



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 41 No. 5

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

May 2017

The UN 2030 Agenda For World Peace

By Brian Donovan

All through the Bible, there are whole passages, even whole chapters, that are dedicated to the main theme of the scriptures, namely, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His physical kingdom on this earth. It is called the “day of the Lord” and is the day that all of heaven awaits since it will finally bring the universal glory that is due unto His name, as it is written by the prophet, “And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted” (Isaiah 12:4). But in order to set up that great day, there must first be a reckoning among the nations with the God Almighty of the universe. The kingdoms of this world are presently being ordered by the Lord Himself to come together, for war, not peace. In Zephaniah 3:8, the Lord says, “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 jealousy”. The UN Assembly of Nations will soon be screaming in terror as they run to hide from His face and from His wrath (Revelation 6:15–17). The Lord tells them they can “Howl . . . for the day of the Lord is at hand (Isaiah 13:6), and the “tumultuous noise of the kingdoms of nations gathered together” (Isaiah 13:4) will be heard when they find out that the return of the Lord is “cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners out of it” (Isaiah 13:9). When do you suppose the last time a church congregation in America had their preacher tell them this great truth of the scriptures? The major theme and prophecy of the Bible is not your salvation, but the setup of His kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ came the first time as a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53), but He returns as the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5) to take what is rightfully his, and in that day, He will ask no one to tweet their opinion. In
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THE HOPELESS WOMAN

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God” (Luke 13:11–13).

Here is a woman in a hopeless situation. For eighteen years she had an infirmity that left her *bent*. The passage says she **“was BOWED over”** (vs. 11). But notice when she was healed, Jesus said, **“thou art LOOSED from thine infirmity”** (vs. 12), which means she was *bound*.

Although this is just a *physical healing* (and the healing signs belong to Israel—Exod. 4:6–7 cf. 1 Cor. 1:22), it is a great picture of a sinner being saved. Of course, this woman isn’t born again; no one was until after Christ ascended to glory and the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost in Acts 2 (John 7:39). But healings in the gospels are types of salvation. Some of the ones that stand out are blind Bartimaeus receiving his sight and the lame man being healed in Acts 3.

So *spiritually speaking*, what you have in Luke 13:11–13 is a picture of a lost woman who runs into Jesus Christ and gets saved. Unsaved people are spiritually *bent*; they are spiritually twisted. If there is anything you can learn from reading the Bible, it is what I call “the law of human collapse”; i.e., there is something incurably *wrong* with “man”—the whole human race. Any school that doesn’t teach you that *God is right and man is basically wrong* is not giving you an education; you are getting *brainwashed*.

“The law of human collapse” is best illustrated in the book of Judges. No matter what God does for man, given time, man will mess it up. In the book of Judges, the Lord gives the Israelites the land and gives them a chance to repent and get rid of their idols. As long as Joshua and the leaders who served with him lived, Israel served God, but once that generation died out, those Jews turned to idols. God would send in a heathen nation to enslave them for their sin, and the Israelites would get right and cry out to God for deliverance. God would feel sorry for them and raise up a judge to deliver them. As long as the judge lived, they served God, but once he was gone, the whole cycle started over again.

The history of man is one of *constant failure*. There is something about “man”—*either sex*—that is *bent*. This is found in the oldest book in the world—the book of Job.

“What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?” (Job 15:14).

“How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?” (Job 25:4).

One of my favorite preachers, old “Fighting Bob” Shuler (the Methodist, not

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the “Crystal Cathedral” fakir), tells the story of when he graduated from college. A bishop named Sullivan gave a great pep talk he called “Youth Should March Forward.” Shuler said of that sermon, “The trouble was, I followed what that fellow said, but he kept running into the *slabs of tombstones*.” You have to deal with *death*. Death is not progressive; it is degenerative.

Each generation thinks it has a fresh start. Not if you can read, no. The movement is *backward* not forward; it is *regress*, not progress. I say, “Back to the *Bible* or back to the jungle.” When I say “jungle,” it is not a “figure of speech.” I am referring to jungle *talk*, jungle *music*, jungle *morals*, and jungle *diseases*. Do you know where theistic communism in Red China ended up? The selling of aborted embryos to be *eaten*—*cannibalism*. That’s what I mean by “the jungle.”

Mankind is bent. The Bible describes it as being *lost* (Luke 19:10). If a man doesn’t know from where he came and doesn’t know to where he’s going, he’s *lost*. Modern man is taught he got here by random chance (evolution) and is headed for oblivion at death. In between those two points, he has no idea why he is here. I would say that is being lost, wouldn’t you? What he needs is a road map; it can be found in a “dime-store” King James Bible.

God started out man in a perfect condition, in a perfect place, with a perfect mate; and man blew it. The whole thing got perverted; it got twisted by man’s sin. Bob Jones Sr. used to say: “Every bad thing in this world is a good thing *twisted*”; i.e., it has been *bent out of shape*.

When man blows it in the Garden of Eden, the Lord clothes him with “**coats of skin**” to cover his nakedness. Given another chance, he goes out of the garden and gets involved with murder (Gen. 4), and violence and messing around with beings from outer space and animals (Gen. 6; Lev. 18). God drowns out them all except for one man and his family that found grace in His sight and believed what He said. After the flood, Noah steps out on a clean earth that has been washed free from all the murder, violence, and perversion. Men don’t go three generations before they rebel against God and build the Tower of Babel. And on and on the mess goes (Rom. 1). Man is bent; he is crooked.

I speak of man in the generic, but these truths are certainly true of women in particular also. There is such a thing as having all the things life has to offer *without enjoying life*. Hedy Lamarr was one of the most beautiful women of all time, as far as Hollywood is concerned. She had a creative, sharp mind also, but do you know how things ended up for her? Six failed marriages, arrested twice for shoplifting, suing anybody who used her “image,” undergoing plastic surgery to preserve her looks only to have it distort them all together, addiction to pills, and finally living and dying in obscurity with, what she considered to be, only three real friends. She said once, “Sometimes I think beauty is a *curse*.”

It sure was for her. By her own admission, that poor woman didn’t believe in any afterlife, and her only “god” was some “grinding destiny.” Unless something happened which never came out, she’s dead and in hell right now. A smart woman, a beautiful woman, but a *bent* woman.

Have you ever read about Barbara Hutton? She was heir to the Woolworth

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Department Store fortune. When Barbara was five years old, she discovered her mother's dead body (the rumor being suicide, but the coroner's report stating suffocation due to an infection of the air cells in the skull behind the ear [mastoiditis]). Her father farmed her out to live with a variety of relatives while a governess raised her. Her grandmother left her over 26 million dollars, and she got over two million dollars her grandmother had left to her mother. She got another 28 million from her mother's death, and from her father managing her trust fund until she became of age, she got another 42 million.

She married an exiled Georgian prince name Mdivani and divorced him. Then she married a Danish count named Reventlow who abused her and about beat her to death. That drove her into drugs and alcohol. She had an affair with Howard Hughes but ended up marrying Cary Grant. That didn't work out even though Grant treated her right, so she dumped him. She married four more times, the longest marriage being four years. Her sixth husband was a queer. She fornicated with many men in between these marriages, many of whom could be called "gigolos." Her only son died in 1972 in a plane crash; she died of a heart attack seven years later, in a hotel where she lived, flat broke. She is reported to have told a friend that she felt like she was "worth millions, and worth nothing."

There was a woman who was essentially *good for nothing*. To you ladies and girls who are Christians, are you *useful*? Are you useful to your Lord? Have you won anybody to Christ? Have you *tried*?

But not only is the woman of our text bent, she is *bowed*. She is bowed over with her eyes downward toward this sin-cursed world. That's how animals are. They are built so that they naturally look down. God has made man so that he can look up to his Creator. The problem is, sin weighs down the sinner to the point where he is only comfortable looking one direction—*down*. In type, this woman is in an unsaved condition, which is what makes her hopeless.

In the first edition of *Pilgrim's Progress*, there was a picture of a *muckraker*: a man *bent over*, raking up muck and garbage. Behind him stands the Lord offering him a crown, but the muckraker won't look up. When I draw the picture in my sermon "The Four Essentials," I have a fellow digging through a garbage can for his next meal. The Lord is standing behind him with a clean robe of righteousness, ready to take him to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, if the guy will just get his head out of the trash. But that is the old, Adamic nature: it is "**of the earth, EARTHY**" (1 Cor. 15:47). If you are a worldly woman or a worldly girl, your eyes are down on the muck, the trash, and the garbage.

There are women who are bowed down before *fashion*: they worship fashion. They worship *society*; they worship *attention*. There are women who bow down before *applause*. Women like Madonna, Britney Spears, Katy Perry, Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus, et al., will go out on stage in their underwear and expose themselves to a bunch of sex-crazy maniacs just to get attention and make a buck. Why? They are bound to this sin-cursed earth; their gaze is downward. They love the hogpen (Luke 15:15–16) and don't want to leave it.

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A woman named Grace Metalious wrote a book back in 1956 entitled *Peyton Place*. It made a big “splash,” selling over twelve million copies, because it was a typical “soap opera” type of dirty book—everyone going to bed with everyone else until you can’t keep track of who is fornicating with whom. It became the pattern for trashy TV programs like “Dallas” and “Dynasty.”

At eighteen, she married a seventeen-year-old boy. He served in World War II and stepped out on her, so when she found out about it, she stepped out on him. All the while he was going to college for his teaching degree, she was writing her book, neglecting her children (literally locking them out of the house when she wrote) and the housework (there was a dead mouse on her kitchen sink of which she wasn’t even aware until she tried tidying up for some public relations folks coming to take pictures for an interview).

When the book was published, her husband lost his job at the local school. Eventually the two got a divorce, and she married a local disc jockey with whom she was committing adultery. She finally left him for some newspaper reporter who, as it turned out, had a wife and five kids back in England about whom he never told her.

Seven years after the book was published, she died from her liver being destroyed by liquor; she was 39 at the time. After the royalties from twelve million books and \$250,000 for television and movie rights, that lush only had a little over \$41,000 in the bank, with over \$200,000 of unpaid debts. With all the fame, only 25 people attended her funeral, and today, the town where she is buried still doesn’t want to have anything to do with her. Her former husband doesn’t even want to talk about her. Isn’t that something?

That woman was of the world, by the world, and for the world. When she died, the world didn’t give a hoot what happened to her. Why, I have officiated at the funerals of farm women who had 150 people there to remember their lives; they were nobody rich or famous. I could name you a dozen “grannies” who weren’t beautiful, didn’t write any books, and were only married to one man their entire lives. But they had *friends*, they had *God*, and they had *salvation*. Their eyes weren’t bowed down to the dirt.

Finally, the woman of our text was *bound*; that’s why she had to be “**loosed**.” When people are addicted to something (like drugs, alcohol, pornography, etc.), they are *bound* to that bad habit. At first, you believe you control it, but as time goes on, it is apparent that *it controls you*. And brother, sister, it doesn’t matter if you’re rich, poor, famous, a “nobody,” smart, stupid, educated, or not, a bad habit can bind you to where you won’t wiggle a hundredth of an inch.

You take Sigmund Freud, the great analytical psychiatrist. He smoked so many cigars that he got cancer in his lower jaw and had to have *35 operations on it*. Do you know when it finally dawned on him that he was bound hand and foot to those cigars? When he was taking so much morphine that he couldn’t stand it anymore. You talk about a dumbbell, there was one. After attributing all a fellow’s mental problems to the sex drive, he couldn’t control his own “oral complex.” I have no interest in a blockhead like that telling me how to live. He’s

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in *bondage*.

“His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins” (Prov. 5:22).

“Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin” (John 8:34).

John Keats, the English poet, was hooked on opium as far back as 1819. Stephen Foster, who wrote “My Old Kentucky Home” and “Way Down Upon the Suwanee River,” was a sot drunk. Those men were bound tight.

There are six things that if they ever get ahold of you will bind you good: liquor, tobacco, pornography, drugs, power, and money. Of the over seventeen million chronic alcoholics in America, about five million are women. Nearly sixteen million women a year use illicit drugs, and over four million abuse prescription drugs.

Even preachers can get bound. They can get bound by *conventions*; they can get bound by *tradition*; they can get bound by *scholarship*. They can get so bound that they can't preach as they ought. They “tweak” the message to the whims of what binds them.

Now ladies—whether you are young, middle-aged, or elderly—I don't know what binds you; maybe it's depending on your own morality to get you to heaven (Acts 13:50). But whatever it is, the first step to being loosed is *salvation*, the *new birth*. That's what takes place, in type, with the woman of our text. After salvation, it's a matter of yielding yourself to God (Rom. 6:13) and letting Him live out His righteousness in you (Gal. 2:20).

When this woman got healed, she was *blessed*, and of course, in type, she was blessed with salvation. Now ladies, you won't suddenly become a ravishing teenage beauty again when you get the new birth, but you will become **“a new creature” “in Christ”** (2 Cor. 5:17). That's why when I draw this woman being healed by Jesus, I have her coming out in the fresh, clean, white robes of God's righteousness in Jesus Christ. “Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb? Are your garments spotless; are they white as snow? Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?” That's the business.

Of course, how white that robe remains is up to you. One time a lady of some refinement decided to take a trip down into the coal mines of Wales. She was decked out in a long, Victorian white dress. As she got on the coal elevator, all the miners told her, “Milady, you don't want to wear that white dress down into the mine shafts.” “Nothing says I can't wear a white dress down there,” she said. “No, ma'am,” they said, “But you sure won't be wearing one coming back up.”

That is true of any woman or man leaning toward the world. If you get to messing with the things of this world, your “robe of spotless white” won't be that way when you get done.

One time a Christian teenage girl wanted to “sow her wild oats,” so she decided to go to a dance against her Christian daddy's wishes. Before she walked out the door, her daddy said, “I want you to do something before you go. I want

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you to go over to the fireplace and pick up a coal.” Well, it was obvious to her that daddy was trying to get some moral “dig” in, but she saw the fire had been dead a while and the ashes were cold. So she went over and picked up a coal and said with a smirk, “See, it doesn’t burn me.” “But look at your hand,” said her father. She looked at her hand and saw that it was black with the soot of the coal. “See there,” he said, “Bad company will smut you every time.”

Christian, if you hang around the hogpen, you won’t come out smelling like a bed of roses. You’ll come out smelling like the hogs.

But not only was this woman born again and blessed, she was *believed*. Down in verse 17 of Luke 13, the Bible says, “**and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him** [i.e., Jesus].”

Here’s a woman who was an invalid most of her life after she turned 32. Her name was Charlotte Elliot. She contracted some serious illness that left her weak and depressed. One day, a preacher from Switzerland came by to visit her and asked her if she had peace with God. Well, she was an Anglican, but her illness had left her questioning the Lord, so she asked the preacher to leave because she didn’t want to talk about it. But lying in that bed day after day, she had time to think about the preacher’s question. So after a few days, she called the preacher back and said she wanted to clean up her life before she became a Christian. That preacher, using a lot of wisdom, said, “Why don’t you come just as you are?” So she did; she got saved then and there with all her questions and doubts. She ended up putting the whole experience in verses; you know it today as “Just As I Am.” There’s no telling how many people have come to Christ as a result of that song. That sister wasn’t some painted up slut in her underwear; she wasn’t a “rock star.” But she got something done for Jesus Christ. She was believed.

There was a Christian woman one time whose husband had died, leaving her to raise three boys by herself. All three boys turned out to be fine Christians. When she was much older, she was asked how she managed to do that without a husband. She said, “I just prayed.” She would pray over those boys when she put them in the bathtub. She would pray over them when she got them up in the morning. She prayed over them when she fed them. She prayed over them when she sent them off to school. She prayed over them when they got home. She saturated them in prayer. It worked: those boys believed momma and turned out right.

Who taught Moses to walk “**as seeing him who is invisible**” (Heb. 11:27)? Who taught him to stand up for the “underdog” and defend the weak, like he did for those women at the well in Exodus 2:16–17 when the men shepherds drove them off? Who taught him about the creation, about Noah, about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, about Joseph? Who taught him to turn down Egypt and its positions and treasures (Heb. 11:26–27)? Who taught him to endure reproach and have the “long look” (Heb. 11:26)?

I know who taught him all those things—*his momma*. Pharaoh’s daughter found him as a baby there among the flags of the river and ended up giving

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Moses to his own mother to raise for her. Jochebed took her baby and taught him all those things until it was time for him to go live in Pharaoh's palace. When he got to be a man, he remembered what his mother taught him, and he believed it.

The woman of our text was believed because the change was apparent. She had been bowed over, and now she was straightened up. Someone who knew her said, "What happened to her?!" And the reply came back: "Jesus healed her!" And everyone who saw it glorified God for what Jesus had done for the woman.

There's a woman named Florence Littauer who went around giving her testimony. She's up in her eighties now, so I don't know how much speaking she still does. Florence is what I would call a "character": she had a bright mind that knew exactly how to deal with things.

Florence grew up in a poor family. Her father had a little store, and the family had three rooms behind it. If she wanted to go to the bathroom at night, she had to go through the store from her bedroom in order to get to it.

When she got to be twelve years old, she decided she wanted to be someone great. She decided to set goals for her life, and she did, and she met every one. She made good grades in school and joined all the right clubs. She got a scholarship and went off to college. She studied English, psychiatry, modeling, acting; she learned etiquette on her own; she climbed the social ladder of her sorority. In other words, she did everything to be a success in life.

Then she made up her mind to get married, but not just to any man—to someone above her station. She met a fellow from a rich family who went into business in New York. Well, after a few years of an unfulfilling marriage, she decided the solution was to have a baby. She gave birth to a girl, and her husband decided he wanted a son. After another girl, they finally had a little boy.

When that baby boy got to be about seven months old, she noticed he wasn't developing as he should. A month later, he would lay in his crib just rigid as a board and scream all night.

She finally took him to the doctor and said, "Take care of this child and make him right. Find whatever doctor he needs; do whatever has to be done. Money is no problem." She had never run into any problem in life that couldn't be fixed with some determination.

But after consulting with a specialist, that doctor called Florence in and said, "I'm afraid you're going to have to put him away and try to forget about him. I'm afraid he's *hopeless*."

Florence said she had never heard that word applied to anything in life. Hopeless? Why, there was always hope. But for the first time in her life, she had run into something that her money, her education, or her will power couldn't fix. Of course she got other opinions, but she got the same diagnosis: "This child is hopelessly brain damaged."

Well, to get her mind off her hopeless child, she became pregnant again. She tried taking care of the first little boy, but things got worse. But when she

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was in the hospital having her second boy, her husband took the other one to an institution, and they never saw him alive again. Although she had the other baby monitored in the womb to make sure he was all right, when that little boy was six months old, he began developing the same problem. By the time she was able to get an appointment at John Hopkins, his condition worsened, and when she asked the specialist if there were any hope, he said, "Mrs. Littauer, you know better than that." No hope!

The doctors performed an operation and discovered the child had no brain (everything was operating off the "stem"). So they ended up taking him to the same institution where his brother had died the year before. The second boy lived nineteen years in that condition. He never grew at all; he was the same size as when he was a year and a half old.

About that time, her sister-in-law got saved watching Billy Graham on television. She invited Florence to a Christian women's club, and Florence went. A preacher got up and spoke on Romans 12:1–2. She figured out really quickly that she wasn't a real Christian. She was a church goer, she was religious, but she wasn't saved. She was "**conformed to this world**," like his text said.

To make a long story short, Florence Littauer ended up getting saved, getting in church, and getting into the Bible. Eventually, she came out of her depression and made things right between her and her husband. Her husband started going to church, and he got saved. They dumped the old crowd and began teaching. Florence would talk to women who suffered from depression and give her testimony, and give them *hope*. That woman became useful to the Lord.

Now ladies, are you *useful*, or are you *hopeless*? If you are going to have a goal as a woman, make up your mind that things are going to be right between you and God, and that you are going to be a blessing to others by pointing people to the Saviour. If you are able to accomplish those things, you'll be more than some department-store mannequin.

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these last days, the "God of heaven" is going to "set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed . . . and it shall stand forever" (Daniel 2:44).

This "day of the Lord" is going to fix the governments of this world and it will be done by bloodshed and it will NOT be His. The Lord Jesus returns to stomp out all of the world's kingdoms to make them His (Revelation 11:15), as a man stomps out grapes in a winepress. This scene is described in Revelation 14:20 as a 200 mile long river of blood that reaches as high as the horse bridles, and it is the Lord Himself that takes the credit for stomping out this winepress and ends up getting his apparel all red with their blood (Isaiah 63:1-3). His fury has been building for centuries and when it is finally unleashed, it is likened to the drunken rage of a mighty man (Psalm 78:65). This rage and fury will be directed at "all nations" that have "parted my land" (Joel 3:1-2). That means it is the Lord alone who will "make America great again" and it will be through destruction and starting over, not some poor, lost, billionaire hell bound sinner.

The first kingdom on this earth mentioned in the Bible is begun by Nimrod in Genesis 10. Ten is the number of the Gentiles and there is no exception to the wickedness of their kingdoms. Any and all of them are interested in ruling without Jesus Christ, and this includes your precious USA, just one more "drop of a bucket" (Isaiah 40:15), at least, that is God's estimation. The Lord's only

exception to the rule of kingdoms is Israel, period. One of the roots of Nimrod's name means "rebel". He comes from Ham through Cush, the Ethiopian (Genesis 10:6-8). His kingdom is called Babel (Genesis 10:10), which is connected to confusion (Genesis 11:9), showing the Bible reader what the Lord's thoughts are regarding the kingdoms of men. The spirit of this first kingdom has a thread that continues throughout world history, until the end time when the Lord returns to recompense "that great city Babylon" (Revelation 18:21), in which place the Lord says he finds "the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth" (Revelation 18:24). How is this "Mystery Babylon" responsible for the blood of all that were slain on the earth? It is because the present Roman religious and political kingdom came out of Babylon, of a satanic spirit, and this fact has been well documented by Hislop in his great work called "The Two Babylons".

Since the Lord Jesus Christ has an espoused bride in this age, which is His church (II Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:31-32), the great imitator, Satan, also has himself a bride in this age, the Roman Catholic Church. The end of these two brides is as far apart as any two can possibly attain. The bride of Christ ends up dwelling in New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, with no more tears, death, sorrow, or pain (Revelation 21:2-4). The bride of Satan ends up very shortly being

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MARCH'S SERMONS

Brian Donovan

How You Got Here
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Dilbert Terry—The Dead End of Carnal Living; Exposing Cover-Ups in Scripture; Last Man Standing; The Love of God

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BAD ATTITUDE
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destroyed by fire, finding no help from her wealth that runs into the hundreds of billions of dollars (Revelation 18:2–19). The coming bonfire will far exceed those that took place under the great preacher Savonarola of Florence, Italy. Sick and tired of the idolatry, Savonarola led the people who listened to his preaching to burn the works of Botticelli, Dante, Ovid, and Boccaccio in what became known as “The Bonfire of the Vanities” in 1497. This caused the Roman Pope to excommunicate him a few months later and then finally hang him on a cross and burn him to death in 1498. But in the great “day of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:12–21), when the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS takes vengeance on all their “pleasant pictures”, He will find no opposition from papal bulls of excommunication. The works of Tintoretto (Virgin and Child, Venus Vulcan and Mars), Donatello (St George sculpture), and Raphael (Crowning of the Virgin, Madonna, and Child) will send billows of smoke into the air. Leonardo Da Vinci’s “Virgin of the Rocks” and “The Last Supper” will be torched and the half smirk of his “Mona Lisa” will be wiped away. When the 400 foot high dome of Bramante’s basilica of St. Peter’s comes crashing to the piazza in Rome, it will crush the idol of Michelangelo’s “priceless sculpture” called the Pieta, as the nearby Sistine Chapel simultaneously falls and aptly destroys his other “great” work, “The Last Judgment”. Heaven will soon be rejoicing

over her downfall (Revelation 18:20), and her idolatrous works of art will be found “no more at all” (Revelation 18:14). The present day warning to “come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins” (Revelation 18:4), may be ignored by former President George Bush, who said that when he looked into John Paul II’s eyes, he saw “God”, or it may be ignored by Billy Graham, who said of the same Pope, “Thank God I’ve got somebody to quote now with some real authority”, while claiming that he and the pope preached the “same gospel”, but by the grace of God, there will remain a few Bible believers who will not ignore the warning.

The ignorance of church history may be the most glaring deficiency in the education of modern Christians, second only to their ignorance of the scriptures themselves. At the Pensacola Bible Institute, we teach two full years of Church History, giving the students an understanding of both anti and true church history, beginning in the book of Acts. This equips the believer with the truth against the false claims of “MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH”. (Revelation 17:5). Without this education, the modern American Christian and his preacher actually think they should involve themselves with the political kingdom and even go so far as to think that the Lord’s opinion is swayed toward this country, based on whether it is Obama or Trump

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in office. The candidate these fools elected to the Presidency this year is already in bed with the Roman harlot, he just hasn't kissed her hand publicly yet. This woman that rides the beast (Revelation 17), is already riding the Trumpster. (Revelation 18:3)

The Roman Catholic Church had to rewrite history and invent fables to come up with an unbroken line of popes that go clear back to Peter. In an earlier article, we documented the scriptural proof that Peter was never in Rome, and his supposed successor, Linus, was no one of preeminence (II Timothy 4:19-22). The first so-called popes on Rome's invented list, appear to be no more than some born again pastors who preached the gospel, such as Linus and Cletus. The cult of Rome simply invents a line of popes, even as both antichurch and true church history have proven that there was no "universal bishop" or "pope" in Rome who held any sway over any other Christians for the first few hundred years after the book of Acts. As late as 250 A.D., when a bishop in Rome tried to interfere in a church dispute in north Africa, he was told by Cyprian that he had no jurisdiction and denied him any authority. The enforced papacy came about over a period of several hundred years with the development of the Roman antichurch. In 607, Boniface got the Roman Emperor Phocas to recognize him as the "universal bishop", in spite of the fact that a few years earlier, Gregory of Rome in 595 said, "whoever calls himself

universal bishop is the forerunner of antichrist". It wasn't until the complete marriage of this antichurch to the state in the days of Pepin (741) and his son Charlemagne (774), that the Roman bishop was recognized as both a civil and religious leader. With the armies of whole countries behind them, the popes were able to enforce their brand of antichurch doctrine and anti-scriptural message of salvation on all the "faithful" ...or else. The reader can get this invented, unbroken line of popes that is put out by the Roman Catholic Church and he will find that, not only must a few hundred years of conjectured names and dates be listed, there is nothing in either antichurch or true church history that shows either an election or an installation of anyone as a pope during those times. On top of that, in 1276, a Portuguese named Pedro Juliao took on the alias John XXI, even though there is no John XX in the list. This is an effort to cover up the fact that one of their earlier Pope Johns was a Joan, who gave birth to a baby! As late as 1510, Martin Luther said he saw the marker stone in Rome that commemorated this comedy that took place around 845-850. This caused the "holy Cardinals" to make up a chair that one had to sit on before taking the throne, in order to be checked to see if he was a he or a she. One of these "infallible" men (Pope Stephen VII), exhumed the dead body of a former Pope (Formosus) and made it stand trial, found guilty and thrown into the Tiber River.

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Pope Donus II (973) had his name removed from the "official" list, when it was found he never even existed. But facts like this are simply ignored and the pretense of succession from Peter to Franny is continued.

It was not until 1870 that the popes were declared infallible by a papal bull put out by Pius IX. Once the pope speaks "ex-cathedra" (from the chair) regarding doctrine, he is declared infallible and anyone who denies this is cursed. The Roman Catholic church claims that she has always believed the same doctrines, handed down through the last 1900 years without error. All faithful Roman Catholics must believe this and the only way possible is to keep them ignorant of the historical facts. When Pope Pius IX in 1854 stated that Mary was born "free from all stain of original sin" and if "some should presume to think in their hearts otherwise... they are by their own judgment condemned", he pronounced a condemnation on many of his own church members, such as the Dominicans, and even one of their own celebrated Doctors named Bernard (a canonized Roman Catholic saint), who opposed the idea saying, "how can a conception that proceeds not from the Holy Ghost, but from sin, be holy"? This inconsistency continues with their teaching regarding the sacred scriptures when the Council of Trent in 1546, declared a curse on anyone who refused to believe that the apocryphal books of Tobit, Judith and others were scripture. This placed a curse on one of their other

own celebrated Doctors and canonized saints named Jerome. When Jerome translated the Bible into Latin in 400-425, he refused to allow scriptural status to the apocryphal books, claiming that . . . "the church reads Judith, Tobit and the books of Maccabees, but does not admit them among the canonical scriptures". St. Hilary (350) also rejected all seven apocryphal books and thus, an anathema was placed on his head as well by the Council of Trent.

The Bible believer knows that the Old Testament scriptures were handed down to us from the Lord's chosen people, the Jews, (Romans 3:1-2), and most certainly not from anyone connected to MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:26), has led the believers over the years to accept the scriptures of the Old Testament from the Jews, and accept and preserve the New Testament scriptures as given by Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, James, Peter and Jude, while giving the discernment to reject the false writings that did not belong in the canon. In addition, the same Comforter guided the translators of the King James Bible from 1604-1611, to preserve those same words, given by inspiration (II Timothy 3:16), into the end time language of English, to go around the world in one Book. This gives the believer a perfect, holy authority to find truth, which he will never find in the political kingdoms of this world.

The Effect of Internet and Social Media on Bible Believers

By Zack Colvin

At the onset of this article, you should know that I realize not many Christians will take any of this very seriously unless they truly care what the Bible has to say about this subject. My experience with these matters is that most Christians don't care. They want to be left alone to do what they want to do. They want the counsel from the scripture when things aren't going well in their life, but as long as everything is going fine by their standard, they want to be left alone. So I don't expect to do much more than ruffle the feathers of Laodiceans. But hopefully in the process, I can stir up just a few people who really want to know the truth about whether they should be spending a lot of time on the Internet or should be on any kind of social media at all. My goal is to help them by giving some scriptural light about these subjects instead of somebody's opinion. If a preacher is preaching and teaching the truth, trying to help and minister to other Christians, and spends any time counseling other Christians, he knows the kind of damage that is being done to individual Christians and their families through the "help" of the Internet and social media. You would have to have your head in the sand to think that these things are truly helping anyone, much less Christians.

Let's start by defining a Bible believer: A Bible believer is "someone who takes the Bible literally in every point possible and makes a concerted effort to put it into practice when it applies to him; one who spends as much time as possible finding out what God has to say in His holy book about the issues of life and, upon learning what God says, does his best to be obedient to what he has been shown by God (I say "does his best" because we all fall short of God's glory at times, but God looks at a man's heart [1 Sam. 16:7] and only He and the individual know whether a man is doing his best). One who puts the truth of God (the King James 1611) above what the media says, above what his family thinks, and above even his own affections, desires, and intentions."

Now that does away with most Christians who call themselves Bible believers and sends them back to the dugout to warm the bench. Many will call themselves "Bible believers" because it's popular to do so within the social circle they find themselves in. But, we understand perfectly that there is a difference between what a person claims to be and what he proves to be. There are two types of people in this world today: 1. There are those who talk about what they are going to do. These are they who spend all of their time shooting off their mouth about what they will accomplish someday, dreamers who spend their time talking about lofty things that they will never accomplish. (Eccl. 10:12-14) 2. And then there are those who simply get it done. These are they who don't have time to talk about what they are going to do because

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they are too busy doing it. This is obviously just a practical analogy, but it contains some very good spiritual instruction: A Bible believer in the true sense of the term will be a man who is simply doing what God has instructed him to do. He has a love for the truth that drives him to follow the Lord and not just offer lip service toward Him. He'll lay aside his own feelings about certain things because he is more concerned about his faithfulness toward the Lord and His book. Now if these characteristics of a Bible believer don't match up with what you consider yourself to be as a Bible believer, I suggest you find out quickly what you really are because a Bible believer you are not. Furthermore, if a man who calls himself a Bible believer spends a lot of time with the Internet or any time with what the world calls social media, let me warn him that he may quickly be derailed from what his main emphasis should be and that is to be spending much time in the scripture, not on the Internet. I know there are those who are "using it for the right reasons" and are "reaching the lost" and "ministering to the saved" through their social media, and so you say that "since they are good, godly individuals who do so, then it must be okay for me too. All of these Bible believers are just old-fashioned, and they're going too far in the other direction because they either don't know how to use the social media or they think they have something to prove." Some of us just see the damage that it's doing to Christians in Laodicea, and we make an attempt to stem the flood of complacency that it's bringing into their lives, but usually to no avail because of just that: complacency.

In addition, let me say that I am completely aware of how much influence the Internet and social media have on the world today. The current economy is almost completely dependent on the Internet. Entire businesses are designed around the Internet. I have run a construction business for over 15 years, and I have seen almost the entire industry go from handwriting paychecks to having checks directly deposited into bank accounts through the Internet, from handwritten estimates and invoices to electronic copies instead, from having a set of blueprints on the jobsite to having electronic files sent to your email, from word-of-mouth advertising to advertising on Facebook, Twitter, and any other social media that's currently being used. So I'm not just speaking out of frustration. I'm not just blowing off steam because I'm old and cranky: I'm 36 years old. These are things that I have asked the Lord for wisdom about for the sake of myself and my family. I have prayed for the Lord to show me from the scripture how to teach these matters to my own teens in the youth ministry. I could give example after example of the wake of destruction that's been left behind when a teenager is given the liberty to spend a lot of time on the Internet and on social media. The same is true for

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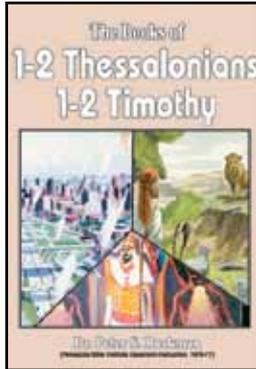
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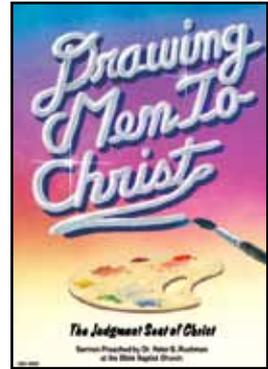
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adults, except they've become more adept at covering it up.

Some Christians use the excuse that these matters are "gray areas" of the Christian life and that the Lord really doesn't give any specific instruction about these things. With all of the compassion in my heart, I have to say that you must be repeating something you heard somebody else say without checking it out yourself or you have yet to prayerfully search the scriptures to find out whether these things are so (Acts 17:11), or you can't read. My prayer is that what follows will help you at least get a scriptural view of these matters. And if you want what's right, you'll follow up by searching some things out for yourself.

1. Acts 17:21-**"(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)"** Much of the Internet and all of social media is nothing more than Athenian doctrine. If you paid any attention while you're on the Internet to what's coming off the screen, you would see how much of the information claims to be "new". "News" reports, "new" research has found . . . , sports "news", "new" products for sale that you've just got to have because they are on sale! It's all new, new, new! And with social media, you would have to be an idiot not to see that it's all about something "new." Why, the entire social media industry is about updating profiles, sending new pictures of yourself, or bragging about a new product you purchased that nobody really cares about. Solomon says, **"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be: and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us."** (Eccl. 1:9-10). You see, while you're consumed with finding out what's new or telling about what's new, you don't realize that you're trapped by a "net" and a "web" (it's no accident they're named this) of things that are really ancient, but the real damage is done by the things you aren't doing while wasting time with what's "new." The time you used to spend in the scriptures is now spent checking the news. The time you used to spend praying is now spent making sure all of your friends know what you are wearing today. The time you used to spend with your head up looking for someone to hand a tract to is now spent with your head buried in your phone because you've got to find out who that was that just sent you an email. There is someone in the Body of Christ that needs your attention and needs your help, but instead of spending your time thinking of someone who needs ministering, you're consumed with when your phone or your computer is going to "sound off" again with something new. It's the remembrance and renewal of some old things

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that's needed. It's returning to the old paths that's needed (Jer 6:16). Don't give me this stuff about "keeping up with the times" and "it's just fighting a losing battle." That's a stupid excuse for not wanting to man up and do what it takes to take a stand for the Lord and do right. Your flesh wants to keep up with times, and you just won't tell it "No." So you pretend it's a Christian duty to keep up with the times. You're never commanded by the Lord to keep up with the times. He never even hints around to it. As a matter of fact, He's for the total opposite. Since when do you give up fighting because you're losing? What kind of a soldier are you anyway? Why is it called a fight if the only time you fight is if you're winning? I'll tell you who gives up fighting when they realize they're losing—those who have become entangled with the affairs of this life. Paul tells Timothy, **"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier"** (2 Tim. 2:4). So when a man gets entangled with certain people, and with making money and trying to get along with coworkers and trying to make deals to get ahead, he stops warring. That's who quits fighting. A real soldier doesn't quit fighting. Aren't you called to stand for the truth of God's words? Will they not be victorious in the end (Matt. 24:35)?

2. Luke 16:15- **"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God."** Sound like keeping up with the times to you? Is there any gray area in that verse? Anything hard to understand? Now right away, Christians think of one or two exceptions, and they use them to try and disprove the rule that the Lord Jesus Christ set forth, just like the Pharisees did in the context we are speaking about (Luke 16:14). But the exceptions always prove the rule; they don't disprove them. So as a general rule, when man exalts anyone or anything, the Lord hates it. When man pushes an idea or a trend, the Lord says, "I can't stand it!" Now what's happened in the last decade or so since social media has become a part of everyday life for many Americans is you have a nation of people walking around thinking they are important because they have become accustomed to bragging about themselves on their Facebook page from the time they get up in the morning till they fall asleep with their computer in their lap at night. This idea has subtly worked its way into the church by appealing to the convenience that comes along with having social media accounts and smart phones. I mean, you can "fellowship" and communicate (Christian code words for "gossip") so much better with your friends and family when you have all of the latest technology, right? Nobody wants to look old-fashioned in a day and age where everybody is so advanced. God

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forbid! So slowly but surely, they're right there, along with the world, posting what they had for breakfast this morning, with full color pictures. And posting what they're wearing to church tomorrow morning. Like somebody really cares! But in the meanwhile, Christians are beginning to lose the correct view of themselves. They seem to have forgotten what the Bible says about man. Have you read Psalm 39:5–6 lately? Probably not. How about Psalm 94:11? I doubt it. Romans 7:24? Nope. How could any Bible believer, after reading 1 Peter 1:24–25 get on a computer and brag about himself for one second and not have a guilty conscience unless his conscience has been **“seared with a hot iron”** as he begins to depart from the faith (1 Tim. 4:2)! I purposely didn't print the verses so you would look them up if you really want to know what the Lord thinks about man. The danger in all of this is that it's altering the mindset the Bible believer is supposed to maintain—that man as a whole is no good. Man is naturally an egotist. So if someone flatters him and he doesn't put down the thought of pride in his heart, he begins to work his own ruin (Prov. 26:28). Pride has an addictive effect on its prey until it brings it to destruction. As he repeatedly accepts praise and adoration to himself, he stops witnessing to the lost around him, because after all, he wants someone to say nice things about him. So he'll say nice things about others. And God's words aren't being preached, and the Lord isn't getting any glory (Rev. 4:11). One hundred years ago, if a man talked the way in public about himself like some Christians do today on their web pages, he would have been written off as an arrogant egotist, and nobody would have given him the time of day. But now, it's so commonplace to think that way that when you try to give someone the truth from the scripture about man, they have a nervous breakdown. And that's the supposed Bible believer. When man pushes one direction, God's man resists and pushes back with the scripture (Jer. 23:28–29) Your wasted time on the Internet and social media is ruining the accurate scriptural view you are supposed to have about yourself and about man as a whole.

3. Another reason why the Internet and social media have aided in the destruction of Bible believers is that collectively they have made it easy for man to sin. In 1 Kings 16, a very important detail is mentioned in verses 31 and 32. **“And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him. And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.”** Now, there isn't enough space to go into detail about who Ethbaal was or what was involved in Jezebel's life up to

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this point, but one thing is for sure: as Zidonians, they worshiped and served the Phoenician deity called Baal. Now the last time Baal was mentioned in your Bible was in Judges 6 where Gideon destroys the altars built for Baal. Although there was idolatrous worship toward other false gods of other nations, as far as you can tell, the only Baal worship that was going on was either done in secret or had to be done on the outskirts of Israel, somewhere closer to the lands where Baal was worshipped regularly. But now, that wicked woman Jezebel has joined herself with Israel and has ordered Mr. Ahab to make an altar and a temple to Baal. In effect, she made it convenient for Israel to sin. No longer do they have to travel to the outskirts of the land to worship Baal. No longer do they have to work overtime trying to hide their Baal worship from their Bible-believing neighbor. There's a temple right smack in the middle of town, and the king and queen condone the worship there. One of the most dangerous things the Internet and social media have done is to make it convenient for Christians to sin. It used to be that if a man wanted to live wrong in any way, he would have to work at least a little toward satisfying his lust. He would have to go to certain places to get certain things in order to perform his sin and that could potentially cause embarrassment or humiliation in front of someone he might come across. But now, sin is literally at man's fingertips, waiting for just the push of a button to tap into things that would have been almost impossible to get to just thirty years ago. There are Christians involved in secret filth that they don't even blush at anymore because it's become so convenient for them to sin and go about their way. What's worse is they don't realize the destructive impact that their sin is causing in their own heart and mind. This convenience carries with it a false sense of protection from judgment. Neither Ahab nor Jezebel would have punished anyone for bowing in worship to Baal. But it was still a serious sin against God that God eventually judged. But in the meantime, I'll bet some of those Israelites sure felt a strong sense of protection, even though it was false. The Internet and social media have the spirit of Jezebel all over them. Anything or anyone that makes it convenient to sin against God is wicked and carries with it the spirit of Jezebel. Romans 13:14 says, **"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof."**

As a Bible believer, it is imperative for you to know what God says about the things you involve yourself in. There is much more in the scripture that can be applied to these matters, but for the sake of time and space, they cannot be written about at this time. But if you care to walk as closely to the Lord as possible, you will ask the Lord for wisdom and search the scripture and find out for yourself what the Lord wants you to do about not only these matters, but about all of the issues of life.

Please Note!

In the April 2017 issue of the *Bulletin*, page 24, lines 17 and 18 of the article "A Miserable Diagnosis," the references to *Job* 24:10–12 and *Job* 24:10 should have read *Proverbs* 24:10–12 and *Proverbs* 24:10 respectively.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

May 5–7

Lakeside Baptist Church
3055 Bacom Point Road
Pahokee, FL 33476
Pastor Ted Hines
(561) 924-7592

June 9–11

For His Glory Bible Baptist
92 Butler Rd.
Union, ME 04862
Pastor Mike Kee
207-975-5571

June 14–16 (Wed.–Fri.)

Calvary Baptist Church
285 N. Magnolia St.
Monticello, FL 32344
Pastor David Walker
(850) 997-2165

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Greasy the Robber GN-9425 \$1.10

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What is Fairness?

By Robert Militello

“All things have I seen in the days of my vanity: there is a just man that perisheth in his righteousness, and there is a wicked man that prolongeth his life in his wickedness” (Eccl. 7:15).

What's fair and who can define fairness? We know that God is perfectly righteous and does all things well. Knowing there is evil in our hearts and sin in our members, can we rightly judge what is fair? No, God alone defines fairness, and His way is not our way.

What our society has completely forgotten is that there are consequences to sin. Eve did not give much thought to what would be the result of her disobeying the Lord's command. We have had to pay for that rebellion ever since. Sin pays wages that are deposited into accounts marked “Death,” “Disease,” “Sorrow,” “Tragedy,” “Loneliness,” “Self-loathing,” and “Torment” in a Lake of Fire. The devil is a most efficient paymaster. Eve saw none of these things when she decided to satisfy her curiosity. What she saw was appealing to her senses. She had free will and could have resisted, but chose not to. Was it fair of God to allow death to come to every human being born into this world because of one, tragically bad choice? To you, maybe not; but holiness and justice are inseparable.

“Why died I not from the womb? why did I not give up the ghost when I came out of the belly?” (Job 3:11).

What thoughts were swirling about in Job's head while he sat silently for seven days and nights with three friends about him unable to utter a word (Job 2:13)? Did he think life was fair? Well, maybe, if you consider what he says in verse 10 in chapter 2. That is quite a response to the evil that had just befallen him. Nevertheless, in chapter 3, his speech takes a 180-degree turn. It is not hard to understand why he speaks the way he does in chapter 3. Short of death, Job took some of the heaviest blows a man can take in this life. His worst fears materialized. The strongest of men are laid low by grief. Trouble is a relentless night stalker in our lives. We do what we can to distance ourselves from it. Yet God has given it permission to dog us all the days of our lives, because trouble coupled itself to sin and Mother Eve's covetousness blinded her. Now all her children inherit the gene called sin.

“Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily, I have cleaned my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency” (Psa. 73:12–13).

Sounds like Asaph is thoroughly exasperated. He sees what appears to be a gross injustice in the way God oversees the affairs of men. In verse 14, Asaph mirrors Job (see Job 30:15–16).

Nothing can be properly evaluated by our finite understanding. More often than not, even saved people draw wrong conclusions from what they observe. Example: if you lived in Sodom and knew Lot and heard how he was willing to offer up his virgin daughters to sex-crazed perverts lusting after men, would you have believed him to be righteous? He was, according to 2 Peter 2:7. We see things horizontally here, while the Lord sees things horizontally and vertically.

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Sinful man is apt to reach verdicts based on circumstantial evidence. None of us are just, in that we are free of selective bias. Journalists, the good ones, strive for objectivity, but realize how futile it is to filter out all the preconceived notions and opinions we carry in our minds and hearts. Objectivity is a delusion thanks to sin.

Getting back to Asaph, the Lord allowed him to see vertically and to understand why that which seemed unjust was really God's longsuffering. God's justice will be fully and finally displayed at the White Throne Judgment.

“When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; THEN understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors” (Psa. 73:16–19).

In verse 17, the Lord brings Asaph behind the curtain to see where the wicked go at death. If the Lord permits the wicked to prosper in this life and so escape justice for their evil deeds, was it then not reasonable for Asaph to see God's dealings with men as unfair? It is only when we consider that the Lord is good even to the wicked that we understand how justice delayed is not justice denied.

Our God is rich in mercy and suffers long the hatred of men for His Son. Reluctantly, God gives Satan permission to take these souls to Hell at death. His word tells us in 2 Peter 3:9 that He is **“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”** How many hardened sinners are living well into their seventies, eighties, nineties with some reaching an hundred. These are being given a very, very long season to repent. Should I, as a recipient of God's grace, fret over the knowledge that justice never seems to catch up to so many? I know my God is rich in mercy, and God forbid that I should forget that grace saved me. My great Saviour was under no obligation to suffer long my rebellion and sin.

Now, seventeen years into the new millennium, we still find ourselves waiting for the Lord to **“deliver us from this present evil world”** (cf. Gal. 1:4). Millions of lost souls may yet find grace and be saved before the Church Age closes. Christians have had their “leave time” extended so as to lay up more **“treasures in heaven”** (see Matt. 6:20). The wicked who prosper in this world are to be warned and given the gospel. If they reject God's grace, they are to be pitied. We know their end, and not their lost loved ones and friends mourning their death.

“The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.” (Prov. 26:10).

That verse requires some extended thought. In so many ways, God's word answers the very questions raised by the verses that seem to be incongruous in our minds. Notice in Luke 16:1–9 how an unjust steward is commended by his boss for being a skillful opportunist. The unjust steward cheated and stole from his lord, and yet verse 8 shows this steward to be **“wiser than the children of light.”** We see things through a filter of our own life's experiences, and our judgments are faulty. We reach conclusions without seeing all the evidence.

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God sees what we don't. The Holy Spirit, talking about Jesus, says in Isaiah 11:3, **"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears."**

Because we so often err in our estimation of matters that concern us, Christians often make more poor use of the opportunities God gives them. Sometimes we look at a way a man dresses or how a young man speaks, and we assume any effort to witness will be fruitless. Jews were instructed to be ready to go to the priest for proper estimation of a slave and submit to his judgment: **"But if he be poorer than thy estimation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall value him"** (Lev. 27:8). Jesus was valued at thirty pieces of silver. A female under a vow between twenty and sixty years old (Lev. 27:14) or a slave (Exod. 21:32) was considered to be worth no more. What value does God attach to the soul of a human? We cannot fathom the love for souls that sent the Word of God into this wicked world (John 1:1–14). Knowing this, what will be said to believers at the Judgment Seat of Christ that took good care of themselves, while neglecting Bible-believing missionaries striving daily to do what the Lord commanded us to do? No wonder Paul said, **"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men"** (2 Cor. 5:11). Paul was referring to believers at the Judgment Seat being terrorized. We are expected to finance, as best we can, the worldwide effort to save souls from a burning hell that God never made for them.

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

What seems right is often pure guesswork. I'll repeat what I wrote previously. Objectivity is delusional; no sinner really possesses it though he/she thinks so. Going by your feelings is dangerous. Why would God give us His instructional manual on life, if going by your feelings would lead you to the right conclusions? As a child watching the Disney movie Pinocchio and hearing Jiminy Cricket sing, "Let your conscience be your guide," I did not know then that the Lord would one day give me something much more sure—His word. If I did not know the word of God, I would not believe that some folks whom I judged to be really fine people were now burning in hell. Their religion never told them that they were lost sinners and their own righteous deeds done in all sincerity would not keep them from torment. They died sincere in their beliefs, yet badly delusional.

Does mortal man have the right to judge God's dealings with His subjects based on what he believes to be equitable? Job 4:17 says, **"Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?"** Lack of purity, or sinfulness, renders man incapable of building a just society. God manifest in the flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ alone, will establish justice on this earth. Until then, injustice will not only exist, but thrive due to increasing hatred of God's word.

This is why Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1, **"This know also, that in the last**

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days perilous times shall come." Look around, those days are here, and we probably haven't yet seen the worst of these last days. Once the Book is thrown out, sinners are left to construct their own model of "equal justice for all." Abe Lincoln, lacking light from God, did not know that "government of the people, by the people and for the people" would bring moral chaos. Lawlessness is held in check only by the grace of God and the presence of Christ's body on earth—His church. God alone has all the rights, and sin has left us but one right; that is, to die! Nothing more.

"Is it not lawful for me to do WHAT I WILL WITH MINE OWN? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?" (Matt. 20:15).

Jesus Christ gave His disciples a lesson on why God is good and we are not in Matthew 20:1–16, that clearly reveals the gap between man's understanding of fairness and God's. This passage of scripture further proves that God, and not man, wrote the Bible. Reading it should cause the believer to rejoice all the more that God is who He is and not anything like us.

Notice in verse 8 how the owner of the vineyard purposely lines up the day laborers in inverse order. The paymaster is deliberately ignoring custom by making those who worked all day wait behind those who worked only part of the day, and some for only an hour. The vineyard owner is setting the stage for a showdown with his employees as to whose idea of fairness will prevail. In verses 4 and 7, the owner promises to pay his laborers "**whatsoever is right.**" The agreement by which the laborers were hired called for a "**penny a day,**" according to verse 2. Nevertheless, that understanding was overthrown when, in verse 9, those who worked but one hour received a full day's wage. It was only natural for those who worked longer to assume they would receive more than for what they hired on. Which one of us would not assume likewise? Verse 10 is the shocker. The early morning field hands get no more than those hired on at the eleventh hour. Quick, file a complaint with the Labor Relations Board—obvious unfair labor practice.

"Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day" (Matt. 20:12).

How many times have parents been told by their children, "That's not fair!" when goodies have been distributed among siblings. How often have therapists used this line on patients: "Were you treated fairly by your parents?" We are in the Laodicean church period, when the rights of sinners are set against God's rights as if the parties were equal. The more I hear Christians say, "**God is love,**" the more He seems to lose His "right" to punish sin.

Strange, isn't it? His right to bypass our understanding of fairness is questioned, especially when evil circumstances beset us. If you are saved, He bought you, "**and ye are NOT YOUR OWN**" (1 Cor. 6:19–20). In Matthew 20:9–10, grace shows up, undeserved generosity, and in verse 11, it is murmured against. Have you ever observed how closely self-righteousness and strict standards

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of fairness show up in opposition to the free dispensing of grace? Religious people conspired to kill our Saviour, but you will never hear the pope mention that. Why not?

Compassion puts grace in motion. Many men showed up for work early that morning hoping to be hired. No doubt some, or most, of these men had families, and a penny then was a day's wage. It could put bread on a man's table and forestall the pains of hunger another day. The keeper of the vineyard calculated how many men he would need to accomplish the task before him. As the day wore on, he realized he had underestimated the magnitude of the job and needed to hire more men. Think about those laborers who were not hired first thing in the morning. Instead of going home, they waited and remained on the job site hoping to get a call. It's tough for a man to go home to his family empty handed.

"For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Psa. 107:9).

God sees what we really need, and often we have to wait while others are tended to first. Besides the initial hiring, the vineyard manager makes four more visits to the labor pool—see verses 3, 5, and 6. In verse 6, he asks, **"Why stand ye here all the day idle?"** Maybe one spoke up and with sorrow said why he was reluctant to go home, even at **"the eleventh hour."** Sometimes hope has to take you to the very last hour. **"The Lord trieth the righteous"** (Psa. 11:5). Surely, our Blessed Hope (Tit. 2:13) is certain, but at **"the eleventh hour,"** our patience will be rewarded.

The eleventh-hour hired hands were told they would receive **"whatsoever is right."** They were not promised a penny. They had no right to expect a full day's wage for an hour of work. Union benefits were unknown then. Imagine the surprise when they were lined up before those who worked more hours and a penny was put in their hand.

Did the paymaster purposely put them first to promote envy? **"These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us"** (vs. 12). Should we be surprised when the Lord orchestrates situations in our lives that reveal things about our hearts that we would otherwise not notice? Think about that.

The scripture says, **"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"** (Jer. 17:9). Well, God knows it, but we don't until it is shown to us. Even then, we tend to question the findings because we are prone to believe what is good about ourselves while excusing that which is reprehensible. **"Desperately wicked"** is our natural state.

In verse 15, the vineyard manager asks the murmuring laborers, who now feel as though they've been cheated, **"Is thine eye evil, because I am good?"** Yes, because when grace is given those who have done nothing deserving it, our "godly" sense of fairness protests. That's the old nature, and it remains with us in spite of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Each man who labored that day was given a penny. The agreement made in verse 2 was honored. When the

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hiring boss said he would give what is right, he alone had the power to determine what was right for each man. There was no employee relations council to advise him. He did not have his decision reviewed by someone from the Fair Labor Standards Board. He acted arbitrarily. God is the King in the kingdom of men. He is the law. All His acts are lawful because He says so, and because of sin, the human race has no right to question His word.

“In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes” (Judg. 21:25).

The setting aside of the King James Bible has led to more spiritual devilment than could ever have been imagined. God's power to rule over our hearts and

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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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minds has been attacked. **“Where the word of a king is, there is power”** (Eccl. 8:4). Preaching the so-called “love gospel,” pastors have helped embolden many weak Christians to question God’s way with them. This pernicious gospel helps to make you a little god. Instead of God’s word judging you, you sit in judgment of it. An abundant supply of modern “Bible” versions gives you options, a favorite word in societal thinking today. Because God loves me, He’s O.K. with what I prefer, right? For millions and millions of believers, the Judgment Seat of Christ will be an extreme application of electric shock therapy. A Saviour, to whom they were introduced, but never got to know, will put their works in a blast furnace. Who will dare question whether the Lord dealt fairly with them in life during that ordeal?

Yes, it is perfectly lawful for our Saviour to do with us what He pleases. To question His fairness is to question His wisdom. We like being little gods.

“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid” (Rom. 9:14).

It is human nature to crave explanations for deeds that defy logic and reason.

“Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth” (Rom. 9:18).

This dictatorial power the Lord has will be on full view when He sits on His throne in Jerusalem and rules with a rod of iron. No congress, no parliament, no “free” press, no supreme court to answer to them. Where will the rights of the people be in that day?

Today, we live in a world where God’s choice of Israel is despised. The nations (God spare America) refuse to recognize the Lord’s right to place the Jews in their biblical homeland, which includes Judea and Samaria. These territories are referred to as occupied land belonging to the Palestinians. What is and what is not fair will soon be determined by a man who will head a global government and be supported by a church. This church will see him as christ, but he will not be the Lord’s Christ. Turning away from God’s word, the nations will allow this man even to change the calendar (Dan. 2:21). I imagine he might say that it is not fair to Mohammed or Buddha or Moses to number the years from the birth of just one “religious leader.”

There is such little time left for **“the gospel of the grace of God”** (Acts 20:24) to be preached. Five hundred years ago, God put it in Martin Luther’s heart to break with Rome and preach the true gospel. Religious people hate that gospel more than ever. They teach that heaven is an earned reward and not a free gift. Their idea of fairness is to do enough good in life to cancel out the bad and heaven will be your home. The priests wanted me to put up my righteousness as a substitute for the Lord’s perfect righteousness. In their sin-polluted minds, they thought this was fair.

If God were fair according to our standard of fairness, there would be no salvation. Jesus would have stayed in heaven. Thank God, He didn’t.

“He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities” (Psa. 103:10).

What if He had, then what?

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