



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 42 No. 11 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) November 2018

The Power and Claims Of the Scripture

By Brian Donovan

Among many other things, one of the greatest consequences as a result of being born again, is the spirit that the child of God receives. Before he is saved, the lost man is dead to the Spirit of God, as well as the things of God. This is explained thoroughly in I Corinthians 2:11-16. In those verses, we are told that at salvation, the Christian receives, not the "spirit of the world" (verse 12), but the "spirit which is of God". Before being saved, the natural man cannot receive the "things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him" (verse 14). Until the lost sinner receives the new birth, he cannot understand, or even communicate with God, since "God is a spirit" (John 4:24), and the lost man's spirit is "dead in trespasses and

sins" (Ephesians 2:1). But once the lost sinner is born again, his reborn spirit begins to receive and "know the things that are freely given to us of God" (I Corinthians 2:12), but only as he spends time in the scripture.

The importance of spending time in the scripture cannot be overstated and the Christian should understand that whenever he reads and takes heed to the scripture, he is comparing "spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13). Since the "words" themselves are "spirit" (John 6:63), as the child of God reads and studies the scriptures, he is having his "senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:14). The "spirit which is of God" is able to bring light and discernment into the life of the believer through the scripture, and that is not possible with any other book, since it is the scripture alone that is alive (Hebrews 4:12). The transaction that takes place as the scripture is read and believed (I Thessalonians 2:13), seems to be very much underestimated in the lives of believers today, given the inordinate amount of time that is spent with other things. The Bible makes it plain that there are two kinds of wisdom (James 3:15-18), with one that is "earthly,

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People Over Seventy

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psa. 90:10).

There are several things the Bible has to say to older people, and they all deal with reasons for staying alive. When folks get up in age, they tend to get depressed with aches and pains and sickness. They get to feeling lonely and unwanted and a burden on others. Here, I want to give you some reasons to continue on right up until your last breath.

In 2014, the country with the most suicides per capita was Lithuania. One of the leading causes of death among college students is suicides. Back in the 1940s and 50s, there lived a lady who started her career as a pin-up model and then “slept” her way to the top as an actress. She then started posing nude for men’s magazines and became America’s sex goddess. Marilyn Monroe had everything she wanted. By the standards of the world, she had more reasons to live than probably anybody you know. She had the money; she had the popularity; she had the adoration of me; she could go anywhere she wanted; yet she took her own life. With everything she had, she couldn’t find a reason to stay alive.

“Assisted suicide” is a big thing these days because when a person gets up in years or gets a terminal disease, he wants to “die with dignity.” I can’t say as I blame folks like that, but you give sinners an inch,

and they’ll take a mile. Pretty soon, the *government* decides who lives and dies, and you’re right back under Nazi Germany and Communist Russia.

Now, Christian, as long as your heart is beating on its own and you can take a breath on your own, God has a reason for you being here, and if He didn’t, He would take you home. So I want to go to Psalm 71 and discuss the reasons you should stay “alive and kicking” if God still has you here.

First, you are here to *praise God*. Psalm 71:14—“**I will . . . yet praise thee more and more.**” As the end nears, you ought to praise God more, not less. The last song recorded in David’s life, in 2 Samuel 22, ends with:

“Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name” (2 Sam. 22:50).

There are few enough people praising God. We need some folks at the end of their journey who can look back and praise God for what He did for them and what He is still doing for them. Elderly folks have more time to praise God than younger folks do; they have fewer distractions.

We need more “senior citizens” like old Bob Shuler, the old-time Methodist pastor. I saw him when he was in his seventies, when the left side of his body was nearly paralyzed from strokes and his left eye was half shut and he walked with a limp. Against doctor’s orders, he took a plane from L.A. to Greenville, South Carolina to preach at Bob

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Jones University. He preached for fifty minutes.

Next, Psalm 71:15—**“My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day.”** We need elderly people who will stay alive to *show God’s salvation to a lost world*. If you can still talk, you can show forth God’s salvation.

An old saint was on his death bed, and his infidel son came to see him one last time. That young fellow asked his dad, “Did you get a glimpse of Jesus?” That old man pushed his son away and rose up on that bed and said, “Away with a glimpse; I’ve had a full look for forty years!”

If you are a Christian up in your seventies and eighties, you have had a full look at the Saviour for a long time. You ought to be able to talk about it.

Verse 16—**“I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.”** What is God’s righteousness to the New Testament believer? It’s *Jesus Christ* (Rom. 10:3–4; 1 Cor. 1:30). The longer you live, the more you should talk about the Saviour.

I like the story of the grandmother who had a teenaged grandson living at her house. That kid had all kinds of girlie pictures and rock posters up on the wall of his room. That grandmother was a good Christian woman, so she went and bought a picture of Jesus hanging on the cross. She didn’t say a word to that kid or take down any of his pictures. All she did was hang that picture of Christ on the cross in the middle

of all the others. That boy took one look at that picture of the Lord Jesus dying for sinners, and he took everything else done. One of his buddies came over and noticed what he had down and asked him why he took his pictures down. That boy replied, “When the Lord goes up, all the other stuff has to come down.” At least that boy had enough respect for the Lord and for his grandmother to do that.

Did you notice that that grandmother didn’t have to say a word to be a testimony. If you can’t even talk, you can still do something for Jesus Christ. Mail tracts out if you can’t do anything else. Some people *miss* some great opportunities by concentrating on what they *can’t* do.

Verse 18—**“When I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation.”** You older women have an ability to show the power of the Lord that younger women and men don’t even have. There are few young men so hardened that they wouldn’t be touched if some elderly woman came up to them and said, “Young man, I want you to know God loves you and so do I. Jesus Christ died for you, and I’m praying for you.” They might put on a show for their buddies, but I guarantee you, that would shake them up for years.

You say, “That would take some nerve, Dr. Ruckman.” What have you got to lose? The Lord will take care of you, and if He did allow you to get knocked on the head or something, you would just get home to heaven quicker. Someone threat-

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ened to kill John R. Rice once, and he told the person "You can't scare me with heaven." That should be the view of every Christian.

God's people, today, need a revival of *backbone*. They should try to show God's "**power to every one that is to come**" (vs. 18). You Christian grandmas and granddaddies, do your grandchildren know you love God and love that Book? One time a little girl asked her grandma why she read her Bible so much. That Christian "granny" said, "I'm boning up for my final exams."

Verse 14—"**But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.**" It is typical that the older you get, the slower you get, but you shouldn't slow down when it comes to praising God. When Moses and David and Paul got up in age, you didn't hear them talking about ball games and fishing and hunting. Paul wasn't whimpering and bemoaning his state when he got up near the end. He said, "**I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith**" (2 Tim. 4:7).

You say, "Paul could say that because he didn't have a family." Joshua did. He didn't end his years complaining that no one came by to visit him or the kids never called. He still talks about serving the Lord when he was past a hundred (Josh. 24:15).

I like the story of Eleazar, one of David's mighty men, in 2 Samuel 23:9–10. He fought the Philistines until "**his hand clave unto the sword.**" I guarantee you that when

his buddies finally pried his hand loose from that sword that the imprint of the hilt was still on his hand.

We need some saints who will grasp that "**sword of the Spirit**" (Eph. 6:17) so tightly until it becomes a part of them (Psa. 119:11). Grasp your thumb on Genesis 1:1 and wrap your hand around the sword until it reaches Revelation 22:21, and don't let anyone take your sword from you, no matter if he is a "good," "godly," "dedicated" fundamentalist.

I knew "old man Bob" pretty well when I went to Bob Jones. When he got up in years, his mind began to go on him until he had to be kept at the hospital on the university campus. But every once in a while, he would escape and be found on the sidewalk with his bags packed, waiting to catch a train to his next meeting. That old man had been going for so long that that was what he went back to in his mind: go somewhere to preach. He told the orderly assigned to take care of him in the hospital, "You're the meanest devil I know because you won't let me out of here to go preach."

DeWitt Talmage had an old soldier of the cross, up in his nineties, in his church. He was a retired Presbyterian minister who had served as an adviser for both Presidents James Madison and James Monroe. That guy was so old and feeble that he had to hold onto a pillar when he stood to sing. When that old man was on his deathbed, Talmage came over to have a word of prayer with him. That old saint looked at him and said, "I'd like to talk to you,

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Mr. Talmage, but I haven't got time to see you right now. I have to tell these sinners how to get saved and prepare for heaven." And that old preacher stretched out his arms there on the bed and *preached for twenty minutes*. That fellow had his hand on the sword so long, you couldn't tell the difference between the hand and the sword.

If you are up in years, your "**strength**" may be "**labour and sorrow**," like our text says, but you can still take one more swing with the sword and talk of your Saviour "**all the day long**" (Psa. 71:24).

"I have heard of a land on the faraway strand,

'Tis a beautiful home of the soul;
Built by Jesus on high, where we never shall die,

'Tis a land where we never grow old.

"In that beautiful home where we'll never more roam,

We shall be in the sweet by and by;
Happy praise to the King through eternity sing,

'Tis a land where we never shall die."

"When our work here is done and the life-crown is won,

And our troubles and trials are o'er;

All our sorrow will end, and our voices will blend,

With the loved ones who've gone on before.

"Never grow old, never grow old,
In a land where we'll never grow

old;

Never grow old, never grow old,
In a land where we'll never grow old."

(James Moore, 1914)

I don't know where all of you are in age. Maybe the almond tree has already begun to blossom, and the sun is already reflecting off the snow-capped mountains of eternity for some of you. It won't be long. I don't know if God will keep your health good and your mind sharp to the end. But as long as you have the health and have the mind and can speak up for Jesus Christ, will you keep on going until you can't go anymore?

Finish the race; keep the faith. Don't get depressed or discouraged. Take the opportunities as they come. Ask God to give you opportunities. Don't slack off when you are so near to finishing the course.

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The Power and Claims Of the Scripture

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sensual, devilish”, causing “envy, strife and confusion”, and it is this wisdom that the educated world spends all their time “intermeddling” (Proverbs 18:1) with. Claiming to be “lovers of wisdom”, the “philosophers” (Christian or otherwise), have not changed one bit since the apostle Paul was at Athens about two thousand years ago, where they “spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing” (Acts 17:21). The other wisdom comes from above and is said to have the attributes of being “pure, peaceable, gentle, full of mercy and good fruits, and without hypocrisy”. Yet, as Christians continue to spend time with the first kind of wisdom, it is no wonder that the lack of spiritual discernment is so overwhelming in their lives. The very things that a lost man can neither receive or know because of his dead spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14), are the things that the Christians themselves are ignoring and showing very little interest in. In spite of the fact that the scripture claims to be able to do things for the believer that no other book can, it continues to be left as a closed book, unable to unleash the power that can change the mind, heart and life of the child of God.

In this article, we will look at some of the things that the scripture can do, as the believer yields to, and believes what he is reading. As powerful as the scripture is, the Lord will withhold its blessings and capabilities, based on the obedience or disobedience of the reader. The Lord is not a Calvinist and

will change His mind and plans, due to the responses within the free will of man. In the Old Testament, Israel literally “limited” what the Lord wished to do for them, because of their disobedience (Psalm 78:40-41). It is hard to miss the emotions of the Lord God as He cries out to His people, “O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea” (Isaiah 48:18). That hardly sounds like the Calvinist god who has predestinated all things to “whatever shall be shall be”. With outstretched arms, the God of the scripture calls to obey that He might bless and not have His plans limited. Yet the previous verses show that the believer can negate the power of scripture and what it wants to do in his life.

One of the claims of scripture is that it will “try” a man (Psalm 105:19) in order to make something of him if he will allow it. Joseph sat in a prison in Egypt in iron fetters as the word of the Lord “tried” him to see if he would trust what he was told. In Genesis 37, Joseph received the word of the Lord in a dream and was shown that he would one day be in a position where his whole family would be bowing to him. In envy, his brothers sold him into Egypt, where after doing right, and fleeing temptation, Joseph ended up being falsely accused and landed in prison. While Joseph sat there, two fellow prisoners, Pharaoh’s butler and baker, also had dreams and came to Joseph with them, in hopes of finding

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out what they meant. A normal reaction from Joseph would have been to scoff and say that he too, once had a dream, and look where it got him. Whether he knew it or not, the scripture was trying him. As the greatest type of Christ in the Bible, Joseph came through the test and glorified the Lord and His words (Genesis 49:22-26), and because he did not get bitter, but instead yielded and believed the word of the Lord, he not only got out of prison, but he was greatly used to save his whole family.

The scripture will also separate a man. Jeremiah found this out as he sat alone (Jeremiah 15:16-17), thanks to the words that he not only read, but chose to digest. The scripture placed Jeremiah into a lonely chair against all the positive, false preachers of his day and separated him into the Lord's hand. The scripture became a reproach and a derision to him (Jeremiah 20:8), as it does to every God called preacher. The negative truth of the scriptures, even against his own country, put Jeremiah into a separated position. His peers let him know that he was not a patriot and that he was falling away to the Chaldeans (Jeremiah 37:13), because he would not support, love and defend the republican king who was tweeting him from behind the scenes (Jeremiah 37:17). Unable to take part in the D.C. roundups and prayer breakfasts, Jeremiah felt the scripture separate him into a lonely place. After getting pretty aggravated with the Lord and putting

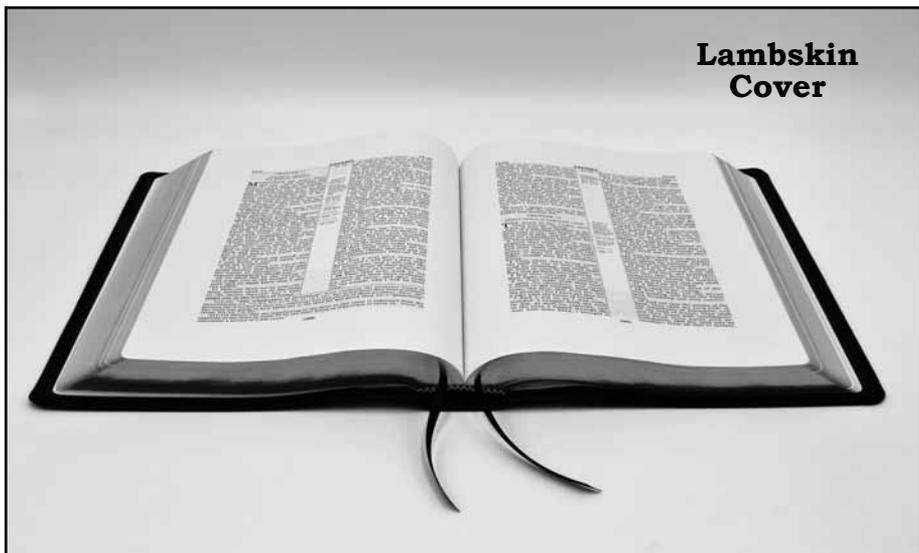
in his complaint (Jeremiah 20:9), the prophet decided that he was done with all the negativity of the scripture, and quit. We don't know exactly how long it lasted, but before the verse is finished, Jeremiah said that "his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay". Separated as he was, thanks to the scripture, Jeremiah could not keep his mouth shut and allowed the words of God to do their work, both in his own life, and the lives of others.

Another thing the scripture will do for the child of God is to bring persecution. When Jesus Christ explained the parable of the sower, He said that when "persecution ariseth for the word's sake" (Mark 4:17), "immediately" there are those who are offended. The Christian needs to be aware that the scripture will bring "affliction or persecution" and should be ready for it. We live in a time that promotes only the self interest of the saved, and therefore, when this persecution comes, it brings offense as the preachers are not preparing their congregations for anything that might come against their sensitive feelings. Although American Christians know little to nothing of real persecution, there are still forms of it, whenever the child of God gladly refuses to be offended by it. Rather than obey God than men (Acts 5:29) and take whatever comes with that stand, American Christians today remain concerned about the political scene and their

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“rights” to live a comfortable, lazy, rich life that never comes close to bringing any persecution or reproach. It is a safe walk that they desire and the thought of any “hazard” (Acts 15:26) in living for Christ is a foreign idea.

The next thing that the scriptures can do in the life of the believer is to bring comfort. Paul writes in Romans 15:4 that the things given in the Old Testament scriptures were “written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” A reading of the Old Testament scriptures brings comfort, especially considering the great longsuffering and goodness of God with His people that should lead to repentance (Romans 2:4). Whenever the reader comes across the constant murmuring of the children of Israel (Exodus 15:24; 16:2; Numbers 14:2; 16:11; 16:41), and considers all that the Lord did for them, he is reminded of his own murmuring in the face of all that the Lord has done in his own life. The scriptures bring great comfort in repeatedly seeing the longsuffering of the Lord in our lives to where we are brought to agree with David’s prayer in Psalm 86:15, “But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth”. But another truth regarding the comfort of the scriptures is the fact that as Christians, we are bound to have troubles in this life. Although most of them are not much more than petty aggravations, every once in awhile, the child of God will

be hit with some real troubles. These troubles will bring great sorrows that will pull the saint into a pit that cannot be overcome by a simple “I’m praying for you”. It is in these times that the Christian desperately needs the comfort of the scriptures and finds that only by getting alone with the words of God, can he find the help and comfort that only He can give.

For many, it is the Psalms that become watered with our tears in the night. Every soldier that the Lord uses, must come through this pit, holding on to nothing else but the comforting promises of the scripture. The Holy Spirit has thankfully penned the Psalms for our comfort in these darkest of times. It was not only David’s enemies that brought him low (Psalm 35:7 “For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, with without cause they have digged for my soul”), but his own sins (Psalm 38:3 “There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.”). As he went mourning all the day long (38:6), feeble and sore broken (38:8), his heart panting and his strength failing (38:10), his sorrowful cry went up to the Lord (38:21), begging Him to not hold His peace (Psalm 39:12), and the Lord not only heard, but brought him out (Psalm 40:1-2). It is always easier to thank God after getting out of the horrible pit and looking back on it, than it is to thank Him as we are in it, but the scripture alone gives the saints

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the hope and comfort necessary to sustain us through the trials. The lost world has no hope in their troubles. They just hope against hope that everything will be alright, with nothing to bank it on. Even if the Christian must die in the pit, he has the comfort of the scriptures that it is only "but for a moment" (II Corinthians 4:17), and is nothing compared to our eternal condition (Romans 8:18).

Another power found in the scripture available for the child of God is to prevent sin. David wrote "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). The scripture has the ability to keep the flesh from running the life of the child of God by taking heed to its promises. The flesh is constantly striving to get its way and uses every excuse possible to obtain it's desires. One argument of the flesh is to say, "Since we are all sinners and the flesh is no good (Romans 7:18), then there is no way I can fight against it; I may as well give in". But the scripture does not stop with verse 18, and shows that the warfare within your members (Romans 7:23), has a deliverance through serving the "law of God" (Romans 7:24-25). That law of God is found in the New Testament and must be claimed and believed for it to have effect (I Thessalonians 2:13). The flesh loves to argue that some sin is just too powerful and there is no way that it can be defeated. Yet that feeble excuse is called a lie in I Corinthians 10:13, where the scripture promises a way to escape and that there is not

a single sin that "must" be committed. There is not a single sin (including the strongly addicting ones as alcohol, drugs, nicotine, Internet, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), that a saved soul can honestly say that they must commit, without calling God a liar. We want to feel special and believe that "no one can possibly know what I am going through right now", but once again, the scripture takes away that excuse and says, "there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man" (I Corinthians 10:13). Others have either already faced the same battles and have won, or are in the midst of what you are facing at this very same moment. Either way, the scripture possesses the power to get you through victoriously and pleasing to God, as long as you are willing to allow it in your life.

The scripture is to be received, not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, in order for it to effectually work in your life (I Thessalonians 2:13). It is "given by inspiration of God" (II Timothy 3:16), and is not for "any private interpretation" (II Peter 1:20). By spending time reading the scripture and "comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13), the child of God shows the Lord what he thinks of His words, as well as receiving the benefits of being tried and coming forth as gold, being separated and sticking with the truth, expecting persecution and being glad when it comes, getting comfort that lifts up out of the pit, and being tempted and finding the power to resist.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

January 18-20

Bible Believers Baptist Church
3857 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Pastor David Peacock
(904) 260-8370

November 9-11

Bible Believers Baptist Church
128 Goodman St.
Munfordville, KY 42765
Pastor Sean Riggs
(270) 524-5678

February 8-10

Open Door Baptist Church
7622 Market Ave. N
Canton, OH 44721
Pastor Bob Butterfield
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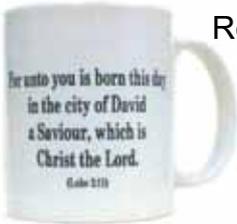
December 7-9

Bible Baptist Church
16503 State Rt. 3.
Catlettsburg, KY 41129
Pastor Dennis Miles
(606) 923-4037

March 8-10

Red Lion Bible Church
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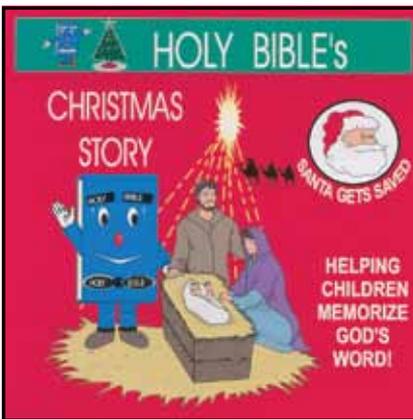
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The Greatly Misunderstood Lawyer

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

Karl Keating is a Roman Catholic lawyer who has taken upon himself the task of being the “champion” (see 1 Sam. 17:4) for the Catholic priests, nuns, bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and popes. The theme he picked to accomplish this, to which he devotes himself year round, is that there are no *Bible-believing Christians* in America who really “understand” Roman Catholic teachings. To Keating, every time a Bible-believing Christian says anything negative about the teachings of the “infallible teaching church,” that Christian is either *lying* or “misrepresenting” the church through ignorance or *maliciousness*.

Quite appropriately, Keating publishes from the “Ignatius Press.” Keating, of course, named it after the founder of the Jesuits, Ignatius Loyola, but ironically, Ignatius was also the name of the first “church father” to use the word *Catholic* in one of his writings. The epistle in which it is found has been the subject of a great deal of debate. Many scholars insist the epistle was *forged* and was not the work of Ignatius at all. Since Catholics claim that *all* church fathers were “Catholic” (Polycarp, Ignatius, Papias, Clement, Irenaeus, Cyprian, Justin Martyr, Eusebius, et al.) and use their writings to prove the Catholic Church was in existence before A.D. 325, we are quite within our rights to mention the fact that the *Catholics themselves* claim they have “early works” bearing the names of these “Fathers” which were FORGED by “early Christians” (O. C. Lambert, *Catholicism Against Itself*,

Vol. I, 1956, pg. 51). Fortunately, the proof we have for this is in the official Roman Catholic literature, bearing the imprimatur of the archbishop and the “*Censor Librarium*” (*nihil obstat*—nothing objectionable to Catholic doctrine). *Keating’s books are not that official*; they are just the work of a “freelancer” in California who is worried about the loss of Hispanics from the pope by biblical witnesses as quickly as they get into California from Mexico.

Now contrary to the misinformation put out by Karl Keating, there are *thousands* of Bible believers who know *exactly* what Rome teaches, especially about *salvation*, world domination, and the imprisonment or killing of people it considers to be “heretics.” Of course, the average nominal Catholic who goes about the daily business of making a living knows little or nothing of these things, having surrendered his conscience to his church. It was Pope Leo XIII who said *liberty of conscience* was the most dangerous thing in the world; ditto Pius IX (Dec. 1864).

Of course, Keating would never assent to that statement, although it came from the head of his “infallible teaching church,” which Keating would believe if it told him anything. Yes, yes, we know he would invent a hypothetical case where he wouldn’t do a certain thing if his priest or the pope told him to do it, but having professed to believe that no one on earth could know the Bible was inspired *without the Catholic Church telling him it was* (*Catholicism and Fundamentalism*, pp. 125, 133), Keating certainly would accept what

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his church told him *if he agreed with it*. If he didn't (like the case above), he would try to explain it away ("you don't really understand what the pope meant"), or he would fall back on the pope not speaking "*ex cathedra*" (which is why one Catholic historian said the idea of an "infallible pope" was *meaningless* because no one could say for certain exactly when a pope spoke "*ex cathedra*." "Infallible popes" have been known to contradict each other; see O. C. Lambert's work *Catholicism Against Itself*). Well, the nonsense about not knowing the Bible was inspired unless the Catholic Church told you wasn't "*ex cathedra*" either; the infallible popes have only made *two* "infallible" pronouncements in 160 years.

Keating is way "off base" on his basics. We all know that the Catholic Church got so fouled up in doctrine and practice that it produced the poor standard of living found in Spain, Italy, Ireland, Mexico, and Latin America. We all know why Sapin has never been a fifth-rate world power since 1588 when the Catholic Priests tried bringing the Inquisition to England with the instruments of torture aboard the ships in the Spanish Armada. We all know why the United States sends out more than 75% of all the missionaries in the world and how Catholic missions (Xavier, the Franciscans, the Dominicans, etc.) specialize not in preaching the Gospel, but in spreading antibiblical heresies all over the mission fields of the earth "**to make one proselyte . . . twofold more the child of hell**" (Matt. 23:15).

We know all this because we know the philosophy under which all

Catholics operate, a philosophy they have been taught in every parish since A.D. 500. Every time a Catholic catches his church teaching or practicing something with no scriptural authority for it and which is in direct contradiction to the scriptures, he is taught to believe that it is due to a "gradual development" of Christian doctrine that picked up momentum *after the New Testament was written*; that is, this is *religious Darwinism* in action. The "evolution" is still in process, so that through a space of about 1,600 years, a monstrosity has arisen (Matt. 13:32) with every type of nonscriptural practice imaginable.

Of course, some of them are only mild defections from scripture or "incompatible" with scripture, but the main one, the WAY OF SALVATION, cuts straight across the grain so that no Catholic on this earth can have assurance of eternal life *until he is dead*. This eliminates Peter (1 Pet. 1:4), John (1 John 5:13), and Paul (2 Tim. 1:12) as "Bible-believing Christians." According to Karl Keating, the Knights of Columbus, and the popes, they were *heretics* because they all knew where they were going when they died, and two of them knew when (2 Pet. 1:14; 2 Tim. 4:6).

Nevertheless, Keating assures us that *no* Bible-believing Christian has a clear view of Catholicism. To prove this, he cites "mistakes" from the works of Avro Manhattan and Lorraine Boettner, "mistakes" from converted priests like Joseph Zacchello and Walter Montano, and "mistakes" from Jack Chick and Alberto Rivera. It is amazing how secular and church historians, converted priests, and

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The Greatly Misunderstood Lawyer

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Bible-believing preachers and evangelists all come out as *slanders*, *libelists*, or *blockheads* when talking about Rome.

Sample: "There is no more confusing topic when Fundamentalists and Catholics sit down to talk than *salvation*. It goes beyond the standard question posed by Fundamentalists, 'Have you been saved?' It also means, 'Don't you wish you had assurance of salvation?' Fundamentalists, along with most Evangelicals, THINK they do" (*Catholicism and Fundamentalism*, pg. 164).

Libel: We KNOW we do.

"For which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I KNOW whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day" (2 Tim. 1:12).

"Being CONFIDENT of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6).

"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:13).

Pretty rough on "misunderstanding" a religion yourself, aren't you there, Keating.

"They are absolutely sure they will go to Heaven immediately after death . . ." (Ibid., pg. 164). Keating gives no scripture given by fundamentalists for believing that. Keating couldn't list or discuss the scriptures

we presented above. Since all Bible-believing Christians "are absolutely sure they will go to Heaven immediately after death," why didn't Karl give you the verses for the belief?

". . . their assurance is no less lively than is the assurance of the Moslem participant in a jihad who thinks he will be translated to the seventh heaven (with all its hours) if he dies in battle" (Ibid.). Why Keating, you old prevaricator! Why compare a Christian who bases his assurance *on the promise of God in the scriptures* with a Moslem who bases his hope of paradise and 72 virgins on the ravings of a demon-possessed epileptic who believed in killing Christians and Jews—and anyone else who wouldn't accept his religion? Why, there is no comparison between the two. But if you want to know who is like the Moslem, just go back to Keating's "infallible Popes" (e.g., Urban II) who promised his church members that if they died fighting for the church (e.g., in the Crusades) that they would get an automatic passport into heaven. Don't kid us, Keating. I was in the United States infantry for 48 months back in World War II. Hundreds of Roman Catholics thought (and stated) that *death in battle* would get them to heaven. I suppose they were "Fundamentalists" who "misunderstood" *their own religion from their own priests*.

Now I am going to continue to give you what Keating says, but I am going to fill in the scripture references which he leaves out because they contradict everything his church teaches about salvation. Keating doesn't want his readers to have

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the information. They are to read his account of what fundamentalists believe and be "shocked" by the horrible teaching that a man's works have no affect on his salvation. All Catholic authors write in this fashion: shock will carry them through where *the facts won't*.

"Fundamentalists conclude FROM THE BIBLE (well, Keating got that part right at least; it's like John Wesley's reply to a papist when he was asked where his religion was to be found: "in the Bible AND NOWHERE ELSE") that Christ actually promised that heaven is theirs in exchange for a remarkably simple act (Acts 16:30–31 cf. 2 Cor. 11:3). All they have to do at just one point in their lives is 'accept Christ as their personal Saviour' (John 1:12). Then it is done (Heb. 10:10–14). They may live exemplary lives thereafter, but living well is not crucial; it does not affect their salvation (Tit. 3:5; Eph. 2:8–9). For Catholics, salvation depends on the state of the soul at death" (Ibid., pg. 166).

What is a "soul," Karl? He doesn't know, and neither do his priest or bishop. "State of the soul"? The expression is part of that "evolutionary development" that went beyond the New Testament. There is no "state of the soul" in the New Testament; it is the *spirit* that is born again (John 3:3–8), not the soul.

"Christ has already redeemed us, unlocked the gates of Heaven as it were" (Ibid.). As it were? What in blazes are you talking about?! Nothing was "unlocked." **"The veil of the temple was rent in twain"** (Mark 15:38); it was *torn open* to make way for you to God (Heb. 6:19, 9:3, 8,

11–15). "As it were"? You mean as it WEREN'T!

"He (i.e., Christ) did His part, and now we have to cooperate by doing ours (scripture?). If we are to pass through those gates, we have to be in the right spiritual state (scripture?). The church teaches that only souls that are objectively good (scripture?) and objectively pleasing to God merit Heaven (scripture?), and such souls are ones filled with sanctifying grace (scripture?)" (Ibid.).

I said, "SCRIPTURE?" *No scripture*. This is some more "evolutionary development of doctrine" by "early Christians" (meaning *no one* in the book of Acts or the epistles).

Let's fill in for Karl, shall we.

1. You will do "your part," will you? Not according to Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8–9; and Isaiah 64:6 you won't! When it comes to salvation, do you know what "your part" is? It is to believe *you have no part* (Rom. 4:5; Gal. 2:16).

2. You will "pass through the gates," will you? What will you do when you find out that every saved sinner on this earth had already been sitting INSIDE the gates with his Saviour his entire life from the moment he received Christ (Eph. 2:5–6). All Saved sinners were with Jesus Christ from the moment they were saved, because they are IN HIM as part of His flesh and bones (Eph. 5:25–30), so they are where He is spiritually (cf. Eph. 1:20).

3. "Souls that are objectively good . . . merit Heaven," do they? What did *Solomon* say? What did *David* say? What did *Paul* say? What did *Jesus Christ* say? Why don't you look up

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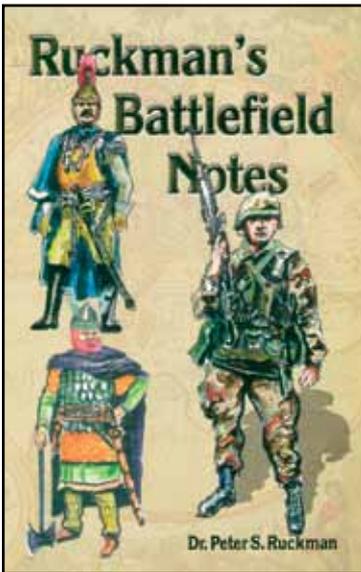
The Greatly Misunderstood Lawyer

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Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 39:5; Romans 3:10–19; and Luke 18:19 and find out! After all, what are the teachings of “the church” alongside the words of the Son of God and the Holy Spirit (John 6:63, 16:13).

If Karl Keating lived a sinless life for the next forty years, he would no more “merit Heaven” than Al Capone, Adolf Hitler, or Bloody Mary (*all* baptized, confirmed Roman Catholics who have never been excommunicated for what they did). Salvation

is “**not by works of righteousness**” (Tit. 3:5), it is “**not of works**” (Eph. 2:9), and it is **NOT BY WORKING** (Rom. 4:5)! The “Catholic position” on salvation is *anti-Pauline*, it is *anti-biblical*, and it is *anti-Christian*. According to what? *According to an inspired Book that God wrote.*

Next month we will continue to examine the teachings of this greatly misunderstood lawyer and his greatly misunderstood church on the doctrine of salvation.



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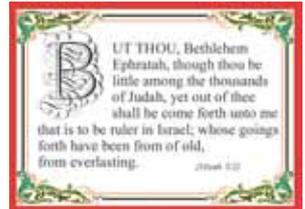
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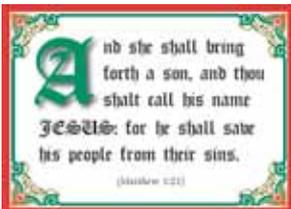
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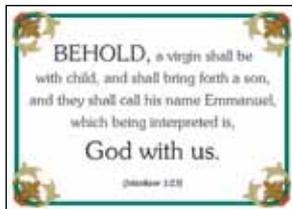
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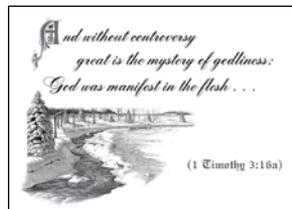
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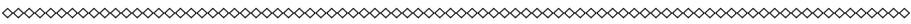
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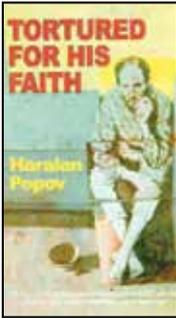


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Who Was the Real Illiterate?

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part 2 of 2)

We have been dealing with Allah's "prophet" talking to himself about those things of which he knows *nothing* and *omitting* everything from his "revelation" of which he was ignorant. If you compare the material in the Holy Bible to the material in the "Holy" Koran, you would have to come to one of two conclusions: either *Mohammed* didn't know where he was or what he was doing, or it was *Allah* that didn't have any brains or didn't want anyone to find out anything. Mohammed claimed to represent a being who couldn't tell him one-twentieth of what is found in *one book of the Bible*.

I ought to know; I've got copies of both here on my desk. I've got a Holy Bible on one side and the "Noble Koran" on the other. I pick up that Bible, and in the Old Testament, here are twelve "Minor Prophets" (Hosea–Malachi) and five "Major Prophets" (Isaiah–Daniel) who cover 400 items that both Allah and Mohammed *missed*: they knew nothing about them at all and couldn't even give you a *hint* as to 400 prophecies that will take place here in the near future.

I have read many places in the Koran where the writer (pretending to be Allah) says "we" and still claimed to be just Allah speaking in the first person (after saying belief in the Trinity was polytheism and that a good Moslem was to *kill* anyone who believed that). Allah says, "We did *many signs*," "We showed *many signs*," and "They didn't believe *the signs* we showed them." Well, you look for those "signs" Allah suppos-

edly did, and there's none in the Koran. A "sign" for a Moslem would be that Allah gave him a meal or kept him alive, and of course, that's not a "sign" at all. It's just the common, everyday *grace* that God bestows on any sinner (Acts 14:17).

In the Bible, the Lord God gives you all kinds of "signs." A *rainbow* is a sign (Gen. 9:13). The *plagues in Egypt* were a sign (Exod. 10:2). *Unleavened bread at Passover* is a sign (Exod. 13:7–9). The *Sabbath* is a sign (Exod. 31:13). The *twelve stones from the bed of the Jordan River* were a sign (Josh. 4:1–7). The *brass plates that covered the brazen altar* were a sign (Num. 16:38). *Korah, Dathan, and Abiram going down alive into the pit* was a sign (Num. 26:10). The *virgin birth* was a sign (Isa. 7:14). *Jonah coming out of the belly of the whale* was a sign (Matt. 12:39–40). The *baby Jesus lying in a manger* (not under a *palm tree* as the Koran says) was a sign (Luke 2:12). *The gift of tongues* was a sign (1 Cor. 14:22).

And the signs Mohammed showed are what? *Are you trying to be funny?* Mohammed couldn't show a real "sign" at all. No wonder someone caricatured a clown like that. He was a joke.

When it came to the facts of history, Mohammed had no idea which end was up. Not only did he have Jesus being born under a palm tree in a far-off place instead of in a manger at Bethlehem (Sura 19:27–28), he also had Noah's son drowning in the Flood (Sura 11:42–43), Haman building the Tower of Babel for Pharaoh in Egypt (Sura 28:38–39), a Samaritan

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Who Was the Real Illiterate?

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building the golden calf (Sura 20:85–88), Abraham sacrificing Ishmael instead of Isaac (Sura 37:100–107), and somebody else being crucified in the place of Jesus Christ (Sura 4:15). Allah and his “messenger” were either very *crooked* or very *stupid*. You can guess which one.

Do you see now why all Moslem terrorists are terror-stricken themselves by the thought of any of their people reading the Bible? They are afraid their fellow Mohammedans will get information they can't find anywhere in the Koran. They will find out what a *stupid ignoramus* (or a *crooked liar*) Allah really was. Or maybe it was “Gabriel” or Mohammed; *it was probably all three*.

The common, ordinary Moslem doesn't dare pick up a Bible and compare it with the Koran. You see, he lives under a terrorist religion that puts him in terror from the time he is a little child. From the time a Moslem is old enough to understand, he is informed that if he ever leaves his parents' religion, he'll be *killed*. That's why the Bible remains a closed book to him. He won't open it, read it, or believe it for *fear of his life*.

Of course, the Moslems have teachers (imams) who attack the veracity of the Bible just as I do the Koran. I have read several of them. All they do is repeat the same tired criticisms brought against it by the German rationalists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They simply “regurgitate” the same “contradictions in the Bible” which have been answered time and time again. The imams have nothing original to offer than did their founder

(Mohammed copied everything he got from other religions: Christianity, Roman Catholicism, Gnosticism, Zoroastrianism, and Judaism). The imams are poor, stupid, blind *dumbbells* who were raised on *flaming ignorance*.

The “light” you get out of any copy of the Bible when compared with “light” from the Koran is like setting a 500-watt searchlight alongside a cigarette lighter. The Koran is nothing but cartoon material, and if you didn't represent it with a cartoon, you wouldn't be an honest artist.

To this day, I haven't got the mystery solved. Allah was either completely neglectful of his “chosen people,” or he purposefully decided to keep from them about 500 things they should have known. The only other possibility is that he was just as *blind, stupid, and illiterate* as the man he chose as his “prophet.”

Recently some of the more highly educated imams have gone around the United States and shown that Mohammed *wasn't* illiterate, but then that does away with the so-called “miracle of the Koran” (which was about as miraculous as a man taking “Tums” for an upset tummy).

Do you want *information*? There is more information on God, man, and spiritual things in *one book* of the Bible (say, Psalms, Proverbs, Job, or Romans) than there is in *114 chapters* of a book written by someone who couldn't put his name on the work when he finished writing it. The 600-winged angel who dictated the Koran to Mohammed *never wrote a word of it*. The man who said he was speaking it *never wrote a word of it*—

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Who Was the Real Illiterate?

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whether he was illiterate or not. "The god" Mohammed said wrote it *never showed it to anybody*, including Mohammed.

Now those are the facts of Islam. That's what these dumb, stupid Mohammedans have had to live with for fourteen centuries: *pitch black darkness*. They are in as much impregnable darkness today as they were all the way back in A.D. 600. The "Glorious Koran" couldn't compete with the Holy Bible on *anything* when it came to *genuine knowledge* of anything.

The Bible is the Book that identifies Mohammed as *an antichrist* (1 John 2:22). The Bible is the Book that tells you that "the god" (the word *Allah* means "the god" in Arabic) is *Satan* (2 Cor. 4:4; Dan. 11:38). How's that for a holy "apostle" or "prophet"

from God? Those revelations are from the "**beloved apostle**" (John) who knew Jesus Christ better than a fornicating camel trader who lived 500 years later, from the apostle to Mohammed's native people (Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles, and every rag-headed Arabian who ever lived was a Gentile), and from a Jewish prophet who laid out the history of the Gentile nations for the next 3,000 years (Daniel). Allah just threw out those three Jews who could actually prophesy and got him a military dictator who couldn't tell you anything that was so unless he got it from a Book written 800 years before his mother was born.

John, Paul, and Daniel all signed their names to the books they wrote. Not one writer of the Koran identified himself. Of the three who did take

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credit for it (Allah, "Gabriel," and Mohammed), all you can say for them is that they dealt in sheer stupidity, what we call "flaming ignorance." All three of them missed about twenty details on the upcoming world ruler as given by John, Paul, and Daniel in Revelation 13, Daniel 11, and 2 Thessalonians 2. All three of those chapters in the Bible deal with historical prophecies on the Antichrist; no writer (or *speaker*) of the Koran knew anything about the Antichrist at all, at least not from the "revelation" that was left behind. The Koran is a perfect blank on the subject.

If you want to know the real reason Moslems want to kill people who make fun of Mohammed, it has nothing to do with "blasphemy" at all. Nobody who knew the Bible would take such a pathetic character seriously as a "man of God" for three seconds. Moslems will kill you for making fun of their "prophet" because that's the only way they can defend his stupidity and ignorance; they have no real intellectual, rational, spiritual defense; so they have to eliminate the source of the ridicule.

No normal reader between the ages of twelve and eighty would take the Koran seriously after reading the Old and New Testaments. Mohammed *counterfeited* the Old Testament and then *denied* the New Testament. That can be proved in any court in the world except a *Moslem* court; that's why the Mohammedans want "Sharia" (Koranic law) put into the judicial system of the West. They want to limit and control the evidence and information to give themselves the advantage.

The speakers, writers, and followers of the Koran missed so much information that it is absolutely pitiful. They all missed the new birth, the blood atonement, the Body of Christ, spiritual circumcision, the two natures, etc. Moreover, all of them were ignorant of everything around them, including their *jobs*, their *plants*, their *diets*, their *prophets*, their *equipment*, their *occupations*, and their *past*, *present*, and *future*. All those things are laid out in the Holy Bible.

Like the Book says (and I *don't* mean the Koran): "**if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant**" (1 Cor. 14:38); and "**Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly**" (Prov. 17:12). When it came to the contents of the 66 books of the Bible, Mohammed was one of the dumbest thumps on this earth. His ignorance of God, mankind, the past, the present, the future, his own people, his own nation, and *himself* was absolutely appalling. You would have a hard time finding a more stupid individual if you searched the annals of religious leaders from 3000 B.C.–A.D. 2013 with a laser beam and a searchlight.

Yet, in spite of that debilitating handicap, Mohammed still managed to gather to himself about a billion people just as stupid as himself, who justify pederasty, polygamy, assassinations, slavery, and outright lying about spiritual things. *It couldn't be anybody who had been enlightened by God and the Holy Bible.*

Here at the end of the church age, the United States is now playing host to *eight million Moslems* (40,000 in Dearborn, Michigan alone, and an-

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other 30,000 in Oklahoma, etc.) who all follow a prophetic clown. Mohammed couldn't prophecy *anything*, including his own death or the future of his own people, the Arabians. If you want that information, you will find it in the *Bible* books of Esther, Nehemiah, Psalms, and Jeremiah. Don't bother looking for it in the *Koran* because it's not there.

Whoever put the *Koran* together was just as blind as a bat backing into a blizzard. Whichever of the three who claimed to originate it—Allah, "Gabriel," or Mohammed—there is one thing for certain: none of them could tell whether the sun was going to rise the next day without copying what *someone else knew*.

Now watch one of these "global family," one-world, loving, "religion-of-peace" fanatics get all torn up over this article and become "offended" to the point of *committing murder* to prove his religion is superior. *If* that happens (and it *has* happened and *is* happening in other parts of the world where the Mohammedans can get away with it with impunity), do you know *why* it will happen? Because the psychotic paranoid doesn't have a spiritual brain in his head; *violence* is the only way he has of defending his religion. That is how Moslems have done it from A.D. 700–2013.

The goal for America and Germany (where we got Martin Luther's *Heilige Schrift* and the King James Bible that launched the greatest era of missions and evangelism the world has ever known) right now is to get their *religious laws* ("Sharia") installed into every big city where they have a large community. That

way they can take over parts of the city for *themselves* (like they have in Paris and London), with the goal being the *entire city*. You are in the process of trading in your Christian, biblical culture, that made this nation the greatest on earth, for a *seventh-century Arabic culture*. It is a culture led by "three blind mice" (Allah, "Gabriel," and Mohammed); you would be better off turning it over to the Three Stooges.

You couldn't find anybody dumber than Allah, "Gabriel," and Mohammed when it comes to anything *spiritual*. Anything Mohammed got right in the *Koran*, he *counterfeited* or *stole* from the Bible. To hide the fact that he was a *thief*, Mohammed called Jesus Christ, Peter, James, John, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Paul, and Jude *liars*. Then to defend his book, he had his followers *cut off heads and blow people up with bombs*.

That shows you how "spiritual" Mohammed and his followers are. Anyone who knows the New Testament knows if you have the truth, you don't have to defend it with *carnal weapons* (2 Cor. 10:4). *The Crusades (1100–1200) were carried out by two pagan religions that rejected the New Testament*. Both have used lying, stealing, adultery, fornication, politics, broken treaties, armed force, and assassination to "spread the faith."

Both Islam and Roman Catholicism are "peas in a pod" when it comes to *works salvation*, and *keeping the Bible from their people*. But when it comes to *sheer ignorance and stupidity*, Allah and Mohammed have Mary and the popes beat hands down.

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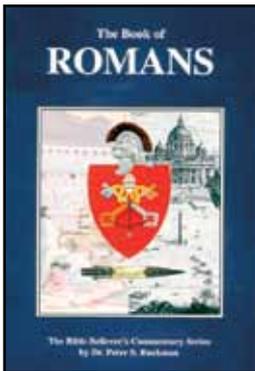
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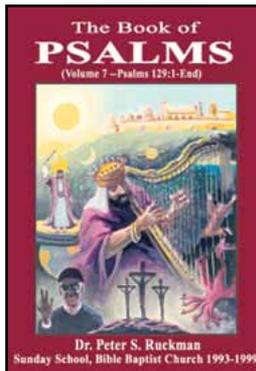
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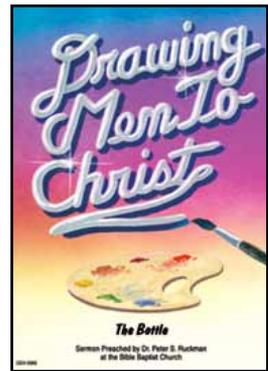
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Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part Six of Six)

We have been discussing spiritual diseases spread by the infected malpractitioners in the Scholars' Union and the Alexandrian Cult. Just like the children of Israel during the time of Isaiah, "**the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint**" (Isa. 1:5) in the body of Christ in America today. This was done by tainting the "food source" of the believer—the written words of God in the scriptures (Matt. 4:4). So far, we have examined 54 cases of deadly infections which have caused a raging epidemic of infidelity in the word of God among the Christians who listened to and believed the sick apostates. Here we will finish our examination of these communicable diseases which are finishing off the body of Christ in the English-speaking world.

55) *Proverbs 11:30*. Why did these diseased invalids get rid of the *soulwinners*? Why couldn't they believe and accept God Almighty's judgment on the matter when He said, "**he that winneth souls is wise**"? That's easy to answer: among the 300 professional critics of the King James Bible (see the list at the back of *The Christian Liar's Library*), not ten of them are soulwinners. They've been rendered impotent spiritually by spiritual VD.

56 & 57) *Proverbs 18:1–2*. Since all the deathly ill critics "read their title clear" at verse 2, they all got rid of the charge as quickly as a batter would duck a "bean ball."

The scholar who meddled "**with all wisdom**" did so in order to have an *alibi* for *doing what he wanted to do in his heart*. For example: committing a sexual sin, indulging in gambling or playing the stock market, skirting the commands in scripture to witness for Christ and win souls, continue to practice a bad habit, *replace the God-honored text of 1611 with their own linguistic knowledge so they can be the final authority instead of the Book*.

To safeguard their own membership from being detected by the reader, the Scholars' Union has altered the last clause in verse 2 to read as follows:

- a. "Delights in airing his own opinions."
- b. "All he wants to do is yell."
- c. "But only expressing his own opinion."

There are a dozen other variations. All of them are designed to sidetrack the reader so he won't spot the "**fool**" who lives a "separated life" (Jude 19). The problem is he is not "separated" where it counts (2 Cor. 6:17); they are spreading their spiritual leprosy to as many as they can contact.

58) 2 *Corinthians 2:17*. What happened to all the corrupters of the holy scriptures in the new versions? Where did they go? Suddenly all of them vanished, although there were "**many**" when Paul wrote 2 *Corinthians 2:17*.

They were *replaced* by someone else so the reader would not *recog-*

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Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

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nize them. "Peddlers" replaced the corrupters so the corrupters could continue to infect the body of Christ by corrupting the word of God.

59) *Proverbs 30:31*. Not a universal "pandemic" this time, but deadly in the versions that erase the revelation of the Antichrist in the verse. In the Holy Bible (AV 1611), the victorious "**king**" (cf. Rev. 6:2) is connected to the "**he-goat**" of Daniel 8:5–11. There is no "**rising up**" against that king (Rev. 13:4); he is an absolute international *military dictator*. The translations that failed to tell you that allowed you to contract spiritual herpes or trachoma so you would fail to see the He-goat and "**the king of terrors**" (Job 18:14) when he showed up in the scriptures.

60) *Daniel 3:25*. The modern translations have "genetically altered" "**the Son of God**" to "*a son of the gods*." This deadly mutation destroyed a reference to *Jesus Christ in the Old Testament*.

Listen, if Solomon knew that God had a Son 500 years before Daniel 3 (see Prov. 30:4), why couldn't Nebuchadnezzar have thought he saw Him? Do you know why the angel of the Lord refused to give His name in the Old Testament (Judg. 13:17–18; Gen. 32:29)? Because it was the name of a *man* (1 Tim. 2:5) that could not be revealed until His incarnation (Matt. 1:20–21; Luke 1:31–32). The name of the Angel of the Lord in the New Testament was *Jesus, the Son of God* (Gal. 4:14;

Acts 27:23).

61) *Ecclesiastes 3:11*. The apostates have contracted endocarditis (infection of the inner linings of the heart) and want to spread it to *you*. Who in his right mind would think God had planted "*eternity*" in *anyone's* heart? Eternity would not even suggest itself until the sinner began to get under conviction about his sins and became convinced that a *judgment* awaited him (Heb. 9:27).

Stop any three billion people at random, at any time day or night, and "take a survey" to find out if any of them are concerned about eternity instead of *this world*. You might find a few—VERY FEW. If you find any rare birds like that, it will be because they had *the world* shoved over in their hearts to make room for thoughts of eternity; *they weren't there automatically*.

Read Matthew 15:18–19. Do you see "eternity" anywhere among the things listed by Jesus Christ that are in the heart of mankind. "**The heart of the children of man**" is not "**fully set to do evil**" (Eccl. 8:11) because they are thinking about eternity. The reason their hearts are "**fully set to do evil**" is because they are thinking about the immediate or near future here on this earth, not eternity—*never* eternity.

Gross error. One of the grossest errors in history: a gross error in evaluating *human nature*. A gross error producing gross mental, so-

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Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

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cial, spiritual, religious, and physical illness—a cancerous growth that will *kill you* in the end.

62) *Ecclesiastes 12:9*. What happened to the Bible-believing “**preacher**” who had been preaching “**acceptable words**” from “**that which was written**” (Eccl. 12:10), which were “**words of truth**” (Psa. 119:160; Eph. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:15; Rev. 22:6)? When he shows up in the NIV, the Holman Christian Standard Bible, Good News for Modern man, the CEV, the New Living Translation, and the NRSV, he becomes a “*teacher*” (or a “*philosopher*”—Col. 2:8) who *can't preach*, so he just scratches the ears of the Christians who can't stand “**sound doctrine**” (2 Tim. 4:3).

Why? Because more than 280 of the “*teachers*” out of the 320 listed in the back end of *The Christian Liar's Library* could not preach the Bible any better than Joel Osteen, Hillary Clinton, Rick Warren, Robert Schuller, Benny Hinn, Robert Tilton, Mae West, Madonna, or Miley Cyrus. The whole crew from Augustine, Origen, and Jerome to Earl Stanley Jones, Norman Vincent Peale, and Pope Francis could no more preach the great doctrines of the Bible than Dr. James Dobson, Pope John Paul II, or A. T. Robertson.

When it comes to preaching on heaven, hell, the new birth, repentance, Bible prophecy, and witnessing for Christ, Westcott and Hort, Spiros Zodhiates, Kenneth Wuest, G. Christian Weiss, Nestle, Vincent,

Thayer, Griesbach, Tischendorf, Aland, Metzger, Farstad, Kutilek, and Sumner couldn't bust a butterfly's wing with a sledge hammer. When it comes to preaching, Billy Sunday or J. Frank Norris would make the great “Bible scholars” look like a Brownie troop in the Girl Scouts. Spiritual anemia to the point of dying.

63) *Job 3:8*. Now here is a place for the worshiper of the “original autographs” who corrects the King James text with Hebrew Masoretic text (or the Greek *Textus Receptus*) to shine. You see, the word for “**mourning**” in Hebrew is the word *leviathan* (Job 41), which is what the new versions change the word to. But this time, the “nugget” backs up sound Bible doctrine on the devil and the Antichrist (see our comments on Zech. 11:17 in this series).

Having changed the text, they can't expound their own translation. How come none of them are telling you about mourning over the death of *leviathan*? When the Man of Sin receives his “**deadly wound**” (2 Thess. 2:3 cf. Rev. 13:3), his idolators (Zech. 11:17; Rev. 13:14) want him to rise from the dead just like Jesus Christ did. Satan enters the dead “**man of sin,**” and up he comes. Satan becomes incarnate in him, so he becomes “**the son of perdition**” (2 Thess. 2:3–9).

But you see, the apostates converted the *leviathan* of Job 41 into a whale (or a hippopotamus, croco-

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Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

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dile, or dinosaur) so you would lose the connection to Satan (Job 41:34; Psa. 74:14; Isa. 27:1 cf. Rev. 12:3, 9, 13:1–2). In so doing, they got rid of the passages which interpret Job 3:8 (Ezek. 28:14–19, 29:3–5, 31:10–15, 32:5–9).

Moral: the apostate fundamentalist who corrects the King James Bible with the “original Greek or Hebrew” (or the Masoretic or TR texts) will correct the Greek or Hebrew as quickly as look at you if the texts of any of them (English, Greek, or Hebrew) cross the *private interpretations of these ignorant reprobates*. Mark it down, *nothing* is more “sacred” to these hypocrites than *their own diseased, sick opinions and preferences*.

64) Job 37:4. The diseased, rotten, corrupt modern translations don't care for that “**them**” in the verse. They go back to verse 3 and change the “**lightning**” singular into a *plural* and insert it into verse 4 when the Hebrew word for lightning (or lightnings) is nowhere to be found in verse 4. Do you see what I mean now when I say these apostates will change “the originals” at any point where it crosses their own private interpretations?

Now who was that “**them**” there in Job 37:4? Who is God not “staying”? Why, according to the scriptures, the reference is to the *rapture* (see Isa. 26:19–20; Psa. 50:4–5; 1 Thess. 4:14–18; John 11:25–26; 1 Cor. 15:50–57; Rev. 4:1–2).

How did over 300 Christian

“scholars” miss the verses while bragging about Masoretic Hebrew texts and Textus Receptus Greek texts? They refused to look up *one* verse in either Testament that gave the biblical interpretation.

That is 100% of the “good, godly, qualified, recognized” Christian scholars who take their Bible studies “seriously.” They're sick, man. They're eaten up with Ebola, SARS, GRID, cancer, syphilis, herpes, bubonic plague, and sepsis. They're infected to the point of no return. Call for the undertaker.

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What the Scripture Can Do
The Armour of Truth & Righteousness
Without
The Foot Soldier

Zack Colvin

The Self-Consumed Life of Jonah
A Little Revival

David Peacock

Moreover the Dogs Came

Gabriel Cochran

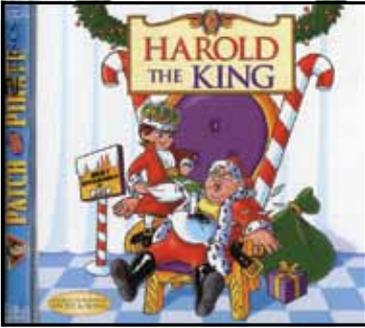
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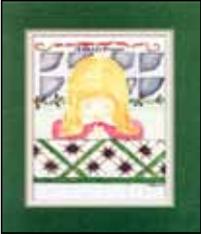
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Cowardice In Battle

By Robert Militello

“The fear of man bringeth a snare . . .” (Prov. 29:25). Overcoming one’s fear to stand up for Jesus is a ferocious struggle from the moment you are born again. Keeping the mouth of a Christian “zipped” is the devil’s chief labor. That strategy is manifestly apparent throughout the book of Acts. There is no letup in this war, brethren. What is at the root of this fear?

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42–43).

There it is! This desire to be liked, to be noticed and accepted, is a cancer in the church of God. If I were on Facebook (which, thank God, I am not), I would post only those things that would elicit a deluge of “dislikes.” If saved, you are **“accepted in the beloved”** (see Eph. 1:6). My self-esteem, my sense of worth, comes from what the Holy Spirit tells me, not what anyone else says. Failing to grasp the power of this liberating truth, too many saints live their lives unable to swim out of the devil’s net. It’s a spiritual prison house to live in fear of men.

When the prophet Jeremiah challenged Judah’s last king to obey God’s word, Zedekiah folded like a cheap umbrella on a windy day.

“And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am AFRAID of the Jews that are fallen to the Chal-

deans, lest they deliver me into their hand, AND THEY MOCK ME” (Jer. 38:19).

How’s that for the courage of a king? God tells us that we are **“kings and priests unto God”** (Rev. 1:6). Something has gone terribly wrong. In the last days’ church (Laodicea), modern “Bible versions, lollipop preachers, wimpy “worship” songs, and social acceptability has spawned an army of Zedekiahs. This is an army of carnal children playing with water guns, peashooters, and air rifles. The times in which we live require a boldness, and that comes with spending time in the word of God. There is no shortcut to beating down the fear of man. If you find one, let me know.

God’s church was born with a holy boldness.

“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that WITH ALL BOLDNESS they may speak thy word” (Acts 4:29).

The apostles and disciples, Stephen among them, were led to confront the religious elite publicly and to take the truth to every house in Jerusalem.

“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ” (Acts 5:42).

Boldness born of God pushes aside sentimentality and the regard for folks’ sensitivities. God’s word is a knife that threatens to stab at a rebel’s complacency, and that knife will be vigorously opposed.

“When they heard these things,

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Cowardice In Battle

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they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth" (Acts 7:54).

Boldness cost Stephen his life. The first martyr of the church didn't die preaching "God loves you!" No one gets upset over that. Folks tolerate preachers who show concern for their feelings.

It's not hard these days for believers to find a church where rebellion against God's authority is selectively ignored. Avoiding contention and pretending all is well is a powerful seduction to the men in pulpits today. Jude confronts this situation head-on: ". . . **it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints**" (Jude 3). Note the word "**earnestly**," "**The faith**" to be fought for, the standard to uphold, is God's holiness and His judgment on rebellion and sin. Christians are getting sloppy in these last days. Jude 24 is an encouragement, and staying in the Book is a necessity.

"And be ye of good courage, and bring of the fruit of the land" (Num. 13:20). Here is the first time the word "**courage**" appears in the KJV. "**Courage**" and "**courageous**" appear 24 more times, with the book of Joshua containing seven appearances. The words *coward* and *brave* are not in your Bible. Bravery shows up once in Isaiah 3:18, and the context is one of rebuke and irony: "**In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments.**" Isaiah 3 is a classic piece of

the Lord's "hate speech" toward His rebellious people. Christians who are fond of saying, "God loves everyone" are forced to ignore large portions of God's word in order to give credence to their silly, childish theology. Brethren, we have a Book that faithfully records God's view of things regardless of how you and I feel about it. If you love God, you love the truth—negative or not!

Boldness and courage are absolutely necessary for a saved sinner to become a disciple. Closet Christians were a problem in Paul's day (Phil. 3:17–20), and enemies of the cross fill the pews in these last days of Laodicea. Now, novels never appealed to me, but one in particular made a real impression on my soul as a teenager. In Jesuit school ('59–'63), you had to read a lot of books. On the reading list was Stephen Crane's *Red Badge of Courage*. This American classic appeared in print in 1895 and made Crane famous at 24. It's the story of an 18-year-old private in the 304th New York Regiment, named Henry Fleming. Our Civil War made men out of boys while testing one's willingness to confront fear in ways never before experienced. Pvt. Fleming in his first taste of battle ran. John Mark quit the field in Acts, and Paul and Barnabas went on without him. Folks quit when the going gets tough, and Paul knew that when he wrote to Timothy telling him to "**endure hardness**" (2 Tim. 2:3). Our race to the finish line is a marathon and not a one-hundred-yard dash. How tragic it would be to grow weary and quit just before

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Cowardice In Battle

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the Lord comes. We need prayer, the kind which reaches God's heart. Paul knew this and asked the saints to pray for him.

“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may OPEN MY MOUTH BOLDLY, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I MAY SPEAK BOLDLY, AS I OUGHT TO SPEAK” (Eph. 6:19–20).

See that phrase **“as I ought to speak”**—think about that a while. Why be defensive or apologetic about anything God says in His word? Too many saints are averse to taking risks for their Saviour. The desire to “play it safe” is the breeding ground for cowardice. Life is filled with risks, and no doubt, many risks were taken before conversion to Christ. Before I got saved, I had a gambling problem. When I called the bookmaker to place my bets, I would get an adrenalin rush, and I knew that I was addicted. There is no chain the Lord can't break, so I lost that chain and others by crying out to God and burying my face in His word. I owe Him a great debt, and so I labor to show my appreciation by bragging about Jesus wherever and to whomever I can. What about you?

In case you didn't know soldiers, though, not all like to gamble. Looking down from His cross, the Lord saw Roman soldiers gambling for His garments. Soldiers in the Lord's army accomplish little spiritual good by taking a defensive position. Going on the attack with **“the sword of the Spirit”** (Eph. 6:17) gives me a

“rush.” Is it thus with you? Why do so many saints lose the fire they had when first coming to the Lord? Often, after being rebuked for their boldness, young Christians allow the devil to put a bridle in their mouth. Zeal begins to wane, and they find a comfort zone in which to walk, where risk-taking is pushed to the side. Gambling is covetousness, but speaking up for Jesus is a sure bet, not a gamble if you believe in Romans 8:28.

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue” (Prov. 18:21). What's the point of being on this earth after being saved if the Lord finds us reluctant to speak His words? **“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword”** (Rev. 19:15). We are expected to cut through lies, expose vanities, and call sin, SIN! Fear cripples, while boldness liberates.

Years ago, I pushed my father-in-law to confront a particular fear that kept a lie from being brought to light. Italians have exceptionally strong family relationships. Things said in confidence are expected to remain confidential. Lies and misdeeds are often ignored as to “keep the peace.” Tony Terravecchia, my father-in-law (in heaven since '94), left Catholicism without looking back after I showed him how the church rejected the authority of God's word. He became a good soldier for the Lord and went with me on Saturday afternoons to a busy corner in the Italian neighborhood to witness and pass out tracts. I loved him like my own dad, and I wanted him to overcome a particular, paralyzing fear.

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Cowardice In Battle

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My mother-in-law's brother was very close to Tony. These two men never had a cross word between them. But there was a problem. My uncle by marriage was desperate to cover up the homosexual lifestyle of his only son. Everyone in the family knew that the son was "gay." You can't imagine how shameful it is that an only son in an Italian family prefers males over females. Now when my father-in-law and his brother-in-law would get together, the cover-up would go like this: "Tony, my son has a bunch of girls calling the house repeatedly, and oh, how he likes to 'play the field.'" We all knew the truth and felt badly for my uncle. He was a tortured soul, and I knew that down deep he understood how inept he was as a liar.

Love so often involves risks, and great risks at that. I said to my father-in-law that it would be a mercy to tell his brother-in-law that his son's lifestyle was no secret at all. Tony froze with fear. "I can't do that," he said. Do you know how masterfully the Lord sometimes puts us between a rock and a hard place? The prospect of severing such a close relationship for so many years was a mountain my dear father-in-law admitted he couldn't climb. You know that prayer can remove mountains—amen? **"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"** (James 5:16). Tony needed a major victory at this point in his Christian walk. This was an opportunity to put a big hole in the devil's snare, which is the fear of man. I prayed and exhorted Tony to put this one notch on

his gun belt before he went home to glory.

Avanti in Italian means "forward." "Onward Christian Soldiers" should stir the heart and fit the Christian for spiritual combat. Fear is a Goliath that won't quit the field. Face him and fight and take possession of the promised land. Don't forget the forty years of wandering the Jews had to endure for refusing to trust God and take on the giants occupying the land of milk and honey. There are millions of believers in our country who have never grown up spiritually, and never will, because trusting God in big situations brings on panic attacks.

"Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Rom. 8:37).

Well, the appointed time came; the battle was joined. Tony, who had a willing mind being fortified by prayer, was ready to tell his brother-in-law that the son's lifestyle was no secret to anyone. How was this going to be received by my uncle? Was there going to be vehement denial, would the relationship fracture with my uncle walking out? No, what happened was a powerful testimony to the grace of God prevailing over the believer's worst fears. A heavenly peace and a spirit of relief came over my uncle. He was released from the urge to lie by genuine Christian love. That's the kind of love that sets aside the need to protect one's self and stay in one's comfort zone.

Love takes risks and harnesses boldness in order for the truth to advance. Paul coveted boldness. Is it on your prayer list? Tony won a great

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Cowardice In Battle

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victory over fear and did not “lose” his brother-in-law in the process. Brethren, it doesn’t always work out this way; you know that. There can be significant collateral damage accompanying boldness. So what? It all works out to our good (Rom. 8:28). Spiritual combat will leave scars; you won’t have to put a bloody bandage on and pretend you’re a Christian warrior. See *Red Badge of Courage*.

Boldness is not learned in a classroom. It comes from being with Jesus. It is noticeable to others. **“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John”** (Acts 4:13). It puts the lost and enemies of the Lord on the defensive, and rage is often a reaction to spiritual boldness. A bold witness for the Lord shames a Laodicean Christian. Without doubt, the lack of boldness among Christian men today contributes greatly to the spread of an effeminate Christianity. “Faint heart never won fair lady,” my dad would say. Failure to be bold deprives the believer of receiving a full reward. What holds a saint back when a situation arises that calls for boldness? Many are afraid of rejection. They can’t handle it.

I remember as a lost teenager how those in my crowd yearned for the courage to call a female for a date. Boys struggle hard with feelings of inferiority if rejected just a few times. Some never get over it. Feelings are so tender when you are young, and the male-female dynamic is in play. Memories of rejection can linger long, and those memories can cause us unconsciously to erect a safe zone around us. We

become hesitant and fearful to stray out of that zone because our feelings might take a hit. Yes, boldness can be risky, but life without risks is a plate of ribs without barbecue sauce—little to no flavor. Take risks and make fools of yourselves; **“We are fools for Christ’s sake”** (1 Cor. 4:10). Christianity was never intended to be respectable in the world’s eyes. From Peter’s first message on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit made plain that what Christians needed to say would upset the respectable crowd. Holy boldness is perceived as madness by that crowd.

“And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad” (Acts 26:24).

“I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it” (Eccl. 3:10).

The labor, the troubles, the paradoxes of life can wear you out. Those things which a good God allows to exercise the souls of His children are for our gain, not destruction. Trials are to harden us for success in spiritual conflict. Our Lord encourages us during those tribulations with His word. **“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”** (John 16:33). Also, **“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you”** (John 15:18). Note the word **“IF,”** putting a condition on the world’s hatred of a believer. If you are bold and you resolve to face the risks that will accompany your boldness, the world will hate you. Make

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Cowardice In Battle

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no mistake about that.

Sensitive saints are hurt by rejection and have a difficult time being hated. This is why megachurch Christianity is so appealing. It offers its members a safe zone, a kind of conflict-free walk with Jesus. How is the world supposed to hate those who never tire of saying "God loves you"? That's why the Lord said, **"If the world hate you."** Looking down in time, He saw the spiritual anemia that would characterize His church in the last days. In Revelation 3:16, it makes Him puke.

When Jesus went into the temple to teach and preach, He was walking into a lions' den. Metaphorically speaking, when a believer sets out to declare men's sinfulness and damnation apart from faith in Christ, that Christian also walks into a lions' den. Jesus was the talk of Jerusalem. **"But, lo, he speaketh boldly"** (John 7:26). The religious crowd didn't speak that way. No wonder that many believed Jesus was like the prophets of old that the Jews read in their scriptures. Knowing that His cousin John the Baptist was killed for his boldness, our Lord fired a cannon shot at the religious crowd in Matthew 23:13-33. His excoriating denunciation of the respectable scribes and Pharisees ends with this blast: **"Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell"** (vs. 33). How's that for reaching out with the "sweet spirit of Christ"? Years ago, there was thunder coming out of most pulpits in America. Today, you get a soft, gentle breeze of coping and sharing and building relation-

ships and letting our light shine. Take a "no doze" to stay awake.

As we go deeper and deeper into the last days, the powers of darkness grow stronger. Fewer and fewer Christian men are inclined to become fools for Christ. The cost for them is too high. They forget that their Saviour made Himself of no reputation and with joy faced down those evil powers. Pride keeps many from being bold in their faith. Orientals are especially reluctant to be bold as the thought of "losing face" is used by the devil to terrify them. Thank God for Pastor Gene Kim in California and others like him that went outside the camp (comfort zone) to bear their Lord's reproach. It's a sacred duty to **"contend for the faith"** (Jude 3) in these last days—Avanti!

One way the Holy Spirit helped me to overcome my hesitancy in dealing with sinners face to face was to take me down memory lane. The Lord had to remind me often and still does, thank God, that when I lived in sin and enjoyed its pleasures, I rarely hesitated to seek for more. My feet were many times too ready to bring me to places where my evil inclinations could be indulged. Remembering some of those experiences is not where I want my mind to go, but the Lord uses that stuff to convict me. Why should I be hesitant when opportunities to proclaim God's word are all around me? How is it that a sinner is more willing to throw caution to the wind in order to satisfy his evil desires and a saint draws back from being bold for his Saviour? It's shameful! One who is saved from

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Cowardice In Battle

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 hell, a brand plucked from the fire, ought to be constantly aware of the great debt he owes to his Redeemer. When this needful awareness is allowed to fade, the propensity for being bold for the Lord also fades. You and I are going to owe the Lord here until we take our last breath. If you see your sins for what they reveal, the evil and horror of your own heart,

you'll love much. Conversely, you'll love little if you don't see your sins as God sees them.

"Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, THE SAME LOVETH LITTLE" (Luke 7:47).

This verse helps you understand the varying degrees of commitment

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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.

Cowardice In Battle

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found among God's people. It's easy to draw the proper conclusion here that love is, and will always be, the bottom line.

God willing, we'll celebrate another Thanksgiving shortly. On my list to be thankful for, just beneath the salvation God gifted me with in 1978, is the privilege of serving Him. It is not a chore to serve Him.

"For MY YOKE IS EASY, and MY BURDEN IS LIGHT" (Matt. 11:30).

If you love Him, the truth of that verse is glaringly apparent. No saint

at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be regret-free, but there's much we can do to limit our sorrow and regret over failures in our service to Jesus. Ask for wisdom and boldness and join the battle for souls. Pvt. Fleming in *Red Badge of Courage* couldn't live as a coward. He went back to battle; so did Mark after recovering from his initial failure.

"Am I a soldier of the cross,
A follower of the Lamb?
And shall I fear to own His cause,
Or blush to speak His name?"
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