



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 40 No. 9 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) September 2016

Spiritual Deception Revealed

By Brian Donovan

The Bible repeatedly warns Christians to be on guard through the increase of unclean spirits. The Apostle Paul tells Timothy, **“that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”** (1 Tim. 4:1). He goes on to name a few of those satanic doctrines as **“Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats”** (1 Tim. 4:3), showing that the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church are right out of hell itself.

The most definitive council of this bride of Satan was the Council of Trent, held in 1545–1563. It stated that anyone is cursed (*“anathema”*) if he believes that “clerics constituted in sacred orders” are able to marry. Every pope taking office since this council was held must hold to these damnable doctrines to this day. Neither Franny (Jorge Mario Bergoglio), Benny (Joseph Ratzinger), or JP II (Karol Wojtyla) ever denounced one word of the

over 100 damnations the Council of Trent put on the soul of every Bible-believing Christian. Every member of the Roman Catholic Church is to believe, under threat of damnation, that the wafer and wine of the Mass are “truly, really, and substantially” the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He cannot believe that “by faith alone the impious is justified,” “that baptism is . . . not necessary unto salvation,” or “presume to think in his heart otherwise” than Mary was “preserved free from all stain of original sin,” or that the books of Tobit, Judith, and Ecclesiasticus are not “sacred and canonical.” Of course, no Catholic is ever made aware of the fact that when the council pronounced these curses on the Bible-believing, outdoor-preaching Christians who were giving the Catholic Church fits, it also cursed some of the church’s previous popes and “saints.” These included “Saint” Thomas Aquinas and “Saint” Bernard, who both denied Mary’s sinlessness, Pope “Saint” Gelasius I (A.D. 492), who denied private confession of sins to priests, as well as “Saints” Augustine (A.D. 400) and Hilary (A.D. 550), who both rejected the apocryphal books.

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Dependability

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him” (Gen. 18:19).

Our text is God bragging on Abraham and getting ready to reveal to him what He (i.e., the Lord) is going to do to Sodom and Gomorrah. God is saying, “Abraham is *dependable*; I can *count on him* to do right.”

Bob Jones Sr. used to say, “The greatest ability is *dependability*.” The greatest ability you can have is not being able to play music or sing or draw or write or any other talent. The greatest ability you can demonstrate is to be *dependable*.

The Apostle Paul put it this way: **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found FAITHFUL”** (1 Cor. 4:2). There is nothing in the Bible that says you have to be *successful*; that is an “Americanism.” What God wants is someone on whom He can rely and depend.

What is dependability? It is being able to rely or count on someone or something. It is pictured as leaning on something to hold you up. The illustration I use in my sermons is leaning against a pulpit and putting all my weight on it. If you take away the pulpit, I'll fall. Do you know what I am depending on to keep me out of Hell? The vicarious sacrifice of my Saviour on the cross, and NOTHING ELSE. If that doesn't work, down I go. I am depending totally on that to keep me out.

Of course, dependability is only as good as what you are depending on. I have been out in a motorboat fishing trying to get a motor started as the waves banged that boat against a rock jetty. There is nothing more frustrating in a situation like that than trying to start a motor on which you can't depend.

I was flying with a guy into Kentucky one time in a twin-motor Cessna he was piloting. As we were a hundred feet above the runway on our approach to land, one of the guys in the control tower started going ballistic. He was jumping up and down, waving us off, and yelling into his microphone. What had happened was that pilot had pressed the button to lower his landing gear, and the wheels hadn't come down. That controller saw that and was waving us off before we did a belly landing on the tarmac. Whatever “automatic” system that pilot had for that landing gear wasn't dependable. Fortunately, he had a manual system by which to lower the wheels.

There are all kinds of situations where you depend on some piece of equipment. One of the most horrible things that can happen to you in combat is to have your weapon jam. Have you ever had to get somewhere in a hurry, only to have the car not start? Unreliable; undependable.

Can you depend on the translation of the Bible you have? You can't if you have an *NASV*, *TEV*, *RSV*, *ESV*, *CEV*, *NIV*, the *Modern English Version* (the latest piece of apostate trash foisted on Christians), or the “*New*” *King James Version*. Those Bibles all *alter words* that change the meaning of Scripture, they

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leave out words (anywhere from 500–6,400), and they attack every fundamental of the faith somewhere in their text. Undependable—you can't rely on them for the *truth*, the *whole truth*, and *nothing but* the truth.

Dependability is when something *works* when you are counting on it. You can lose a million-dollar yacht over something that doesn't cost any more than a quarter. If a twenty-five-cent fuse doesn't work on the bilge pump, that million-dollar yacht will fill up with water and sink. The old proverb goes:

“For want of a nail the shoe was lost:
 For want of a shoe the horse was lost:
 For want of a horse the rider was lost:
 For want of a rider the message was lost:
 For want of a message the battle was lost:
 For want of a battle the kingdom was lost:
 And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.”

The independability of a small thing can mess you up. I got in a wreck with a choo-choo one time because something simple like a tune-up hadn't been performed on a paint van somebody lent me to drive. Due to a series of things, I didn't see a train coming until it was 25 feet away from me on the track. If I put on the brakes, I would have slammed into the side of the train, so I decided to gun the engine. When I did, that engine just sputtered; it hadn't been tuned properly. It wasn't dependable.

Now, how does God regard dependability? Well, Paul told Timothy to take the things the apostle taught him and commit them **“to FAITHFUL men, who shall be able to teach others also”** (2 Tim. 2:2). What is known as “apostolic succession” in ecclesiastical circles has nothing to do with a transference of authority from Simon Peter to the Popes. It has to do with Paul teaching Timothy and Titus, and they, in turn, teaching men on whom they could depend to teach men on whom they could depend, right on down to today. It's teaching belief in the Book and sound doctrine to each succeeding generation. Those are the kind of men in whom God depends to spread the Gospel and ground saints in the faith.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, **“the fire shall try every man's work of what SORT it is”** (1 Cor. 3:13); not the size. God is interested in the *quality* of what you do, not the *quantity*.

If you judged the ministries of men like Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul, they would be considered flops by the world's standards. Both of them died as enemies of the State, with no wife, no children, no house, no “car” (a donkey in those days), no normal job, no pension, no savings account, dependent on others to one extent or another for their incomes, no Social Security, no Medicare—NOTHING! No church building, no Sunday school, no goals to increase attendance or giving—to all accounts they were *failures* in the ministry. Yet God

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regarded both those men successes in His eyes because they were *faithful* (Heb. 3:1–2; 1 Tim. 1:12); He could depend on them to do what He told them.

God thought so much of Job that He wasn't afraid to sic the Devil on him (Job 1:8–11). That's because Job was dependable; God could count on him. Job may have "**cursed his day**" (Job 3:1), but he *never* cursed God like the Devil said he would (Job 2:10).

When it comes to Jesus Christ, you can absolutely depend on Him to save you. Back in the days when the Salvation Army was an army concerned over the salvation of souls, rather than merely a social welfare organization, one of their members, a young lady, went by to visit the patients in a hospital. One man there was moaning and groaning, so she asked him, "Can I help you, sir?" He said, "I'm getting ready to die, and I am not prepared to meet God. What can I do?" "Nothing," she replied. "You mean there's nothing I can do?" he said. "No, there's nothing you can do at all," she replied. "Then I'm lost!" he said in despair. "Exactly," she said, and she led him to Christ. There is *nothing* you can do to get to Heaven; you have to depend on Someone else to do it for you.

Next, where is dependability needed? It is needed in the *church*. When I served as a pastor, I was dependent on my people for support, and they were dependent on me to feed them the word of God and tell them the truth. In the church, everyone is dependent on one another.

Dependability is needed in the *home*. The reason there are so many divorces these days is because one or more parties in a marriage are not dependable. They are not dependable as far as fidelity goes or dependable in managing money or dependable in carrying out their responsibilities in the marriage. Trust is damaged, and one or both parties can't depend on the other.

One of the places where dependability is needed more than anywhere else is *combat*. Lives depend on it. The reason morale is at an all time low in the military is because Obama has changed it from a fighting force to a social experiment. He has opened the floodgates to women serving in combat, along with queers, cross-dressers, Lesbians, women pretending to be men, and men pretending to be women. There is no trust or dependability in a unit like that. The straight men and women are watching their backs to make sure they aren't raped or molested; and the queers, butches, faggots, and dykes are more concerned with "hooking up" (i.e., *fornicating*) than they are with duty, honor, or unit cohesion.

Dependability is needed in *government*, but don't look for it there because you won't find it. Does anyone reading this article honestly believe he can trust his Senator or Congressman to represent him? Do you think your President (Republican or Democrat) is going to do the right thing for this country? I don't believe you can depend on the government any further than you can kick the Empire State Building with your left foot.

When Obama made the deal with Iran giving them the ability to create a nuclear weapon, there was a Marine and an American pastor being held cap-

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tive by the Moslem government over there. Those Americans were depending on their government to do something to get them out. Do you think Obama or Kerry or Hillary did anything in their negotiations to get those American captives out of there if Iran wanted its "deal"? Of course not. You can't count on your government to rescue you when threatened by a bunch of Moslems. Just look at what happened to those Americans killed by that Moslem mob in Benghazi.

Dependability—can you count on someone? You husbands, can your wife count on you to pray with her? You wives, can your husband count on you to have dinner ready when he comes home from work or to make sure he has clean clothes to wear? You ladies, can you be counted on to take your turn in the nursery at church? You church members, can you be counted on when it comes time for visitation?

Can the people to whom you owe money count on you to pay your debts? Did you pay when you said you would? Did you pay what you agreed to pay? Are you dependable?

What happens when you aren't dependable? Missionaries have to come home. They depend on your faithfulness to give, and if you don't, they can't stay on the field, doing what God called them to do.

Churches fold up; that's what happens. In any given year, there are something like 10,000 Southern Baptist churches in the Convention that don't baptize a single convert. What's wrong? Somebody can't be depended on to bring in

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Bad Attitude Baptist Blowout

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the lost and witness to them.

If everyone in your church gave the same percentage you give, could your church stay open? Bible-believing Christians always get caught up in whether the tithe is for the New Testament church or not; usually that is to get out of tithing to their local church. All right, if you don't believe in tithing, how about giving what that widow gave there in Mark 12. You say, "She only gave **'two mites'**" (Mark 12:42). You had better go back and read that again. She didn't just give **"two mites"**; she gave **"ALL that she had, even ALL HER LIVING"** (Mark 12:44). Would you rather put the whole paycheck in?

Dependable—can God count on you when He needs you? Brethren, if you don't have anything and can't do anything, I'll tell you something you can do: you can *pray*. Can God count on you for that?

I know what it's like to depend on something and have it just fall to pieces. I had to get to a graduation banquet one time at a Christian College down in Miami. I was to be the speaker, and the banquet started at 6:00 that evening. I got on a plane flying with Eastern Airlines at 6:00 in the morning.

That was the worst day of traveling I ever experienced. I was *seventeen hours* trying to make it to Miami and *never got there*. The plane was fogged in here at Pensacola when it was time for take-off at 6:00 a.m. We didn't leave Pensacola until 10:30 in the morning. We got to Atlanta, and air traffic was so backed up that the pilot circled the field eight times before he was allowed to land. That made me miss the 2:00 p.m. flight to Miami, and I had to wait for the 4:00 p.m. flight. The 4:00 flight was delayed because of trouble with the landing gear, so I couldn't make it to the banquet.

I called the guy who was having me in and told him there was no way in the world I could make it. I waited in Atlanta until 10:00 that evening for a flight back to Pensacola. When the plane started to land at Pensacola around 11:00 that night, the fog rolled in, and we couldn't land in Pensacola. We ended up in Mobile, and I called my daughter to drive over and pick me up.

I wrote Eddie Rickenbacker, who was in charge of Eastern, and said, "I want my money back." He wrote back and said, "I can't give it back to you." I wrote him back and said, "I have been flying your airline every other week for about twenty years. There's nobody in Pensacola, with the exception of some businessman who travels every week, that uses your airline more than I do. I have never complained about anything ever before. This is the first complaint I am making. You owe me the money." Knowing that Eddie Rickenbacker was a Christian, I ended that letter with a Bible verse.

"Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint" (Prov. 25:19).

He gave me back my money.

One of the worst cases of independability was during the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. Although Confederate troops had some successes the first two days of the battle, they had failed to collapse the Union flanks. So

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Lee decided on a frontal assault against the Yankee line on Cemetery Ridge.

Longstreet warned Lee the Union position was too strong, but Lee wouldn't listen. Longstreet's advice was to pull out to a better defensive position, which was what Lee should have done. But Lee was "pumped up" from two victories—Fredericksburg (Marye's Heights) and Chancellorsville—and he was sure he could beat the Yankees again.

But there were two things wrong with Lee's strategy. The first was he no longer had Stonewall Jackson, who had been killed at Chancellorsville. Lee always *depended* on Jackson. The second problem was that Lee depended on J.E.B. Stuart for a cavalry assault against the Union rear, but Stuart had lost most of his good horses at Antietam and only had farm horses for cavalry. So when the action started, the Yankees sent Gregg and Custer out with plenty of good horses to stop Stuart. His attack failed, and he had to retreat.

Lee's plan was for Pickett to advance up to the Emmitsburg Road, halfway between the artillery bombardment, and wait. Stuart's attack was supposed to make the Union guns stop in order to turn and face Stuart; then Pickett was to advance on the Union line.

Well, the Union cannons stopped firing, and Pickett ordered his troops to advance. But the ceasing of the Union cannonfire was nothing but a ruse. The cannons were still facing the Confederate lines. So when Pickett's men began their charge, they marched right into Union canister fire. Pickett lost over half his troops. One man out of every five who died on the Confederate side was from North Carolina.

Now why did that happen? Because what the Confederates were depending on wasn't there. Lee depended on Jackson; he was dead. Stuart depended on good cavalry horses; he didn't have them. Pickett was depending on Stuart's attack from the rear to turn the Union guns; it didn't happen.

With that in mind, let me ask you a question: *what are you depending on to*

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JULY'S SERMONS

Brian Donovan

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No More Sea
Where Is Thy Pound?
From Arabia To Jerusalem
"It" Cannot Save Us
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get you to Heaven when you die? If it is not the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ shed for you on Calvary, whatever you are depending on is a vain hope.

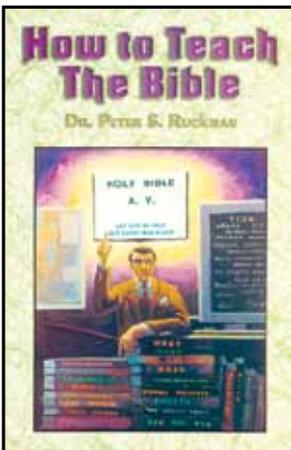
And Christian, are you dependable? Can the Lord count on you when He has a job for you to do?

“The Lord had a job for me, but I had so much to do,
I said, ‘You get somebody else—or wait ‘til I get through.’
I don’t know how the Lord came out, but He seemed to get along;
But I felt kind o’ sneakin’ like; caused I knowed I done Him wrong.

“One day I needed the Lord, needed Him right away—
And He never answered me at all, but I could hear Him say
Down in my accusin’ heart, ‘Nigger, I’s got too much to do.
You get somebody else—or wait ‘til I get through.’

“Now when the Lord has a job for me, I never tries to shirk;
I drops what I have on hand and does the good Lord’s work;
And my affairs can run along, or wait ‘til I get through.
Nobody else can do the work that God’s marked out for you.”
(“The Lord’s Job” by Paul Laurence Dunbar)

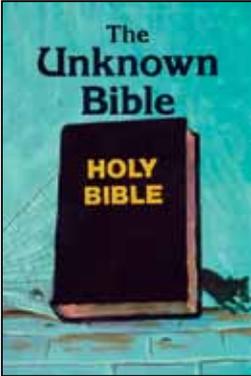
That was written by a saved black man, but it applies to every Christian reading this article. God has something marked out for *you* that I cannot do. Your spouse can’t do it, your kids can’t do it, your friends can’t do it, the government can’t do it, and no preacher can do it. Can He count on *you* to do it? Are you dependable?



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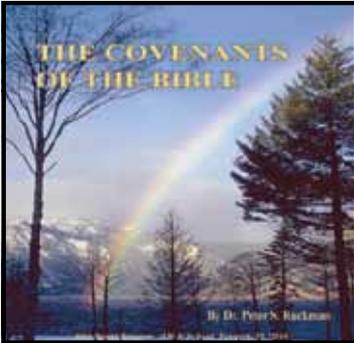
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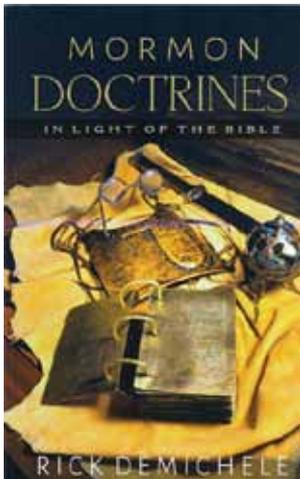
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Spiritual Deception Revealed

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tion for the Christian today go beyond the obvious hellishness of the Roman Catholic Church. The saved are warned that we are in days marked as **“perilous times”** (2 Tim. 3:1), when **“they shall turn away their ears from the truth”** (2 Tim. 4:4). The Bible believer should understand that Satan is very interested in getting worship (Isa. 14:12–14), and every time the Lord Jesus Christ begins to get some glory, Satan is close by, trying to steal it.

Not only should the Christian be able to recognize the work of unclean spirits, but the timing of when they show up should not be overlooked. At the first coming of Christ, they were everywhere (Mark 1:23, 34, 39, 3:11, 6:7, 13; Luke 4:41; etc.), always ready to move in just as soon as the Lord Jesus was exalted. At His baptism, the Father’s voice from heaven gives approval, saying, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”** (Matt. 3:17); the next verse, the devil is there tempting Christ (Matt. 4:1). When Jesus heals **“a man sick of the palsy”** and forgives his sins (Matt. 9:2), immediately the scribes accuse the Lord of blasphemy (Matt. 9:3). When Jesus casts the devil out of a man, making the multitudes marvel (Matt. 9:32–33), immediately the Pharisees accuse Him of doing the work **“through the prince of the devils”** (Matt. 9:34). In the Parable of the Sower, as soon as the seed is sown by the Son of man, immediately Satan comes to take it away (Mark 4:14–15). When Simon Peter gets a direct rev-

elation from the Father in heaven that professes Christ is **“the Son of the living God”** (Matt. 16:16–17), Satan steps in to get Peter to try to deny the scriptures (Matt. 16:21–23). When the saints of the early church gather and are **“filled with the Holy Ghost,”** causing them to speak **“the word of God with boldness”** (Acts 4:31–32), Satan immediately shows up, filling the hearts of two believers **“to lie to the Holy Ghost”** (Acts 5:1–3).

These repeated examples should reveal to the believer not only the sphere of satanic work, but the timing of it. Many are under the false impression that unclean spirits mainly work in the world of drug deals, bars, and rock concerts. The scripture, though, shows Satan’s work to be as close as possible to the work of Jesus Christ in an attempt to steal His glory. In other words, spiritual deception is much more likely to be found in the local church, in the pulpit, in the pew, and especially just before, during, or after a service where the word of God and the Word of God are being exalted. Many Christians equate satanic deception with drugs and alcohol, while being completely unaware of his work sitting in the pew or standing in the pulpit.

Educated Americans completely deny the spiritual altogether and instead put names and acronyms on the work and existence of devils. Modern, civilized man has attached labels such as ADD, OCD, ODD, paranoia, schizophrenia, etc., mainly in order to deny the spiritual work of devils.

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To this day, there is an overwhelming agreement in the fields of psychiatry and medicine to deny the existence of the spiritual world. Prescription drugs and lockups have masked the spiritual problems, and "civilized" Americans never have to deal openly with the foaming, tearing, and screaming that are connected to the latter stages of devil possession (Mark 9:20–27). As a result, most American Christians think it is African missionaries who must deal with the devil; surely not us in the "civilized" USA. The Christians today are so geared for self-glory that they are unaware of the daily work of Satan in their lives.

The teaching and preaching of the Bible in most churches will not allow the Lord to get glory. The minds of the believers today are so set on "self" and "my life," they cannot even recognize the deception of their lives as they become dormant weapons in the local church, to be used by Satan at his will. The deception is so strong, they actually believe the positive preaching they hear about themselves. Preachers are well aware of the "selfie" spirit to which they are preaching, so many of them are very careful not to offend.

Pay attention to the next time the Lord is glorified in the service (if you know when that is) and watch what happens. There will typically be some small distraction, usually by a smiling, "nice" Christian. Pay close attention to your response when a message is preached that puts complete attention on the Saviour. Also pay attention to the content of a message about which

today's Christians get excited. Mark it down, the sermons about which they will talk will be those that make them "feel" a certain way. It is the exact same spirit I first noticed forty years ago in the charismatic movement; only now, these are KJV, Bible-believing, premillennial, dispensational Baptists.

Most of those who would not be deceived by the false teachings of the Roman Catholic doctrines, would not be able to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit in His attempts to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ. Church-going, saved people are deceived by unclean spirits. They not only cannot recognize the work of the Holy Spirit; they cannot recognize the daily leadership of unclean spirits in their own lives. Over and over in the New Testament, Christians are warned and taught about being deceived. Paul warned that when a Christian is "**ignorant of his devices,**" Satan can "**get an advantage**" (2 Cor. 2:11). One of Satan's main devices is to keep the Christian ignorant of him altogether, while the Lord wants to make sure Satan and his work are not concealed (Job 41:12). Most saved individuals today think of satanic work as one foaming at the mouth, tearing his clothes off, and screaming obscenities. They are unaware that Satan has just sat next to them in the pew, with a fake smile and a fake compliment on Sunday morning. Within any local church trying to glorify God and His words will be found at least a couple of devils lurking in the pews.

Some of Satan's devices include

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Spiritual Deception Revealed

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harboring an unforgiving spirit, as found in the context of 2 Corinthians 2:7–11. This kind of spirit is a joy to Satan, as he uses it to divide the members of any local church that is trying to bring glory to Jesus Christ. Instead of winning souls to the Lord, these folks are much more interested in winning others to their side of an argument or problem.

Another source is to use scripture at the wrong time, as in the case of the devil's temptation of Christ, when Satan tells Jesus to command stones to **"be made bread"** (Matt. 4:3). The Lord Jesus will do just that; only not at His first coming, but much later (Rev. 12:1–6). Satan thinks nothing of pushing a zealous street preacher to go out at the wrong time, to pray all night for others to notice, to ignore his family to go soulwinning, and to be a groupie at every special meeting instead of being faithful to his own calling.

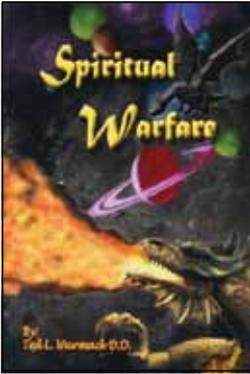
Another device is to try to prevent the hearer from responding to the word sown (Mark 4:14–15), even more proof of the satanic influence of cell phones that go off during gospel invitations. Yet another device is to question and doubt what the scripture says, as the devil did with Eve in Genesis 3. Another device is for Satan to transform his appearance into an angel, an apostle, or a minister of the gospel (2 Cor. 11:13–15). What the student of the Bible should take special care to pay attention to in these devices is that they are all close to the Lord's work. The devil's main sphere of work is within, or right next to, the work of

the Lord. Satan always has his foot in the door whenever the Lord Jesus is getting glory. That is the realm of Satan's influence and work.

The saints of God are most at risk to being spiritually deceived at a church service than anywhere else. Satan will counterfeit the Lord's presence and work in order to steal His glory. He will be at work in the emotions and feelings of the believer in an attempt to counterfeit the work of the Holy Spirit. Many Bible believers equate a movement of the Holy Spirit with their own personal feelings. What matters most in this selfie age is "your" feelings and "your" service and "your" involvement. A great service or a great sermon is measured by one that "moved" you. Whether or not the Lord was glorified is not even a consideration, as long as "we got it on" (whatever that means). Neither the manifestation of **"the fruit of the Spirit"**—**"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance"** (Gal. 5:22–23)—nor the work of the Spirit is even brought up in conversation.

The scripture has plenty to say about the work of the Holy Spirit so that the believer need not guess as to when He is at work. The lost world can expect the Holy Spirit to do three things in their hearts: reprove them of their unbelief in Christ, show them their need for the righteousness of God which they lack, and show them that they are headed for a judgment they cannot pass without Christ

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This book sheds some light on a dark subject by exposing some of the wiles of the Devil and his minions, and offers ways to spot their handiwork and thus nullify their effect.

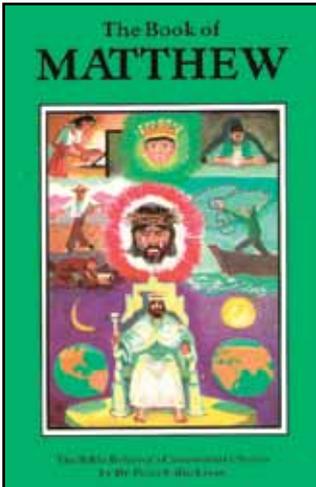
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Spiritual Deception Revealed

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(John 16:8–11). The saved can identify the work of the Holy Spirit by knowing the scriptural explanation of His work: He will seal the believer and give assurance (Eph. 4:30), He will always glorify Christ (John 16:14), He will guide the believer **“into all truth”** (John 16:13), He will bring the scripture to remembrance (John 14:26), He will help in prayer (Rom. 8:26), and He will not speak about Himself, but point to the words and person of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:13). Though there is no doubt that the work of the Holy Spirit touches the emotions of the man (joy to name one), His primary work is not to make you feel good. The work of the Holy Spirit is not passive. He seeks and points to the complete submission of the believer to Christ. That never brings about a passive state, but instead, an active and offensive spirit. The filling of the Holy Ghost in the body of the child of God is for service, not for feeling (Acts 4:31, 1:8). The presentation of the body **“a living sacrifice”** for the Christian (Rom. 12:1–2) is not a passive act, but an active control of the tongue, eyes, ears, and the thoughts to be used in His service (Prov. 18:21; Matt. 6:22; Prov. 4:20; 2 Cor. 10:4–5).

The work of an unclean spirit will result in defeat (1 Sam. 18:9–11), desperation (1 Sam. 29:5–8), and thoughts only of “selfie” (1 Sam. 22:8), while the work of the Holy Spirit of God will result in repentance (2 Sam. 12:13), submission (2 Sam.

15:26), and the glory of God (2 Sam. 23:1–4). Pay close attention to the spirit with which you are dealing the next time you plug yourself into Facebook. Ask yourself what is the **“witness of the Spirit”** (Rom. 8:16) the next time you are partaking in your “Christian” bantering on the “Christian” Internet. Why get all mad at me? Just check it out for yourself. I’ve never even been on it. Simply look up the verses given in this article and compare the work of the Holy Spirit to what you are doing. If it is the right thing to do, blog or tweet or selfie on. If it isn’t under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and you are too hooked to quit, kick yourself, but don’t get mad at a preacher.

Spiritual deception is a dangerous problem in the life of every Christian. Recognition of it is critical. Self-examination must begin with the admission that it is possible for the Christian to be deceived. Self-deception is the most prevalent. It must first be admitted as a possibility and then be guarded against (1 John 1:8; Gal. 6:3; 1 Cor. 3:18). A search needs to be made for the reason for the deception (Psa. 19:12, 90:8; Phil. 4:6–7; 1 John 1:9). Prayer and fasting is necessary to fight **“this kind”** (Matt. 17:21). Staying sober and aware and vigilant in refusing to give any more ground (1 Pet. 5:8) is a help in the battle against spiritual deception.

The Christian should always remember that the Lord works with eternity in mind, while the devil works

Spiritual Deception Revealed

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for time and his time is short (Rev. 12:12). The flesh is always attracted to time, while the spirit is attracted to eternity. The Lord is never in a hurry since He has forever. He will allow a sifting (Luke 22:31) to temporarily try His saints, but only for their good.

The old man must be broken, and that can only happen through the right response. When the response is bitterness and anger, the result is a Saul or an Absalom or an Esau, but when the response is repentance and submission, the result is a David or a Peter or a Moses.

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Independence, MO 64058
Pastor Mark Velder
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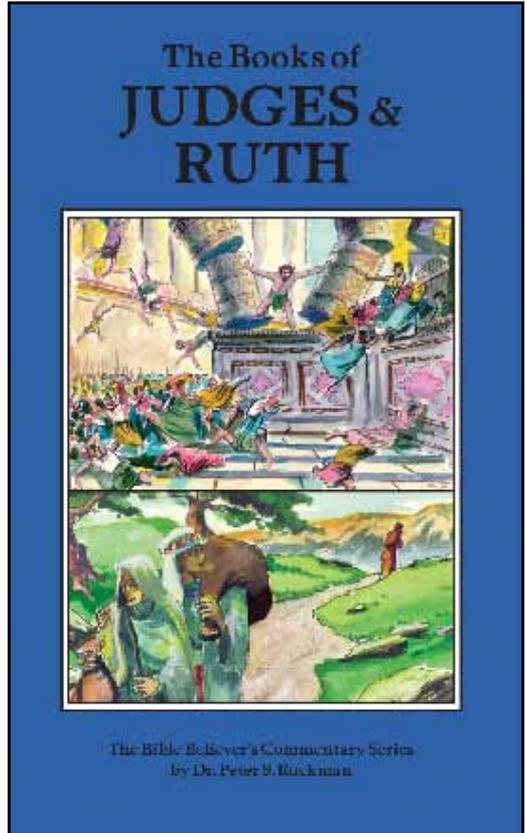
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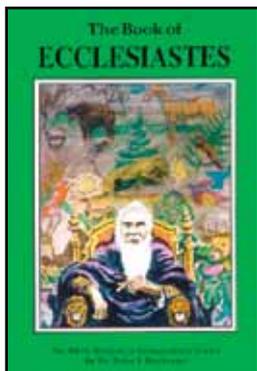


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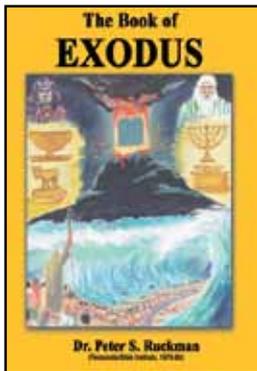
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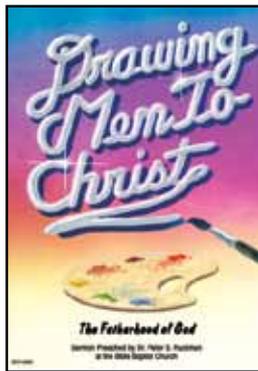
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The First Missionary Journey

By Mike Dobbins
(Part Three of Three)

(Editor's note: In this study of Acts 13, Bro. Dobbins has covered the position of a missionary and the progressive steps leading to his sending. In the last of these articles, he covers the *resistance* a missionary faces and the *results* he may have.)

Resistance Encountered by the Missionary

“And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus . . . But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith” (Acts 13:6, 8).

In this passage, the missionaries encounter resistance from a sorcerer and a false prophet. The idea of having resistance from a sorcerer almost sounds like a fairy tale to us in the Twenty-first-Century Western world. But it is obvious that **“spiritual wickedness in high places”** (Eph. 6:12) is fighting against the work of every Bible-believing man who is trying to preach the Gospel in these last days. We just can't fathom the idea of a real, flesh-and-blood person who claims to be a “sorcerer” entering the equation.

However, in our mission work in Zambia, the sorcerer is a common person in the day-to-day culture. In African culture, so much of daily life revolves around the “sorcerer.” He is not just a witch; he is a *witchdoctor*. For our Western minds to grasp the concept, the best way to look at it is this: a doctor works to heal your *physical* problems; therefore, a *witchdoctor* would work to heal your *witchcraft* problems, in the African context.

For example, let's say someone dies in your family or your baby gets sick. The primary thing in African culture is to find out *who* put a curse on you or *who* “witched” you to bring this problem into your life. This means a “witch” is bad in African culture, but a “witchdoctor” is good. He “doctors” the problems brought on by the witch.

The first order of business is payment (1 Tim. 6:10). If the witchdoctor is paid, then he can get to work for you. Without payment, no services are rendered. In this, he is similar to the American medical doctor.

The next order of business is for the witchdoctor to do some divination to find out *who* could be causing your problem. For this, he will do some private investigation to find out whom you already suspect (or don't like). In other words, if you have had conflict with *anyone* in your life, then that is the most obvious suspect to have “witched” you. If you are a scornful person (Prov. 21:24) and you have multiple conflicts regularly, then it's harder to ascertain exactly who “witched” you. However, that is also a wonderful gift to the witchdoctor as well, because that gives him multiple people upon whom he may pin the blame.

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You can imagine how this type of logic affects the church of God. To illustrate this, I want to take you back to 1998, to the rural mission station at which my family and I worked when we first arrived in Zambia. At the mission station clinic, the submersible water pump that provided water to the clinic had been stolen in the middle of the night while three guards slept. The guards felt guilty, so they took the investigation into their own hands. They found a witchdoctor who claimed the power of divination to find *who* stole the pump. In the middle of an African village *with no electricity*, the witchdoctor brought a TV set which was plugged into *nothing* (no electricity). He placed the TV set in a chair in front of the three security guards. He stated that the three men should sit and stare at the TV set until the picture of the man who stole the pump appeared in the TV screen.

Well, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what happened next. After a long time of staring into an empty TV screen, the three men decided that they saw the image of the man they despised the most. He was the man of whom all of them were jealous. His name was Joseph, and they were jealous of him because he was a very trusted man by all the missionaries. They blackened that man's reputation by coming back from the witchdoctor with accusations about Joseph's guilt. Many times in Africa these accusations lead to "mob justice" or mob violence.

After about four months had passed, a young man arrived at the mission station and explained that he knew who stole the water pump. He said he had heard his next door neighbor boasting about stealing the pump. The police were dispatched to the neighbor's house, and the pump was found. It was not Joseph who had stolen the pump, but it was too late. The damage to Joseph's reputation had already been done. For many years, I used this illustration to show what a destructive thing it is for the African to use this system of "faith in the sorcerer." It causes great resistance for the work of the missionary in sub-Saharan Africa.

Another great hindrance to the Gospel in southern Africa is going into the work with a very high expectation. So many missionaries take survey trips and get mobbed when they pass out tracts. Then they come back to the USA and tell everyone that people are "hungry for the Gospel" in Africa. They claim that a great revival is sweeping across Africa, and there is little or no resistance to the Gospel.

Some understanding of the animistic beliefs of the people would help the missionary who is "on survey" to that part of the world. For example, it would help to know that the African believes *anything* you give him is connected to *your spirit*. He believes all foreigners to be wealthy, so he sees the prospective missionary as a wealthy, white foreigner giving things away in the market. Furthermore, he is giving something away for *free*. It doesn't

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matter if it is a Gospel tract, a keychain, a toothbrush, or anything else. What matters is the *thought process* in the African's mind.

The African believes if he can take something a wealthy person has touched and place it with his own money, then it can cause his own money to multiply or be blessed. One can regularly see Africans taking "good luck charms" which have been blessed by witchdoctors and touching those charms to their own money. They believe the "spirit" of that wealthy person is connected to the thing they have been given (a tract, a toothbrush, an ink pen, a keychain, etc.), and the "spirit" that made the giver wealthy can also make them wealthy and multiply their money.

So if you go to a Third-World country in southern Africa and pass out tracts and get mobbed, ask yourself this question: "Did the people even know I was giving out Gospel tracts?" If they didn't know what you were giving out, then why did they mob you? They would also mob someone giving away tubes of toothpaste or keychains. Does that mean that people in sub-Saharan Africa are "hungry" to brush their teeth or put things on keychains? Of course not! You need to explore a little deeper before you interpret such a scene as "people are hungry for the Gospel."

For example, in my own town of Chingola, the Colgate-Palmolive company came to Chingola High School to distribute free toothpaste to the pupils. After about thirty minutes, the police had to be called out in riot gear because the students were going berserk to get the free toothpaste. Part of the problem is their animistic beliefs.

Another part of the problem is just a terrible case of indiscipline in an entire culture. That indiscipline leads to riot, looting, pillaging, breaking and entering, etc. A mild example of this indiscipline is manifested when people mob foreigners for Gospel tracts because the visitors do not have the experience that enables one to avoid being mobbed. People definitely go to the Third World and come back with a story that happened, but that story is not interpreted in the light of the local culture. It is interpreted in the light of American culture, and that distorts the truth.

This distortion causes the missionary to come back and speak in churches, saying, "People are hungry for the Gospel, and revival is sweeping Africa." If that is true, then why are the pagan beliefs of a thousand years ago still so widespread that they are even in the churches there?

There are all kinds of beliefs in foreign culture that hinder and resist the preaching of the missionary. When my family and I first arrived as missionaries in Zambia, we were told that the Zambians would not take anyone seriously as a public speaker who was under 35 years of age. This is because they do not believe a man is a full-grown man until he's 35 years old. In other words, they believe one has no sense or wisdom until he turns 35

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years old. Of course, I would try to explain that that means they wouldn't have listened to Jesus Christ, who only lived to be 33½ years old. That argument didn't help much, because the cultural beliefs are much stronger than faith in the Bible. For several years, the problem of just "being young" was a hindrance to the Gospel.

The resistance encountered by missionaries is different on different fields. For many years, I and my wife were told we had an "easy" mission field and that the "hard" mission fields were in Europe and other places. But at least in Europe and those other places, where people will not talk to the missionary, you know where you stand. We were dealing with Africans who only wanted to talk to us because they were afraid they would be "cursed by a spirit" if they did not show some respect for a preacher. So they would listen to us, and they would even make professions of faith because they never want to disagree with the missionary.

It is the ultimate in "bad luck" to an African when a person ignores a preacher who comes with a Bible. This is one reason the Jehovah's Witnesses and all cults flourish in southern Africa. The people will not outwardly refuse anything for fear of being cursed or "witched." So it is difficult ever to know who is with you and who is against you. This makes Africa a very difficult mission field. People are making professions of faith with no sincerity at all. It takes many years to know how genuine the work is in which the Lord has placed you.

To be sure, the missionary encounters resistance. It does not matter the field in which he labors. He can be in Mexico, Ireland, China, Australia, or any other place. The devil will meet him on the field of battle and resist him and the work. The missionary needs *your prayers* in these battles.

Results of the Blessing of God in Mission Work

"Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God" (Acts 13:7).

Paul and Barnabas found **"a prudent man"** named **"Sergius Paulus,"** who **"desired to hear the word of God"** in this verse. In like manner, in our modern day, the missionary will have some good results because **"the word of God is not bound"** (2 Tim. 2:9). If the missionary will **"sow his seed"** (Luke 8:5), and **"Cast [his] bread upon the waters,"** he will **"find it after many days"** (Eccl. 11:1). *Something* will eventually happen in the way of good results.

As C. I. Scofield stated on page 1176 of his reference Bible, "The Gospel has never anywhere converted all, but everywhere has called out *some*." This quote came to my mind many times in Africa. The Gospel will do something. The missionary won't see everyone saved, and something is

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suspect if he does see *everyone* saved in a particular place.

For example, my wife and I worked with missionaries, in 1998, who came back from one of their own church's services rejoicing that all 35 people in attendance that day got saved. It astonished me that the missionary was not disturbed that all of the people in his own church plant thought they were lost and needed to be saved again! The quote by Scofield came to mind. But the quote also comes to mind when little is happening. You just continue preaching the Gospel, and eventually, there will be some good results.

Whether the missionary is in Papua New Guinea or Guinea-Bissau, from Japan to England to Mozambique, there will be resistance and good results. The passage in Acts 13 is the Lord's "pattern" for the missionary. The things found in the chapter are the things that accompany the modern mission movement as well.

In Acts 13:5, the missionaries have the opportunity to preach the Gospel publicly. In verse 7, the missionaries are able to preach the Gospel to one individual soul. The very fact that the Gospel is disseminated and disbursed is a blessing and is a *result* in and of itself, because the word of God does not "**return void**" (Isa. 55:11). The word will accomplish the purpose of the Lord, so in *that way*, there is a result just from getting the word of God out. So the wise man just "gets the word out" in any way and every way possible.

In the early days of my first church plant, in the year 2000, a man came to church and asked to see me after the service. He had the Chick tract entitled "Charlie's Ants" in his possession. On the back was the stamp with our church name and meeting location. He showed it to me and said someone gave him that tract, and that's why he came. We led him to Christ that day, and he still attends that church. He comes late every week, straggling in around 11:15–11:30, just in time for the preaching, but he still comes. His name is Mike Phiri.

We met a good number of men over the years who "**desired to hear the word.**" In 2003, I was wrapping up a couple of hours of soulwinning with a fourteen-year-old boy named Lawrence. As we walked back to the truck, we saw an old man sitting under the shade of a tree. I said, "He's just sitting there; let's talk to him." That man's name was Benson Mupaka, and he was quite an aged man. He got saved that day and started coming to church. He was baptized in the town swimming pool. He came faithfully for years until he died of tuberculosis in 2012. It was my blessing to preach his funeral. He was a man who "**desired to hear the word of God.**"

In 2010, we were celebrating the ten-year anniversary of our first church plant, and we were working hard to do a lot of evangelism and invite people to church. On that particular day, we divided up, and I had to go by myself because there was an odd number of people. It was hot.

I found another older fellow of about 60–65 years of age named Patrick

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Mbasela. He was trying to stay cool sitting around with his shirt off. We started talking. He was a longtime Catholic. He really understood the simplicity of the Gospel that day (2 Cor. 11:3) and received Christ. He came for anniversary services and really “got in.” He is currently one of our Bible institute students and will finish the three-year course in about one year, Lord willing. He still has a great desire **“to hear the word of God.”**

Finally, I’ll testify of an evangelism trip we took to a very rural area of northern Zambia. The little town is called Chinsali, and it is basically just an enormous, sprawling village of more than 100,000 souls. Back in 2000–2004 when we were going there, nothing resembled a “town.” There was no proper store and no gas station at all.

We spent most of that week going house to house, looking for the lost (Luke 19:10). Most of the homes where we preached were typical, grass-roofed houses you might see anywhere in Africa. The entire province is a Catholic stronghold.

We happened upon a few little houses and a Catholic family led by a man named Lazarus Moyo. Mr. Moyo was 77 years old, but very strong-looking for his age and the conditions in which he lived. I asked Mr. Moyo in Bemba the question I normally ask Catholics: *“Bushe muleetontokanyo kuti ipusukilo icintu icakosa nangula icintu icayanguka?”* (“Do you think salvation is a hard thing or an easy thing to obtain?”) Like a good Catholic he said, “It’s very hard to be saved.” That afforded me the opportunity to show him that New Testament salvation is **“the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”** (Eph. 2:8–9). Mr. Moyo received the Lord Jesus Christ that day.

That particular evangelism trip spawned the call of one of our men to go to Chinsali in 2006 and start a really strong church. It is well-established today and has its own pastor. The man who started that work informed me that Mr. Moyo went home to be with Jesus Christ shortly after our brother moved there. It was a blessing to know that old man “got in” during the evening years of his life.

Every missionary who has been on his field for more than fifteen to twenty years has story after story like those above. There are people all over the world who have **“called for”** the missionary and have **“desired to hear the word of God”** like Sergius Paulus in Acts 13:7. If the missionary will **“go”** (Matt. 28:19–20) and sow **“the good seed”** (Matt. 13:37), then he will have some good results. Amen.

Thank God that men are still being called and that the Body of Christ in the USA is still praying for, sending out, and supporting missionaries and the missions movement. No one who gives to the cause of missions out of sincere love for Jesus Christ will ever regret it. I pray God you are doing your part. Amen.

Our "Progressive" Society

By Robert Militello

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls, But they said, We will not walk therein" (Jer. 6:16).

America's mass media ("Dept. of Propaganda") is fond of the term *progressive* to describe the mindset of millions of voters. If you are a Bible believer, you know that progressives could care less about what the Bible says is right and what is wrong.

As defined by Webster in 1828, *progressive* is an adjective meaning "moving forward or advancing, as opposed to retrograde." If you have an absolute standard to define what is wicked and what is godly, you see progress as positive or negative in our social order. To better understand toward what we are advancing, one must evaluate what is being left behind. Clearly, what is being left behind today is any regard for what scripture teaches concerning how best to govern our lives and our nation's business. We are "progressing" toward a moral and social abyss.

Our hurried march toward a more equitable society has helped to emaciate the Body of Christ, turning millions of believers into lukewarm compromisers. Christians unwittingly are being used by the devil to help bring in moral anarchy. That is precisely where we are headed; if you can't see this, you have closed your Bible and fallen asleep. Shame on you!

"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psa. 11:3).

Good question, and it has a simple answer: pray. Put Titus 2:13 on your mind and pray with intensity that the Lord would honor His word and take us to be with Him.

The foundations of a moral society have been increasingly under attack in our land since television entered the living rooms. In this last decade, the Internet has been used by the devil to deliver a hammer blow to the last remnants of decency and purity.

Last April, the governor of Utah, Gary Herbert, signed a resolution passed by the state legislature calling pornography a public health crisis. The resolution was passed unanimously. Utah has a substantial Mormon population. As you might have known, the media, locally and nationally, scorned the resolution. Are there any so-called "Christian" governors among the other 49 states willing to label pornography that way? For those who believe God's word, singing "God Bless America" with a straight face is a farce.

Now, there are three main elements in the progressive agenda that the media is wholeheartedly committed to support. The first is to abolish the common understanding of what constitutes a family. **"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled"** (Heb. 13:4). On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court, led by **"the god of this world"** (2 Cor. 4:4), debased, legally, what the Bible called **"honourable."** Thus the chief foundation of a moral society, one

Our “Progressive” Society

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which God could bless, was blown away. With this victory in hand, the media has stepped up efforts to further erode the family.

“The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly” (Prov. 20:30).

A propaganda barrage has been underway for years now to convince Americans that corporal punishment is child abuse. Because of the threat of lawsuits, school districts throughout the nation are abandoning what was once common sense: “Spare the rod; spoil the child.”

Last year, an NFL player was censured for giving his child a whipping. When told this action could lead to a criminal charge, a famous black athlete told an interviewer that the authorities would have to arrest black mothers and grandmothers across the land who knew what was right. That wise response took the wind out of the interviewer’s sail, and I rejoiced that there are some who refuse to be brainwashed. Still, the “Department of Propaganda” will grow ever more relentless in its effort to destroy the influence of God’s word over the minds of those who still fear God.

“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man” (Gen. 9:6).

A campaign to eliminate capital punishment has been a key strategy in the progressive’s war against God’s word these past four decades. In this area, the influence of the Bible upon the minds of millions of Americans still holds sway. Almost all of the developed countries, including Israel, have abolished the death penalty. The United States will eventually follow suit. It is only a matter of time.

In the 1950s, public sentiment began to turn away from capital punishment. In the United States, the number of executions dropped dramatically. Whereas there were 1,289 executions in the 1940s, there were 715 in the 50s; the number fell even further to only 191 from 1960 to 1976. In 1966, support for capital punishment dropped to 42% in a Gallup poll. Incidentally, the building of jails and prisons, especially federal ones, became a growth industry at about this time. Is anyone really surprised?

Working for the most part behind the curtains, the Roman Catholic Church, and assorted Protestant allies and religious groups, began waging a battle to destroy the biblical justification for capital punishment. Their plan was (and still is) to convince Americans that the death penalty is “cruel and unusual punishment.” In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaimed the “right to life” to be fundamental for all. Obviously, we will soon fall in line with the will of the international community, because the Lord says so.

“Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may 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

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jealousy" (Zeph. 3:8).

Bringing all nations into a confederacy against God and His word is the explanation as to why the media takes a biased position on the social issues of our day. Satan, as "**prince of the power of the air**" (Eph. 2:2), is moving fast to remove the last vestiges of biblical thinking in America. Nevertheless, the Lord will always have a faithful remnant, and until He comes for His Bride, we must witness our country being fattened for the eventual slaughter.

Regarding the coming Man of Sin, the prophet Habakkuk wrote: "**Ye also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but GATHERETH UNTO HIM ALL NATIONS, and heapeth unto him all people**" (Hab. 2:5).

Successfully overthrowing the Bible definition of marriage has been the progressives' chief accomplishment to date. This victory was achieved largely through the media depicting those opposed to gay marriage as being unloving and prejudiced. Here we see one of the devil's most useful tactics in getting folks away from what the Bible teaches. "Lacking love" is the favorite charge of the enemy against Christians who won't compromise and conform to what society feels is now acceptable. Laodicean pastors and churches show a pattern of compromise and worldliness resulting from their unwillingness to appear "judgmental." Cowardice in the face of enemy fire results in a court martial.

Sadly, millions of American Christians have no taste for battle. They deserted soon after joining the Lord's army. Progressives know this, so they are emboldened and press even harder to eliminate corporal punishment for children and capital punishment. How much longer will our Lord put up with this?

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7).

We have lost the fear of the Lord and have become a nation of fools. Our "social progress," so-called, is the road to hell. A new president, no matter how skillful and well-intentioned, will not be able to repair the damage done to the foundations of our society.

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes" (Psa. 118:9).

After eight years in office, President Obama will have left America much weaker, substantially more indebted, and morally more degenerate than when he took office on January 20, 2009. What a tragedy. He had a degree from Harvard Law School, and folks thought he was smart. He was going to bring change to Washington. How vain are the hopes of men.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12).

On a number of occasions, I remember Dr. Ruckman saying, "The media will get you killed." He recognized the power of mass media and its potential to feed the spirit of lawlessness. PBS (Public Broadcasting System), funded

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with your tax dollars, produces about a dozen documentaries a year. Frontline has offered PBS viewers some excellent investigative stories over the years. Yet, there are many issues that will never be examined forth rightly because to do so would cause viewers to see linkages that progressives strive to keep hidden. I'll give some examples.

First, you will never see a report on the connection between failing schools and the decline in education that began with desegregation. Second, don't ever expect to see an in-depth report on the connection between failure to practice corporal punishment and subsequent criminal behavior. Thirdly, no producer would dare probe the high incidence of violent assaults and mental instability associated with homosexuality. If a documentary on capital punishment appears, it will use only those studies that show no relation between higher rates of homicide and states that do not have capital punishment. The statistics game can be cleverly manipulated, and they are as dishonest as the unemployment figures put out by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, D.C.

“The simple believeth every word” (Prov. 14:15). It was the media and Hollywood that changed public opinion in America regarding gay marriage. It will be the media alone that will convince America that to execute a murderer is cruel and unjust punishment. If the Lord delays, parents who believe God's word and have common sense will live in fear of being reported to authorities for using **“the rod of correction”** on their unruly offspring (Prov. 22:15).

Incidentally, there are other topics that will never be the subject of a documentary. For example, the connection between the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the rise of illegal immigration from Latin America. Some things are just “too hot to handle.”

How about the Federal Reserve Bank? It is privately owned, so who owns it and controls our money supply? Don't hold your breath waiting for some kind of in-depth exposé.

How about this: what studies were done to prove that women could handle combat roles in the U.S. military? How did Bill and Hillary Clinton go from net worth of less than \$500,000 to over \$28 million since leaving Washington, D.C. in 2001?

I was taught in school that we had a “free press.” Even the unsaved see now that it is a *controlled* press. Thank God for His word. That's the only place truth can be found. Are you in the Book daily?

“Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices” (Prov. 1:31).

We now live in what is referred to by many as the “information age.” Technology and instant communication make it possible for truth to be distorted and spoken against on a mass scale never before experienced in human history.

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,

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What's New at the Bookstore?

MP3

July Sermons at Bible Baptist (2016)	DC-1607	\$16.95
Brian Donovan Sermon Collection #38	DC DD38	\$14.95
Brian Donovan Sermon Collection #39	DC DD39	\$14.95

CD

Bro. Donovan's "A Testimony to Dr. Ruckman"	DD 606	\$4.95
Dr. Ruckman's Funeral Service (DVD)	DVT DRF	\$5.95

BIBLES

Barbour Wide-Margin Personal Notes Bible	BL-4510	\$49.99
Hendrickson Thinline Ref. Bible (Chestnut Brown Imitation Leather)...	BL-4515	\$14.95

BOOKS

The Bottle & The Bible (Melton)	GN-9300	75¢
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TRACTS

Want to see Something Nasty?	TR-92	15¢
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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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and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen. 6:5).

Believing what the Holy Spirit has written in the scriptures is the only effective defense against complete mind control. If you are genuinely saved and spend more time with men’s devices as opposed to God’s word, you will lose what light you have. Your ability to discern what is of God and what is not will be permanently impaired. Salt that loses its saltiness is **“good for nothing”** (Matt. 5:13).

On February 4, 2004, in Menlo Park, California, Mark Zuckerberg and four other Harvard roommates launched a company called “Facebook.” Mr. Zuckerberg is now worth between forty and fifty billion dollars. He is the richest Jew in the world and the sixth richest person in total wealth; soon he will be the fifth wealthiest. His passion, his life’s goal, is to bring the world together through digital communication. Last May 14, Mr. Zuckerberg turned 32. He has a Chinese wife and has mastered the Mandarin tongue.

Zuckerberg claims to be an atheist, although raised Jewish. The God of his fathers has no place in his life. In June 2013, Zuckerberg joined Facebook employees on a company float as part of the annual San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration. On December 9, 2015, Zuckerberg posted a statement on his Facebook wall, saying, “I want to add my voice in support of Muslims in our community and around the world.”

How about this interesting tidbit: Zuckerberg named his Hungarian sheep-dog “Beast.” Beast has his own Facebook page and walked down the aisle when Zuckerberg married Priscilla Chan on May 19, 2012. Christians who speculate as to who the Antichrist might be are scratching their heads over the founder of Facebook. The media loves Mr. Zuckerberg, and he is often praised for his philanthropy. He gives millions away regularly. He travels to India and China to promote Internet access. He is relentless in his efforts to bundle the world and addict everyone to social media. **“And all the world wondered after the beast”** (Rev. 13:3). Wow, what interesting times in which we live.

Time to labor for the Lord is nearly at an end. Before our eyes, the table is being set for the Man of Sin to take this world on a ride to hell. As a Christian, it makes no difference if Mr. Zuckerberg is the Antichrist or not. I’m listening for **“the trump of God”** to sound (1 Thess. 4:16). To my brothers and sisters who find social media fascinating, I say, “Take heed!”

“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Rev. 3:11).

If you profess to be a soldier in the Lord’s army, this should be clear. Your first duty is to be in fellowship with Jesus. Folks who marry generally want to share the same bed. Every choice you make needs to be examined in this light: will it strengthen or hinder your walk with the Lord? Do what you know is right, and your fellowship will be sweet. Will you submit to or resist the Holy Spirit?

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46).

RADIO LOG

ALABAMA	
Huntsville-Decatur WBXR 1140 AM	10:30 A.M. Sat.
CALIFORNIA	
Lancaster KFXM 96.7 FM kfxm.com (streaming)	7:30 A.M. Sun. 7:30 A.M. Sun.
COLORADO	
Aurora KLTT 670 AM	10:30 A.M. Sun.
FLORIDA	
Pensacola WEBY 1330 AM	8:00 A.M. Sun.
INDIANA	
Indianapolis WBRI 1500 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.
KANSAS	
Kansas City KCNW 1380 AM	6:30 P.M. Sat.
LOUISIANA	
Alexandria-Lafayette-Lake Charles KWDF 840 AM	9:00 A.M. Sat.
MICHIGAN	
Lupton WMSD 90.9 FM	8:15 P.M. Wed.
MISSISSIPPI	
Tupelo WCPC 940 AM	10:00 A.M. Sat.
NEBRASKA	
Omaha-Lincoln KLONG 1560 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.
NEW MEXICO	
Albuquerque-Santa Fe KXKS 1190 AM KKIM 1000 AM	11:00 A.M. Sat. 8:00 A.M. Sat.
NORTH CAROLINA	
China Grove WRNA 1140 AM	2:30 P.M. Sun.
Kannapolis WRKB 1140 AM	2:30 P.M. Sun.
PENNSYLVANIA	
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton WITK 1550 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.
SOUTH CAROLINA	
Greenville WLFJ 660 AM	7:00 A.M. Sun.
WYOMING	
Cody KOFG 91.1 FM International SS Hour	10:30 A.M. Sun. 6:00 P.M. Sun.
Theological Seminar of Air	1:30 A.M. Sat. 4:00 P.M. Sat. 2:00 A.M. Sun. 4:00 P.M. Sun.
CANADA	
Thompson, MB CHTM 610 AM Theo. Seminar of the Air	9:30-10:00 A.M. Sun.

TV & Satellite

ALABAMA	
Andalusia—Ch. 63 Covington Co.—Ch. 42 Opp—Ch. 59 UHF—Ch. 25	10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun.
CALIFORNIA	
San Pedro—Cox Communications San Diego—Cox—Ch 24 & 18 San Diego—Time Warner—Ch 16	6:30 PM Fri. 4:00 PM Wed. Time varies
CONNECTICUT	
Willimantic—Charter Comm.—Ch 192	5:30 PM Tue.
IDAHO	
Pocatello—TCI Cable—Ch 12	1:00 PM Sun. 2:30 PM Tue.
IOWA	
Dubuque—Media Com—Ch 81	Times Vary
MASSACHUSETTS	
Springfield—Public Access—Ch 12	5 PM Mon.
MICHIGAN	
Battlecreek—Access Vision—Ch 11	3:00 PM Sat.
MONTANA	
Missoula—MCAT—Ch 12	2:00 PM Mon.
NEW YORK	
Broome—Time Warner—Ch 6 Buffalo—Public Access—Ch 20 Elmira—Corming—Ch 1 Farmington Time Warner—Ch 12 Mid-Hudson Cable—Ch 11 Lockport—Ch 20 LCTV	4 PM Mon. /6 PM Wed. 5:05 PM Sun. 9:00 AM Sun. 8:00 PM Sun. 3 PM Wed. 4:00 PM Mon. 10:30 AM Tues. 10:00 PM Fri. 12:30 PM Sun. 4:00 PM Fri.
Suffolk—Ch 20 Woodbury—Cable Vision—Ch 71	
NEW MEXICO	
Albuquerque Community Cable—Ch 27 Los Alamos—PAC 8	5:00 PM Mon. 6:00 PM Sun. 2:00 PM Tue.
NEW ZEALAND	
Mainland TV Nelson	9:00 AM Sun.
OKLAHOMA	
Tulsa—Ch 47-3 (antenna)	6:00 PM Fri.
PENNSYLVANIA	
York—York CATV—Ch 16	9:00 PM Mon. 3:00 PM Tue.
TENNESSEE	
Pikeville—S.E. Tenn. St. Regional Correctional Facility	Times Vary
TEXAS	
Abilene—KTXS—Ch 12 Brownwood—Ch 77 San Angelo—Ch 55	7:00 AM Sun. 7:00 AM Sun. 7:00 AM Sun.

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