



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 42 No. 2 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) February 2018

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

By Brian Donovan

The Bible-believing Christian, at some point in his Bible reading, comes to the conclusion that the Bible is to be taken literally and always tries to make the doctrinal application of a passage first, before making any spiritual application second. Since **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine"** (II Timothy 3:16), the Bible believer will recoil from any teaching that spiritualizes a verse of the Bible while it misses the literal and doctrinal meaning of the text.

The same is true when it comes to the teaching of the pre-tribulation rapture of the body of Christ. When the verses connected to this subject are taken literally, the reader can only come to the belief that the Lord Jesus Christ will call out the saved of the present Church Age, both those who have already died, along with those who remain alive (I Thessalonians

4:13-18), and that this event must precede the great tribulation period, since the Lord Jesus Christ **"delivered us from the wrath to come"**, as we **"wait for his Son from heaven"** (I Thessalonians 1:10). The literal return of the Lord Jesus to this earth takes place at the end of the tribulation period which is called **"the great day of his wrath"** (Revelation 6:12-17). The Bible student should notice that this event takes place at the opening of the sixth seal (verse 12) at the end of the tribulation period. The church age saints are previously referred to being presented as a **"chaste virgin to Christ"** during the church age (II Corinthians 11:2), but by the time of the second coming of Christ to physically reign on the earth, the church has already been married to him, having been made ready (Revelation 19:7), by going through the judgment seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10). She is then able to follow behind the Lord when he returns to clean up and rule this earth (Revelation 19:11-14) at his second coming. The only way for this to happen would require that the church be caught up to heaven before both the tribulation and the second advent. Unless the Bible is

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My Friend

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is, my friend, O daughter of Jerusalem” (Song of Sol. 5:16).

The text you just read is the end of an answer given by the bride of Christ to a question, posed twice back up in verse 9: **“What is thy beloved more than another beloved . . . ?”** In other words, what makes your Beloved, the Lord Jesus Christ, so special? So from verse 10 to verse 16, the bride describes her Beloved to the ones who asked her about Him. It is obvious from reading the passage that she is in love. The bride of Christ is enamored with her Saviour. He is not only her Beloved, He is her *Friend*.

There are some things I want to say about this Friend and friendship. True friendship is eternal. Back in the last half of the nineteenth century, there was a famous (at that time) Baptist pastor named Russell Conwell. He wasn't much of a preacher, but he was a great motivational speaker who built the largest Baptist work at that time.

Before he was saved, Conwell served as a captain in the Union Army during the Civil War. He had become an “agnostic” (a polite term for an *atheist*) at Yale University, and he was a godless cuss. But when he was put in charge of Company D of the Second Massachusetts Artillery, he was assigned a sixteen-year-old boy named Johnny Ring as an aid. That boy obeyed everything Conwell told him to do but one. He had promised his dying mother that he would pray and read the Bible every night. Conwell didn't want anything to do

with God or the Bible, but he took that boy on as his orderly anyway, as long as he didn't read the Bible in Conwell's tent.

Russell Conwell had a ceremonial saber with an inscription in Latin that translated as: “True friendship is eternal.” One night as Captain Conwell was out of camp on an errand to get his company's back pay for the men, the Confederates attacked. When Conwell got back to his men, the camp had been burnt to the ground, along with a railroad bridge nearby. In the attack, as all the men were retreating across that bridge that had been set to flames, John ran back to the captain's tent to get that ceremonial sword. By the time that boy got back across that bridge, it was in full blaze, and his clothes were on fire. His buddies put out the fire in the creek under the bridge, but that kid was in such bad shape, he had to go to a field hospital, where he died two days later.

While dying in that hospital, John asked to see the captain, but Conwell didn't make it there before his aid died. When Conwell got to that hospital, he was given his sword and told what Johnny had said about seeing him before he died. Conwell's conscience just ate him alive over that. He remembered cussing that boy out for reading the Bible in his tent, and John in tears said to him, “Captain, I love you, but you are a wicked man.” Conwell looked at the inscription on that sword and said to himself, “Will I ever see Johnny again to beg his forgiveness for my ill-treatment?”

No, Captain, you won't; not in the state you're in. That boy is in a place

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My Friend

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you aren't going in the state you're in.

Six months later, Conwell got hit by a shell in battle. While he was in the hospital, a Baptist chaplain came by to see him. The two talked about Conwell seeing that boy again, and the chaplain told him the only way would be to trust the Saviour that boy trusted. So Conwell got saved and told the chaplain, "I must serve God, not only for myself, but for Johnny Ring." And he did. That teenage boy showed true friendship to that godless captain. Because of that friendship, the captain got saved, and the friendship became eternal. That's the way the friendship is between me and Jesus Christ: it's an *eternal friendship*.

True friendship is eternal: it lasts. When Kennedy died, his widow set up "the eternal flame" outside his grave. It was a gas light. It hadn't been burning 24 hours before someone blew it out. That's not how friendship with the Lord is; no one is going to blow that out.

I have a photograph at home of an oak tree that grew up through a tombstone that read: "For time and eternity." But that marble slab didn't last through time, much less eternity; an oak busted it in two. A million years from now, I'll still have my Friend.

The first thing I want to say about that friendship is that *He was my friend before I was His*. Jesus Christ was known for receiving sinners (Luke 15:2) and being a *friend* to them (Matt. 11:19). He died for me when I was His *enemy* (Rom. 5:10). That Bible says He loved us *before* we loved Him (1 John 4:19), and He loved us when we *didn't* love Him (1

John 4:10).

We have all sorts of songs about this Friend: "What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear," "I've found a Friend, oh, such a Friend! He loved me ere I knew Him," "Jesus! What a friend for sinners," etc. Jesus said, "**Henceforth I call you not servants . . . but I have called you friends**" (John 15:15).

Back in the early pioneer days of the Old West, things were rough for preachers. I have an incident in my files of some preacher saying to a bunch of cowboys who could barely read or write, "Has Jesus got a friend in this house?" After several times of driving that question home, one old cowpoke got up, banged the dust off his ten-gallon hat, and said, "Well, me." That parson thought he had him a convert. "Are you Christ's friend?" asked the preacher. "Not really," said the cowboy, "but any man that ain't got no more friends than that, I guess I'll stand up for Him." That's the way it is today: Jesus Christ doesn't have very many friends right now.

Next, Jesus is a *beloved* friend. I had rather listen to Jesus Christ and His words than the pope, the press, the people, or anybody else. My relationship with Jesus Christ is like that of Jonathan and David: Jonathan loved David "**as he loved his own soul**" (1 Sam. 20:17).

Folks are always saying, "Ruckman isn't very friendly." You'd be amazed how many friends I've got that are *real* friends. They aren't friends because they're blood relatives or for political advantage. The friends I have are my friends because they're friends of Christ and

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My Friend

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I'm a friend of Christ; they believe the Book and I believe the Book. I have had friends and loved ones stick with me until I made one decision with which they disagreed; then they dropped me like a hot rock. When a preacher drops Ruckman as a friend, you can mark it down that he dropped Ruckman first. I have never dropped a friend of mine first. I don't take my friendship that lightly.

I tell my boys all the time, "Make some friends." Why? You're going to need them.

A young man went off on his own and wrote back to daddy, "I'm here in a strange town with no money and no friends. What do I do?" His daddy wrote back and said, "Make some friends."

A boy and his daddy watched in horror as a woman jumped off a bridge into a river below. The boy asked his dad, "Why did she do that?" The dad said, "I don't know; maybe she felt like she didn't have a friend in the world." That boy said, "She isn't going to find any down there in the water, is she?"

God said Abraham was His friend (2 Chron. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; James 2:23). Jesus said, "**Our friend Lazarus sleepeth**" (John 11:11). Jesus even called the guy who sold Him out, "**Friend**" (Matt. 26:49-50). Jesus didn't sell Judas out; Judas sold the Lord out. Christ was a friend to the traitor to the very end.

A true friend is hard to find; a faithful friend is hard to find. Jesus Christ is a *faithful* friend.

Judas sold Christ out *while professing to love Him*. Judas betrayed Jesus with a *kiss*. Phoney, fake "love."

It's like Orpah kissing her mother-in-law and saying, "I won't leave you" (Ruth 1:9-10, 14). The next verse after that says Orpah went "**back unto her people, and unto her gods**" (Ruth 1:15). She didn't mean anything she said.

Phoney love; pretend love. "We love Bro. Ruckman; we pray for him. He just doesn't know who his real friends are." You'd be amazed at what an instinct I have for knowing when people really appreciate me and when they don't. You aren't going to make a dime with me; I've always been suspicious. I'm suspicious of everybody; I'm suspicious of myself. I look in the mirror every morning and say, "What are you up to now?"

I have been that way for so long that when folks treat me mean, I'm right at home. It's when someone tries to "butter me up" that I think, "What is that dirty dog up to?"

But Jesus Christ is a faithful friend. He said, "**Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends**" (John 15:13).

A real friend is like ivy: the greater the ruin, the closer he clings. I have a faithful friend in Jesus Christ. An old hymn says:

"There is an Eye that never sleeps
Beneath the wing of night;
There is an Ear that never shuts
When sink the beams of light.

"There is an Arm that never tires
When human strength gives way;
There is a Love that never fails
When earthly loves decay."

Back around 1950, I got in a first-
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My Friend

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rate mess. I had a whole town against me, two families against me, and a shrink against me; all of them were trying to lock me up in a "nut house" and take my kids from me. After all that had gone on for a while, some Krauts came over from Elberta, Alabama. They set some chairs around in a circle in my front yard and sat down and said, "Now Dr. Ruckman, we've heard all kinds of things about this situation; now we want to hear *your* side." I gave them my side. Those were some of my friends, and they were sent there by my Friend.

One time I was having a hard time making payments on a house. I didn't see any way in the world I could make it. I had a meeting at a church in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the only place the church could put me up for the meeting was the house of a widow and her two daughters. When the meeting was over, the church gave me a pretty good offering, but not enough to take care of the house payment. Before I left the home where I had been staying, that widow gave me a check. I thanked her and left to go catch my flight at the airport. I didn't look at that check until I got on the airplane. That check was enough to meet the house payment. Along with that check was a note from that widow: "This is thanking God for a preacher who practices what he preaches." That woman was one of my friends.

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Prov. 18:24).

I don't know if you have a friend like that or not. I've got one.

Back in 1987, I was in another bad situation. I thought I was going to have to sell my house to meet the requirements of the law. I had already paid the house off. It's pretty rough to have to sell the house once you've paid it off.

About that time, a couple of friends of mine, from a small town in Texas, chipped in and paid off that settlement in full. You know who got them to do that? My Friend! If I can be a friend to God, I'm not going to worry much about the rest of the crowd that's against me.

Back at Brent Baptist Church, I had a member named John Boscher. He had to go into the Army, and they were stationing him over in Germany. He was a former Roman Catholic who had just gotten saved. He was in a rough company, and he was worried he wouldn't have any Christian fellowship and that he would backslide. He was in a real "sweat" about it.

Before he left, I had prayer with him. I said, "Don't worry; you're in the Lord's hand."

He said, "I know, but what of it?"

I took him over to the passage in Song of Solomon 5 and read him verse 14: **"His hands are as gold rings."**

I said, "You're in gold hands. And I read in my Bible where He made the stars with His fingers (Psa. 8:3). Do you think Someone with a hand of gold, who can create stars with His fingers, can't pick you out a few Christian friends?" Sure He can.

Is Jesus Christ your Friend? Are you a friend to Jesus Christ? No real friend of Jesus Christ would ever raise

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My Friend

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Mary up to a level even with Him. No real friend of Jesus Christ would ever lie about His birth and resurrection. No real friend of Jesus Christ would lie about His second coming. No real friend of Jesus Christ would accuse Him of being a fornicator or a polygamist. No true friend of Jesus Christ would accuse Him of being a homosexual. No real friend of Jesus Christ would go through the Gospel of John and say that 80% of it isn't true. No true friend of Jesus Christ would reduce Him to the level of a fornicating, murdering epileptic like Mohammed or a lazy bum like Buddha.

A true friend of Jesus Christ wouldn't do those things. When you run into some "theologian" or scholar or professor or writer who does, mark it down, that person is NOT a friend of Jesus Christ.

Be careful how you pick your friends. You might run into someone who says, "I'm your friend; follow me." So you follow him, and he takes you to a party where there is plenty of booze, plenty of sex, plenty of drugs, plenty of music, plenty of money, etc. But then he leads you out a back door of the place, and you find yourself in a desert. Pretty soon a vulture is circling over your head.

You say, "Where are we going?" Your friend says, "Never mind; just come with me." He leads you down into a swamp, with snakes slithering all over the place. You push your way through there trying to keep up with your friend. You step out onto a precipice that gives out from under you, and you plummet into a lake of fire.

You yell up to your buddy and say, "You tricked me!" He laughs and

takes off the mask of friendship, and there's Satan. He says, "Pal, take a cup of liquid fire and drink a toast to everlasting despair!" You picked the wrong friend.

But that scene could have gone another way. Another fellow meets you and says, "I'm your friend. I'm headed on a trip. Do you want to go with me?" So you go with Him. The first thing He does is cut a big sack off your back that had been tied to you and weighing you down. But then He takes you into a dimly lit room, and you can't see where you're going. But He's right there with you, leading you. You say, "Do you know where you're going?" "Yes," He says, "just stick with me, and I'll lead you through here."

He takes you through that darkened room, through a door, and into a blast furnace. You say, "Why are we going through here?" He says, "It's the only way to get where I'm going. Don't worry, I'll be with you the whole way."

So you follow Him through that fire. On the other side, He puts His arm around you and opens a door into a well-lit, air-conditioned room with nice chairs and a place to eat. You rest a little there. Then He gets up and says, "Let's go a little farther." You step outdoors and begin climbing a mountain. You climb higher and higher, and the sun becomes brighter and brighter. Pretty soon your Friend says, "We're almost there now." He leads you up one last steep slope, and at the top is a city of pure gold, 1,500 miles square. You picked the right Friend.

Do you know that Friend? You say,

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My Friend

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"I know Jesus." *Which* Jesus? Paul talks about someone preaching "**another Jesus**" than the One in that Book (2 Cor. 11:4). There's all kinds of fake Jesuses running around.

If I asked you if you knew Teddy Roosevelt, and you said, "Sure, I know him. He had a New Deal and set up Social Security and had the Hoover Dam built and made it illegal to own gold." I say, "No, I mean *Teddy* Roosevelt."

You say, "Why, of course I know him. He had a dog named Fala and a wife named Eleanor. He always smoked a cigarette on a stick and had to be in a wheelchair because he had polio when he was younger."

You've got the wrong Roosevelt. You're talking about *Franklin Delano* Roosevelt, not *Theodore* Roosevelt.

Are you talking about the Jesus of the *Holy Bible* when you say you know Him? I'm talking about the Jesus who was virgin born, lived a sinless life, was God incarnate, loved you, died for your sins, rose again to justify you, and is coming again—*that* Jesus. He's my Friend. Do you know Him?

Back in the seventeenth century when the Catholics were trying to bring the Scotch into submission, the papists sent a man named Lord Claverhouse to the home of a Scotsman named John Brown. John Brown was a Christian. He was hiding an evangelical preacher named Atkins. Atkins had been teaching the Bible all over the country, and the Catholics wanted him dead.

Lord Claverhouse came to John Brown's house with a bunch of troops, and John Brown's daughter came

out to see what was going on. Lord Claverhouse called her over and put a thumbscrew on her. He turned that thumbscrew till it drew blood and she screamed.

John Brown and his wife came out of the house, and Brown said, "You don't have to do that. You don't have to torture the lassie. I'm the only one who knows where Mr. Atkins is."

Claverhouse said, "Well, my fine fellow, you'll tell us where he is, or else."

John Brown said, "You'll not get it out of me."

With that, Claverhouse took a gun and pointed it like a telescope at John Brown's head, and said, "You'll tell us, or we'll blow your brains out."

Brown turned to his wife and said, "I'm going to leave you, darling. Remember our wedding vows and take care of the children."

Four soldiers fired at John Brown's head and blew it all over that front porch. Mrs. Brown held out her apron and began gathering the fragments of bone and brain in it. Claverhouse said, "Now my good woman, how do you feel about your bonnie man now?"

She didn't look up at Claverhouse; she just kept picking up the pieces. She said, "I always did think well of him. He always treated me right. I never thought better of him, though, than I think right now."

I want you to know something: I have never thought better of my Friend than I think *right now*.

"How tedious and tasteless the hours

When Jesus no longer I see!

Sweet prospects, sweet birds, and

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My Friend

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sweet flow'rs,
Have all lost their sweetness to me.

The midsummer sun shines but dim,
The fields strive in vain to look gay;
But when I am happy in Him
December's as pleasant as May.

"His name yields the richest perfume,
And sweeter than music His voice;
His presence disperses my gloom,
And makes all within me rejoice.

I should, were He always thus nigh,
Have nothing to wish or to fear;
No mortal so happy as I;
My summer would last all the year.

"Content with beholding His face,
My all to His pleasure resigned;
No changes of season or place,
Would make any change in my mind.

While blessed with a sense of His love,
A palace a toy would appear;
And prisons would palaces prove,
If Jesus would dwell with me there.

"My Lord, if indeed I am Thine,
If Thou art my sun and my song,
Say, why do I languish and pine?
And why are my winters so long?
Oh, drive these dark clouds from

the sky,
Thy soul-cheering presence restore;

Or take me to Thee up on high,
Where winter and clouds are no more."
John Newton

Sometimes a child of God can

get bitter and rebellious because of the circumstances through which the Lord puts him. He feels that if the Lord really was his friend, He wouldn't treat him the way He has. But that Bible says,

"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Prov. 27:6).

Christian, pray the Lord will make up those rough circumstances, not necessarily by changing them, but by making His presence real to you as you go through them. Where the Lord is real to you, it makes up for almost anything, and where He's not, you can't take anything. Someone once said, "Lord, I can take *anything with your smile*, but *nothing with your frown*."

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The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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not taken literally and the passages are spiritualized, the pre-tribulation rapture of the body of Christ, as well as his pre-millennial return, are the obvious conclusions of the Bible reader who believes the words mean what they say.

Those who try to refute the literal interpretation of the Bible, as Origen (254 AD) with his extreme spiritualizing of almost every New Testament doctrine, as Augustine (400 AD) who put a stranglehold on millennial teaching for a thousand years of anti-church history with his *City of God*, as Thomas Aquinas (1250 AD) who claimed the spiritual reign of the church fulfilled the millennium, as John Calvin (1500 AD) who said the number 666 (Revelation 13:18), the number 144,000 (Revelation 14:1), and the number 1000 (Revelation 20:1-6) are not to be taken literally and anyone who did so was in the world of fiction, must by default, refuse to take the Bible to mean what it says literally.

One result of the spiritualizing of the word of God is the belief that there are no dispensations, and every passage is directed to the Christian, including the promises given to the nation of Israel. In a book trying to refute dispensationalism, an author named Gerstner refers to the eternal security of the believer as an "utter travesty", and backs up his teaching with what he calls "John MacArthur's epochal book", saying that if a sinner does not take up Christ's cross and follow Him, that person does not have saving faith in Him and will

be disowned and damned by Him at the day of judgment. He then goes on to apply the kingdom of heaven parables and the Sermon on the Mount doctrinally to the church age, with his main proof text being Matthew 7:21 **"Not every one that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven"**. The old "if you were really saved" trick is pulled out of the hat to teach Lordship Salvation, or more properly called, "I need to have works to prove my salvation". All this in spite of the fact that Paul tells the Christians at Corinth to turn a saved brother over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh (a Christian can physically die when he lives after the flesh-see Romans 8:13), yet his spirit is still saved in the day of the Lord Jesus (I Corinthians 5:5). The **"apostle of the Gentiles"** (Romans 11:13) is ignored as they run back to James (who is not writing to the church, but to the **"twelve tribes which are scattered abroad"** James 1:1), to apply **"Ye see then that by works a man is justified and not by faith only"** (James 2:24) and on and on they go, making the Bible a book of contradictions.

The most common refutation of both dispensationalism and the pre-tribulation rapture of the church concerns itself with "historical", "traditional" or even "baptistic" views, rather than what the scriptures actually say. Opponents of the pre-tribulation rapture of the church make a mountain of trying to show that it is a relatively new teaching and was not taught in the early church. Some will attempt

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The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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to make the teaching originate with a teenaged Scottish girl named Mary McDonald in 1830, when she had a typical trembling, feverish, charismatic vision where she supposedly saw Christ's coming in two stages, with believers being raptured before the tribulation period. Others try to pin the blame on John Nelson Darby of the Plymouth Brethren in 1827, who wrote in detail of the pre-tribulation rapture of the church age saints and greatly influenced C.I. Scofield in the USA and his reference study Bible published in 1909. Darby taught that the kingdom preached by the Old Testament prophets was NOT the same as the church age and was to be taken literally to be a physical, Jewish, earthly kingdom. Others back up the origination of the teaching to 1790 with the completion of a three-volume work by the Roman Catholic Jesuit Emmanuel Lacunza, which was called *The Coming of the Messiah in Glory and Majesty*. The most important information about this "Jesuit" seems to be conveniently omitted by the proponents of this argument, particularly the fact that when Pope Clement XIV banned the order of the Jesuits in 1773, Lacunza was forced to withdraw and begin an intense personal study of the Bible, leading him to conclude, among other things, that the second coming of Christ was a different event than the end of the world and the last judgment, and that his coming necessarily preceded the thousand year reign of Christ on earth. Lacunza believed that he had made some new and important discoveries,

unaware that he was coming to the same conclusions that Bible readers had already come to over the previous 1700 years of church history. Any Roman Catholic would be as surprised as Lacunza, when it comes to what the Bible actually says, since they are kept in the dark regarding the scriptures, as they get a cheap replacement with the traditions of men. Lacunza's book was removed from circulation by the Spanish Inquisition in 1819, and then later placed on the Forbidden Index in 1824 by Pope Leo XII, certainly good indicators that he was on to some scriptural truth. When a Christian is more concerned about whether a belief is "traditional", or "historic", or even "baptistic", instead of what the scriptures actually say, he will be led astray by the traditions of men, making the word of God of none effect (Mark 7:13). This fear of man leads to a snare (Proverbs 29:25) that will prevent the believer from getting advanced revelation from the scripture that was previously hidden. Look at what the apostle Paul would have missed if he took the "historic" position. The revelation of a "mystery which was kept secret since the world began" (Romans 16:25) would have been denied. The Lord dispensed truth to Paul (Ephesians 3:2) that was made manifest **"by the scriptures of the prophets"** (Romans 16:26), proving that there are some hidden truths in the scriptures that as yet have still not been revealed. Whenever the Lord begins to reveal some of these **"secret things"** (Deuteronomy 29:29), instead of seeing **"whether**

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THE THREE CROSSES



"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left" (Luke 23:33).

The three crosses on Calvary's hill define every man or woman who has ever lived. There is no avoiding one's place among those three crosses by any means. Everyone will find himself on one of those three crosses.

his sins. This he does by faith, at the most inopportune time. Under seemingly impossible circumstances, he confesses Christ as a King with a kingdom, when Christ is dying as a criminal with NO kingdom (Luke 23:42). The penitent thief is saved by grace through faith in the finished atonement of Jesus Christ. He dies with sin IN him, but no sin ON him.

C. THE MIDDLE CROSS

The middle cross presents "the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). There is sin ON Him but no sin IN Him (1 Pet. 2:24, 3:18). Christ's sinless life was the damnation of this world (John 15:22-25). By it, He ran Buddha, Mohammed, Mary, and the Popes off the track (Heb. 12:1-2). The condemnation of this world is that men will NOT receive a sinless man as their substitute (John 3:16-18). They will insist on "living it," "living a good life," or on "making the world a better place to live in." The middle cross cancels all of their ambitions and fondest dreams. It shows that only a sinless man can enter God's presence with favor. Without receiving that sinless Man (1 Tim. 2:5), the "doors to heaven" are shut. It reveals the depravity in the heart of

A. THE FIRST CROSS

Here is the unregenerate sinner. He is "dead in trespasses and sin" (Eph. 2:1). He dies IN his sins (John 8:24), with his sins ON him. This impenitent thief refuses the Sin-bearer (John 1:29) and trusts his own righteousness. He dies because "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23). He lives and dies alone in the world without hope and without God (Eph. 2:12). He can profess ANYTHING: to be innocent, guilty, holy, defiled, sincere, wicked, hopeful, confident, unsure, doubtful, humble, or cocksure. It wouldn't affect his eternal destiny one way or another. He dies unforgiven, unredeemed, and unfit to enter the presence of an almighty, holy, sinless Creator.

B. THE THIRD CROSS

Here is the saved sinner. Regardless of his profession, religion, race, creed, sex, background, education, talent, intellect, money, or ethical standards, he dies forgiven, redeemed, and in fellowship with his Creator. He cannot kneel to pray, get baptized, join any church, take the sacraments, or "live it." He is dying condemned, under the wrath of human and divine justice, and he can do nothing but believe on the Saviour whom God sent to atone for

every religious "do-gooder" on this earth. Religious "do-gooders" trying to "help humanity out" (John 11:48) had Jesus Christ nailed to the cross. Everyone reading this print is on either the first cross or the third cross. The only "middle ground" is Jesus Christ Himself.

You can have your sins forgiven like the penitent thief. All you have to do is come to Jesus Christ in simple faith and sincerity, saying something like this:

"Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and unless you save me, I am lost forever. I come to you the best way I know how, believing you died for my sins and rose again to give me eternal life, and asking that you save me. I receive you as my Saviour and trust you to forgive and justify me, and present me without fault before God's throne in the day of Judgment."

The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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those things were so" by searching **"the scriptures daily"** (Acts 17:11), jealous brethren will cry out because they did not see it. Instead of refuting with the scriptures, they will post and tweet and whine, as they cling to their "historic" and "baptist" positions.

Throughout her history, the Roman whore has always been careful to prevent her members from finding out **"what saith the scripture,"** and instead fills the void with her pagan rituals and traditions. This is evidenced in writing, as found preserved in the National Library of Paris, Folio No. 68, Volume 2, pages 650-651, where the Roman Catholic cardinals warned Pope Pius III, saying, "Of all the advice that we can offer your holiness we must open your eyes well and use all possible force in the matter, namely, to permit the reading of the gospel as little as possible in all the countries under your jurisdiction. Let the very little part of the gospel suffice which is usually read in the Mass, and let no one be permitted to read more. So long as people will be content with the small amount, your interest will prosper, but as soon as the people will want to read more, your interest will fail. The Bible is the book, which more than any other has raised against us the tumults and tempests by which we have almost perished. In fact, if one compares the teaching of the Bible with what takes place in our churches, he will soon find discord, and will realize that our teachings are often different from the Bible, and oftener still, contrary to it." This is what Emmanuel Lacunza found out

when he was forced out of the Jesuit order and into the Bible. Traditional Baptists will point out that Lacunza was a Jesuit, unable to answer the teaching. Similar to the brethren of the late 1900's who could only point out that "he's been divorced", when they could not answer with scripture.

Still, others try to credit the origin of the pre-tribulation rapture of the church to a book by a Baptist pastor in Philadelphia named Morgan Edwards in 1788. Edwards separated the rapture from the literal return of Christ to earth as being three and one-half years apart. He taught that the "event that will usher in the millennium will be the coming of Christ from paradise to earth with all the saints he had taken up thither about three and one-half years before...". Pastor Edwards somehow got the idea that the tribulation period to come would only last forty-two months and that the church was not going to be present on earth during that time.

Other opponents to the teaching back it up to 1700 to an Englishman named John Asgill who was removed from England's Parliament and imprisoned for blasphemy for writing that the church saints would be raptured without dying, although it does not appear that Asgill was plain about the rapture taking place before the tribulation.

Whether the "recent" date that opponents try to use for this "new teaching" is 1830, 1827, 1790, 1788, or 1700, they must come to grips with a number of 4th to 5th century Latin manuscripts that contain a sermon

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The Pre-Tribulation Rapture

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by a Psuedo-Ephraen Syrius, which contain the following quote of a very clear belief in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church where he said, "all the saints and elect of God are gathered prior to the tribulation that is to come and are taken to the Lord lest they see the confusion that has overcome the world due to our sins".

Yet regardless of how ancient or recent a Bible teaching may be, the real issue is whether it is according to scripture or not. As a Bible-believing Christian, I have little concern for who believes a certain doctrine, or how far back it can be traced to being understood and taught. If you found out that outdoor street preaching was being taught that "it simply does not work today" in the "Pastors Schools" of modern King James Bible believing teachers and preachers, would that amount to anything as to whether it is right and scriptural? If the Lord revealed the antichrist to you through the scriptures, would you refuse to acknowledge it because you do not know of anyone else who believes that is possible? Not all prophecy has been understood throughout both the Old Testament times and the Church Age, and the fact that the Holy Spirit teaches revelation of scripture in stages as the body of believers can handle them does not negate the truth of any teaching. For instance, Daniel was given prophecy that covered an enormous amount of future time and even as the author of the writing, he asked what the revelations meant and was told, "**Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till**

the time of the end" (Daniel 12:9). The Lord Jesus told the apostles that there were some things that he could not reveal to them at that time, since they could not bear them, but would be shown at a later time (John 16:12). So even if it were true (which has been shown it is not) that the pre-tribulation rapture of the church was a recent teaching by the dispensationalists, that fact by itself would not necessarily negate the truth of it.

The pre-tribulation rapture of the church age saints is also required by the fact that during the tribulation, a different gospel will be preached called "**the everlasting gospel**" (Revelation 14:6), and its message is not simple faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The tribulation saint must "**endure unto the end**" to be saved (Matthew 24:13), and refuse to take the mark of the beast, or he will be damned (Revelation 14:9-10). Refusing to rightly divide the word (II Timothy 2:15), the opponents of dispensationalism simply place all of Matthew 24 in the past (70 AD), spiritualize the literal return of Christ (Matthew 24:30) to mean that it refers to him coming into the heart of the believers during the church age, and then fall back on their cute little anti-scriptural sayings such as, "If you are really saved then you will endure to the end and will not take the mark of the beast." But all this does is make the Bible contradict itself since it is obvious that during the tribulation, a sinner's salvation hinges on him DOING something to stay saved, which definitely is NOT true of the sinner's salvation during the church age.

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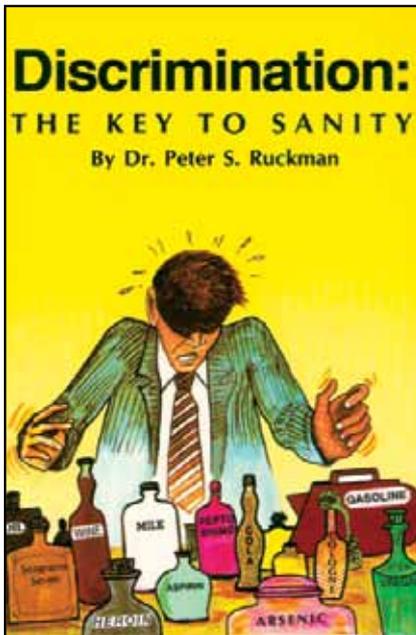
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The Reality of Eternity

By Zack Colvin

As most people go about their day in these times, the thought of eternity or any eternal things is very distant from their minds. With all of the physical and material duties of life, such as jobs, families to take care of, going to the grocery store, running errands and so on, there just isn't much time to think about eternity. Often the thoughts of eternity get smothered by these duties of life, even for a Christian, and the reality of eternal things doesn't seem very apparent. It often seems that the material things are what really matter.

Yet we are told in 2 Corinthians 4:18, **"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal."**

So the Christian who intends to make eternity a reality in his own life will have a constant struggle to make sure he doesn't get so entangled with material things that the eternal things can't be seen. There will need to be a steady diet of the eternal book, the KJV 1611, in his life. There will need to be a steady dialogue between him and the Lord Jesus Christ through prayer. (Remember, true prayer is not just over meals, or just when you have a need, or even just one time a day. True prayer is a steady dialogue between you and your Saviour [**"Pray without ceasing"** (1 Thess. 5:17); **"... men ought always to pray, and not to faint"** (Luke 18:1)].) Without these two forms of spiritual engagement, there will be no reminders of eternal things, and therefore no attention given to the things that matter the most, as you go through life: eternal things.

You see, what the Christian has to remember is that everything he does has an eternal consequence or reward. Everything the Christian plans, everything he or she does throughout the day, every word that is spoken, every bit of it is to be done in light of things that will take place after this life is over: the rapture of the church, the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Honestly, most Christians give more thought to the condition of their bank account, the condition of their retirement plan if they have one, or whether or not the improvements they are making to their house are a worthy investment or not. They will spend hours at the computer researching what type of vehicle will be the best investment to make or what type of career to plan for, one that will bring them the most income in life.

All of these things are certainly important things to consider in this life, and by no means am I reproving somebody for researching something before he makes a decision. As a matter of fact, it would be foolish not to, since you are to be a good steward of the money the Lord allows to pass through your hands. But so often, these considerations are the only ones given attention. The reality of eternity, the fruits of the Judgment Seat of Christ, and the thought of laying up **"treasures in heaven"** (Matt. 6:20) seldom enters the mind. Yet it's these latter considerations that are not just more important, they are really the only things that matter.

The surprising thing about many Laodicean Christians is that they live much like an atheist when it comes to practical everyday life. They think that just because they don't think about

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eternal things throughout the day, that eternity is not even real. Yet eternal things are what need the more attention. Arguably, the main reason eternity is not a reality to many Christians is that there is very little engagement of the spiritual sources the Lord has given us to set our **“affection on things above”** (Col. 3:2): the Bible and prayer.

But there is one major device of Satan, used especially in these last days, to keep the Christian’s attention on temporal things of this life, and that is simply through distraction. Throughout history, there have always been things to distract men and women from their true purpose for existence.

Revelation 4:11 says, **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”**

According to that verse, every man and woman born on this earth has one purpose for existing: in this life and in eternity, they are to bring pleasure to the Lord God Almighty. Anything that detracts from that one purpose should be labeled as a distraction from the reality of eternity and a thief of God’s pleasure.

Distractions in life are a very normal part of life that must be faced and must be avoided and even fought against if one intends on accomplishing even the basic duties of life. If the student plans to learn his subject, he has to fight off daydreaming and distractions that would keep him from paying attention. If the laborer plans to get his work done, he often needs to lay aside his mobile phone, free his hands of any extra weight, and get to work; or he won’t be able to get his work com-

pleted. Prioritizing responsibilities is the way that most people avoid being too distracted from their purpose.

Dr. Ruckman used to say repeatedly, “Duties never conflict!” This is obviously somewhat of a paradoxical statement because duties always conflict. But the statement is designed to make you think, which worked on me for quite some time. The idea is that if something is a true duty, it will never conflict with something that isn’t a true duty. It will always take precedence over those things that aren’t as important. In other words, you’ve got to set your priorities straight!

But there are a few things that have become real problems in the Christian life. They have taken many Christians from being fruitful in their Christian life and have literally given them a “crop failure” in as little as just a few years. These things are certainly tools used by the devil to derail the Bible-believing Christian, distract him from his true purpose, and keep him from bringing the Lord pleasure and glory. This is Satan’s main purpose in the life of a Christian, since he can no longer destroy his soul once he is saved. But trying to get Christians to realize the danger of this is like trying to get a politician to stop lying. It’s just not going to happen.

Satan’s devices for distracting their attention from eternal things and conforming them to the world have become very subtle in these last days of Laodicea. The Laodicean is pleased with himself as long as others are fooled by his superficial walk with the Lord and don’t recognize his spiritual blindness and nakedness. His own lukewarmness deceives other lukewarm Laodiceans pretty easily because both are so fo-

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cused on the outward appearance and this temporal life that they don't even recognize it, or else don't dare "call the baby ugly," as they say. But while this man is so focused on making sure to clean the outside of the platter and ensure that the average Laodicean is fooled, he doesn't realize, or maybe doesn't even care, that he has allowed the devil to distract him from his purpose for existence and from the reality of eternity.

In the Old Testament history of the Jews, there were constantly things rising up to distract them from the Lord and keep them from His pleasure. If it wasn't their own hearts lusting after the ways of the other nations and desiring to be like them, it was the idol worship and wicked practices of the heathen that distracted them and lured them into temporal pleasure instead of eternal reward. The devil, capitalizing on the impatience and dissatisfaction of their hearts, lured them to instant gratification through idol worship and conformity to the nations around them, just as the devil does today. For the most part, men are impatient. They are in large number dissatisfied because they are constantly trying to be satisfied with temporal things, and no man can ever be completely satisfied with temporal things. The wisest man who ever lived aside from Jesus Christ proves this truth through the entire book of Ecclesiastes. So Satan capitalizes on these faults of impatience and dissatisfaction in men today and tempts them with distractions of instant gratification to keep them from being fruitful for Jesus Christ.

The technology industry has really capitalized on the impatience and dissatisfaction in modern man

and has given him distractions by the thousands. From sunrise to sunset, there is something beeping at your side to make sure you are notified of the latest updates and reminders. If it's not a computer at your desk, it's a cell phone on your hip or in your purse. If it's not a cell phone, it's a "smart" tablet in a convenient case for you to keep by your side all day long. If it's not a cell phone or a tablet, it's a "smart" watch that you can wear around your wrist, for those who don't want to have the inconvenience of having to reach in their pocket and pull out a phone (that's a lot of work, you know). Pretty soon you will have the opportunity to have your smart device installed on your person somewhere, possibly in the hand or forehead so you don't ever have to part with it. It will even have the capability of paying for things directly from it, just as your "smart" phones have today. These devices are designed "for your convenience" in order to keep you abreast of important things like news (most of which you would be better off not knowing. There is nothing "**new under the sun**," Eccl. 1:9), weather updates, new software updates, credit card charges, bank account deposits, app updates, game scores, Facebook updates, tweets, emails, text messages, reminders, calendar notifications, alarms, and depending on how involved a person is in all of the latest technology, the list could literally go on forever. You know, the kinds of things that really matter in this life!

With all of these beeps and notifications, there is no time for your mind to wake up in the morning with thoughts of the Lord and what can be accomplished for Him. *If you do get up*

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early enough to take time to read the greatest book in the world and spend some time in prayer, you will be interrupted continuously by a little beeping devil at your side so that you can't focus your attention long enough on what you're reading or praying about for the Lord even to be able to speak to you. It's no wonder Christians are so ignorant of the Bible these days. *If* you manage to get some scripture in your heart and get your thoughts established by committing your works to the Lord through prayer, as you begin your work day, you won't be able to think spiritually about the matters at hand, the circumstances surrounding you, or the people you come across because the little devil at your side will continue its beeping notifications or you will be driven to consult it for some kind of information that you can't remember because you've got your entire life wrapped up in the little devil. So instead of being able to apply the scriptures that you just read that morning to the situations of your work day, and instead of being concerned enough about the people around you to get the truth to them (saved or lost), and instead of thinking about the one that deserves your attention more than anybody else (the Lord Jesus Christ), your thoughts and your actions are completely distracted because of a little devil at your side or in your pocket or on your wrist. *If* you manage to get through the day with a spiritual mindset and with some type of fruit bearing for Christ, when you finish the day and attempt to get some rest, you will need to consult the little devil for what news you missed that day, or for an email that was supposed to come through,

or to make sure you set your alarm so that the little devil can wake you up in the morning. So instead of being able to close your day with thoughts of the Lord and His goodness toward you that day, or to think of where you failed Him and what it's going to take the next day to keep from failing Him again, or to simply clear your mind and let the Lord speak to you, the little devil once again has distracted you from fruit bearing for Jesus Christ and from the reality of eternity.

Enough already about all of the things that man can do nowadays as a result of modern technology! Very few of the things that most people brag about being such a convenience are things that the Lord could care less about. But what does that matter as long as you get a little temporal pleasure, right? Enough already about "old-timers" not wanting to keep up with the times of technological advancements! The "old-timers" got a lot more done *for the Lord* than any five modern men you know, guaranteed. They had time to talk to the Lord throughout their day and let the Lord guide their thoughts without something interrupting them every thirty seconds. They had time to think about the eternal souls they came across and weren't in a hurry to keep up with the schedule that the little devil has mapped out for them. And to think that much of the claims for the importance of the computer and smartphone are that more can be accomplished in a lesser amount of time! More what? More distraction from what really matters, that's what!

Here's a really deep thought to consider: being busy is not always being productive. Furthermore, simply

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Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

February 9–11

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Pastor Kyle Stephens
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April 6–8

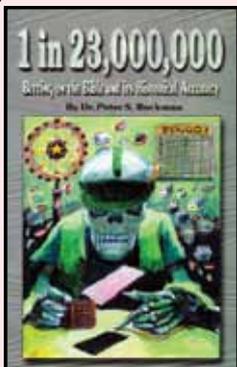
Bible Baptist Church
619 Albemarle Road
Asheboro, NC 27203
Pastor Tom Cochran
(336) 625-6095

March 9–11

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Red Lion, PA 17356
Pastor Steve Schmuck
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The Reality of Eternity

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being productive doesn't always mean producing the right things. All you have to do is sit down at the end of a day and write down everything you did that day. Then, judging by the truth of the scripture, mark how many of those things were done with eternity in mind. You will know right away whether your day has been simply busy, or if it's been productive, and whether or not what has been produced was really what matters. If you do that for a few days in a row, that will be enough to show you how real eternity is to you.

Enough pretending already that you are satisfied and that God is pleased with the results of what all of your latest technology has done for you. The fact that you keep updating to the latest version of whatever it is you own proves you aren't satisfied. And the steady increase of self-gratification, along with the steady decline of spiritual fruit produced for the Lord, ought to be a good indicator that the Lord isn't pleased, but you may be too distracted to notice. The methods of fruit bearing for the Lord never have to be updated or improved, yet they are always more satisfying and more pleasing to the Lord.

Apostate Christians always think that advancements in technology, communication, and transportation are evidences of God's blessing and improvement. Daniel 12:4 says, "...**many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**" But not all knowledge is good knowledge in the eyes of the Lord. Romans 16:19 says, "...**but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.**" The real issue is that many Christians have stopped concerning

themselves with what the Lord thinks about these modern advancements and have lazily adapted themselves to "**that which is highly esteemed among men**" and have forgotten that when man highly esteems something, it "**is abomination in the sight of God**" (Luke 16:15).

It doesn't take a D.D. or a Ph.D. to discern whether these improvements matter to the Lord. It just takes a Bible. But who reads the Bible anymore? Who reads books, period? I am very conscious of the fact that as I write this article, very few people will even read it. Not only is it not in an electronic format or on an app that can be accessed with the touch of a button, but it's not in video format where it can be viewed like some loser's YouTube video. But for those who do read it, I trust there is enough concern about eternal things for you at least to consider what Satan is accomplishing through his "devices" to distract you from God's pleasure.

The eternal scriptures tell of some events that will take place in the future, and they are written as if they have already taken place. The God of the Bible is the God of history, and He knows history before it even takes place. That's why He words these events in the scripture as if they've already taken place.

There is coming a day really soon where the church will be raptured out of this world and will be carried to the Judgement Seat of Christ. The individual works that we as Christians have done for the Lord will be placed into a purifying fire where all of our selfish works will be consumed as wood, hay, and stubble. Only the things that were of the right sort, done with

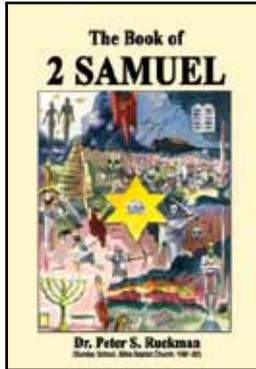
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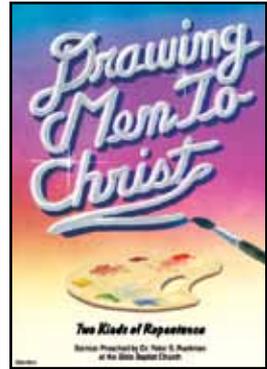
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The Reality of Eternity

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 the right motive of bringing pleasure to Jesus Christ, will pass through that fire and will be brought forth and made into a crown. The One who sacrificed everything through His life and His death on the cross will take that crown and place it upon the head of an unprofitable servant who sacrificed very little for His sake. At that point, the overwhelming thought of how worthy Christ is to receive that crown will cause the receiver of the crown to fall down and lay it at His holy feet. After each individual member of the bride of Christ has gone through that time of judgment and has been made ready, the corporate bride of Christ, **“as a chaste virgin”** (2 Cor. 11:2), will then be presented to the Groom, who has long awaited His bride and will be taken up in His arms and be married to Him.

Shortly thereafter, the Groom, **“the King of kings, and Lord of lords”** (1 Tim. 6:15), the Lord Jesus Christ, will step out of the third heaven once more to descend to the earth and take over the kingdoms of the earth. Once His enemies are defeated, He will sit down on His rightful throne in Jerusalem. Those in the body of Christ who suffered for His sake in this life will reign with Him during His millennial reign from Jerusalem. And those who forsook the reality of eternal things and chose rather to gratify themselves for a few days will be naked and ashamed before the whole world for one thousand years.

It is these future historical events that the Christian is to be concerned with. These future events are more real and far more important to the Christian than any temporal thing that has distracted your attention from God’s pleasure and the reality of eternity.

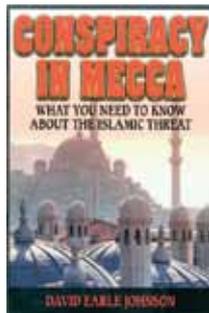


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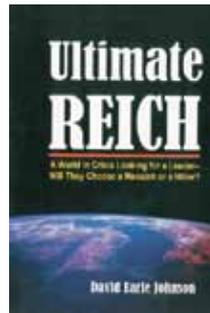


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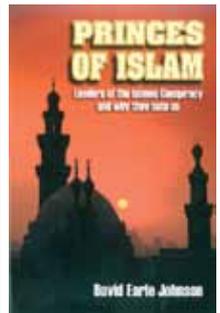


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The Ultimate Fence Straddler

(Part Two of Two)

[Editor's note: The following material is taken from correspondence from PBI graduate Art Barton as part of the requirements for his Master's of Theology degree. The material from Dr. Ruckman is taken from, but not limited to, his works *Why I Believe the King James Bible is the Word of God* and *Bible Babel*.]

We have been examining an unpublished copyrighted work by a Rev. Jerrold Thomas, a Professor in the department of Bible and Christian Ministries at the former Tennessee Temple University. The work starts out by telling you there is no inerrant, infallible Bible which you can read and hold in your hand. It ends by transferring the authority of God's Book into the hands of a bunch of sinners who think they are smart enough to correct what God said.

Now although this excerpt of Professor Thomas' is part of a larger work on "Bible Study Hermeneutics," it actually has nothing to do with how to study or interpret the Bible ("hermeneutics"). The Rev. Thomas is fixated on *one man*: Peter S. Ruckman. He has "Ruckmanitis." "Jerry" says in his letter to Bro. Barton, "Unfortunately, for reasons touched on in the attached material, some advocates of the KJV as an English text have gone on to affirm that the KJV was directly inspired by God . . ."

"Ruckman" never taught the King James Bible "was directly inspired by God" in the sense of being inspired exactly as the "originals" were. What "Ruckman" taught was that the Holy Spirit led the AV translators in their choice of words so that the words of the Authorized text are the very

words God wants us to have in English. "Ruckman" taught that upon that Book being completed, God Almighty breathed life into it (Heb. 4:12) just as He "inspired" Adam (Gen. 2:7 cf. Job 32:8)

"Some, like Mr. Peter Ruckman . . ." "Ruckman" had an *earned* doctorate from Bob Jones University, issued by the founder of that institution; that's "*Doctor*" to you, bub. ". . . have gone so far as to suggest that we should correct the Greek and Hebrew on the basis of the KJV text."

"Ruckman" didn't "suggest" anything of the sort. He *demonstrated* to the tune of at least *sixty* cases (in ten articles) where the Authorized text did exactly that (see Vols. 1 & 3 of *Twenty-two Years of the Bible Believers' Bulletin*). Every English Bible corrects "the Greek" in Matthew 28:1; none of them translate the plural word for sabbath (*sabbaton*). What does he mean "suggest"?

Page 1 of this "Ruckmanitis" treatise—"I know this is God's word *because it speaks to me* . . . This position has led to the more radical KJV only groups, some of whom (i.e., Peter Ruckman and his followers) have gone off into downright heresy by supposing that only their chosen Bible translation is inspired and inerrant."

Three lies right in a row. "Ruckman" never taught the KJV is God's word because it "speaks to me," he never "chose" any "Bible translation" to be "inspired," and he never said "only" the KJV was inerrant. "Ruckman" has given you, in writing, three times, his reasons for believing the King James Bible is the word of God:

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once in 1964 (*Bible Babel*), again in 1983 (*Why I Believe the King James Bible is the Word of God*)—a sermon preached at least thirty times through a 62-year ministry), and finally in 2011 (“Why I Believe the King James Bible is the Holy Scriptures” in *Happy Birthday, KJV*). Not once did “Ruckman” ever say he believed it because it “spoke to him.”

1. “Ruckman” gave the fact that, in the providence of God, it was *published before English deism, French skepticism, and German rationalism*. The “learned men” that translated it hadn’t been infected with infidelity from Christian education yet.

2. It was the only Bible *translated under the authority of a king* (Eccl. 8:4).

3. It has *no copyright*. A man’s words can be copyrighted; not God’s words.

4. It has the *promise of preservation* (Psa. 12:6–7). Psalm 12:7 has been changed in the new versions so that it is no longer a promise that God will preserve His words.

5. “Ruckman” believes the King James Bible is the word of God because of the honesty of its translators. Not only were they better equipped, scholastically, than the revisers and translators of the modern versions to fulfill the task to which they were appointed, but they actually believed that they were dealing with the words of God. Whenever they had to add words for clarity that weren’t in the Greek and Hebrew texts with which they had to work, they were honest with their readers and indicated what they had done by putting those words in italics. The

modern versions don’t do that; they lead you to believe that every word comes from the “originals.”

6. The dishonesty, pride, and inconsistency of the AV’s critics convinced “Ruckman” it is the word of God. You can tell something about a man or a book by its enemies as much as its friends. “Ruckman” may be a negative critic of the ASV, the RSV, the NIV, the NKJV, and the ESV, and the men connected with translating and promoting those perversions of the holy words of God; but isn’t it amazing that after over 150 times through that Book (AV 1611), he never managed to find one mistake in it. Professor Thomas must be a great deal more critical and negative than “Ruckman” to be able to profess having found mistakes in the greatest Book ever written.

Rev. “Jerry” tries desperately to find a “middle ground” between “preferring” the KJV and his fellow faculty members (Afman, Robinson, et al.) who think he is full of beans. It is this kind of wishy-washy fence straddling that refuses to take a stand (if we are to believe some of the graduates of TTU) that eventually led to the demise of Tennessee Temple. Thomas’ “middle ground” ends up being the “middle ground” taken by every apostate Fundamentalist who preceded him: “use” the King James, without believing it, because you “prefer” it, and reserve to yourself the right to change anything in it with which you don’t agree. That is the exact position of John R. Rice, Gary Hudson, Bobby “Scumner,” R. L. Hymers Jr., Bob Jones Jr., Bob Jones III, Stewart Custer, Fred Afman, James Combs,

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et al. Of course, they all might not agree to the number or type of changes to be made, but every one of them will correct the Book somewhere, because that is how to become “recognized” as a “scholar.”

7. That Book (the AV 1611) demonstrates itself to be the word of God by its *chapter and verse system*. You can see this illustrated over and over again throughout scripture in such passages as Genesis 5 and Acts 5 and Romans 5, Genesis 13 and Revelation 13, Genesis 10 and Acts 10 and Romans 10, etc. But nowhere is it more pronounced than in the book of Isaiah. There are 66 chapters, matching the 66 books of your King James Bible. There is a division in style (so much so that the higher critics invented a “deutero-Isaiah” for chap. 40–66) between chapters 39 and 40 like there is between the 39th book in your Bible (Malachi) and the 40th book (Matthew). John the Baptist shows up in Isaiah 40 (vs. 3) just as he does in book 40 (Matt. 3:3). Chapter 66 matches book 66 (Revelation) with “**new heavens**” and a “**new earth**” (Isa. 66:22 cf. Rev. 21:1).

8. And finally, “Ruckman” believed the King James Bible to be the word of God and the holy scriptures because it is the only version on the market that consistently *gives the preeminence to Jesus Christ* (Col. 1:18). Old “Jerry” tries to dismiss the fact that the modern translations (and the Greek texts from which they come) attack the doctrine of the Trinity in 1 John 5:7 and the doctrine of the Incarnation in 1 Timothy 3:16 by saying neither verse is a “central proof text.” That’s a *lie*; they are the

definitive passages for their respective doctrines. But the AV will give Christ the preeminence in both passages when the ASV, NASV, RSV, NIV, and ESV *won’t*. Ditto in Matthew 1:25, 16:13; Luke 2:33, 23:42, 24:51–52; John 1:18, 3:13, 16, 18:36; Acts 4:27, 30, 9:5–6; Colossians 1:14; etc. The mark of a Bible version or translation *chosen by the Holy Spirit* (not “Peter Ruckman and his followers”) is that it *testifies of Jesus Christ*, not deny Him or dishonor Him (John 15:26).

“Ruckman” didn’t believe that Book because it “spoke to him”; that is the Neo-orthodox position taken by apostates like Jerrold Thomas who “prefer” it rather than believe it.

Page 3 of this mess: “Dr. Peter Ruckman claims” “the KJV is the inerrant representation of the Original Manuscripts.” He does?! Would the Reverend Professor care to document that statement with “chapter and verse” from any of Ruckman’s 120-plus works? Surely with that much material in print, “Jerry” can find where “Ruckman” actually said that.

No? Of course not. “Ruckman” is not daft enough to claim to know what “the Original MSS” said when he doesn’t have them and can’t find them or read them because *they don’t exist*. As the Professor very well knows, “the original manuscripts . . . HAVE ALL PERISHED.” What “Ruckman” claims is to have the words of God in his own language, the words which God wants him to have, and that those words are *without proven error*.

“Jerry” runs on ten pages (twelve if you count the letter to Bro. Bar-

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tion) without ever giving you a reference where the King James has a mistake. Surely a Professor of Bible could discuss the mistakes in a Bible if he thought it contained errors. If you don't believe it, check out *Satan's Masterpiece, the New ASV*, where Ruckman will give you 77 pages on what's wrong with that "Bible." Ditto the 56 pages in *About the New King James Version*, the 33 pages in *About the New Scofield Bible*, and the 41 pages in *The NIV: An In-Depth Documentation of Apostasy*. If "Ruckman" ever tells you there are errors in a Bible, you might as well sit down and get comfortable, because he is going to be a while; he won't stop at any less than fifty (and it will usually be *more*). "Jerry" is trying to "buffalo" his ministerial students; he's just "blowing smoke." Here's an old "chestnut" Jerrold Thomas drags out of Bobby Hymers' bag of tricks: "Nobody until Peter Ruckman who had any acquaintance with the text of Scripture held Dr. Ruckman's position; he is the first." The Professor is taking a page out of Adolf Hitler's playbook: repeat a lie long enough and loud enough, and people will come to believe it. This was dealt with way back in May 1989 in the *Bulletin*. A quote was given to Bro. Thomas from William Lyons Phelps, Professor of English Literature at Yale University, 1923: "Our English translation is even better than the original Hebrew and Greek. I have no theory to account for the so-called inspiration of the Bible. But I am confident that the Authorized Version was inspired." That statement was made when "Ruckman"

was two years old. That, in all likelihood, was an unsaved man who had more spiritual discernment than a saved professor at a Fundamental university.

Then for good measure, in the November 1989 *Bulletin* ("Hymers' Fraud and the Baptist Bible Tribune"), you were given a citation from Theodore Letis where "Woodbridge and Balmer admit 'it is true that in the 17th century a good number of Christians esteemed that *the Bibles they held in their hands were infallible . . .*' Whitaker used the word 'originals' interchangeable for both the autographs *as well as his present copies.*" And then, to reinforce that last observation with a definite example, John Bunyan (1680) was quoted as saying he believed his *English Bible to be a true copy of the original.*

Evidently, Mr. Jerrold Thomas is not too well read. The typical response of Alexandrian apostates like Thomas is go to Christian men who expressed belief in the King James Bible and appeal to the Adamic nature in all believers that seeks to exalt its authority over the authority of God's word: men like W. B. Riley and David Otis Fuller "did not hold Dr. Ruckman's position."

"Ruckmanism in 1919," *Bible Believer's Bulletin*, May 2012: "Back in 1920, W. B. Riley believed the *King James Bible* was 'parachuted' down from Heaven by God." (I add that it was typed on a *German* typewriter.) You can find that in George Dollar's work *The History of Fundamentalism*. You reckon Jerrold Thomas agrees with W. B. Riley on that one?

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And it might surprise the Rev. Jerrold Thomas to learn what David Otis Fuller actually believed about the King James Bible and “Ruckman.” From a letter to “Ruckman,” December 3, 1967 (cited in *The Last Grenade*, 1990, pg. 79): “I believe THERE ARE NO MISTAKES OR ERRORS IN THE KJV.” Is that clear? Does that match “Jerry’s” “INTRODUCTORY PREMISE” (see part 1 of this article)? Of course not. The Professor is too lazy to find out what Fuller actually believed.

Fuller continuing: “God bless you, Peter. Keep up the ‘good fight of faith.’” Ah! So David Otis Fuller wasn’t quite at odds with “Ruckman” as Jerrold Thomas would have you believe. These fellows are so crooked that if they fell into a barrel of fish hooks, they’d never get stuck.

Back to page 4 of Thomas’ work: “Peter Ruckman’s view fosters a critical, argumentative spirit which splits churches” No, what splits churches are preachers who, while in Bible school, have been talked out of their faith in the Book that saved them and got them in the ministry, who in turn talk their congregations out of their faith in the Book. Anyone who still stands on the Book is considered a “church splitter,” but it is the “scholarship-only” cultists who introduced multiple authorities and split their congregations down the middle.

Here is a quote from a pastor in Grayling, Michigan (cited in *The Last Grenade*, pp. 116–167): “Dear Dr. Ruckman, Praise God for your stand on the old *KJV*! The Bible which UNITES US . . . is greater

than the differences that may *divide* us. I recently told someone criticizing ‘Ruckmanism’ that they can rest assured of one thing, Peter Ruckman WILL NOT ROB SOMEONE OF THEIR BIBLE.”

Jerrold Thomas will. He will steal the only thing that “unites us” and replace it with *himself*. How’s that for a church splitter?

“Peter Ruckman’s view . . . squeezes out true evangelism.” Ah, blow it out your nose, fella! If you want to know how much “true evangelism” for which “Ruckman” was responsible, just get any report of his summer prison “junkets,” in which hundreds of grown men, women, and teenagers—some of whom had committed three felonies before they were thirteen years old—got saved by the preaching of the old black Book by a man who believed it from cover to cover, including the cover (“Holy Bible”). Hundreds (literally!) came to faith in Christ without ever having their faith in the Book shaken one time.

“One of the problems which has led to positions like that of Dr. Ruckman has been the lack of alternatives available.” Nuts! Pecan nuts, cashew nuts, Brazil nuts, macadamia nuts! What led to the “positions like that of Dr. Ruckman” was the abandonment of the Reformation text in English (AV 1611) for the Dark-Age Roman Catholic text of the Jesuits (RV, ASV, RSV, NASV, NIV, ESV, etc.). With the NKJV, it was the correction of your King James Bible with Syrian Greek instead of Egyptian Greek; the Alexandrians simply switched the authority they substituted for the King James Bible.

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There are only two “alternatives”; there is no “middle ground.” You will either *accept the Book as the final authority, or you won't*. If you choose the latter, ultimately *man* becomes the authority. You will change the Book based on your opinions or the opinions of others—humanism, pure and simple. “Ruckman’s position” is to take the authority away from man (*any* man, including “Ruckman”) and put it back where it belongs: in *God’s Book*.

“Jerry’s” problem is the same as his fellow “professors”: he equates “Ruckman” with the Book, or at least with *belief in the Book*. Under “Objections to the KJV,” he gives: “The KJV is the choice of heretical radicals like Peter Ruckman.” That’s someone who is scared out of his wits by a red-neck mullet fisherman and hockey player from Pensacola, Florida. There are literally hundreds of people who believed that Book before they ever heard of “Ruckman.” Are they all “radical heretics”? Well,

if “Ruckman” never taught them such heretical radicalism, who did? In the end, you only have two choices: God or the devil. Only R. L. Hymers was brave enough to say the devil does it. That is, if these radical heretics were led by the Holy Spirit, they would realize *no Bible is infallible*. There are “radical heretics,” and then there are *radical heretics*.

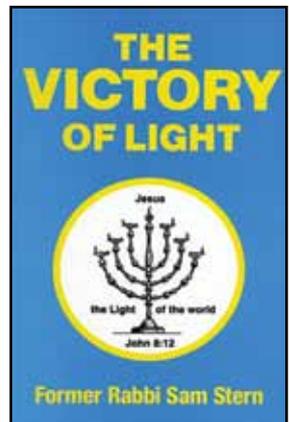
Now we will leave things right there. In the end, Rev. Jerrold Thomas has no authority higher than his own “noodle.” “Ruckman” may be a critical, divisive, negative, argumentative, radical, heretical “church splitter”; but there is one thing “Ruckman” has never professed to be. He has never professed to be smart enough to correct that Book. As far as he is concerned, “**let God be true, but EVERY MAN a liar**” (Rom. 3:4); especially a “good, godly, dedicated” man. “Ruckman’s authority is the *words* in a *Book*—the *scriptures in English*.”

P.S. “**ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God.**”

The Victory of Light

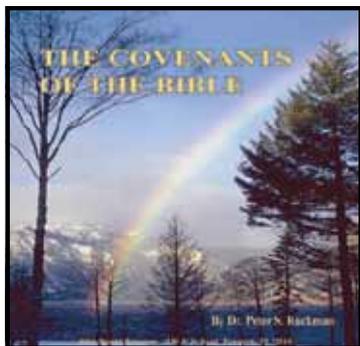
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America's Mental Decay

By Robert Militello

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isa. 26:3).

A 1992 study by the National Institute of Mental Health found that Jews suffer from certain mental illnesses at higher rates than others. These illnesses included major depression, dysthymia, schizophrenia, and simple phobia. Jews have pioneered the fields of psychology and psychiatry. Peace of mind and fellowship with the one, true God cannot be purchased by the riches of men. There is a peace only God can give.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and MINDS through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

Why did I bring up this point about Jews and mental disorders? The Jew was to play the key role in God's plan to restore fellowship with the human race. Israel was made a priestly nation unto God. They fell from their spiritually exalted status, and they fell hard. There is something in their DNA that goes back to their forefathers and binds them to God in a most unique way. Jesus, as a Jew, was connected to Almighty God like no other man who walked this earth.

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9).

Jews were made to be connected to their God like freight cars to a diesel locomotive. Fellowship brings peace, and a mind and heart disconnected from the God of peace is a field where only weeds will grow and mental disorder follows.

America has been under the preaching of **"the gospel of the grace of God"** (Acts 20:24) since long before it declared independence in 1776. Churches here number more than all the rice paddies in Asia. No nation on this earth in the last 2,000 years has heard the call to get right with God more than these United States. There are consequences to ignoring that call, just as there are consequences for a believer who walks after the flesh and not the Spirit.

"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and PEACE" (Rom. 8:6).

A mind at rest and at peace with God is a rare thing today. Ignoring the One who created you and is seeking fellowship with you, leads ultimately to a depression of mind and soul that is making the pharmaceutical companies rich.

"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver" (Psa. 50:22).

Our society is being torn to pieces right before our eyes. TV news at night amply confirms this.

A few years after I retired from New York City government, I received a notice that my retiree's health coverage was expanded to include a wide array of psychotropic drugs. My first thought was that it took New York City quite a while to acknowledge that many active and retired employees were "nut jobs" who needed to be medicated. Believe me, the stress of the "Big Apple" and the subway commute can push many normal people over

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the edge. Although I was thought of by many as a "religious nut," my sanity was never doubted due to the quality and consistency of my work. Getting things done in a timely and professional manner turns critics into admirers, albeit grudgingly. For those who were "burned out" by living and working in New York City, the chemists working feverishly on new compounds offered hope. Psychoactive drugs were marketed as a great new blessing for those who seemed to have lost their way in life. Anything but Jesus, that is what this world will ceaselessly promote.

Psychotropic drugs change brain function and lead to alterations in perception, mood, consciousness, and behavior. Anti-anxiety and anti-depressant pills are now the big moneymakers for the drug manufacturers. Valium, Xanax, Librium, Klonopin, Prozac, Zoloft, etc., are the big sellers for a growing population of bipolar, hyper-anxious, abnormally depressed, and borderline neurotics who largely believe that taking God's word literally is a form of mental illness. If you don't believe that our God plays with the minds of those who hold His word in contempt, you know little to nothing of the spiritual world enveloping the material creation.

The powers of darkness affect- ing American social life and people's minds are much more active now than ever before. These powers were dramatically energized when our Supreme Court redefined God's law on marriage. Sodomites and sex perverses rejoiced. They were significantly emboldened. All the devil's

children sense a rapidly diminishing influence of the word of God in our land and a growing spirit of compromise among God's elect. Soon, the body of Christ must be removed.

"When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but THIS IS YOUR HOUR, and the power of darkness" (Luke 22:53).

Thanks to smart phones, computers, tablets, and every device that connects our society with what is called social media, we have become a nation of narcissistic children. I like the Mayo Clinic's definition of Narcissistic Personality Disorder. It says this is a MENTAL DISORDER in which people have an inflated sense of their own importance and a deep need for admiration and a lack of empathy for others. It goes on to state that behind this mask of ultra-confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that is markedly vulnerable to the slightest criticism.

You are living in the Laodicean church age and the spirit of "me" has infected Christians dramatically. The more you hear Christians asking other Christians, "What do you think?", you know immediately that the word of God is not being studied—very sad! Who cares what you think or what President Trump thinks, or what any fool on TV or in Hollywood thinks? What does the scripture say about this or that matter? That's what counts. Men's opinions and judgments are polluted by sin and self love. They stink worse than an open trash container in the back of a Chinese restaurant.

Man doesn't have any solution
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to the anxiety epidemic that engulfs our society. The Mayo Clinic offers this advice for counselors: "If you recognize aspects of narcissistic personality disorder, with feelings of attendant sadness, recommend a mental health provider. Getting the right treatment can help make the client's life more rewarding and enjoyable."

There it is, anything but Jesus.

Megachurch pastors specialize in positive messages that make their congregants feel better. These men are not ministers of the gospel. As narcissism spreads, their "churches" will grow. *Your Best Life Now* by Joel Osteen, a Houston televangelist, helped multiple thousands allay fears that their covetousness was an impediment to realizing the peace that "**passeth all understanding**" (Phil. 4:7). The devil uses "Pastor Joel" to pour cold water upon any hint of conviction a Christian may experience in his soul. It's all about feeling good about yourself, right? After all, doesn't God want me to be happy?

Dr. Ruckman often said that light rejected becomes lightning. Well, the evidence for this being so is all around us. When I left Brooklyn for Florida in 2000, road rage was a growing problem. Drivers with short fuses were breaking under the stress of getting to or from some place in the shortest amount of time. Now, with the Holy Spirit allowing more and more demonic spirits to play on the minds of countless thousands of motorists, road rage is a national nightmare. The frenetic pace of life in New York City, which gives rise

to many evils besides road rage, is becoming more and more noticeable across our nation. I believe cable TV and now social media have contributed enormously to the growing stress people experience daily.

Life being lived in the fast lane is too much for most people to deal with. Peace of heart and mind has become so elusive. God's word won't help if the Book He left us remains closed and His preachers ignored. There's a fearful price to pay for stopping your ears to the Holy Spirit. Lightning often causes fire, and America is a spiritually dry and parched land right now. So what can our leaders look forward to?

"And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3). Thank God, my Saviour is longsuffering. The fact that America still stands is evidence of that attribute. Nevertheless in Psalm 103:9, the Bible says, "**He will not always chide: NEITHER WILL HE KEEP HIS ANGER FOREVER.**"

The percentage of Christians who actually believe the AV 1611 is God's pure word has shrunk dramatically since "Christian" TV came on the scene in the early seventies. King James pastors and teachers are few and far between, even among the millions who claim to be Baptists. With the church losing its saltiness, America lost its fear of God. *Sin*, *judgment*, and *hell* became words to be avoided. With pulpits filled by men who were afraid to offend anyone, the peace that passeth all understanding was unknown to millions professing faith in Jesus Christ. Christianity that wishes to appear re-

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spectable in a society becoming increasingly more degenerate has no real peace to offer anyone—young, old, or in between.

“There is no peace, saith the LORD, unto the wicked” (Isa. 48:22).

On the contrary, there is a reaping of stress, anxiety, narcissism, and mental derangement appearing more and more frequently in our fast-growing population of pill-happy neurotics. Psychotropic drugs are a mainstay in prison infirmaries. Ask any correction officer in a state prison. Years ago, Pastor Lester Roloff characterized America as an insane asylum run by the inmates. He should see this place now. Thank God, he can't.

Back in the seventies, some of my coworkers were regular users of Valium. Also, many smoked pot when the opportunity afforded itself. I wondered how someone could drink two or three cups of coffee when arriving at the office and later smoke weed to relax. Often, I would hear someone say, “I'm stressed.” This served as a justification for poisoning one's brain by inhaling a burning weed. Ironically, many who behaved this way were gym members fixated on “staying in shape.” It is not hard to detect the plague of irrationality that affects our minds due to the effects of sin and the ongoing rejection of Holy Spirit conviction.

Life in America in 2018 is becoming increasingly torturous for those who are lost and without hope. **“The way of transgressors is hard,”** saith the scripture (Prov. 13:15), but oh, how much harder it becomes

when you reject the effort of a soul-winner exhorting you to be reconciled with God. There is no place in America where you can escape gospel broadcasting on TV or radio. Roadside billboards, tracts left in restrooms, family members, friends, and coworkers not afraid to witness show the passion of the Holy Spirit in striving with lost sinners. How does one run away from all this and yet, with determination, seek for peace of mind?

The practice of psychiatry has exploded in the last forty years. “I have an appointment with my therapist” is commonly heard among prominent people, celebrities, and those who don't mind revealing the secrets of the heart to an overeducated quack rather than opening the scriptures and crying out to God for help. America is like a dog track where speedy greyhounds race after a mechanical rabbit (peace of mind), but never catch it. Life without Jesus Christ ends in hell; exhausted dogs eventually lay down and die—who is better off?

“And he said unto them, Take heed and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth NOT in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15).

There is a covetousness in the natural man that, even with the new birth, is hard to contain. Putting televisions in living rooms and bedrooms across America did for the desire to possess what gasoline does for a fire. Images on a screen, first on small black and white tubes, but now on giant, color flat screens presented to our eyes things that we

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ought to purchase in order to make our lives more enjoyable. Like children in a candy shop, we get excited over sweets, and the desire to possess more of life's dainties inflames our souls. Jesus did not overstate the threat to the health of one's soul when He said, **"beware of covetousness."** Paul grasped the gravity of the Lord's admonition in Philippians 4:11.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, THEREWITH TO BE CONTENT."

Imagine the pastors of these prosperous megachurches preaching this stuff. What about 1 Timothy 6:8?

"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."

There are places in the New Testament where the man in the pulpit, with few exceptions, would have to ignore if he wants to "succeed in the ministry." Laodicean Christians have no room on their menus for spiritual food that is not loaded with fructose and other sugars.

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee" (Job 22:21).

As our society drifts further and further away from the knowledge of God, it will rely more and more upon education, science, and to some degree, religion (not the new birth) to allay the growing anxiety and fear God puts into the hearts of those who scorn His Son. Lost people, though loathe to admit it, are often disturbed with thoughts of judgment. Anxiety does not appear out of thin air. Psychiatrists would not be able to fill up their appointment calendars if

patients brought their fears to Jesus. Have you ever heard of a "Christian" psychiatrist? Is there a "rap" music station in China?

Living in America in 2018 is far different from what it was in the fifties and sixties. Two of the fastest growing manifestations of mental degeneracy, transgenderism and pedophilia, were hardly known. If they existed (and most likely they did), they were well buried in the darkest corners of family and community life. Did you know that after World War II the FBI produced short educational films on the dangers posed by homosexuals? What everyone of them understood to be perversion has now achieved social acceptability. How did this happen?

The accepted yardstick for determining what is sinful and what is not was God's word, **EVEN FOR THE LOST**. That is certainly not the case today. Hollywood, academia, science so-called, and the mass media waged unrelenting war against God's moral compass. Elected officials fearing for their jobs started to sign on to the satanic dictum that what is good and what is evil is in the eye of the beholder. The church of God, using corrupt "Bibles," could not stem the assault of immorality. Termite damage takes a while to show up. Now, it is everywhere in evidence.

Big cities are hothouses for the spread of psychotics, but suburbs have caught up. Thanks to internet access, even rural communities are hatching their share of screwballs. God help Christians who have children that will soon have to deal with this world. These children will face

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challenges and experience situations that my parents did not have to give much thought to.

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come” (2 Tim. 3:1).

Well, they are here. For children around the world, these days pose threats to their safety and well-being that ought to cause their parents or guardians to cry out to God and to be ever so vigilant.

Only God knows what is going on in houses across our nation where souls with unstable and morally bankrupt minds sit in front of screens that display filth and perversion continually. Imaginations get stimulated, and the minds of these sick souls become more and more diseased. We are harvesting a bumper crop of mentally damaged people ruled by base instincts that will only get worse. Right now, society's only defense is incarceration and psychotropic drugs. That's what happens to a nation that has light and puts it out. Singing “God Bless America” is becoming a chore for those who see things from God's point of view—His word.

Mental dysfunction can appear at an early age. Sometime ago, I watched a report of a boy taken into juvenile custody for torturing pet animals. There is more of this going on than you would imagine. When the boy was questioned as to why he thought to do such things, he replied, “I was bored.” God puts a conscience in our minds to help regulate our behavior as we grow. Where was this boy's conscience? Surely, he knew what he was doing was evil.

The conscience obviously can be seared in youth. Teaching middle school in Pensacola some years back helped me to realize just how open the minds of even pre-teens are to suggestions of evil. The word “**seared**” appears only one time in the King James Bible—1 Timothy 4:2. There, it is connected to the conscience. Our God-given conscience, which animals do not have (so much for the theory of evolution), can be burned away very easily when the will yields to evil. Mental aberrations do not take root overnight. A turning away from the law written on our hearts by God rots the mind like cancer in the bones. There is too much idle time in the lives of most of our population. “The devil's workshop” (idle time) is a very busy place these days.

“And I gave my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also is vexation of spirit” (Eccl. 1:17).

Why did Solomon want to know madness? Curiosity is often a great danger. Eve brought down the whole human race because she wanted to know good and evil.

“This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and MADNESS IS IN THEIR HEARTS WHILE THEY LIVE” (Eccl. 9:3). Nine times (fruit-bearing number) the word “**madness**” appears in God's word, five times in Ecclesiastes. Sin is madness, and the fruit of sin is death. All men are born spiritually deranged. Nicodemus had trouble with that.

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Jeremiah wrote that the heart is not just wicked, but **“desperately wicked: who can know it?”** (Jer. 17:9). Madness was one of the curses put on those Jews who disobeyed the law; see Deuteronomy 28:28. Dr. Ruckman called that chapter the most terrible chapter in the Bible. The curse of the law was upon me before Jesus saved me. Although I'm a Gentile and did not have the writ-

ten law like a Jew, I had it written on my heart, and I broke it every time I felt like it. In case you didn't know it, the pleasures of sin swiftly silence the voice of conscience.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and OF A SOUND MIND” (2 Tim. 1:7).

God's Holy Spirit enables us to act rationally and wisely. We now have

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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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access to the peace that **“passeth all understanding”** (Phil. 4:7). If we do not regularly feed on God's word, that peace will continue to elude us. The new birth may not completely cancel the potential for madness which we all have.

Paul said that in him **“dwelleth no good thing”** (Rom. 7:18). Sin is present with us until death or the rapture. If we yield to it and allow it to reign over our mortal bodies, could not God allow our madness to bring us to a very sad end? Yes, He can, and I have seen it happen to saved people. Some that I have known were driven to suicide by madness.

Can the devil get your mind after you are saved? Obviously he can. Psychotropic drugs, psychiatric help, and twelve-step programs won't help a believer who will not abandon a filthy lifestyle. Paul told the Corinthians that he would turn **“such a one over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh”** (see 1 Cor. 5:5). Sadly, for many Laodicean believers, the madness of sin will only end with death. If you are a King James Bible believer, wonderful, but there is no special immunity given you if you are slow to practice holiness. How can our society not pay dearly for all the light God has generously poured out on our nation?

In just 25 years, the internet has connected billions of souls around the world like nothing before it. Sick-minded souls with runaway thought lives now have all kinds of perverse images available to them on their screens. The internet has sites that can teach you to make bombs and

sue your parents in court. The internet, more than any other invention, has brought upon us the days of Noah. In those days before catastrophe struck, God said of man, **“and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually”** (Gen. 6:5). The next verse tells us that our Creator was sorry He made man.

In our lifetime, we have seen the potential for evil and mayhem grow wildly, even overwhelming law enforcement agencies and threatening national governments. The restraining hand on evil, a work of the Holy Spirit, is being relaxed more and more each year. A nation with nuclear weapons and led by a borderline psychotic can throw the entire globe into a panic. Fear and anxiety can cause even rational minds to leave the path of common sense. How much longer will the Lord refrain from afflicting the nations with madness?

Only a Christian can have hope in a world such as this. Ours is the Blessed Hope of Titus 2:13. When our Lord left this world, He promised His disciples He would not leave us comfortless. As we see things spinning out of control in 2018 and the years following, if we are still here, Titus 2:13 will be constantly on the minds of God's people everywhere. We should live in a state of expectancy. This will cultivate a spirit of holiness and keep up from losing the fear of God. We need that!

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for NOW IS OUR SALVATION NEARER THAN WHEN WE BELIEVED” (Rom. 13:11).

RADIO LOG

ALABAMA	
Huntsville-Decatur WBXR 1140 AM Mobile	10:30 A.M. Sat.
WJJD 1270 AM WJJD 97.9 FM	8:30 A.M. Sat. 8:30 A.M. Sat.
CALIFORNIA	
Lancaster KFXM 96.7 FM kfxm.com (streaming)	7:30 A.M. Sun. 7:30 A.M. Sun.
COLORADO	
Aurora KLTT 670 AM	10:30 A.M. Sun.
FLORIDA	
Pensacola WEBY 1330 AM WNVY 1070 AM	8:00 A.M. Sun. 3:30 P.M. Sat.
ILLINOIS	
Bone Gap WXWS-LP 100.1 FM	1:30 P.M. 9:30 P.M.
INDIANA	
Indianapolis WBRI 1500 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.
KANSAS	
Kansas City KCNW 1380 AM	6:30 P.M. Sat.
LOUISIANA	
Alexandria-Lafayette-Lake Charles KWDF 840 AM	9:00 A.M. Sat.
MICHIGAN	
Lupton WMSD 90.9 FM	8:15 P.M. Wed.
MISSISSIPPI	
Tupelo WCPC 940 AM	10:00 A.M. Sat.
NEBRASKA	
Omaha-Lincoln KLNK 1560 AM	6:00 P.M. Sat.
NEW MEXICO	
Albuquerque-Santa Fe KXKS 1190 AM KKIM 1000 AM	11:00 A.M. Sat. 8:00 A.M. Sat.
NORTH CAROLINA	
China Grove WRNA 1140 AM Kannapolis WRKB 1140 AM	2:30 P.M. Sun. 2:30 P.M. Sun.
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WYOMING	
Cody KOFG 91.1 FM International SS Hour 6:00 P.M. Sun. Theological Seminar of Air	10:30 A.M. Sun. 1:30 A.M. and 4:P.M. Sat. 2:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. Sun.
CANADA	
Thompson, MB CHTM 6 Theo. Seminar of the Air	10 A.M. 9:30-10:00 A.M. Sun.

TV & Satellite

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Andalusia—Ch. 63 Covington Co.—Ch. 42 Opp—Ch. 59 UHF—Ch. 25	10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun. 10:00 AM Sun.
CALIFORNIA	
San Pedro—Cox Communications San Diego—Cox—Ch 24 & 18 San Diego—Time Warner—Ch 16	6:30 PM Fri. 4:00 PM Wed. Time varies
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Willimantic—Charter Comm.—Ch 192	5:30 PM Tue.
IDAHO	
Pocatello—TCI Cable—Ch 12	1:00 PM Sun. 2:30 PM Tue.
IOWA	
Dubuque—Media Com—Ch 81	Times Vary
MASSACHUSETTS	
Springfield—Public Access—Ch 12	5 PM Mon.
MICHIGAN	
Battlecreek—Access Vision—Ch 11	3:00 PM Sat.
MONTANA	
Missoula—MCAT—Ch 12	2:00 PM Mon.
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NEW ZEALAND	
Mainland TV Nelson 9:00 AM Sun.	
OKLAHOMA	
Tulsa—Ch 47-2 (antenna) 6:00 PM Fri.	
PENNSYLVANIA	
York—York CATV—Ch 16	9:00 PM Mon. 3:00 PM Tue.
TENNESSEE	
Pikeville—S.E. Tenn. St. Regional Correctional Facility	Times Vary
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Abilene—KTXS—Ch 12 Brownwood—Ch 777-00 AM Sun. San Angelo—Ch 55	7:00 AM Sun. 7:00 AM Sun.

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