well, when the liquor was brought back in, more people died on the highway where alcohol was found in one or both cars than all the gangland slayings put together during the years of Prohibition. More money was spent on rehabilitating chronic alcoholics than the revenue raised by liquor sales.

That Bible says, "**Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**" (Gal. 6:7). It says, "**Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him**" (Isa. 3:11).

The "**reward**" for America's wickedness under FDR culminated in World War II. Over a million Americans dead and wounded; over \$241 billion dollars in debt.

Ever since World War II, we have been in one great, big, global movement to get everyone together. Get all the nations together (the UN); get all the religions together (ecumenicism); get all the races together (integration); get all the genders together (women's lib and "gay" liberation). Capitalists are Communists; men are women; children are adults; Protestants are Catholics; Christians are Buddhists (or Moslems); sex perverts are normal. And God is everyone's Father.

Right now, God is in the process of gathering the tares into bundles to be *burned* (Matt. 13:30).

**"Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise**

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# What Time Is It, America?

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**up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I might assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy”** (Zeph. 3:8).

What time is it, America? It's what is known as the “eleventh hour,” the time right before the day is over, and the clock strikes midnight.

The time of the great Fundamental, Bible-believing works in this country that reached hundreds of thousands with the truth of the Gospel and the Scriptures is over and gone. J. Frank Norris, Beauchamp Vick, Oliver B. Greene, Bob Jones Sr., Lester Roloff, Lee Roberson, Jack Hyles, John R. Rice, Theodore Epp, Charles Fuller, M. R. DeHaan, and a host of others are gone. They have been replaced with rock music to “reach” the young people; effeminate sissies and outright queers in the pulpits; rapping, coping, sharing, and “dialoguing” instead of Bible teaching and preaching; and over 323 conflicting “Bible” versions since 1880 attacking every fundamental of the Christian faith until professing “evangelicals” no longer believe *any* Bible, including the “originals,” in inerrant or infallible, or that Jesus Christ is the virgin-born Son of God, or that He is the only way to Heaven, or that the lost end up in the Lake of Fire. They are just as Liberal as Harry Emerson Fosdick or Norman Vincent Peale.

What time is it, America? You are at the last few ticks of the clock before Jesus Christ comes back to take His children out of this world and let the Devil have control for the Tribulation. I'll be surprised if we are around long enough for this article to be published.

But until then, you can expect trouble. You can expect persecution, ridicule, censorship, jail, prison, churches shut down, families broken up by the government, and loss of jobs, income, and homes if you don't knuckle under—if it hasn't already started in earnest by the time this articles comes out. Make up your mind to be faithful to the Lord and to the Book no matter what the cost.

**“Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life”** (Rev. 2:10).

**“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth”** (Luke 18:8).

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# THE LAST DAYS

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world peace, using the world-federated "peace-keeping forces" (United Nations) and the world-federated bank (the International Monetary Fund), as well as the world-approved false preachers of love and peace. At the close of World War II in 1945, Satan put together his foundation for the new world order in the form of the United Nations. The acting temporary Secretary-General for the conference in San Francisco to draw up plans for the UN was the Harvard-educated communist Alger Hiss. Although he had support from FDR and Eleanor (who told Americans it was "an unforgivable sin" to smear Hiss because he was such a good American), he was eventually tried and exposed as a commie spy, committing perjury before a grand jury; he served 44 months in the pen. The UN successors to Hiss have proven to be no better. They include Trygve Lie (the anti-Israel Norwegian puppet supporter of the murderer Stalin), Dag Hammarskjöld (Sweden's admirer of Chou En-lai, the killer of over fifty million Chinese as he helped Mao Tse-Tung kill his own people), all the way to the present anti-Israel UN Secretary-General from South Korea, Ban Ki-moon (he told the nations that Israel was wrong to build settlements in its own country).

In step with the "peace-keeping forces of the UN" is the one-world bank in the form of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Headed by a Roman Catholic French lawyer named Christine Lagarde, billions of U.S. dollars are being hijacked from the American taxpayer, not only to help destroy the USA's economy,

but to fund a one-world government. The IMF presently holds ninety million ounces of gold and is constantly trying to extort billions of dollars more from the United States taxpayer. Estimates of the IMF's available funds exceed \$450 billion, while this sorceress with an unclean spirit is trying to increase the IMF's accounts to over three trillion bucks, which, of course, must come mainly from the good old USA. Much of this money goes to help third-world dictators in Africa become billionaires, while their own people continue to die in poverty. Every thirty seconds an African child dies from malaria (which could have been eradicated by now were it not for the tree huggers and animal lovers, like Rachel Carson who wrote *Silent Spring*), while hundreds of millions of IMF dollars are wasted.

All of these facts are only being given to show the reader where we stand in relation to Bible prophecy. Make sure you get out and vote for Trump. Maybe you can make America great again, and he will be able to stop Revelation 6 from coming to pass.

The other character prophesied in the book of Revelation, and often overlooked, is the third part of the satanic trinity called "**the false prophet**" (Rev. 16:13). He is another man of excessive power; only his job is religious. The dragon (Satan) represents the anti-father; the beast (Judas risen from the dead out of "**his own place**," cf. Acts 1:25) represents the anti-son; the false prophet (the Roman pope) represents the anti-holy spirit. When the antichrist comes around to begin his brokering

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of world peace, he will have the support of the world religious leader to point people to worship him. The role of the false prophet fits perfectly with the Roman Catholic pope in many particulars. He will come **"up out of the earth"** (Rev. 13:11), use religious worship (Rev. 13:12), be a miracle worker, as claimed for the previous **"man of sin"** (2 Thess. 2:3), John Paul II (Rev. 13:13), use image worship (Rev. 13:14), cause the image to come to life (Rev. 13:15), and control the world's monetary supply, as in the IMF (Rev. 13:16). The image is all over Brazil in both paintings and statues. This false prophet will point the whole world to worship the incarnation of Satan, the antichrist (Rev. 13:12), as he blesses those who bow.

Much of the groundwork for the coming one-world government was done right here in the USA, in the House of Representatives, all the way back in 1951. Addressing the Speaker of the House at a meeting to discuss the pope's encouragement to bring about a one-world government was the Roman Catholic Polack, liberal Democrat, Clement Zablocki. Citing a meeting that took place at the Vatican on a world-federal government (attended by U.S. politicians), Zablocki told the House about Eugenio Pacelli's (alias Pope Pius XII) support for a federal world government, which included a world police force, a world law, and a world court. Other Roman Catholic representatives from New Jersey, Ohio, and Massachusetts also backed up

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the need for the United States to get on board with the papal statement in favor of the new world order. This all took place in the country which was originally founded by men trying to find a place free from the religious, political stranglehold of the pope and his henchmen.

Keep watching your Roman Catholic FOX News station (owner Rupert Murdoch was knighted by Pope John Paul II), as no doubt, they are impartial and will be sure to give you the truth, using Irish Roman Catholic Billy O'Reilly, Roman Catholic Sean Hannity, Roman Catholic Bret Baier, Roman Catholic Megyn Kelly, and Roman Catholic Laura Ingraham. How is that for "fair and balanced" reporting? Their job is to control your thinking, and as long as you keep watching, you will be as balanced as a manatee on a tightrope. The best "balance" FOX News can give you is to throw in a Greta Van Susteren, who is a whacko Scientologist. But make sure you get out and vote to "make America great again."

In the meantime, the stage is set up for the false prophet to point the whole world to worship the beast. The present pope, Franny, gets nothing but good press from all of Murdoch's outlets, as he travels the world blasting capitalism and the USA, preaching peace ("**when there is no peace**"—Jer. 6:14), and talking about caring for the poor. The false prophet and the antichrist will have a harder time with Muslims and Jews than they will with the Joel Osteen and Rick Warren audiences. Their crowds went back to Rome long ago with their new Roman Catholic ver-

sions (*NIV*, *NASV*, etc.) and their love for C. S. Lewis.

In his so-called "classic theological work" called *Mere Christianity*, Lewis does not even quote five verses from the Bible. His purpose was to reduce Christianity to "mere" common ground over which all could agree and come together. Lewis' writings are acceptable to Mormons, Evangelicals, and Roman Catholics alike. He is credited with being responsible for a number of high-profile conversions to the Roman Catholic faith, including the President of the Ignatius Press, Mark Brumley, and G. K. Chesterton, the self-proclaimed "Christian" apologist who personally gave credit to Lewis for his own conversion to Roman Catholicism. Lewis likened the pagan Roman Catholic Mass, and the turning of bread and wine into Christ's body and blood, to being just as valid as the Bible believer's observance of the Lord's Supper as a memorial. This is coming from a man who was supposed to be an Anglican. But his "Chronicles of Narnia" were so cute for the kiddies, weren't they? Now don't forget to vote Republican as it no doubt will make a difference.

Along with the book of Daniel, the Revelation of John contains prophetic material yet to be revealed to anyone. Just as there are four separate accounts of the same three-and-one-half-year ministry of Christ in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, so it appears that there are four separate accounts of the three-and-one-half years of the tribulation period in the book of Revelation. John records the

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# THE LAST DAYS

Continued from 12

first account through the unveiling of the seals in the sixth chapter of Revelation. Notice how the seals begin with the coming of the antichrist (vs. 2) and end with the Second Coming of Christ (vss. 12–17).

Revelation chapter 7 is a parenthetical chapter. It obviously is not in chronological order with chapter 6, since the 144,000 are sealed and protected before the destruction can begin (vss. 1–8) and John is shown the saved, Gentile tribulation saints up in heaven (vss. 9–14).

The eighth and ninth chapters of Revelation give the second tribulation account through six trumpets, with the seventh trumpet marking the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev. 11:15). This proves the trumpets also cover the whole tribulation period.

The third account of the tribulation period is given in chapters 11–13. The complete ministry of the two witnesses is given in chapter 11 as 42 months, or 1,260 days (Rev. 11:2–3). Chapter 12 records a Jewish remnant being protected for that same length of time (Rev. 12:1–6), and chapter 13 records the complete ministry of the antichrist, also for the same length of time (42 months—Rev. 13:5).

The fourth account of the tribulation period is given in Revelation 16 with the vials being poured out. The reader should notice that this account also goes completely through the tribulation period, with the last vial gathering armies to be crushed by the Lord Jesus Christ at Armageddon and the destruction of Mystery Babylon (Rev. 16:16–19).

In the companion book to Revelation, when Daniel asked the Lord what the things he was being shown meant, he was told just to go his way, **“for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end”** (Dan. 12:89). Daniel was writing about **“the time of the end.”** John was caught up and actually envisioned that same time period, which is about to take place in this present generation.

Bible believers should be searching and scouring the scriptures for the most important information on which they can get their eyes. One of the things many detractors hated about the ministry of Dr. Ruckman was what he called **“advanced revelation.”** He believed the Lord reveals new things to His children personally in their own private study of the scriptures, and he always taught a Christian should not stagnate with the studies of Larkin and Scofield. The Lord gave Dr. Ruckman information others missed, and it bugged them.

There is still much information sealed up and closed **“till the time of the end”** that we have not found as yet. Daniel gives some details leading up to the rise of antichrist, so the believers should be paying attention as we draw closer to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His bride. Just as the Lord told His disciples that He had many things to say to them but they were not ready to bear them just yet (John 16:12), so the things in the books of Daniel and Revelation are waiting to be revealed in **“the time of the end.”** Are you studying and pouring over the greatest Book in the world as the last days are upon us?

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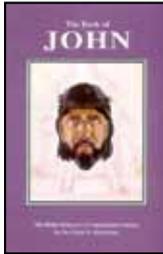
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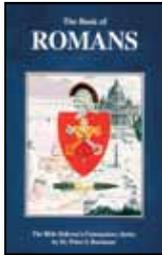
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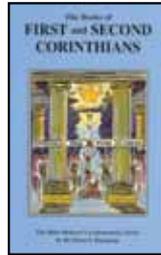
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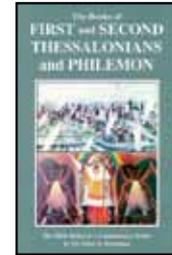
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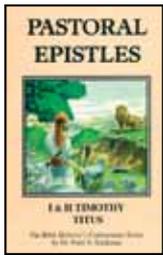
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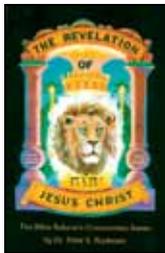
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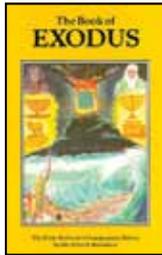
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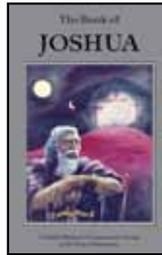
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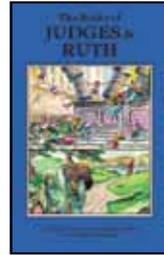
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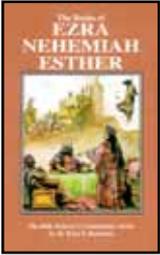
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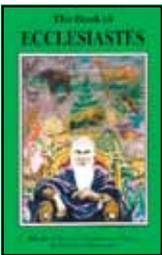
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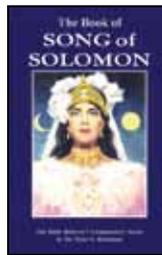
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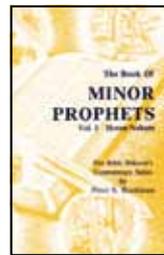
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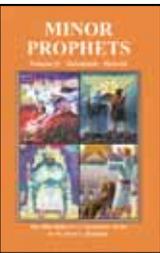
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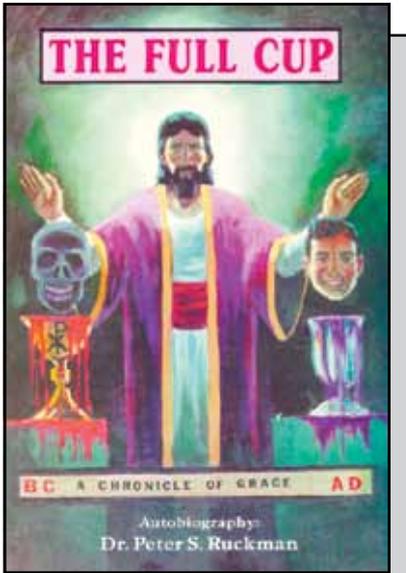
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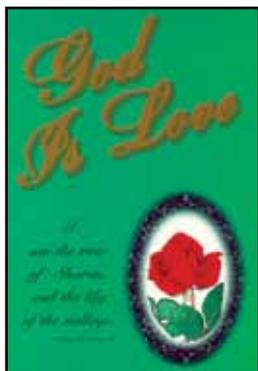
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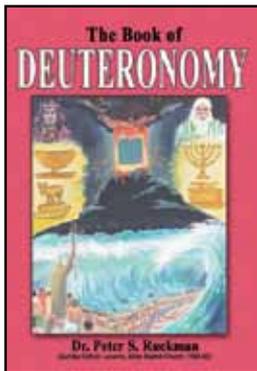
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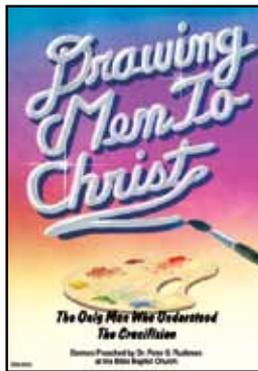
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# The First Missionary Journey

By Mike Dobbins—Part One of Three

In the thirteenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, we find the passage called, by almost everyone, “The First Missionary Journey.” But of course, the word *missionary* doesn’t appear in the Bible. We don’t really hear *anyone* call the events in Acts 13–14 “The First Apostles’ Journey,” regardless of how much anyone proclaims to be speaking “**as the oracles of God**” (1 Pet. 4:11). However, Paul (Saul) and Barnabas were the ones who were “sent out” as “missionaries” on the first missionary journey of Acts 13, and they were called “**apostles**” (Acts 14:14). The English *Authorized King James Bible* did not call them “missionaries.” However, the word *missionary* is a great word, and it is appropriate we use *that* word rather than the word *apostle* in the case of the modern-day man sent to a foreign field.

At this point in a discussion of Acts 13, it is common to hear about the Greek word *apostolō-* (*apostolos*). The Greek word *apostolō-* (*apostolos*) means “one who is sent,” and it is near akin to the word *missionary*. As my family and I traveled across the USA participating in missions conferences, we would often hear speakers at those conferences say, “The Greek word for *missionary* is *apostolō-*, and *apostolō-* means ‘one who is sent.’” But *apostolō-* was not translated in the *King James Bible* as the word *missionary*; it was transliterated as the word *apostle*.

This brings up the question, is the modern-day missionary the “apostle” of Ephesians 4:11? No, he is not! However, the apostles found in Acts chapter 13 are definitely the first “missionaries.” “**How can these things be?**” (cf. John 3:9).

In other words, it is proper to look at Paul in Acts 13 and say, “He is a missionary.” But it is *not* proper, from a *doctrinal* standpoint, to say of the men sent out of our churches, nowadays, “They are apostles.” So we will start our study on the first missionary journey with a study of the word *missionary*.

## The Meaning and History of the Word *Missionary*

The word *missionary* does not appear in any form (*mission*, *missions*, etc.) in the *Authorized King James Bible*, but the words *mission*, *missions*, and *missionary* are staple words in our churches today, and have been for more than 300 years. How did this word become such a well-used word? Why is it used rather than the word *apostle*, which is the word used by the *King James Bible* in reference to the men who were sent out on the first missionary journey (“**the apostles, Barnabas and Paul**”—Acts 14:14).

Do not misunderstand what I am saying here. I am *not* saying we should not use the word *missionary*. On the contrary, I hope to show that it is necessary that we *do* use the word *missionary* in contrast to the word *apostle* when speaking of modern-day missionaries.

First, we will start with what is very clear. Paul was both an apostle *and* a missionary. Paul calls himself “**an apostle**” in the introduction to nine New

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# The First Missionary Journey

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Testament books (Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus). In Romans 11:13, Paul states that he is “**the apostle of the Gentiles.**” Based on the contents of Acts 13, nearly everyone will acknowledge that Paul is a missionary, because he was “sent out” by the church at Antioch on an evangelistic circuit.

Today, there are missionaries who are sent out of local churches in the USA, Canada, and some other nations (England, Ireland, Scotland, Korea, the Philippines, etc.). Bible Baptist Church in Pensacola, Florida has about fifty missionaries sent out from one local assembly. Are those men being sent out nowadays from these churches “apostles”? No, they are not. Are they missionaries? Yes, they are. “*Apostolos*” does not factor into the discussion. No light can be shed on this discussion by a study of that Greek word.

The Greek word *Apostolo-* makes no distinction between the modern-day “missionary” and the apostle found in the New Testament. This leads some men to teach that the missionaries who are being sent out today *are* actually the “**apostles**” of Ephesians 4:11. However, this cannot be true for the following reasons:

1. *Modern missionaries don't have apostolic signs.* Paul had “**the signs of an apostle**” (2 Cor. 12:12). In other words, an apostle had “apostolic signs” (Acts 5:12) along the lines of Mark 16:17-20. The modern missionary is *not* an apostle based on this criterion.

2. *Not all modern missionaries are Jews.* All of the apostles in the New Testament were Jews. The Lord Jesus Christ chose twelve Jewish disciples to be apostles, and He commanded them to go preach to *Jews only*, not to Samaritans or Gentiles (Matt. 10:1-6). The modern-day missionary is not expected to avoid preaching *to Gentiles, but is, rather, to “Go . . . into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* (Mark 16:15), to teach all Gentile nations (Matt. 28:19), and be a witness “**unto the uttermost part of the earth**” (Acts 1:8). Even all the apostles in the book of Acts and the epistles were Jews (Matthias—Acts 1:21-26, “**James the Lord's brother**”—Gal. 1:19, Paul—Phil. 3:4-5, Barnabas—Acts 4:36, Andronicus and Junia—Rom. 16:7, Apollos—1 Cor. 4:6-9 cf. Acts 18:24, Silas and Timothy—1 Thess. 1:1, 2:6 cf. Acts 15:22, 16:1-3).

3. *Modern-day missionaries have not seen the risen Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor. 9:1), as Paul himself saw Him on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-7). John the apostle spoke about himself and the other apostles having “**heard,**” “**seen,**” and “**handled**” the Lord Jesus Christ in the flesh (1 John 1:1). Second Corinthians 5:16 says the apostles knew “**Christ after the flesh.**” The modern missionary does not have these apostolic qualifications.

4. *The apostles were in the foundation of the Church when it started at the*

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# The First Missionary Journey

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*beginning of this age, the Church Age* (Eph. 2:19–20). We are no longer on that “foundation” level. We are at the end of this age, not the beginning, and the men going out to preach today are not apostles. The Church in which we labor now had a **“foundation of the apostles and prophets,”** and we are building on that foundation nowadays. In other words, we are *not* **“apostles and prophets.”**

As a matter of fact, the majority of solid missionaries whom I’ve encountered would probably be more akin to the **“evangelists”** in Ephesians 4:11 than to the apostles. This is not a discussion of what is and what is not an “evangelist” in the New Testament (Acts 21:8; 2 Tim. 4:5); however, a man who goes around the world to “evangelize” it and is constantly winning souls would have to be considered an “evangelist” to a large degree.

The word that sheds the most light on the difference between the modern-day missionary and the New Testament apostle is the English word *missionary*. It is a good word. It does not appear in the Bible, but there is a good reason for that. The word *missionary* started to appear in its Latin form, *missionarius*, in 1598. At that time, it was being used by the Jesuits to refer to their agents whom they sent abroad for all manner of evil mischief. The English word *missionary* is said to have appeared, according to the dictionary, in the “mid-17th Century.” In other words, the *Authorized King James Version* was completed in 1611, and only within forty to fifty years *after* its completion did the word *missionary* begin to appear in the English language. Is this a “coincidence”? Of course not.

Why did the English word *missionary* appear in history about fifty years after the birth of the *King James Bible* rather than fifty years after the *Revised Version* of 1885? Some would say it is because of the influence of William Shakespeare on the language. Just a little study reveals that Shakespeare is credited with introducing between 2,000 and 3,000 new words to the English language. Words like *addiction*, *fashionable*, *hot-blooded*, *inaudible*, *manager*, *new-fangled*, *scuffle*, *swagger*, and *uncomfortable* are just a few words that were supposedly “never heard” before they appeared in his plays.

However, Shakespeare cannot be credited with introducing the word *missionary* to the English language. The appearance of the word in English is a credit to the *Authorized King James Bible* of 1611. The doctrine and power of the *King James Bible* had such an influence on the English language that a distinction was made between the apostles in the Bible and the men being sent out to foreign lands to preach the Gospel in 1650-1700. That distinction was made by using the word *missionary* to identify the men being sent out from England, the Netherlands, and Germany in the Seventeenth Century.

Someone in the Seventeenth Century had enough sense to look in the *King*

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# The First Missionary Journey

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*James Bible* and say, "There is a difference between the apostles and the men we are sending out worldwide." Someone had more sense than some preachers and teachers nowadays who teach that the apostles of Ephesians 4:11 are the "missionaries" of today. A distinction must be made. As noted above, there are too many differences between the New Testament apostles and the men being sent out in the modern era to call those men "apostles."

The word *missionary* appeared at that time in history (the mid-Seventeenth Century) because the Lord was beginning an all-out, worldwide, frontal assault to send missionaries around the globe. They were *missionaries*, not apostles, even though both are "sent ones." During the Philadelphian church period (1600–1900) of "the church of the open door" (Rev. 3:8), the Lord prepared the English-speaking world to call those men "missionaries," not apostles. The *King James Bible* was the precursor to the introduction of the word *missionary*. So although the word *missionary* is not in the Bible, it is the correct English word to use to describe the men going around the world with the Gospel in our modern day.

Next month, I will discuss the progression involved in Christians becoming missionaries.

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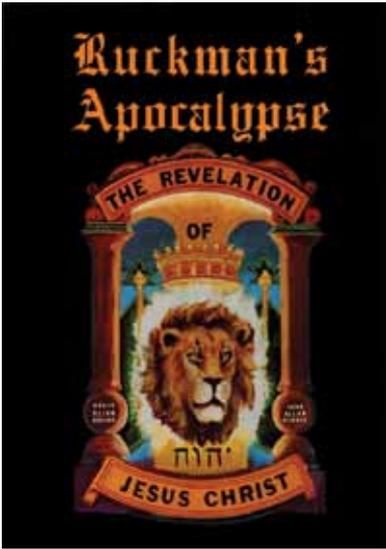
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# *The Right Choice*

By Robert Militello

**“And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things. But ONE THING IS NEEDFUL: and Mary hath chosen THAT GOOD PART, which shall not be taken away from her”** (Luke 10:41–42).

Every Christian who desires to have the Holy Spirit control his heart and mind will experience tensions in family relationships. This is a fact of Christian life. Maintaining a state of peaceful coexistence between siblings, whether saved or not, is an accomplishment of no small measure.

Luke 10:38–42 provides the believer with the most instructive insight into the superiority of the wisdom of God versus the weakness of modern psychology and psychiatry. **“Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me”** (Luke 10:40). When Peter wrote some thirty years later, **“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you”** (1 Pet. 5:7), did the Holy Spirit have countless “Marthas” in mind? When Paul wrote the Corinthians telling them they were not ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11), should we be surprised when the devil prompts us to question God’s fairness? Martha felt she was getting a raw deal from her sister, and because Jesus was a man of fairness and compassion, He would exhort Mary to do the right thing—whatever that was!

Martha seems somewhat to be a “take-charge” kind of woman. Notice in verse 38 that she, and not Mary, was the one receiving Jesus **“into HER house.”** Notice in John 11:17–28, it was Martha, not Mary, who engaged the Lord as He was nearing Bethany to join the mourners comforting the family of Lazarus. Martha was out front again; she was a woman of action.

Often, that kind of personality looks with disdain upon those who are not like that. Joseph’s brothers seemed to evince this same opinion of their father’s son: **“And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh”** (Gen. 37:19). Compared to Martha, Mary appears introspective and meditative: she sat at Jesus’ feet. The need for instruction superseded the obligation to help out with the serving. Martha could have, and should have, put off the serving and sat with Mary. To use an expression of the day, she failed to “seize the moment.”

**“And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares”** (Luke 8:14). Never have the lives of Christians in America been so cluttered by the distractions, noises, and anxieties of this world. Some psychologists attribute what they see as stress disorder to “information overload.” According to this theory, mental fatigue is the result of overloading the brain with information, ideas, and suggestions that each of us process in order to make sensible decisions. Too much leads to confusion. That is what a real estate agent told me about prospective home buyers who kept wanting to see more and more houses.

Now we know **“God is not the author of confusion”** (1 Cor. 14:33). The enemy of the believer is the master of bewilderment. He’s got about a

Continued on 25

# ***The Right Choice***

Continued from 24

dozen or so various Bible versions on the shelves of most Christian bookstores. He knows how to befuddle God's people.

Jesus told Martha she was **"careful and troubled about"** not just a few things, but **"MANY things."** Cares come to us in life, and many are unavoidable, but to remain troubled suggests a prayer life that is in need of an overhaul. The prayer closet is where we get direction and relief. It is the "double-strength Tylenol" for every "headache" with which we wake up and go to bed. Prayer neglect has both short and long-term consequences. Lack of prayer assures double-mindedness and confusion daily.

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

Over time, prayerlessness brings renewal strength to the evil inclinations that operate in the believer's heart and mind. Loss of spiritual discernment is also a combination of prayerlessness and an unopened Bible. Martha needed to be sitting with her sister at the Lord's feet.

In order to get Jesus on her side, Martha employed the victimization tactic. She was, in her eyes, a victim of her sister Mary's selfishness and neglect. A skilled defense attorney will look for ways to portray his client as a victim, rather than a perpetrator of an unlawful deed. The idea is to elicit sympathy from those sitting on the jury. Martha's assertiveness led her to putting a family friend, a man who loved both sisters and their brother Lazarus, into the role of a judge. Some two chapters later in Luke's gospel, we read how the Lord felt about that kind of manipulation:

**"And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?"** (Luke 12:14).

Frankly, there must be thousands of pastors, associates, nursery workers, and others filling various roles in the running of a church who feel they are not getting the help they need from their family in Christ. Is it then wrong for those in need of assistance to bring their complaint to the Lord? Before you answer that, examine carefully the assertions of 2 Corinthians 9:8 and Philippians 4:19. Do you really believe the Lord is giving you all the grace necessary to endure in any situation? Is He supplying **"all your need"** in every circumstance, no matter how dire? Does supplying **"all your need"** include, at times, misunderstanding, slander, chastening, and, if it pleases God, catastrophic loss? Did Martha need her sister's help with the serving as much as she needed an unflattering analysis of her mental state from the Lord?

The practice of trying to make someone feel guilty because you perceive that person as being insensitive to your needs is rampant in our society. It gives cover to those who are loathe to examine their own standing with the Lord.

**"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, BUT PERCEIVEST NOT THE BEAM THAT IS IN THINE OWN EYE?"** (Luke 6:41).

Continued on 26

# ***The Right Choice***

Continued from 25

The Lord made it clear to Martha that only **“one thing”** was **“needful.”** For almost 2,000 years since the blood atonement of the Lamb was made on Calvary's cross, the need of every sinner has been *grace*: grace to be *saved*, grace to be *counted a disciple*, and grace to *finish your course with joy*.

Mary sensed her need and wisely chose to sit before the Lord; she chose **“that good part.”** On any given Sunday across our nation, there are thousands of believers who have access to a Bible-believing church. What a privilege it is to sit and hear Bible preaching. How is it that so many of God's people follow Martha's example and find something else to do on Sunday? Last February, the NFL Super Bowl was the hook used by the devil to keep the believer in front of his TV. Sunday evening services have suffered ever since the NFL moved the game from the afternoon to the evening time slot.

A Christian brother had asked me if I were going to skip the service to watch the game. I said I would see the highlights, but no game can give me the spiritual food I need on Sunday.

**“For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries”** (1 Pet. 4:3).

If the Lord were teaching in a neighbor's house down the road, would you schedule a Super Bowl party at your place at the same time? Who in heaven gives a rat's tail about any game invented by men to satisfy their enormous craving for entertainment? Nero gave the Romans circuses as their society went into the trash bin. We have our own arenas where padded gladiators smash into one another and get paid millions. Might our country soon get another wake-up call like that given on September 11, 2001? We'll see; stand by.

It is easy to build your life around family, church, work, things, and more things. You'll get plenty of help in doing so from the devil so long as you don't put the Lord first. All through scripture, you find the Lord calling upon His people to set their affection upon Him. Even a Gentile dog outside **“the commonwealth of Israel”** (Eph. 2:12) would be given favor by acknowledging the primacy of the God of Jacob.

A Gentile widow in Zarephath beside Zidon, which today is in Lebanon, was poor, helpless, and hopeless until the man of God told her to put her life in God's hands. To rescue her and her son from death by starvation, Elijah told her to take a portion of what was left of her substance and give it to the prophet. Before she and her son could eat their last meal, Elijah had to be served *first*.

**“And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake FIRST, and bring it unto me, and AFTER make for thee and for thy son”** (1 Kings 17:13).

Could it be any clearer? Me first and you later. What if Jesus were teaching from this very portion of scripture when Mary was at His feet and

Continued on 27

# ***The Right Choice***

Continued from 26

Martha was preparing the dinner? The widow woman and her son survived and thrived by yielding to God's word.

Look again at Luke 10:38–42. Jesus was not unsympathetic to Martha's complaint, but He was concerned about her failure to identify her own misplaced priority. Time should be precious to a believer. We will answer at the Judgment Seat of Christ for how we used it.

**“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”** (Eph. 5:15–16).

To a large degree, our lives find fulfillment in our labor. Honest labor is blessed of the Lord, whether it is by the saved or the lost. To shun labor when you possess the ability to perform it is to take on the mantle of a bum. Slothfulness will put you on a collision course with the Lord, and it will end badly for you. Christian labor is admirable, although expected. We are servants, and it is our duty to labor. Nevertheless, the devil has a way of taking a good thing and causing it to do us spiritual harm.

Note the Holy Spirit's words to the church of Ephesus: **“I know thy works, and thy labour”** (Rev. 2:2). Again in verse 3: **“And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.”** Here, no doubt, is a church putting its hand to the plow and not looking back (see Luke 9:26), but something happened.

**“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love”** (Rev. 2:4).

There's a warning there for all saints. Everything has a time and a purpose (see Eccl. 3:1–8). Labor can, and often does, intrude upon our time with the Lord. We can be laboring for the Lord and, at the same time, diminish spiritually. Walking with the Lord and maintaining an honest fellowship is our first and foremost duty as believers. This obligation calls for labor. We are to feed on the word, the Bread of Life.

**“Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed”** (John 6:27).

A serving Martha must first be a sitting Martha, getting fed and growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mary's devotion to her Lord was made clear in John's gospel.

**“(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.)”** (John 11:2).

After her brother's resurrection, she put her devotion to Jesus on display. Her act of boldness was to be memorialized forever, according to Matthew 26:6–13. This was the result of Mary's choice, in that listening to what Jesus had to say was of far greater importance than preparing a table. Mary had a prophetic understanding of what her Lord would soon face.

**“Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this”** (John 12:7).

Continued on 28

# *The Right Choice*

Continued from 27

Sitting at the Lord's feet while her sister was serving was rewarded by the Holy Spirit in giving her insight and understanding other disciples did not have.

**“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THEM THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM”** (Heb. 11:6).

So how did Mary get such faith?

**“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”** (Rom. 10:17).

Notice in Revelation chapters two and three that all seven letters to the churches end with: **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** It appears the Body of Christ in America has a hearing problem. It is almost deaf. How else do you explain the success of “preachers” like Joel Osteen, Rick Warren, and others? What is causing the problem? The noise of this world and its incessant distractions are muting the **“still small voice”** of the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Kings 19:12).

When I attended Jesuit school in Brooklyn from '59 to '63, we were sent up to the Catskill Mountains for a “retreat” every October. There we would escape the noise of the city and be lectured to by the priests. We had periods of silence following the lectures allowing us to meditate on what we had just heard. Back then, the world was not as fast as it is today. No one had yet coined the term “a New York minute.” Yet there was a sense that things were moving forward too fast. There was a show or movie, I don't know which, that was titled: “Stop the World—I Want to Get Off!”

It would be fifteen years later before the Lord showed me that I needed to be born again. I found it utterly astounding that, before the new birth, the Lord saw me as **“dead in trespasses and sins”** (Eph. 2:1). This is the truth the devil works so hard at trying to hide. In these last days before we leave this noisy world, **“the prince of the power of the air”** (Eph. 2:2) has turned up the volume and has introduced into our lives electronic devices of every kind, designed to keep us in a perpetual state of distraction. A new class of millionaires has emerged: so-called “tech geniuses” who have given us Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

Hand-held smart phones have become so ubiquitous that they accompany the spectators going to the arena on Sunday to see the football gladiators gleefully smash one another. Even while we entertain ourselves elsewhere, we are so wedded to these devices that we dare not leave one at home.

How glorious it is to know that in an instant all will cease when the Lord comes for His Bride. There'll be no signs in heaven telling you to turn off your cell phones. It will be a strange world for many of us. We will know then how important it was to spend more time at His feet.

Why wait until then? Turn off the noise and listen. It is **“a still small voice”** speaking to your heart. Can you hear it?

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## THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a BOOK as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son OUT of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob OUT of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel OUT of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones OUT of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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