



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 40 No. 11 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) November 2016

MEN AS TREES

By Brian Donovan

Whenever the Lord Jesus Christ performed a physical healing during His three-and-one-half-year earthly ministry, He gave us great illustrations of our own spiritual salvation, especially when a blind man was healed. The scriptures show that when we were lost sinners, we were not only **"without God," "having no hope"** (Eph. 2:12), and **"children of wrath"** (Eph. 2:3), but we walked around in a blind condition (2 Cor. 4:4). So one of the best types of our salvation is found whenever the Lord gave sight to the blind.

One case is found in John chapter 9, when the Lord gives sight to a man who was born blind. The man endured all of his youth as a blind person, and we are told that it was so **"that the works of God should be manifest in him"** (John 9:3). The Lord watched as parents cried over their newborn babe being unable to see anything, and this was done to bring glory to Himself.

When the Lord Jesus heals the man, He makes clay with His own

spit, anoints the man's eyes with it, and then tells him, **"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam"** (vss. 6–7). Now anyone knows that all that work and the numerous steps were not necessary for the Lord to bring sight to blind eyes. He could have simply spoken the words, and the sight could have been given. So He has reasons for taking the steps; one of those may be to show men Who the Maker of the cornea, retina, and optic nerve really is. Since man is made of dirt, this baby came into the world with a defect in the dirt from which he was made, and the Lord took dirt and created the missing and defective parts.

In another case of healing a blind man in Mark 8:22–26, the Lord again takes some extra steps to perform the miracle in order to teach some lessons. In that passage, the man's sight comes only partially back at first, and he sees **"men as trees, walking."** It was not until he first experienced that partial vision that his eyes were restored whole.

It should be obvious to the reader that the Lord intended the man to see this and the main reason for taking the extra step. The spiritual lesson is that men are like trees. When you begin to look at trees, you will see that they have some things in common with men. They both are made up mostly

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Growing Old Gracefully

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth . . . Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come” (Psa. 71:9, 18).

I am going to write about something that, admittedly, I know little. I am not known for doing anything “gracefully,” much less growing old gracefully.

One of the strangest pictures in the Bible of the Lord Jesus Christ is in Revelation: **“His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow”** (Rev. 1:14). That same picture is given over in Daniel 7:9, where He is called **“the Ancient of days.”** The picture is that of an old, aged Christ: Someone who has plenty of experience in life from growing old.

God used elderly folk in the Bible. Moses wasn't “called to preach” until he was eighty years old (Acts 7:22–23, 30; Exod. 7:7). Caleb was still active at 85 (Josh. 14:10–11).

The progression of life is: the teachable teens, the tireless twenties, the thriving thirties, the forceful forties, the failing fifties, the sickly sixties, the senile seventies, and the aching eighties. Then, for most people, it's death, the sod, and *God*.

“When as a child I laughed and wept,
Time *crept*.
When as a youth I waxed more bold,
Time *strolled*.
When I became a full grown man,
Time *ran*.
When older still I daily grew,
Time *flew*.
Soon I shall find, in passing on,
Time *gone*.
O Christ! wilt Thou have saved me then?
Amen.”

“Time's Paces” by Henry Twells

What is an “old man”? In the military, he's a commanding officer. In the infantry, we called the Captain of a rifle company “the old man.” In the Navy, that is what the Captain of a ship is called. You will sometimes hear me call Bob Jones Sr. “old man Bob.” I am not being disrespectful. Having come out of the infantry, I looked at him as like I looked to a Captain.

Some sayings about old age are: “You are as young as your hope and as

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old as your despair." "Some folks are dead at forty and buried at seventy." At 94 years old, I look back on what I used to be able to do and say, "Oh, to be seventy again!"

The first thing I want to say about growing old is that there are *dangers* associated with it. There are dangers associated with childhood. It's a miracle any child reaches his tenth birthday, given the childhood diseases he can contract and the accidents he can have. When I was a boy, I would come home for supper, and my momma would ask me, "Where have you been?" I would always say, "Out playing." "Out playing" sometimes meant racing street cars down a hill on my bicycle. It's a miracle I wasn't hit and killed. There is no way a momma or daddy can keep an eye on a kid 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If a kid makes it through childhood, God has been taking care of him.

One of the dangers of youth is taking dares to prove you're a man. I have scars all over my head where I let my buddies drop bricks and rocks on my head for money. I grew up in the Depression, and money was hard to come by in those days. Somebody would dare me to do something, and I would ask, "How much will you give me if I do?" I mean, I wasn't stupid; I wasn't going to do it just to do it. If I were offered enough to take the risk, though, I would go through with it. It's a miracle I didn't get my skull bashed in.

There are dangers in character and habit formation. Your character and habits are formed in your teenage years. That's usually where a person slips. A teenager wants to belong to a crowd; he wants to have friends. A boy or girl will do just about anything to "fit in." I was still reaping things in my *seventies* that I had sown before I was twenty.

There are dangers of manhood, like getting in debt. Most divorces are over disputes between a husband and wife over *money*. And of course, there are car accidents and wars. There are all kinds of dangers you face as an adult.

"Men told me, Lord, it was a vale of tears
Where Thou hadst placed me, wickedness and woe
My twain companions whereso I might go;
That I through ten and three-score weary years
Should stumble on, beset by pains and fears,
Fierce conflict round me, passions hot within,
Enjoyment brief and fatal but in sin.
When all was ended then should I demand
Full compensation from Thine austere hand;
For, 'tis Thy pleasure, all temptation past,
To be not just but generous at last.

"Lord, here am I, my three-score years and ten

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All counted to the full; I've fought Thy fight,
Crossed Thy dark valleys, scaled Thy rocks' harsh height,
Borne all Thy burdens Thou dost lay on men
With hand unsparing, three-score years and ten.
Before Thee now I make my claim, O Lord!
What shall I pray Thee as a meet reward?

"I ask for nothing. Let the balance fall!
All that I am or know or may confess
But swells the weight of mine indebtedness;
Burdens and sorrows stand transfigured all;
Thy hand's rude buffet turns to a caress,
For Love, with all the rest, Thou gavest me here,
Lo! I have dwelt with Thee, Lord. let me die.
I could do no more through all Eternity."

"Men Told Me, Lord" by David Starr Jordan

There are dangers of old age. One of them is poor memory. As you get older, your memory fails you. In his later years, Bob Jones Sr.'s mind would fail him to the point where he would get out of the hospital there on campus (without anybody catching him!) and be found standing on the sidewalk with his bags packed, ready to go preach a meeting somewhere. I talked to him one time when he was in that condition, and he said to me with a dazed look on his face, "This isn't my school. I built a school once. You ought to come to my school." Of course, he wasn't in his right mind then, but he told a lot of truth there.

I finally had to stop teaching and preaching due to a failing memory. Of course, my eyes were going too, due to macular degeneration, but when you can't read your notes or remember what you want to say, it's time to hang it up. I learned from Bob Jones Sr. that you can't depend on the ability to "ad lib." He had preached his sermons so many times that he didn't use notes. But when his memory was going, I heard him repeat the same illustration three times in the same sermon. I hadn't arrived quite at that point when I quit, but it was getting there. I learned long ago to write everything I wanted to say down in my notes, but what are you going to do when you can't read your notes or remember what you said or wanted to say?

There is a danger in old age of feeling unwanted. I am here to tell you, Christian, that if no one else wants you, the *Lord* wants you. If He didn't want you down here, He would take you home. That Bible says, "**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints**" (Psa. 116:15).

Another danger of old age is being too weak to help. Like one elderly person said, "I'm still kicking, but I'm not raising much dust." Paul had infirmities that made him weak. He chose to glory in his infirmities (2 Cor.

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12:5) because that is when the Lord perfected His strength in him (2 Cor. 12:9–10).

In the last years of Clarence Larkin's life, when he was working on *The Greatest Book on Dispensational Truth*, he was in pain every day. But he worked on that book through his pain and got it done, and it became the foundational work for every Premillennial expositor in America. People like Hal Lindsey and Tim LaHaye have made millions of dollars copying Clarence Larkin.

The Apostle John was ninety years old when the Lord gave him the Revelation on the isle of Patmos; he was a slave laborer in the salt mines there. I have seen "Fightin'" Bob Shuler, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church in Los Angeles, preach right after he had a heart attack and the doctors told him not to travel. He got in a plane and traveled from Los Angeles to Greenville,

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South Carolina to preach at Bob Jones University. He was still partially paralyzed on his left side. But those sermons he preached in that condition were so powerful that I could still repeat a couple of them verbatim after fifty years.

There's a fear of loneliness as you get older. All your friends and loved ones your age start passing away. I think I am the only one left at the Bible Baptist Church of the "Big Parade" (World War II vets). All my "comrades in arms" have passed away. My buddies in the ministry—Bob Jones Sr., Alex Dunlap, Bob Gray, Carl Lackey, Herbert Noe, Oliver B. Greene, Lester Roloff, Hugh Pyle, Glen Schunk, et al.—have gone home to be with the Lord. I feel like those servants in Job 1—"and I only am escaped alone to tell thee."

But for all the dangers and fears of old age, there are some great *opportunities*. You have real time to pray because you no longer have as much cluttering your life as you did when you were younger. Bob Jones Sr. told me that when he talked to Billy Sunday, he could never tell half the time whether Billy was talking to him or talking to God; Billy would switch back and forth in a conversation.

When I graduated from Bob Jones University, I got my unofficial "ordination" from Pappy Reveal, founder of the Evansville Rescue Mission in Indiana. I had just stepped out of the Rodeheaver Auditorium with my diploma in hand when I heard a voice say, "Come here, young man." It came from a car parked by the curb. Pappy was a little fellow and a cripple. I went over to the car, and he said, "Kneel." Well, I was raised in a military family where you followed orders, so I knelt down. He reached his hand out of the window of that car and laid it on my head, and prayed for me. That fellow could pray. He would go to the Lord and say, "Lord, I have to have \$10,000 tomorrow by 10:00, and I'm trusting you to give it to me. And Lord, if you don't, your name is going to be mud." The Lord gave him the money. Old Pappy Reveal was in his eighties.

Another advantage to old age is that you can have real fellowship with God. You have less distractions and less attractions. You get to the point where the things you wanted when you were younger, you don't need anymore. It's a blessing to walk through Kmart or Walmart and say, "Thank God I don't need that, and I don't need that, etc."

Old age is a time you can get closer to God. A child asked his grandmother, one time, why she spent so much time reading her Bible. She said, "I'm boning up on my finals." She was getting ready to meet the Lord.

When you get up in years, you have unusual opportunities to witness. You may live by yourself and be all alone, but there is still something you can do for Jesus Christ.

"Is your place a small place?
Tend it with care!
He set you there.

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"Is your place a large place?
Guard it with care!
He set you there.

"Whate'er your place is, it is
Not yours alone, but His
That set you there."

"Your Place" by John Oxenham

One of Billy Sunday's converts, Lucius Eddy, when he was 81 years old, led a hundred men to Christ. Back in my eighties, I found where the "fishing holes" were: they were in the prisons. For about ten years or more, I was able to lead hundreds of men to Christ in the prisons on summer "junkets."

A pastor friend of mine in Jacksonville, Florida knew a woman in her seventies who would go around to hospitals and give the poorer male patients free shaves. She would ask those men, "Can I give you a shave in the name of the Lord Jesus?" And she would witness to them as she gave them a shave. That pastor said, "I watched that woman lead two men to Christ in forty minutes." An older woman can get away with things younger women and younger men can't. She reminds folks of their mother or grandmother.

A cab driver was driving an elderly gentleman home one night when he got a call from dispatch to pick up three young men. Since the pickup was right on the way, he decided to take care of both fares at once. He put one young fellow up front and the other two in the back seat with the old man.

Well, those young men were headed for a wild night out on the town, and as young men are wont to do, they began to brag and boast about their plans for the night. As they were being especially lurid as to what they planned, one of those young fellows turned to that old man and said,

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SEPTEMBER'S SERMONS

Brian Donovan

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“What about you, pop? You want to come with us and paint the town red?”

Now that “senior citizen” was a Christian. Up to that point, he had kept his mouth shut and stared out the window. But when that younger guy asked him that, that elderly Christian man turned to those three young fellows and said, “Gentlemen, I fear God.” With that, he turned and looked back out the window. Talk about a wet blanket, man! That was a simple witness, but it cut to the hearts of those three fellows.

Now here are some rules for *long living*. These aren't things like eat right, get plenty of rest, drink at least eight glasses of water a day, etc. These are principles in God's word for a long life. The first is found in the Ten Commandments.

“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee” (Exod. 20:12).

Paul calls that **“the first commandment with promise”** (Eph. 6:2). That is, it is the first of the ten with a promise attached to it: if you honor your parents, God will give you a long life. Of course, that is subject to the will and purpose of God. There is no doubt that Jesus honored His earthly parents (Luke 2:51), but He died at thirty-three-and-a-half years old. But that was because it was the Father's will that Jesus die for sinners. All things being equal, if you observe what the Scriptures say about a long life, you will live longer than those who don't.

Bob Jones Sr. said he read a book once on how to live to be a hundred. One of the things that writer of that book said to do was, every morning, fill a tub with cold water, and before you eat breakfast, get in it. Dr. Bob said, “You may have your idea of what a brave man is, but my idea of a brave man is one who will fill that tub up with ice-cold water and then stand and look at it before he gets in.”

You can **“prolong thy days upon the earth”** when you keep the commandments in that Book directed at you (Deut. 4:40; Prov. 3:1–2). God will give you **“length of days”** when you live by the wisdom in that Book (Prov. 3:13–16, 4:7–10). The fear of God will add years to your life (Prov. 9:10–11). Do you want a long life? Then *pray* about it (Psa. 21:4). I mean, **“ye have not, because ye ask not”** (James 4:2).

Here are some statistics about old age. The average age where sexual activity stops among men is 68. For the female, it's 81. The average life span of an English-speaking male is 69 years old; between both sexes, the average age of an American is 73. If you engage in sex perversion as a male, you cut your life down to 41–47 years old.

If I were to say something about how to live a long life, I would say go on working. Theodore Taylor of Yorkshire, England died at 102. At 99, he was still doing public speaking against the opium traffic, and he was still working at a factory when he was 100. Of course, it helped that he was a non-smoker and a “teetotaler” (didn't drink alcohol). Michelangelo was still

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painting the Sistine Chapel at 89. John Wesley was still preaching at 88. Ben Franklin wrote his biography at eighty. Ignacy Jan Paderewski, the Polish pianist, was still performing concerts at eighty. Alfred Lord Tennyson, the poet laureate of England, was still writing poems at 83. Booth Tarkington wrote sixteen novels after he was sixty. Titian was still painting at 88, the year he died. Verdi was still composing music at 76.

The American fitness personality Jack LaLanne lived to be 96. At 60, he swam from Alcatraz to the shore *handcuffed*. At 61, he swam the length of the Long Beach Harbor towing thirteen boats behind him. At 62, he swam the length of the Golden Gate Bridge pulling a 2,000-pound boat. At 70, he towed seventy boats 1.5 miles—handcuffed. He was still working out daily up to the day before he died of pneumonia. And if he had gone to the doctor when his family told him to, he probably would have lived longer.

Work as long as you can. Keep exercising as long as you can. If you retire, keep a daily “constitutional” of walking. Find something to do that will give your life purpose. That will help you live longer. Keep moving till you can’t move.

I would also say that as you get older, don’t lose your sense of humor. It will help keep you alive. In *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Erich Maria Remarque has one of his characters say, “We have to use humor to keep from going crazy. We joke about things because if we didn’t, we’d lose our minds.”

I saw a cartoon once of an eighty-year-old fellow at the death bed of his ninety-year-old buddy. That dying fellow said to his friend, “Come here.” The eighty-year-old came toward the bed. “Closer.” He stepped closer. “Closer.” He got right up against the dying man so he could hear what he had to say. The fellow in bed reached out and touched his buddy and said, “Last tag!” That’s being in a good humor, brother.

Now the last thing I want to say is that no matter how old you get, you will *die*. **“It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”** (Heb. 9:27).

In comparison to eternity, life here on earth, no matter how old you may live to be, is *short*. **“For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”** (James 4:14).

“Life is short; death is sure.

Sin the curse; Christ the cure.”

The reality is, most Christians get saved before they are ten years old. But the older you get, the less likely you are to trust Christ. You won’t find many people who got saved after they were sixty years old. The reason for that is, the older you get, the more you watch other people and see their failures and shortcomings. That makes you feel better about yourself and feeds your self-righteous nature. “Well, they say they’re Christians, and look how they live. I’m better than that, so I must be all right.”

That’s *false security*. You can’t count on the inconsistencies of others to

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get you to Heaven. God doesn't judge on a "curve."

The old saying is: "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." That's because old people become set in their ways. That's why it is so hard for an elderly person to stop trusting his own righteousness and trust only the righteousness of Christ. That's why the admonition from the wisest man who ever lived, outside of Jesus Christ, was:

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them" (Eccl. 12:1).

Now I hope, as you grow older, that you can claim the victory. Jacob's testimony before Pharaoh at 130 years of age was: **"few and evil have the days of the years of my life been"** (Gen. 47:9). What a testimony to give to a heathen King. But that was from a life of conniving and deceit and living for self. Contrast that with the testimony of the Apostle Paul:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day" (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

I hope you, in your twilight years, can give a testimony like this:

"Thank God for life, with all its endless store
Of great experiences, of hill and dale,
Of cloud and sunshine, tempest, snow, and hail.

"Thank God for straining sinews, panting breast,
No less for weary slumber, peaceful rest;

"Thank God for home and parents, children, friends,
For sweet companionship that never ends:

"Thank God for all the splendor of the earth,
For nature teeming with prolific birth.

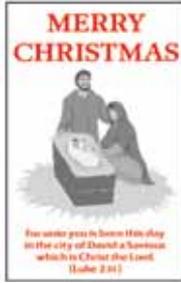
"Thank God for sea and sky, for changing hours.
For trees and singing birds and fragrant flowers.

"And so in looking back at eight-three
My final word to you, my friends, shall be:

Thank God for life; and when the gift's withdrawn,
Thank God for twilight bell, and coming dawn."

"At Eighty-Three" by Thomas Durky Landelsky

Merry Christmas Tract



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Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

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December 9–11

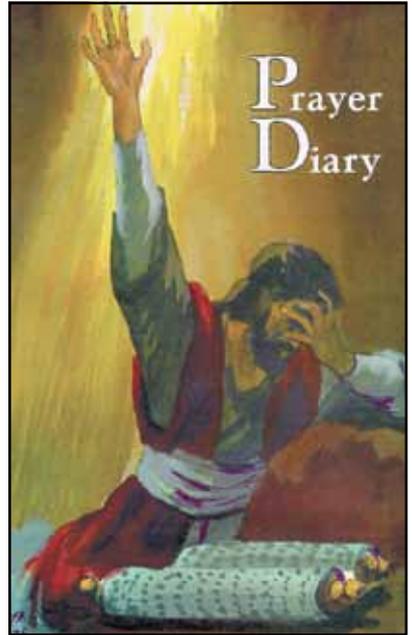
Anchor Baptist Church
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Faulkner, MD 20632
Pastor Bob Joseph
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January 20–22

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MEN AS TREES

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of water. They both have trunks with branches growing off them. They both decline in their ability to perform their functions with age. They both come and go by the millions with hardly anyone noticing them.

Trees have a number of beneficial purposes in their relationship to man. Men breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide, while trees breathe in carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen (no doubt a pure accident of evolution). Trees cleanse the atmosphere of pollutants, cool waters under their shade, reduce erosion using their root systems, as well as providing mankind a beautiful landscape. Trees point man to a Creator and will, one day, at the restoration of the earth, "**clap their hands**" (Isa. 55:12) at the return of the Saviour, when He sets up His millennial kingdom.

The Bible speaks of at least 31 kinds of trees from Genesis to Revelation. They include the box, myrtle, pine, mulberry, fig, apple, olive, pomegranate, juniper, sycamore, fir, and others. The "greenies" are always worried about saving the trees, when they don't have a clue about what they are talking. Up until very recently, "science" estimated there were about 400 billion trees on earth, but in 2015, an article appeared in the *LA Times* titled, "We Finally Know How Many Trees." It reported there are over three trillion trees on earth.!

Every time one of these tree huggers interferes with the Lord's set up, He stirs up a little brush fire and burns a couple of million trees in one shot. Many of the forest fires out west can be directly traced to greenies trying to save the old-growth forests. As trees

get to a certain age, they quit taking in carbon dioxide and actually become less useful and should be cut down.

The Bible begins with man in a garden, and he was commanded not to eat of a certain tree (Gen. 2). When he disobeyed, the Lord removed "**the tree of life**," and both mankind and the trees are now cursed. From the time Adam partook of that vine tree until now, men are born to die. But thanks to the Lord, He stepped in and fixed it all by putting His only begotten Son "**on a tree**" to take the curse away (Gal. 3:13). The Book ends with "**the tree of life**" back in place "**for the healing of the nations**" (Rev. 22:2).

The Bible has a lot to say about "**men as trees**." In Psalm 1:3, the blessed man is likened to "**a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season**." In Psalm 37:35, the wicked man is likened to "**a green bay tree**." In Ezekiel 31:3, Satan, as "**the Assyrian**" is likened to "**a cedar in Lebanon**." That helps explain why men want to cut down a tree at Xmass and bring it into the house and decorate it. It also helps explain why the heathen carve totem poles, make wooden steeples, and "knock on wood" as a superstition. In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar is lifted up in pride, and as a result, he is cut down like a tree to the stump of his roots. The Lord was not wasting any time or effort when He allowed the blind man in Mark 8 to first "**see men as trees, walking**" before He fully restored his physical sight.

One way in which trees are like men is found in the palm tree in that it is Flexible. There are over 2,500

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varieties of the palm tree on this earth, and almost every part of the palm tree is useful. Their trunks are used to build huts and small bridges; their seeds are fed to pigs; their fronds are used for making brooms and rattan furniture. Shoe polish, wax, dental floss, rope, and hats are all made from the palm. From the palm tree, man feeds on coconuts, dates, betel nuts, and acai fruit. The first mention of the palm in the Bible is in Exodus 15:27, where the seventy palms of Elim provide shade at an oasis for Israel coming out of Egypt and into the desert of Sinai.

Another great example of the flexibility of the palm tree was demonstrated throughout southern Florida in August of 1992, when Hurricane Andrew's 165-mile-per-hour winds toppled millions of trees. When the devastation was finished, the bulk of the trees that survived were the royal palms. Even though they grow to heights reaching 100 feet, the palms bent with the winds and even sacrificed their fronds to survive. The flexibility of the palm bending to the wind is the reason so many survived. Though their root system is not spread out nor very deep, they survived due to their flexibility in bending to the wind.

In the scripture, the wind is likened to the Holy Spirit (John 3:8); and the Christian, like a tree, must bend to the Holy Spirit's way to survive, often sacrificing some things to His control in order to please the Lord. The lost world looks at yielding as a sign of weakness, but every man must yield to someone or something. In Romans chapter 6, Paul shows that everyone either yields to sin or to righteousness,

but no man "does his own thing." You will be obedient to the flesh or to the Spirit. It is your choice, but you will yield somewhere. In Daniel 3, the three Hebrew children are delivered from "**the burning fiery furnace**" because they "**yielded their bodies, that they might not serve**" any other god but the true God (Dan. 3:28). The submission of the Christian to the leading of the Holy Spirit will prevent a breaking. It will sometimes require sacrifice, but in the end, the successful child of God will become like the palm and be flexible.

Another way in which trees are like men is that some trees are Faithful. The cedar tree, in the Bible, provides the example of faithfulness. The cedars were there for the building of King David's house (2 Sam. 5:11) and Solomon's house (1 Kings 7:1-2), as well as the temple of the Lord (1 Kings 6:9, 15-16, 20).

Cedars are known for their long life and durability, with their insect and disease-resistant wood. A forest of cedars in Lebanon was protected by Queen Victoria of England back in the 1800's by building a protective border around them; the same trees are still around today. A yellow cedar in Alaska was found to have 1,834 tree rings, and many are known to live between 1,500-2,000 years. Cedars will grow in elevations over 3,000 feet, where most trees cannot survive. They do not grow very tall, usually not over forty to fifty feet, but are strong, faithful trees. Cedar chests are valued for their resistance to wood borers, insects, and wood rot.

The Christian should desire to be like this tree in his faithfulness and

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MEN AS TREES

Continued from 13 durability. The Lord gives a parable in Luke 19 where He commends a servant for being **“faithful in a very little”** (Luke 19:17). In 1 Corinthians 4:2, the Apostle Paul tells us that **“it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”** Timothy is told to take what he has been given and commit the same **“to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.”** When the Lord calls you home, will you be found faithful like the cedar?

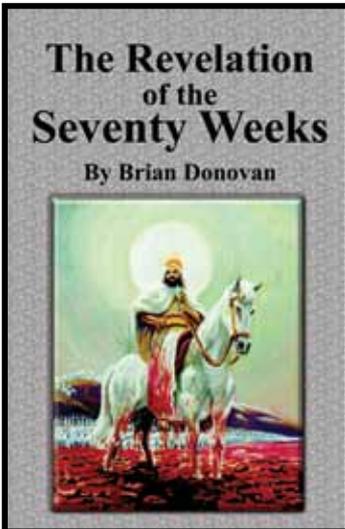
A third way that trees are like men is found in the Fruitful tree. The Bible mentions the fig, olive, hazel, chest-

nut, apple, almond, pomegranate, and vine trees. Fruit trees are useful to man for both nutritional and medicinal value. The trees that are fruitful require pruning and maintenance to fight disease and insects. The right amount of sun and water, along with sprays of oil, are needed to continue fruit bearing. Good pruning prevents the crop from becoming too heavy and breaking the branches, while too much pruning will result in an under-sized crop.

The Lord Jesus says He is **“the vine”** and we **“are the branches”** (John 15:5). Once a disciple begins to

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MEN AS TREES

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bear fruit, the Lord **“purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit”** (John 15:2). As a nation, Israel is likened to the fig tree (Jer. 24; Matt. 24), and when she did not produce fruit, He sets her aside (Matt. 21:17–19) and gives the vineyard to others (Matt. 21:41–43). The Lord expects fruit, or in His view, the tree is merely cumbering the ground (Luke 13:6–9).

A fruit tree that does not ever bear fruit is useless. The blessed man of Psalm 1 is **“like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.”** The barren fig tree is a picture of man in his self-righteous condition with only leaves (Gen. 3:7) and, in Judges 9, shown to be nothing more than a self-serving tree. As lost sinners, we only had rotten fruit that brought shame (Rom. 6:21).

The blind man said he saw **“men as trees, walking.”** When the Lord looks down at you, does He see a fruitful tree? Galatians 5:22–23 tells us there are nine **“fruit of the Spirit.”** We should be discipling ourselves to

be full of **“love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance”** to bring forth fruit to our worthy Saviour.

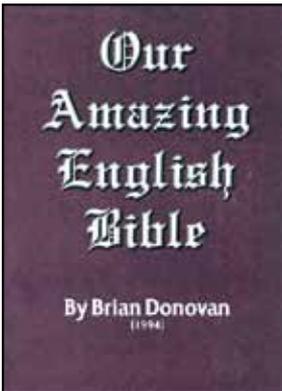
Some trees are Forceful. The oak, in the Bible, is the example of being strong, yet the references are not good. The first mention of the oak is in Genesis 35:4, when Jacob hides the false gods and trinkets of his wives which he had picked up during his twenty-year stay with **“Laban the Syrian”** (Gen. 25:20, 31:20, 24).

Oaks spread their branches further out than they grow up, sometimes up to 100 feet out from the trunk. They are used by the heathen for their shady groves in idol worship **“under every thick oak”** (Ezek. 6:13). The oak’s leaves contain tannic acid, and its acorns are toxic to sheep.

The young prophet gets himself in trouble when he hesitates and sits under an oak (1 Kings 13:14). At the second coming of Christ, He will take vengeance on the **“oaks of Bashan”** (Isa. 2:13; Zech. 11:2).

The oak often looks healthy on the

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MEN AS TREES

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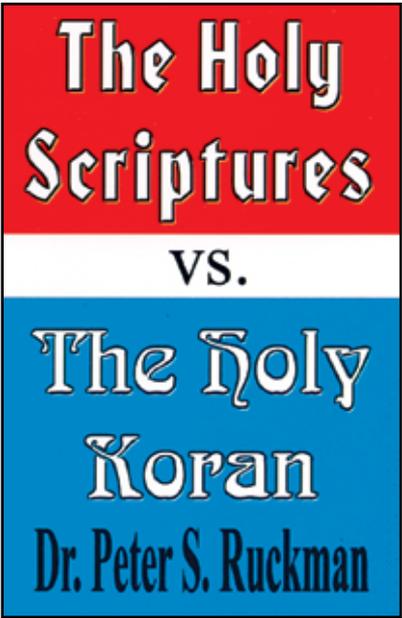
outside while being eaten out from the inside. It rots from the inside, until finally, one day, a storm brings it crashing to the ground.

The oak's strength is connected to pride, as it refuses to bend to the wind in its strength. The oak pictures the proud soul that refuses to bow the head and humble himself. Rather than give its strength to the Lord, the oak holds its head high in the face of the wind and laughs at the flimsy reed which bows at the slightest breeze of wind. But there finally comes the day when the wind brings it crashing to the ground.

Roman Catholic legend says the cross of Jesus Christ on Calvary was probably a dogwood, but the Bible points to it being made from the

oak. The carpenter in Isaiah 44 (vss. 13–14) is said to take an oak and “**strengtheneth [it] for himself**” in order to make a god and an image to worship. The Lord mentions taking vengeance on the “**oaks of Bashan**” when He returns, not on the dogwood.

Men are “**as trees, walking.**” Some men are flexible like the palm tree and bend to the Holy Spirit. Some men are faithful and durable like the cedar tree and live out a long life for the Lord. Some men are fruitful like the vine tree and continue to bear fruit, even as the pruning of the Lord takes place. Some men are forceful like the oak and use their God-given strength for themselves as they refuse to bow the head when the Lord speaks.



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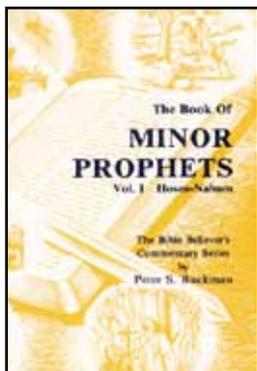
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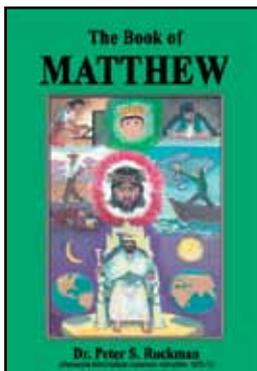
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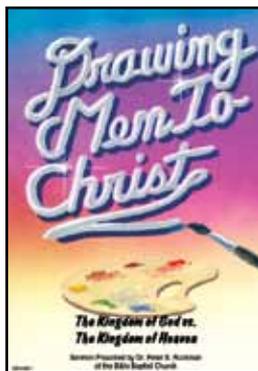
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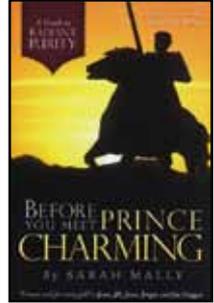
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“Shall Not The Judge Of All The Earth Do Right?”

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen. 18:25).

The above text is Abraham preaching to his Creator. His message is essentially, “Far be it from you, Lord, to do wrong.” Now would anybody reading this article care to answer Abraham’s question: **“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”**

You say, “Of course He’ll do right.” Every time? Under every circumstance? The atheist doesn’t think so. One of the basic arguments of atheism is how could God be good and let all the awful things go on that take place all over this world. Either God is not good (in which case He would be the Devil), or He does not exist. The atheist argues the latter, but in actuality believes the former.

If God is **“the Judge of all the earth”** (and He certainly would be if He were really God), then He certainly *should* **“do right.”** Bob Jones Sr. said the two greatest words in the English language are *do right*. Well, would God “do wrong”? Would you care to challenge Him of wrongdoing like the atheist?

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” The obvious answer is if there is any **“Judge of all the earth”**—i.e., if there is any “God”—He would have to do right, or He wouldn’t be God. If He did wrong, He would be a sinner just like you or me.

For a minute, let’s look at the question from the atheist’s viewpoint. Have you ever studied history? Have you read about some of the things God let happen? Did He do right when He let such things happen?

Was He right in letting Hitler kill six million of His chosen people? Was He right for letting 2,209 people die in the Johnstown flood? Was He right for letting the Spanish flu sweep across the earth between 1918 and 1920, killing anywhere from 50-100 million people? Was He right for letting firestorms sweep through Hamburg when the Allies bombed it, killing 42,600 civilians and wounding 37,000 more? Could He have stopped these things? Should He have?

You see, you need to *think*. **“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”** The philosophers never could successfully answer the question. Let’s see just how straight you are; let’s see if you are as stupid as some jackass educated far beyond his intelligence.

Was God right to drown out the whole earth except for eight people (Gen. 6–8)? What’s your answer? I know the answer of the evolutionist and the humanist: God didn’t do it; He had no hand in it.

Did God do right when He burned Sodom and Gomorrah to the ground for the sex perversion going on in them? Was He right for burning the old men and women in their seventies and eighties, the cripples and the handicapped,

“Shall Not The Judge Of All The Earth Do Right?”

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and (undoubtedly) the children and the babies? Was that the right thing to do?

Are you sure you aren't an atheist or agnostic in the way you look at things? You say, "I don't know whether He was right or not." Well, if you can't answer the question, then you had better get rid of the God of that Bible, because the God of the Bible not only did those things, He said He was right for doing them.

Did God **“do right”** by having Zedekiah's eyes put out after watching his own sons murdered (Jer. 39:6–7)? Was He right for letting the Babylonians come into Jerusalem and rape the women, hang the men up by their thumbs, and enslave the children (Lam. 5:11–13)? God saw all that; He allowed it to happen. Did He **“do right”**?

But it is more than God just “allowing” it to happen. Job said He *caused it*: **“What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”** (Job 2:10).

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” What do you think? Did God **“do right”** in His treatment of Job? God said He didn't. He told Satan, **“thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause”** (Job 2:3).

Do you call that good judgment? What's the matter? Getting a little confused? That Book will put anybody clean out of the ring. It will chew him up and spit him out, especially the ones with IQs of 140 or more.

Job had done nothing wrong to deserve anything he got, yet he got it “in the neck.” He had ten funerals in one day; his wife cursed him out; he was stricken with an incurable disease. *God was the author of all that*. He was the one who brought Job to Satan's attention; He was the one who gave the Devil permission to do what he did to Job. Well, did God **“do right”** when He did those things?

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” How about Christ's death? Would you let a sinless man be tortured to death if you could stop it? Come now, don't be squeamish. Don't play musical chairs or round and round the mulberry bush. Is it right to let your Son be tortured to death when He was sinless?

The sex perverts and the “emergents” (neo-Liberals) don't hesitate to answer the question. God was either a cosmic child abuser, or He wasn't responsible for it. I trust you have more sense than that.

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Is He right to let a sinner go to the Lake of Fire and burn forever when He could get him out? In Luke 16:24–25, the rich man in Hell asked for a drop of water and never got it. Was God right for doing that?

You say, “That's just a parable.” That's the standard way of avoiding the question: *throw the Book out*. The Book is too powerful for you, and you can't deal with it. It is more powerful than all 23 million volumes in the Library of

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“Shall Not The Judge Of All The Earth Do Right?”

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Congress put together. It takes the egotistical intellectuals and deposits all of them in “File 13.”

“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” Will He be right when He says to hundreds of millions of lost sinners, **“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels”** (Matt. 25:41), and **“depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity”** (Luke 13:27)? Will it be right that **“the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day or night”** (Rev. 14:11)?

Would God actually do that? Well, not if He were the god of modern America, no. If you are talking about the god preached over “TBN” and the Christian FM radio stations, no, he wouldn’t. But if you are talking about the God of the Book (AV 1611), He certainly will, and it will be *right*. In fact, God wouldn’t do wrong to keep you or any other sinner out of the Lake of Fire.

You say, “But **‘God is love’** (1 John 4:8).” Yes, He is, but He is also *holy* and *just*, and His holiness takes precedence over His love. His first consideration is not some sentimental emotion for you; it is what is *right*, what is *true*. Your opinion isn’t worthy of consideration, so He doesn’t consider it.

God did *right* in wiping out the civilization of Noah’s day. It was completely corrupt and would have taken the whole world to Hell (Gen. 6:5). Left to itself, it would have multiplied billions of God-hating, violent, murderous lost sinners.

God did *right* in wiping out Sodom and Gomorrah—even the children and babies. Do you know what those little boys and girls had to look forward to? Being sexually molested by a bunch of homosexuals and Lesbians, and being taught that abominable “lifestyle” was natural and that they were “born that way.” They would have grown up to perpetuate the cycle of perversion in the next generation until their abominable acts became worse than previous generations (exactly as you are seeing it play out in the United States right now). Those sex perverts in Sodom were ready to kill a man because he wouldn’t let them rape his house guests (Gen. 19). That’s why God warned those Jews that when they entered the land of Canaan to wipe out those heathen nations that were practicing the same abominations as Sodom and Gomorrah: kill them or they’ll kill you (see also Judg. 19).

God did *right* in letting Nebuchadnezzar come in and burn Jerusalem to the ground. God had given those Jews warning after warning over a period of more than 200 years to get right or He would let them be taken into captivity. Except for brief periods of revival, they worshiped false gods, murdered, committed sodomy, and broke the covenant God made with them and to which they agreed (Exod. 19:8).

God did *right* in turning Satan loose on Job. Although Job had done nothing to deserve anything that happened to him, there was a spirit of self-righteous-

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"Shall Not The Judge Of All The Earth Do Right?"

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ness in Job that could only be brought to the surface by adversity (see Job 27:6, 13:15). God wanted to get all the dross out of Job so he would be pure gold (Job 23:10).

God did *right* in letting His Son be tortured for your sins (Isa. 53:10). He was not a "child abuser." He left it up to His Son's own free will, but warned Him of the consequences. He also gave Him a promise of resurrection and eternal life if He chose to be the sacrifice for our sins (see our comments on Tit. 1:2 in the *Bible Believer's Commentary on the Pastoral Epistles*). Thank God Jesus *chose in our favor*; otherwise there would be no way out of Hell and no way into God's presence. God let Jesus go through all the horrors of Calvary not just as the only payment He would accept for our sins, but to give Him several billion willing worshipers in Eternity to bow at His feet and praise Him (Isa. 53:11–12).

God said, "**Be ye holy; for I am holy**" (1 Pet. 1:16). God never does wrong. Do you know how He does the things I just gave you and gets away with it? Because He is holy and we are not.

God's mercy may sometimes delay what God's holiness demands (Eccl. 8:11), but God's mercy won't last forever to a man who turns down the way God has provided for a sinner to access God's grace. God's mercy towards us as lost sinners was manifested at Calvary, and if you want God to have eternal mercy on your soul, you will have to go where He says to go to get it.

Of course, if you don't, you will think God is doing something wrong in condemning you to Hell, *but He's not*. He is doing the only thing that's proper in view of His nature (holiness) and what you did—rejected what His Son did on Calvary to get you out of Hell.

The sin that damns a man to Hell is not anything he *does*. According to John 16:9, the sin that lands a sinner in the Lake of Fire is something he *doesn't do*.

"Of sin, BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE NOT ON ME."

The Holy Spirit has come to convict the sinner of not believing on Christ; not of any sin a sinner commits.

We (and I include myself here) are dealing with a holy God who doesn't think the way we think. His ways and thoughts are above us.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8–9).

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" You bet your life He will. He'll do right every time and never "miss a lick." He will **"do right"** no matter who says what, who does what, who preaches what, who teaches what, or who practices what. Such things are immaterial and irrelevant when dealing with the One who identifies Himself with absolute holiness (Isa. 57:15).

When Duty Called

By Robert Militello

“He increaseth the nations, and destroyeth them: he enlargeth the nations, and straiteneth them again” (Job 12:23).

On the first Sunday in December 75 years ago, at about 1 p.m. Washington, D.C. time, President Roosevelt received the news many hoped would never come. Our Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by Japanese planes. War came to America just as folks were welcoming the Christmas season.

That Sunday night, mothers of young sons across our nation went to God in prayer. Our president had promised them that their sons would not go to war. So much for the promises of man. It is the Lord who has the last word. It was time for America to be straitened (made narrow).

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven” (Eccl. 3:1).

Militarily, we were not well prepared. Although a draft of men had begun the previous year, the United States was caught flat-footed. Almost overnight, we had to shift from a peacetime economy to a wartime economy. The call to defend our nation went out to millions of young men who came up through the Great Depression. Tough times can mold character and make men out of boys.

In 1998, a book entitled *The Great Generation* chronicled the experience of many who fought and lived to tell about what it was like. Tom Brokaw, the author of the book, wrote, “It is, I believe, the greatest generation any society has ever produced.” He also said that those men and women fought not for fame and recognition, but because it was “the right thing to do.”

Thanks be to God who raised up men and women ready to do their duty and defend our country. It is now 75 years later, and the Pearl Harbor survivors are less than 2,000, as of this writing. They will all be gone soon, bless their memory. But what about this generation enjoying the material comforts of America and hardly giving a thought to how suddenly things can change?

“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1).

Also, what about those who profess to be in Christ and whose bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit? Have they not been called to battle? Will many be able to say like Paul, **“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim. 4:7)?**

Perhaps the bravest of Christian soldiers today are not in America, but on foreign fields, fighting for the truth of the gospel. They labor in lands where the inhabitants struggle for the necessities of life and know nothing of “selfies” and “café mochas” at Starbucks. Do we give thanks to God for these missionaries?

While America recovers from a brutal election season, the Thanksgiving holiday should remind Christians of their obligation to share God’s bounty with those in want. The Church has more to give this sorry world than what

When Duty Called

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America can offer materially. Jesus Christ saves, not America; and He saves permanently. Thank God for those who not only understand this, but put their hands to the plow and do something about it.

One of the members of America's greatest generation, who went off to war in 1943 and came home alive, was destined to become one of the greatest soulwinners of our time. As a cartoonist, and not as a preacher, evangelist, or missionary, Jack T. Chick did more to put out the gospel of salvation in foreign lands than any Bible society had done previously. Chick tracks in 108 languages are circulating around the globe. His publishing company has put out over 750 million tracts, comics, videos, books, and poster.

The devil knows who this man is, even though millions of lost Americans don't. He is hated by Jesuits and every bishop of the Roman Church. He is maligned by every Christian who bristles at the belief that the *King James* text is pure. His effectiveness for the cause of Christ and His world is testified to by all the attempts made by Chick's enemies to destroy him and his publishing company. At 92, Bro. Chick is still giving heartburn to prominent Christian "leaders" and pastors whose understanding of sound doctrine is no better than a superstitious nun in a Catholic convent.

During the election season, our nation had to be reminded repeatedly that we are at war with radical Islam. Christians are called to a war against evil and darkness. Laodicean believers prefer churches where the pulpits do not major in "war talk." Christian FM radio plays a major role in undermining the militancy that should make a believer a soldier.

Sardis was a dying church in Revelation 3:1–6.

"Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy" (Rev. 3:4).

There aren't many left like Peter S. Ruckman and Jack T. Chick. Are we praying for the Lord to raise up laborers to harvest souls in foreign lands? Dr. Ruckman's legacy was more than a masterful defense of the integrity of the *King James* text. The Bible Baptist Mission Board at the Bible Baptist Church is a powerful testimony to his love for souls outside our borders. There's a war going on for souls around our planet, but you wouldn't know that by listening to the salesmen running megachurches.

This will be the first Thanksgiving without Dr. Ruckman at the table. His last sermon at Bible Baptist was on February 8, 2015, although he continued to teach the Sunday school class until August 16th. Dr. Ruckman's text was Proverbs 24:10–12. Like 2 Timothy and 2 Peter, there's something about a farewell message that crystallizes what was in the heart of the messenger like nothing else.

Jack Chick and Peter Ruckman shared the same passion. There was nothing vague about the Christian soldier's duty in their mind. Getting **"the word of truth"** (Eph. 1:13) out to as many as possible before the Church

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When Duty Called

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leaves was “the order of the day.”

“If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?” (Prov. 24:11–12).

Just write “Judgment Seat of Christ” in your Bible after verse 12, because the message couldn’t be any clearer.

Paul told us in 2 Timothy 3:1 that the end of the Church Age would be socially chaotic. He used the word **“perilous”** to describe those days. Did he know then that the Twentieth Century would be the bloodiest in the history of man? Besides the wars and international turmoil, the enemies of the gospel have proliferated like never before. The Nineteenth Century saw the rise of three cults more dedicated to recruiting followers than the Lord’s own church: Mormons, Adventists, and Jehovah’s Witnesses. Yes, these religious devils proselytize with a zeal that surpasses, by far, the average Christian. Clearly, the devil did not fall asleep in these last days. These are the days of adversity foretold in the scripture.

“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small” (Prov. 24:10).

Those men that Tom Brokaw called *“The Great Generation”* did not faint. Jack Chick, Dr. Ruckman, and some others put on their flak jackets and went to war. Thanks be to God for the men He raised up that ran to the battle and not away from it.

Of the many cogent and instructive notes found at the bottom of many pages in the *Ruckman Reference Bible*, the note on the first part of Proverbs 29:18 is “right on” for any believer serious about pleasing God. The verse says, **“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”** Dr. Ruckman’s note says:

“A Christian must maintain three visions: the vision of the risen Christ (Acts 9:3–10), New Jerusalem (Rev. 21–22), and the ‘harvest fields’ (Matt. 9:37–38). A Christian that loses ‘the vision’ of unsaved people in Hell (Matt. 13:49–50; Luke 16:22–31; Rev. 14:9–11, 20:11–15) is absolutely *good for nothing* (see note on Prov. 24:10).”

If you have a *Ruckman Reference Bible*, turn to his note on Proverbs 24:10 and match it with the note I quoted above.

The men I will always miss are those who weren’t afraid of offending someone when it came to telling the truth (Psa. 119:165). Like political correctness, spiritual correctness in America’s pulpits has put the Body of Christ on life support. It is because the Lord is so longsuffering that the Church has been allowed to stay on earth this long. A good portion of God’s “army” in America ought to give thanks they are not at the Judgment Seat of Christ right now. That may not be the case next Thanksgiving; we don’t know.

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When Duty Called

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"America's Greatest Generation" was characterized by plain-spoken individuals who had little patience for anyone not considered a "plain shooter."

"All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them" (Prov. 8:8).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was in every respect a "man's man," besides being God in human flesh. He did not speak "legalese," and He had little use for lawyers: **"Woe unto you, lawyers!"** (Luke 11:52). His enemies, the religious crowd, were themselves afraid to speak to the people plainly; they recognized in Jesus a genuine threat to their power over the people. Like today's press corps in America desiring to demonize any politician who does not embrace the liberal, Democratic agenda, the Pharisees and Sadducees sought to provoke the Lord to say things which could be used against Him.

"And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge him vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him" (Luke 11:53–54).

Heroes, today, are men who go off to war, leaving the comforts of America to fight the powers of darkness in foreign lands. Thanks be to God for them. Not all men who received a call from the Holy Spirit to win souls in other lands were willing to obey. Fear can come on suddenly when one is urged to move forward into the combat zone.

My dad, who saw combat in Germany in World War II, had to get past that fear when orders were given to move up to the front line. He told me about how the noise of artillery and the sound of tanks and mechanized vehicles got louder and louder as the men neared the front. He was part of the 2nd Armored Division—"Hell on Wheels"—U.S. Seventh Army. Their orders were to smash through stubborn German units offering fanatical resistance in defense of the "Fatherland."

On November 7th, the voters will select a new Commander-in-Chief, and a few weeks later, we will sit down and enjoy the bounty of America on Thanksgiving Day. I will do my duty as a citizen and a Christian, and vote with the understanding that, ultimately, the Lord alone will decide who gets to live in the White House. In 1964, I turned eighteen and voted for the Republican senator from Arizona: Barry Goldwater. He impressed me as a plain-speaking patriot. He lost, however, to Lyndon Johnson, who listened to Cardinal Spellman of New York and sent thousands of U.S. soldier's to die in the jungles of Vietnam.

Voting is a privilege and a duty, so I vote in congressional elections, primaries, and local elections. I believe in picking up the phone and calling my elected representatives to give them a piece of my mind when called for. As a Christian, I count it a blessing to live in a land where I can protest loudly against those getting a paycheck from taxpayers, while making themselves invisible except during election season. Our God will hold us accountable for

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When Duty Called

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the proper use of the privileges and blessings He has given us. Good men have died to secure our blessings, but the One who gave the most (2 Cor. 8:9; 1 Pet. 3:18) will get little more than lip service on Thanksgiving Day. *"The Greatest Generation"* is just about gone.

If you are saved, you don't vote in a Commander-in-Chief; you already have one. The Father has appointed His Son Captain of our salvation (Heb. 2:10). Our Captain is not dismayed by the sounds of war. He expects us to put aside our fears when given an order to move up to the front and enter the combat zone.

Dr. Ruckman trained young men for hand-to-hand combat while serving as a second lieutenant in the U.S. army. After conversion, he would serve the Captain of his salvation by training men for the ministry and for spiritual combat on foreign soil. He had a military mindset: "an order is an order." Christians today in America will not sit under a pastor who has that mindset. It frightens them so much that they put away the old hymns and replace the songs of Christian soldiers marching to war with melodies I call "lounge music." Whom will that fit for war?

"And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army?" (Rev. 19:19).

That is the last time **"war"** appears in the scripture. **"War"** or **"wars"** shows up a total of 240 times in God's word (in 233 verses). There was war in Heaven before Adam and Eve were placed in the garden (Luke 10:18). Six-thousand-plus years of human history has been marked by war, war, and more war.

When a soul is saved, the Holy Spirit sends it off to war against the world, the flesh, and the devil. We live in an atmosphere of constant war—good vs. evil. The presidential election this month is a reflection of a cultural war that has been raging in America since the Sixties. Traditional values are under intensive assault by those calling themselves "progressives." My dad, before he died, asked me countless times, "What is happening in America?" I told him the fear of God is vanishing in our nation, and we are losing our soul and sense of decency.

Nevertheless, this Thanksgiving will again be one of genuine, humble gratitude for the thousands of preachers and pastors who believe God's word and have not withdrawn from the battle. The Lord has a faithful remnant here; He will have men equipped for spiritual combat until the rapture. After that, 144,000 young Jewish males will take to the field, ready to make war for the Lamb (Rev. 14:1–5). Won't those men be on fire for Jesus?

Medals and ribbons await those who have left the staging area (America) and set out to foreign lands to win souls to Christ. There will be a lot of "fruit salad" on display at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Ribbons appearing on the chest of a soldier's uniform jacket were labeled "fruit salad." Each ribbon

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When Duty Called

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signified a distinct accomplishment. If our War Department (now called the Department of Defense) thought it proper to acknowledge the honorable service rendered by those called to serve their nation, you can bet the Lord will do the same, and more, for His soldiers.

May it please the Lord to help us stand against the increasing spiritual darkness threatening old-fashioned values. God grant that those who love our nation see clearly that honesty, decency, and the fear of God impress our Creator more than all the pious platitudes coming out of the mouths of politicians in Washington, D.C.

“When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Prov. 29:2).

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.

What's New at the Bookstore?

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September Sermons at Bible Baptist (2016) DC-1609 \$16.95
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 The Revelation of the Seventy Weeks (Donovan)..... DN-01 \$5.50

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Christ Crucifixion Time Chart (Jack Munday)..... GN-CCTC \$4.00

CHICK TRACT

What A Shame!..... CK-1162 \$4.25 Pack of 25

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Bridge to Babylon (Rome, Ecumenism & The Bible)..... DV-36030 \$24.95

Christmas Ordering Information

The holidays will be here before you know it, and if you want your order before Christmas, we urge you to place it early. UPS ground delivery guarantees are cancelled early in December due to the sheer volume of packages in the system.

The LAST REGULAR DAY OF DELIVERY for any of our carriers will be Friday, December 23. The last day for ordering Next Day Air will also be Friday, December 23, but with an added fee for Saturday Delivery if ordered on this day; the last day for ordering Second Day Air will be Wednesday, December 21. We do not recommend Three Day Select delivery at this time of year since it is simply an expedited form of ground service.

Remember, all expedited shipping methods are very costly. Order early to avoid the expense.

UPS/FED-EX will be closed, and no deliveries will be made on November 24, December 25–26, or January 1–2. The Bookstore will be closed on November 24–25, December 25–26, and January 1–2.

Notice of UPS/Fed-Ex Rate Increase

As of December 26th, UPS will be increasing its rates by 5%. Fed-Ex will match this increase on January 2nd, 2017. This includes all services offered by both companies.

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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.
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