



# Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 42 No. 8

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

August 2018

## The Tree of Life

By Brian Donovan

In Genesis chapter 2, the Bible names two trees found in the garden of God in the land of Eden; one is the tree of life, and the other is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (both in verse 9). In chapter 3, when Adam failed to obey the command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and brought sin into this world (Romans 5:12), there is mention of another tree, and that is the fig tree. As soon as they realized that they were naked, Adam and Eve sewed fig leaves together to make themselves aprons to cover their nakedness (Genesis 3:7). This makes the fig tree a type of the self-righteousness of the lost sinner, as he tries to cover himself with his own work and his own righteousness, rather than trusting the finished work of the **“Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world”** (John 1:29). Israel as a nation is also a type

of this tree, only without fruit, due to the fact that they rejected their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is found in Matthew 24, Jeremiah 24, and especially Luke 13:7, where the Lord came looking for fruit, and finding none, placed a curse on the fig tree, leaving it barren. As a result, the nation of Israel is temporarily cast aside for this present church age (Romans 11:25-29), until they receive Him when He returns the second time. Once Adam sinned, the Lord introduced a new growth that was not part of the original creation, and that was the **“thorns also and thistles”** (Genesis 3:18) as a curse which was only one result of his disobedience. The thorns remain today as a curse which causes the sweat and effort of fallen mankind as he works to bring forth his daily bread (Genesis 3:19).

The fig and the thorn are easily identified, but it is the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that seem to cause problems for the Bible correcting commentators. Tradition and fables have taught that the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that Adam ate was the apple, and hence, the term “Adam’s apple” (supposedly stuck in the middle of man’s throat). The tree of life is mainly taken to be simply figurative by many, and even the superstitious Muslim

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# “Waves of Death”

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

**“When the waves of death compassed me, the floods of ungodly men made me afraid”** (2 Sam. 22:5).

Second Samuel 22 is one of the last psalms David wrote. In verse 5, he likens death to waves that are drowning him. That may have been metaphorical in David's case, and I am going to make spiritual application here, but there is probably a *literal, doctrinal* meaning for the tribulation saint (see Rev. 12:15–16). Here, I am going to show you how death is like waves.

In Romans 9:23; 2 Corinthians 4:7; and 2 Timothy 2:20, Paul likens the bodies of Christians to *vessels*. Of course, those vessels are things like pots and pans, but isn't it interesting that ships and boats are called “vessels”? A vessel is something that is hollow and protects what is inside it from what is outside it.

Every man, woman, and child on this earth is like a vessel sailing on the sea to a destination. On the sea of life, we encounter waves, and the waves, David said, are like death.

Now I have always been on friendly terms with waves. Of course, I have never been in the Navy. Some of those Navy ships have encountered sixty-foot swells out at sea. But most of my experiences with waves have been friendly ones, enjoyable ones.

I always enjoyed riding waves. When I was a boy, we didn't have

surfboards; we rode the waves with our bodies. I spent a lot of time, growing up, in the surf, and when I got to be a teenager, I lifeguarded for four summers on the beaches at Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

Of course, some of my experi-



ences were kind of rough. When a northeastern wind blew in, the waves would pick up to twenty and thirty feet high. I must confess, when you body surf a twenty to thirty-foot wave, you don't make much of a show; you basically tumble through it, end over end. When I was a boy, I didn't have many friends, so it was always a private contest between me and the waves to keep myself amused. When a northeaster was blowing those waves in, I would try to wade out in them, and they would slug me back to the beach every time. I would try to overpower the waves in vain until I was at the point of tears. I must have been seventeen before I realized it couldn't be done. The waves were more powerful than I was.

The first way waves are like death is that *they never cease*. They are

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# “Waves of Death”

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beating and booming on a beach somewhere all the time. The waves never quit.

Like those waves, death never ceases. People die morning, noon, and night. They die in a variety of ways, just as waves come in a variety of forms.

One of the things I like about the ocean is that it is constantly changing, and the waves never cease. I can understand how hard it would be for a commercial fisherman to break away from the ocean. To me, the ocean is fascinating. I would rather live by the ocean than up in the mountains. Mountains are beautiful, but they don't change much. The oceans aren't like that. They're always moving, always changing.

There's something about the restlessness of the sea that's restful. To me, the best cure in the world for my own problems, when nothing else works, is to go down to the seashore and watch those waves come in and listen to them crashing on the beach. I think now you can get that sound on tape and play it all night long to relax. When I consider how constant those waves are, it is a source of stability for me.

Now, death never ceases. People go right on dying. Nothing stops those waves banging and booming on the shore, and death doesn't stop for anybody or anything. The old saying is: "Time and tide wait for no man."

The constancy of death can be a comfort. Death reminds us that everything is temporal, everything is transitory, so don't put too much weight on any of it. Death can de-

liver from the bad things of life, and it can relieve us of our needs, so you don't need to be preoccupied with things down here. The waves of death never cease.

The next thing I observe about waves is that they can wear out just about anything, except granite. If you are ever going to conquer death, you are going to have to build on the Rock. The old song says, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness . . . On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

Over on the West Coast, there are houses that were built years ago away from the beach, but close enough to be "seaside property." Over the years the waves have eroded that shoreline until those houses are in danger of collapsing and being washed away by the waves.

When you bring a boat in to the shore, you never want to let it get broadside to the waves. Those waves crashing into that boat will capsize it, and over you go into the "drink." If you get that boat jammed up against something like a dock or jetties, those waves will just beat that boat to death.

Have you noticed how death wears away everything? Jesus Christ is the only man ever to conquer death permanently. Enoch never did die, and he never will (he's a type of the New Testament saint who goes up alive at the rapture). Elijah didn't die, but he will (Rev. 11:3-7). Moses died, and the Lord raised him up (Jude 9 cf. Matt. 17:3), but he'll die again (Rev. 11:3-7). Jesus Christ is the only one to die and be

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# “Waves of Death”

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raised up, never to die again. Jesus Christ conquered death.

There's something pitiful about the reports on the deaths of great men in the world. They all read about the same: “So-and-so fought until his last breath.” Not a one of them has won yet. John Wayne said, “I beat the big C (cancer).” He did for a while, and then it got him too. Only one man has ever gone up against death and won. Death is one adversary you won't overcome.

One night after a terrible shipwreck off the coast of Cape Hatteras, a cabin boy was found on a rock about a hundred yards off the coast. That boy had been on the rock all night long with not only the waves crashing against that rock but in a drenching rainstorm as well. When that boy was rescued, someone asked him, “Were you afraid out there on that rock?” He said, “I was scared to death and shook from head to foot, but the rock didn't.” Death may make you shake in your boots, but it won't bother the Rock at all.

That isn't all. *Waves come in two kinds: long and rolling, and high and violent.* There are also two ways people die: long, rolling deaths or violent, crashing deaths. Sometimes death is like a long, smooth swell. There was a member of the Brent Baptist Church named Chavers. Right before he died, he laid down to take a nap and said to his wife, “I'm so happy. I've never been so happy in all my life.” He laid down and went to sleep, and that was it. If you can go like that, it's beautiful.

But not everyone goes that way.

Sometimes death comes crashing down with a bullet through the skull, like Kennedy there in Dallas, or in a car crash that decapitates you, like Jane Mansfield. Then there are deaths that are long and rough. You go to the hospital four or five months with cancer, and then it's back home. Then you're in and out fighting it month after month until it gets you. I don't care for something like that one bit. Some of those young men in World War II got it just as clean and quick as one can, in comparison. I think it would be better to get a bullet through the head than to linger in a hospital for months.

Next, *salt water purifies.* Death is a purifier. Death puts an end to a life of sin. **“The wages of sin is death”** (Rom. 6:23). The best of us are sinners, and the best we can do is not good enough. There is one thing that fixes us finally, completely, and forever; and that is death. It gets rid of the sin problem. After you are buried, you won't ever have to worry about another sin again. You'll never be burdened with sin or temptation again. Sin will never again upset you or bring grief to you.

All the pollution of this world goes down the sewers to the rivers, down the rivers to the sea, and there in the oceans, the salt water purifies it. If it weren't for that vast body of salt water, the build-up of filth would be intolerable. If you think things are bad now, just think of what it would be like if someone like Jack the Ripper, the Marquis de Sade, Adolf Hitler, Albert Fish, Torquemada, Mohammed, Tamerlain, Nero, et al., could live forever like they were. Death

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# “Waves of Death”

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puts an end to all that and purifies.

Also, it goes without saying that *waves destroy ships*. There's an old song that goes: "Many brave hearts are asleep in the deep so beware! Beware!" I don't know how many men are lying on the bottom of that ocean, and I don't know how many wrecks of ships are down there, but it has to number in the thousands.

I have never been in a situation where a big ship was in danger of being destroyed at sea, but I've been out in smaller boats that just about had it. I went out with a church member one time, in a twelve-foot "bass boat" to fish the USS Massachusetts, a ship that had been sunk out in the Gulf to turn it into a reef. We hadn't checked the weather forecast before we went out, and there was a small-craft warning. When we started back to the land, every wave we came over took the back of that boat out of the water; you could hear the prop spinning in the air. The water was coming into that boat; and we were both bailing. We got a hundred yards from the shore, and that boat was so full of water that it just sank. We had to have somebody in a jeep pull it out of the water.

Back in 1854, there was a ship named the SS Arctic. The Arctic was struck by another ship while in a fog bank. When it was determined that the ship couldn't be saved, the captain ordered the crew and passengers to abandon ship. Grown men in a panic rushed the lifeboats, pushing women and children aside. Altogether, 350 people died out of 534 aboard, including all the women and children (109 in total). In the middle

of that chaos, the captain ordered a young apprentice engineer, named Stewart Holland, to fire the distress cannon every minute. That boy fired that cannon till the ship went down.

I read that account and said to myself, "That's the way for a Christian to go." If your ship is going under, stand by your guns to the very end. You may get someone saved before you go under.

When the Titanic sunk in 1912, thirty miles away from that ship was a vessel called the SS Californian. Back then, radio was relatively new to shipping. A radio operator wasn't on duty 24 hours. The Californian issued an iceberg warning at 10:30, and the operator signed off and went to bed. The radio man aboard the Titanic ignored the warning, and at 11:39, the Titanic struck an iceberg.

Of course, there are all sorts of "ifs" in that account. The Titanic could have been saved if her radio operator had passed along the warning from the Californian. And if the radio man from the Californian hadn't gone to bed, that ship could have come to Titanic's aid and saved 500 people from a watery grave.

Listen, Christian people, you aren't to "go to sleep at the switch." Stay on duty. "Some poor fainting, struggling seaman you may rescue; you may save." If you can't save your own ship, maybe you can save another ship. If your own ship is safe, maybe you can help another vessel that is foundering.

Next, *waves can prevent you from putting out to sea*. The "**waves of death**" can prevent you from going any further in the journey of life.

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# “Waves of Death”

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A young person starts off in life intending to do great things, and the “**waves of death**” can smack him down before he ever gets off the beach.

Years ago, a ship was going down in a storm just off the coast. The rescue crews on shore did their best to launch lifeboats but couldn't get them safely into the water because of the storm. Finally, in desperation, the rescuers on shore shot a breeches buoy out to the ship. A breeches buoy is a line shot to the ship, with a harness seat on a pulley so that a person can get in that harness and wheel himself to safety along that line. Well, there was no tug on the rope indicating someone was on it, so finally they pulled it in. By then, the ship was completely broken up, but on that line was the cabin boy unconscious in the harness.

When that kid finally came to, he asked, “Where's the ship?” “It's gone down, son; it sank.” “Where's the captain?” “He went down with the ship.” “Where's the mate?” “He went down with the ship.” “Didn't any of the crew make it?” “You're the only one that was saved.” That boy fell on his face in the sand and said, “Oh, my God, my mother's been praying for me.” Many a time a mother's prayers have reached out and stopped a ship before it got going in the wrong direction.

The last thing I want to say about “**the waves of death**” is that *they can bear you to shore*. That should be an encouraging thought for the Christian. For the believer in Christ, death is not some doorway into the dark unknown. It is what bears you

to the home of the soul.

“We shall sing on that beautiful shore

The melodious songs of the blessed;

And our spirits shall sorrow no more,

Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.”

Death may be a terror. It may be a heart breaker. I'll tell you one thing, though, it will get you to “that beautiful shore.” Death will get you home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

There was a fellow named Howard Monk who got saved from reading a tract in a bottle that the waves had washed up on the shores of a beach. I know a guy up in Duluth, Minnesota who seals tracts in bottles and lets them go in the headwaters of the Mississippi. He has gotten back signed decision cards all the way from Hawaii from those. That Bible says, “**Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days**” (Eccl. 11:1).

“We joined the Navy to see the world,

And what did we see?

We saw the sea.

We saw the Pacific and the Atlantic,

But the Atlantic isn't romantic,

And the Pacific isn't what it's cracked up to be.

“We joined the Navy to do or die,

But we didn't do, and we didn't die.

We were much too busy looking at the *ocean* and the *sky*.

And what did we see?

We saw the sea.

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# “Waves of Death”

Continued from 6

We saw the Atlantic and the Pacific,

But the Pacific isn't terrific,

And the Atlantic isn't what it's cracked up to be.

“. . . Sailing, sailing home again

To see the girls upon the village green;

Then across the foam again

To see the *other seas we haven't seen.*”

There's a mess of water out there, and there's a mess of dying. Those waves come in, and they crash and crash. Sooner or later, they are going to wash that ship ashore, and you are going to land on the other side and see the Lord.

Back in 1947, there was a Norwegian explorer named Thor Heyerdahl. He believed that the Polynesian islands of the Pacific had been settled by people from South America long before Columbus. The problem was, the people of South America didn't build large sailing vessels to cross the ocean. So Thor Heyerdahl set out to prove they didn't need large vessels to cross the Pacific. He built a *raft* out of materials the ancient Peruvians would have had. The raft was 45 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a 29-foot mast and 19-foot steering oar. He set sail on April 28, 1947 and was beached on an island in Polynesia 4,340 miles away 101 days later. That voyage is a testimony that the waves and currents will get you where you are going.

I am looking for the Uppertaker, not the undertaker; but I will tell you

this: if death comes for me someday, it will do me a favor. It will get me home to Jesus where I belong.

I was never a Navy man, but one of the greatest stories I ever read about life on this earth was by a sailor who wrote a fifteen-page article. He was an Englishman who served aboard a destroyer called the Perth. The Perth was going through the Sunda Strait with its sister ship the Amboy in 1941. Those two ships were sunk by the Japanese as they went through the Strait. One sailor named Gillan was the last man to get out of the Perth alive. The story of how he survived the sinking of that ship is one of the wildest tales you ever heard.

Gillan was a stoker down in the boiler room. When that ship started going down, he and three of his buddies were trying to make it top-side before the water trapped them in the ship. The ship was completely on its side, and the lights were going out. On B deck, he came across a hatch where some men were trapped on the other side. Gillan tried to get the hatch open, and he couldn't. He had to move on, and those men went down with the ship.

With the ship on its side, the companionways became pits, and those men had to jump across one that was five-foot wide to get to the main deck. The first guy jumped and didn't make it; he went screaming down into the dark. Gillan and the other two made it across. His two remaining buddies got through a manhole cover and out onto the deck, but before Gillan got through, the ship completely capsized. Instead of

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# “Waves of Death”

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struggling to make it to the surface, Gillan figured the only chance he had was to let the water rushing from the ship push him to the top. So he relaxed, and a minute later he broke through two inches of oil on the surface of the water. He was only thirty yards away from the ship's propeller. In Gillan's account, he was praying the whole way through that ordeal, and when he got out, he thanked God.

If you're a Christian, the Lord Jesus has provided you an escape from this sinking ship. When it comes time for death, every believer ought to be able to look to heaven and say, "Thank you, Lord, that I made it out *alive*." Death isn't death for the Christian; it's a doorway to eternal life with his Saviour.

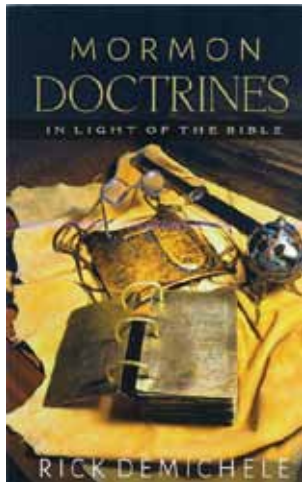
If there is anyone reading this article whose bark is about to go down beneath the waves, I can tell you exactly what to do: step down

off the bridge, turn the wheel over to the Captain of your salvation (Heb. 2:10), and let Him pilot you safely through the waves into the harbor.

“Jesus, Saviour, pilot me  
Over life's tempestuous sea;  
Unknown waves before me roll,  
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.  
Chart and compass come from thee;  
Jesus, Saviour, pilot me.

“When at last I near the shore,  
And the fearful breakers roar  
“Twixt me and the peaceful rest,  
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,  
May I hear Thee say to me,  
'Fear not, I will pilot thee.'”

When all the hulks of worldly honor and wisdom litter the shoals and rocks of this life, the Old Ship of Zion will come into port in full sail, bells ringing, and everyone on board safe.



Every religion has a foundation. Do the teachings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints reflect a biblical foundation, or are they cleverly devised fables? All doctrine is judged by one court of appeals—God's word. If a doctrine lines up with scripture, it is of God; if not, it is of man or Satan. There are no other possibilities (Isa. 8:20).

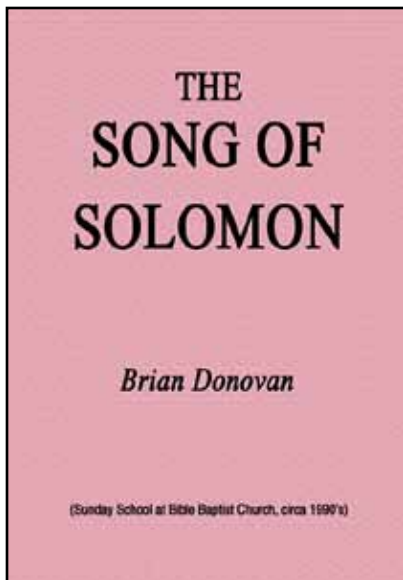
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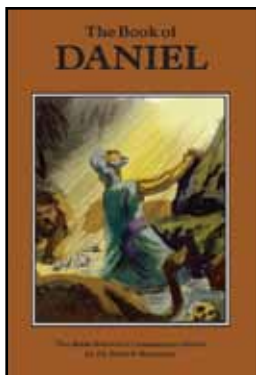
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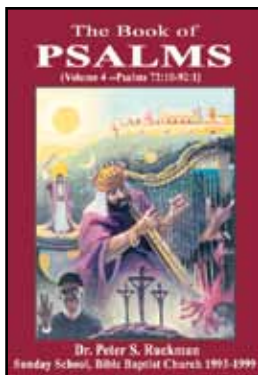
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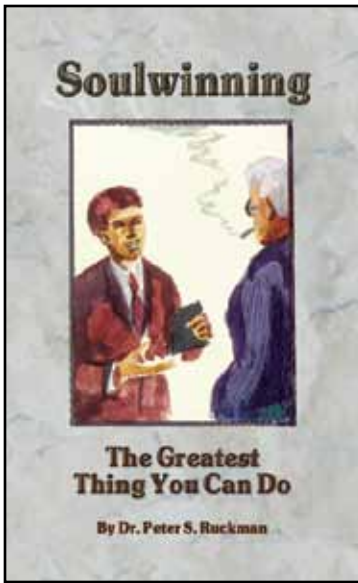
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# The Tree of Life

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teachers think of it as only a spiritual reference. But when the student of the word of God compares scripture with scripture and turns to Judges 9:1-15, he finds a way to plainly identify the two elusive trees, found together in the passage, along with the fig and the thorns. Jotham lifted up his voice and named the fig tree (verse 10), the bramble, or thorn (verse 14), the olive tree (verse 8), and the vine (verse 12). Since the fig tree is the fig tree, and the bramble is obviously the thorns and thistles, this leaves the Bible reader with the job of matching the vine tree and the olive tree to the other two trees, namely the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Since the latter is the one that was forbidden in the garden, it is not hard to equate this forbidden tree with the grapevine, which produces a type of blood, also forbidden throughout the scriptures. By partaking of the forbidden vine tree, man was doomed as his blood became corrupt, bringing death to his flesh. The sinner now requires eternal life which the Lord God himself **"purchased with his own blood"** (Acts 20:28).

After the flood in Noah's day, when the diet of fallen man was changed to include eating meat, he was forbidden to drink the blood (Genesis 9:4). Under the law of Moses, with the blood sacrifices of animals being offered as an atonement for their sins, the Jews were reminded that the drinking of blood was still forbidden (Leviticus 17:11-12). In the present church age, with thousands of heathen Gentiles getting saved and added to the Body of Christ, they were also shown that the eating of blood was forbidden and

it is even to this day (Acts 15:20,29). In spite of this, a European "delicacy" that is eaten throughout the British Isles is blood sausage, or bloodworst, made with cups of pig's blood filled into sausage casings. In the Netherlands, they make it by the pan, cut it into squares, and call it blood pudding. Even worse than that is the Roman Catholic heresy that their pagan priests are capable of turning wine into the blood of Christ and it is then eaten, along with his flesh, which is satanically believed by their faithful to be transubstantiated from bread. This is not much different than the present day fad (promoted by Hollywood) of the vampire culture of drinking human blood. It psychologically helps them to be relieved of headaches and body pains, convincing themselves it is the right thing to do. They are even able to find willing donors to satisfy this spiritually sick craving. So beginning as early as Genesis 9, the Bible gives a warning about the vine, as Noah became an husbandman and drank of the wine from the vineyard. The warnings continue with Lot being given wine by his daughters in Genesis 19, resulting in both girls pregnant through incest and bringing forth eternal enemies of Israel in Ammon and Moab, then Solomon in Proverbs 23 warns his son about the results of tarrying with the wine, and the herdman of Tekoah speaking of **"the wine of the condemned"** (Amos 2:8), and the prophet Habakkuk pronouncing a "woe" on those putting the bottle to their neighbor (Habakkuk 2:15). The Bible believer should have no problem equating the vine, which is a **"tree"** (Numbers 6:4, Judges 9:12), with the

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# The Tree of Life

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forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil found in Genesis 2:17.

That only leaves one unmatched tree from Jotham's preaching in Judges 9, the olive tree. The tree of life that was in the garden would be none other than the olive tree. Just as the present day vine tree does not have the same effect on mankind today that it had on Adam and Eve, so the present day olive tree is in a different form than what was in the garden. The olive today has great benefits for man's life as it contains antioxidants that help prevent the buildup of cholesterol in the veins, and the good kind of fat for man's nutrition. Jotham mentions this in the answer given by the olive when it is asked to come and reign over men, saying, "**Should I leave my fatness, wherewith by me they honour God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?**" (Judges 9:9). Once Adam fell, the Lord drove him out of the garden and put a guard at the eastern end of it, using Cherubims, along with a flaming sword to keep the way of the tree of life (Genesis 3:24). The Lord must have had a reason for keeping that tree around, perhaps for Adam and his children to see what they lost because of sin. It appears that if Adam had passed the test of his obedience and refused to take of the vine tree, he could have taken of the tree of life and lived forever. In any event, the Lord eventually removed the tree of life from off the earth, perhaps during the flood of Noah, with the next mention of it being in eternity, as a promise to the tribulation saints who overcome in their battles (Revelation 2:7), that

they may partake in eternity and live forever (see Revelation 22:2,14),

The type of the tree of life remains on this present earth in the form of the olive tree. The first mention of it by name is in Genesis 8:11, when the dove Noah sent out from the ark after the flood, returns with an olive leaf, signifying life. The olive branches are gathered to make booths during the Feast of Tabernacles (Nehemiah 8:15), a great picture of the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ when Israel will finally once again have life. The "**wicked man**" (Antichrist) of the book of Job is said to "**cast off his flower as the olive**" (Job 15:33), as a picture of his death. When Israel has life, she is likened to the "**green olive tree**" (Psalm 52:8, Psalm 128:3), and possessing the beauty of the olive (Hosea 14:6). As an old preacher friend (Walt Ziglar) once preached, the olive tree cries out, "o"- "live"! The Lord Jesus Christ went up into the Mount of Olives "**as he was wont**" (Luke 22:39), where he entered the garden called Gethsemane which interprets "olive press", where the sins of the world began to make him heavy (Matthew 26:36-37), to the point of being "**sorrowful, even unto death**" (Matthew 26:38). It was there that, as an olive is pressed for oil, our Saviour was pressed till "**his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground**" (Luke 22:44). Under the heavy strain of taking on the cup of God's wrath on sin for us (Psalm 75:8, Matthew 26:39), the man Christ Jesus had his capillaries burst into his sweat glands, till it came out as it were great drops of blood. It was in this olive garden

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# The Tree of Life

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that our Saviour began the agony that brought forth our eternal life. Because of his finished work on Calvary where he poured out every last drop (John 19:34), we are given life as a free gift by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Unlike those who **“do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city”** (Revelation 22:14), we are eternally saved through Christ, **“who is our life”** (Colossians 3:4). When someone teaches that everyone is saved the same way, what is their answer to the need of someone in eternity having to partake of the tree of life (Revelation 22:14)? Or do they also line up with the Roman Catholic corruption of the pure words of God by changing **“do his commandments”** to “wash their robes”, as the ASV, RSV, NIV, etc.? A Christian does not “wash his robes” (Revelation 7:14, 22:14) as the context is plainly a tribulation saint, for the apostle John tells us that we ourselves are washed in the blood of Christ (**“...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood”** Revelation 1:5).

The other references in the scriptures are to “a” tree of life, not “the” tree, and they are all types of the original tree. The first of these is wisdom in Proverbs 3:13-18. The man that lays hold on wisdom finds the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10), with a reward of his expectation being realized (Proverbs 24:14), and leads the lost sinner to Christ, who is the wisdom of God (I Corinthians 1:24). This requires a rejection of the world’s wisdom (I Corinthians 1:20), and an acceptance of **“the foolishness of**

**preaching”** (I Corinthians 1:21).

The next reference for “a” tree of life is found in Proverbs 11:30, and it is said to be the fruit of the righteous. One fruit of the righteous, within the same verse, is winning souls. A wise Christian will lead souls to the Lord Jesus Christ. He uses his tongue to tell others, and that **“wholesome tongue”** is another reference to “a” tree of life (Proverbs 15:4). The Christian uses words from his lips to feed many (Proverbs 10:21), and anytime a lost sinner receives those words, there is power in them to save his soul (James 1:21). A saved man who does not try to win souls is not wise, and reveals a selfish life. Consumed with self, the saved go right through this life without concern for those going to hell by the millions. The soul winner finds great reward in seeing the power of the word of God to save sinners. Not only that, he later gets a crown at the Judgment Seat of Christ (I Thessalonians 2:19-20).

Further, in Proverbs 13:12, “a” tree of life is said to be when desire finally cometh after hope has been deferred. The Christian has one hope, and it is presently being deferred until the heart has been made sick. The Bible believer need not be told what that hope is, as he is looking for it and praying for it to come to pass every day. It is our **“blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”** (Titus 2:13). When that desire cometh, it is “a” tree of life.

Before any man stood on the earth of Genesis 2, there was another earth (Genesis 1:1), with another garden (Ezekiel 28:13), with another

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# The Tree of Life

Continued from 13 tree (Ezekiel 31:3-11). This tree was envied for his beauty (verse 9), as he was made **“perfect in beauty”** (Ezekiel 28:12). There was no tree like him (Ezekiel 31:8), and in pride, he lifted himself up (Ezekiel 31:10), till the Lord had to bring him down (Isaiah 14:12-16)). This tree promises life as the great imitator of God Himself, but he is cast forth as an **“abominable branch”** (Isaiah 14:19), and his followers have their **“covenant with death”** disannulled (Isaiah 28:15-18). Where they were promised life (Ezekiel 13:22) by the false positive

messages from hell, they find death instead. This present world has no tree of life. They search for a fountain from which to drink that might give life, even as they reject the offer that **“whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely”** (Revelation 22:17). The Lord Jesus told a woman at the well of Samaria, **“Whosoever shall drink of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life”** (John 4:13-14).

## Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

### August 24–26

For His Glory Bible Baptist Church  
92 Butler Road  
Union, ME 04862  
Pastor Mike Kee  
(207) 975-5571

### September 14-16

Temple Baptist Church  
2295 Downer St.  
Baldwinsville, NY 13027  
Pastor Kevin Griffin  
(315) 638-1159

### October 5–7

Bible Baptist Church  
114 Hall Lane  
Rickman, TN 38580  
Pastor Tim Wilson  
(931) 498-2898

## What's New at the Bookstore?

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June's Sermons at Bible Baptist (2018) .....	DC-1806	\$14.95
Brian Donovan Sermon Collection (Vol. 44) .....	DC-DD44	\$14.95
Brian Donovan Sermon Collection (Vol. 45) .....	DC-DD45	\$14.95
Brian Donovan Sermon Collection (Vol. 46) .....	DC-DD46	\$14.95

### CHILDRENS BOOKS

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Jimmie and the Atheist .....	GN-9225	\$7.00
Baby Chick and Me .....	GN-9209	\$7.00
Twice Blind .....	GN-9226	\$7.00

### CDS

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Humns Every Child Sould Know (Majesty Music) .....	MU-2334	\$9.99

# JUNE'S SERMONS

*Brian Donovan*

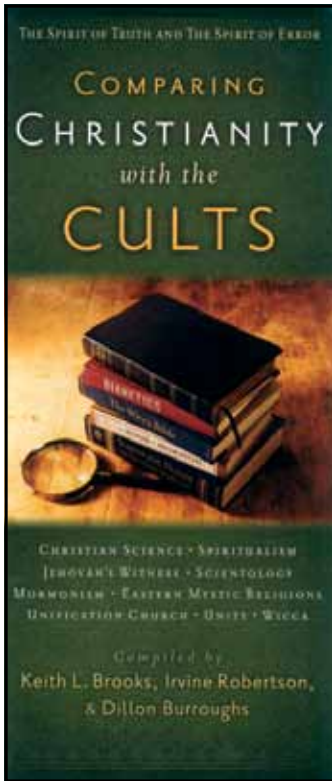
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*Zack Colvin*  
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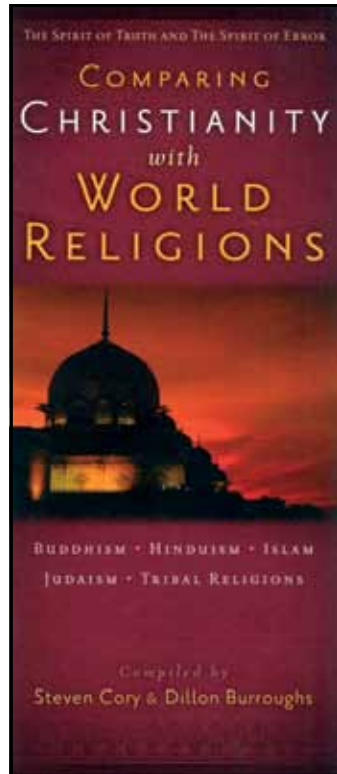


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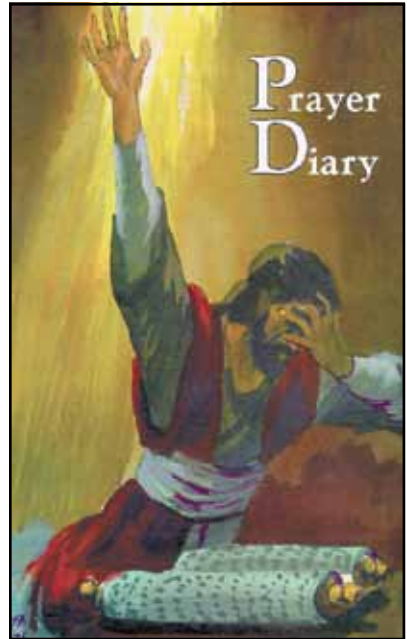
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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

By Zack Colvin

In Acts 7, Stephen is preaching and giving a history of the nation of Israel, and he mentions the wilderness journey of the children of Israel. In his mention, he uses the phrase **“the church in the wilderness”** (Acts 7:38). In the context, it's clear he is referring to the children of Israel being led by Moses through the wilderness. The English word *church* is translated from the Greek word *ekklesia* which simply means “a called-out assembly.” So even though some commentators say that Israel was the representation of the church in the Old Testament, Stephen is simply referring to Israel as a group of people called out and separated unto a purpose. The journeys of the children of Israel through the wilderness (Num. 33) have some great types and instructions for the New Testament church. The things that **“were written aforetime were written for our learning”** (Rom. 15:4), and it certainly benefits us in this age to be able to examine the lives of the Old Testament characters, and the nation of Israel as a whole, and be able to take some instruction through their mistakes and their victories.

The beginning of the departure of the nation of Israel from Egypt is marked by an event that changed the nation of Egypt and also marked a new beginning for the nation of Israel. This event was the last plague the Lord brought upon Egypt - the death of the firstborn in Egypt. The Lord establishes Israel as a nation (first appearance of **“all the congregation of Israel”** in the Bible [Exod. 12:3]), the Feast of the Passover, and the beginning of the Jewish religious calendar. So Exodus 12 is obviously a chapter of

new beginnings. But any reader going through the chapter wouldn't be able to miss the repeated references to the lamb and the blood. The one thing that made all of the difference on that night of the Passover as to whether the firstborn survived or died was the blood of the lamb applied to the doorposts. It wouldn't matter if the owner of the house fastened every door with padlocks, barred every window, and made the house as secure as he could, without the blood applied to the doorposts, **“the destroyer”** was coming in. It wouldn't have mattered if the owner of the house was the most religious, upstanding, righteous man in all of Egypt, if the blood of the lamb was not applied to the doorpost, **“the destroyer”** was coming in. It's the blood that made all of the difference.

The lesson is very plain. What makes all of the difference for a man to escape Satan, **“the destroyer,”** and begin to be a part of the church (the body of Christ), the blood must be applied to the soul. There is no forgiveness, no redemption, no propitiation, no cleansing, no sanctification, and no justification without the application of the blood. If you are saved, it was the blood that saved you, brought you from death unto life, and that is when new life began.

Often in the Christian life, we fall to sin, and our consciences weigh heavy with the guilt of sin. As sons of God, we aren't going to pay in eternity for our sins because they've been taken care of by Christ's blood. But a Christian can still walk around with a heavy conscience about his sin if it weren't for the blood of Jesus Christ. We have promises in Hebrews 9 and 1 John 1

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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

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that tell us if we'll claim the precious blood of Christ, our fellowship can be restored and our consciences purged in order to be freed from the guilt of dead works and have the power again to serve God. As a saved member of the body of Christ, I can have a fresh start, a new beginning because of the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Thank God for the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I certainly would not be serving Him today were it not for the blood.

In the middle of the night on that fourteenth day of the first month Abib, the children of Israel depart in haste from Rameses and head for Succoth (Exod. 12:37). The reason for the route God took them is given in Exodus 13:17, where it says, **“God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.”** So God doesn't lead this brand new nation of people, who have been in captivity 400 years, right into a place of war where they will get discouraged and want to quit. The Lord leads them east and south toward the Red Sea instead of a direct route toward the land of Canaan. Of course, there were multiple reasons for this, but the one that's recorded is the fact that the Lord didn't want the people to be exposed to war. He wanted to lead them to an impossible situation at the Red Sea in order to prove His mighty hand and increase the people's faith. He wanted to give the people a thorough departure from Egypt, a type of the world, so they wouldn't be able to go back, and so He could drown the Egyptians who were pursuing them. If they had taken

a straighter course toward the land of Canaan, the Egyptians surely would have caught them from the rear in no time, and the Amalekites and other Canaanites would have led a frontal assault against them as soon as they came out of Egypt. But instead, God led them **“up harnessed out of the land of Egypt”** (Exod. 13:18), meaning He protected them and lead them toward the south.

The lesson here is that the Lord is very gentle to the baby Christian. He doesn't expose him to danger right away, but instead takes him under His protective wing and shelters him for a little while until he is able to handle the more difficult battles of the Christian life. Imagine if the Lord exposed a baby Christian to some of the things that strong-aged Christians are exposed to. Imagine if the Apostle Paul were involved in the shipwreck and subsequent events of Acts 27–28 right after he got saved in Acts 9. He would likely have said, “Forget it!” Instead, the Lord protects the baby Christian and builds his faith and strength one test at a time, just as He attempted to do with Israel, even though they often resisted his nurture and admonition. Job 34:23 says, **“For, he will not lay upon man more than right . . . .”** God, in His wisdom as a good Father, very gently and patiently lays burdens upon His children as they can handle them and not an ounce more.

As the children of Israel continue on through Succoth, they come to Etham and encamp there (Exod. 13:20). They are at the edge of the wilderness as they approach the Red Sea, and the Lord promises to guide them with a pillar of a cloud by day and a **“pillar**

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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

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**of fire by night”** (Exod. 13:21–22). He tells them that this pillar will be their guide **“day and night”** and will go before them so that there’s never a time that He will leave them alone. This clearly points to the Lord’s presence going not only with us but before us in the way as we walk as **“strangers and pilgrims on the earth”** (Heb. 11:13). It’s comforting to know that no matter what the circumstances are or how we may not feel the Lord’s leading at times, He is faithfully going a few steps ahead of us and preparing the way before us.

In Esther 2, Mordecai saves the king’s life when he hears of Bigthan and Teresh conspiring to kill the Persian king Ahasuerus. As was standard procedure in the monarchies of that time, the two conspirators were taken and hung without a trial. Mordecai simply went back to work at his position in the gate of the city, and there was no apparent recognition given to Mordecai at that time. It seems somewhat careless of a man at least not to thank the man that saved his life. But the Lord in His wisdom had a scribe write down the record of these events in the book of the chronicles of the king and then put the book away to be used at a time in the future that nobody knew of yet except for God Himself. The interesting thing is that the decree instigated by Haman to have the Jews executed was not even a thought in Haman’s head as far as we know. It’s not until Esther 3 that we learn how Mordecai won’t bow to Haman, and how Haman is angry enough not only to kill Mordecai, but to get rid of all of the Jews in the kingdom because of it. But God knew exactly what was coming, and He was

already several steps ahead preparing the way for the Jews to be delivered. Later on in Esther 5, Haman has a gallows built for Mordecai after being instructed by his wife and his friends to do so. Little did he know that he was building his own gallows, because the God of Israel was working for Israel a few steps ahead of Haman.

The children of Israel are given this promise at the edge of the wilderness, just before they cross the Red Sea and enter into the wilderness of Sinai. God is faithful to prepare the Christian and give him the promise of His guidance before the wilderness that may be ahead. And regardless of how it may feel at times, we can say like Job, **“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold”** (Job 23:8-10).

The children of Israel have now come to the shores of the Red Sea and are encamped there. Exodus 14:3 says that **“Pharaoh will say . . . They are entangled in the land”** and will not be able to escape because **“the wilderness has shut them in.”** They have the Egyptian mountains and wilderness to the west and south, the Red Sea to the east, and Pharaoh is pursuing them from the north. We don’t have space to discuss all of the reasons for why Israel did not go through the “Sea of Reeds” or the “Bitter Lakes” or even a marshy ground, and instead went right through the Red Sea, but it wouldn’t have made a lick of sense for Pharaoh to say what he did if they were at any other place than where the Bible says they were. I think Pharaoh knew the topography and geography of his land better than the educated scholars of today. Pharaoh would have

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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

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had absolutely no reason to follow the children of Israel into the dry ground of the Red Sea in pursuit after them if he could have flanked them to the north and cut them off as they came out the other side of the marshy ground.

But moving forward, the Lord brought Israel to their first major obstacle since departing Egypt. They were standing in front of miles of deep water without a boat. Yet they had nowhere else to go. As they murmur to Moses about the situation, the Lord tells them to go forward, and they had to take a step of faith and watch the Lord do the impossible. They cross through the Red Sea on dry ground with a wall of water on both sides of them, and as they come out the other side, they turn back in time to see Pharaoh and his army being drowned by God as He releases that wall of water down upon their heads and takes off their chariot wheels so they can't escape. (Let's see you explain that, scholar! How an entire army of men who were part of the world power of the day drown in marshy ground!) The children of Israel witness an escape from Pharaoh and the land of Egypt that is so dramatic that they will never be able to forget it.

The lesson is plain: the Christian is doctrinally separated from the world when he trusts Jesus Christ for eternal life. The world is on a course for hell, and when a man trusts Christ, he is put on the course for heaven and can never be taken off of that course (Phil. 1:6). But the Christian must choose to separate himself from the world in a practical way, or he will love the world and live like the world and never be an effective servant for the Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, we aren't talking

primarily about their appearance or how they dress. The self-righteous would have you think that these “outward fruits” are real evidence of the truly saved. But as Bible-believers, we know that until the heart and mind is transformed, changing the appearance is simply putting the same old trash into a brand new trash can, or in the Lord Jesus' words: **“whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness”** (Matt. 23:27).

The Christian must choose to separate from the world's way of thinking and what excites the world and what it lives for. Then the differences on the outside will come from a heart that's been drawn closer to Jesus Christ and driven away from the world so that whatever convictions or standards the Christian has are rooted deep in the heart instead of on another preacher's shallow opinion. The world must be crucified unto him and he unto the world, as Paul says (Gal. 6:14).

John writes: **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”** (1 John 2:15–16). This is the practical application of what the Lord has already done doctrinally for the Christian (Gal. 1:4). Sometimes, depending on how deeply entrenched the Christian is in the world, this separation from the world requires a very dramatic circumstance in the life of the Christian. I've heard stories of broken backs and necks before a

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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

Continued from 20 saved man would come out of the **“far country”** (see Luke 15:13–20). Many have heard stories of jail sentences or car accidents before a Christian would wake up. Sadly, some don't make it out of the **“far country”** alive. But every Christian needs to heed the instruction of Paul in 2 Corinthians 6:17, where he says, **“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate . . . .”** James writes, **“...whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”** (James 4:4). Every Christian needs a separation from all that is in the world - **“the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.”** That's what every man and woman who is of the world lives their lives for, but that's not what the Christian lives for. The Christian's life is Christ.

Notice the great victory over the world causes great rejoicing among the

children of Israel and great confidence in God. Almost all of Exodus 15 is a song of praise and prophecy dedicated to the Lord because he **“triumphed gloriously”** (Exod. 15:1). Not only do they praise the Lord, but they prophesy about the future victories of Israel, some of which go all the way out to the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. A good, thorough crucifixion to the world will give the Christian confidence in the Lord and will “restore unto him the joy of his salvation” (Psa. 51:12).

After the children of Israel cross the Red Sea, they come into the wilderness of Shur where they travel three days into the wilderness and find no water. When they finally come to the waters of Marah, they anxiously bow down to take a refreshing drink, only to find that the water is bitter. After such a great victory at the Red Sea and a great time of rejoicing and praise given

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# “The Church in the Wilderness”

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to God, a bitter test comes their way. This is not unusual in the scripture, nor is it unusual in the Christian life. As a matter of fact, most of the time after there is some sort of victory or an occasion where praise is being given to God, a time of bitter testing or trial follows. One of the greatest examples is that of Jesus Christ. In one of the highlights of His time spent on the earth, He is baptized by John the Baptist. Not only is this a fulfillment of prophecy (Dan. 9), but it is the conclusion of the ministry of the forerunner, John the Baptist, and the beginning of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ. This is the anointing of Jesus as the Messiah, where the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove and God the Father speaks from heaven saying, **“This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased”** (Matt. 3:17). A great time of glory given to God! Immediately thereafter in Matthew 4, Jesus Christ is led of the Spirit to be tempted of the devil—a bitter test. It almost seems like some sort of game the Lord plays, but it’s not that at all. It is simply a test just to see how well we are leaning on the Lord.

You see, after a victory such as the crossing of the Red Sea, there ought to be a time of great confidence in the Lord. But often we get caught up in the moment of rejoicing on the mountain top that we can tend to take our eyes off the Lord, and soon our confidence is back on ourselves. It’s always evident, when as soon as the trial comes, how quickly we go to murmuring just as the children of Israel did (Exod. 15:23–24). It’s only three days after the miraculous Red Sea crossing that they are tested, and they’ve already

taken their eyes off the Lord. Exodus 15:25 tells us the reason for why the Lord brought them to Marah when it says **“and there he proved them.”** This was not to throw a wet blanket on their fire, but to prove them and remind them to keep their eyes on the Lord. So we are reminded not to let our guard down even after a great victory in the Christian life.

The next stop for the children of Israel is at Elim, where the the Lord mercifully brings Israel to an oasis in the wilderness. There they are surrounded by **“twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees”** (Exod. 15:27). The Lord had no obligation to do this because He already showed Moses a way to make the bitter waters of Marah sweet and potable so they were able to drink it. But this is how the Lord, once again, takes good care of His children. The Lord’s **“handfuls of purpose”** (see Ruth 2:16) always come at just the right time for the child of God to be able to continue on another day. We are given the promise of strength for the present day and no more. Strength for tomorrow will be present tomorrow. Deuteronomy 33:25 says, **“...and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.”** So even though the children of Israel murmured at the bitter waters of Marah, the Lord still gives them a time of blessing and enjoyment in the midst of the wilderness, just because He is good. David says, **“O taste and see that the LORD is good”** (Psa. 34:8). It only takes a taste of the spiritual riches of Christ for the child of God to realize that God’s fellowship and goodness isn’t worthy to be compared with the pleasures of Egypt.

(Part two next month)

# The Rise of the Stupid Phones

By Brian Donovan

In a recent study of the typical use of the iPhone, the average number of times that the device is pulled out and used is 80 per day. That does not tell how many hours are involved, just the amount of times it is looked to each and every day.

What is even more troubling, is the spiritual, psychological and emotional effect that these devices have on the holder, without them even being aware of it. The studies are showing that even as the phone sits close by without being used, it has a pull on the brain that the user relies on. As the phone is carried around, the person waits to hear it buzz or ring, remaining ever so faithfully "on call" to it's every demand. The studies show that whenever it cannot be answered right away (at work), the body experiences a quickened pulse or a spike in blood pressure (I know this does not apply to you because you have it under control).

The amount of information the iPhones now hold places an excessive amount of reliance on them to answer questions, find trivial information that does not have to have any relation to the truth, as well as do the thinking for the user. The studies are showing that these devices are controlling the minds to the point of telling the user what he is going to think about each minute.

The saved are commanded to not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:1-3). The way for the saint to renew his mind is through the pure words of God. This takes a discipline and

time that requires effort. In these last days, Satan has come up with the perfect device to control the mind of the child of God for all of his waking hours. The god of this world has replaced **"What saith the scriptures?"** with, "Google it", "text it", or "tweet it".

Some studies have shown that when information is pulled up, using only their fingertips, users have delusions of grandeur, actually giving themselves credit for being intelligent. Learning requires thinking, remembering, and making application. The "smart" phones are being used to try to replace the effort involved in learning, with the end result being a false sense of intelligence.

The smartphone users cannot distinguish between what they actually know in their minds, versus what is stored in their computer devices. The generation has arrived that now knows less about the truth and the real world around them than any previous generation. The way the Lord created us, it is necessary that the senses are exercised by **"reason of use...to discern both good and evil"** (Hebrews 5:14). The iPhones prevent thinking, dull the senses to any discernment, and feed a constant flow of information that has no filter in regards to what is truth. This "Information Age" generation is **"heady"** and **"highminded"** and so much **"lovers of their own selves"**, that they are becoming unreachable with the truth as they are **"ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth"** (II

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# The Rise of the Stupid Phones

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Timothy 3:1-7). But the Bible reader knew this was coming for the last days generation, well before they showed up. It is a common thing to have these devices interrupting preaching services among Bible-believing Baptist churches, as the Christians cannot go two hours without their baby close enough to feel it's soothing touch.

Anytime a Bible-believing preacher tries to warn the congregation about the controlling dangers of today's technology; he is scoffed at as being out of touch. Most who claim to be "KJV Bible believers" are in name only, since, in daily practice, it is obvious they refuse to check what they are doing on their phones and computers and facebook and twitters, against the Book.

For instance, what Bible believer even pays attention to the "words" being used as they fiddle with their "devices"? Is there even one who knows what the Lord says about man's "inventions"? How about the word "smart"? Instead of asking the Lord to show them from His words, they simply point to a preacher they know who tweets meaningless dribble about his insignificant life. This is good enough reason for today's Laodiceans to justify playing with it themselves. A delusion of importance sweeps over them as they continue to be "**lovers of their own selves**".

Since the average Bible believer has no more regard for listening to the Bible than a Bonobo ape, I penned the following in tribute:

Look at the Christians who just can't seem to wait,  
Not to open their Bibles, but their prized iPhone 8.  
Once they've obtained it, they'll never again be alone,  
Not with King James, but their precious iPhone.  
The old black Book will hardly be read,  
Except maybe a verse before dropping in bed.  
Worn out and tired with a heart cold as ice,  
Not from reading the Bible, but the sacred device.  
The pure words of God will rarely be heard,  
It's to Facebook you go for the latest of word.  
You wish for the preacher to just let you go home,  
To curl up and cuddle with your Almighty iPhone.  
Your out of touch preacher must be at least 64,  
If he'd get on the web, he wouldn't be such a bore.  
"But we know of some preachers who have their own page,  
Should not that be enough to quiet your rage?"  
You don't want to hear it, you've got the info you need,  
Yet still scratching your head as your life goes to seed.  
There is coming a day when the Lord will soon call,  
And thousands are torn from their Apple mall.  
To give account and see if there's gold, precious stones,  
To pull from the rubble of their burning iPhones.

# Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part Three of Six)

This is the third study where we are investigating the final “death throes” of the body of Christ in America in this age, as it has gone into total apostasy through the influences of Christian scholars and Bible revisers. These are cases of spiritual “Ebola” (plague, SARS, GRID, cancer, Spanish influenza, etc.). The symptoms of this epidemic are:

A. Denial of the deity of Christ.

B. Subtraction from the deity of Christ.

C. Deliberate lying to cover up their own sins and the sins of their mentors, role models, and companions.

D. Omission of words and verses emphasizing Christ's Lordship, atonement, resurrection, ascension, and coming kingdom.

E. Obliteration of revelations given in the English text of 1611 that no Greek or Hebrew scholar could ever find in over 400 years of studying Greek and Hebrew texts.

F. The “toning down” of any verses or passages that criticize or condemn highly educated critics of the scriptures who labor under the delusion that they should receive “**double honour**” for laboring “**in the word and doctrine**” (1 Tim. 5:17) when all they are doing is being destructive critics of the word of God.

G. Converting their readers to false doctrines which they *invented* to prevent you from comparing scripture with scripture in order to learn “**sound doctrine**” (2 Tim. 4:3).

These infections inserted into the Scriptures by these disease-ridden reprobates may range from drastic lies that affect all of your faith in the God-honored text of the AV to bad errors that block you from knowledge you ought to have or to sly insertions of private interpretations based on preferences, opinions, and conformity to “news media Christianity” (like Rick Warren and Joel Osteen). But the one thing that is for certain is that they will all kill you dead spiritually if you contract them, and make you fruitless for your Saviour (John 15:6). So here we continue with our list of “cases” that identify these deadly diseases in the body of Christ.

25) *Zechariah 13:6*. If you can't find the words “**thine hands**” in your version, you have been exposed to spiritual Ebola. The new translations have changed it to “*your back*” (see the ESV reading) to destroy the cross-references to the Lord Jesus Christ (see our comments on Zech. 12:10 in our last issue).

26) *Zechariah 11:17*. You've been infected again. You can watch the disease spread as the “clearer” translations, with their “advanced knowledge of Hebrew and Greek,” erased the reference to the Roman Catholic Pope as “the Man of Sin” (as he is identified in the Epistle Dedicatory of the *King James Version*). The “sickos” get rid of “**the IDOL shepherd,**” even though the Catholic blasphemer calls himself by the title given to God the Father in John 17:11.

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# Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

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27) *Galatians 3:1*. What happened to **“that ye should not obey the truth”** in the new versions. Why, their leprosy ate it away! Obeying the truth didn't fit in with their stinking, rotting, diseased carcasses, so they *removed* the rebuke because they knew it was *aimed at them*.

28) *Romans 13:9*. This time the command not to **“bear false witness”** was removed because a leper colony of diseased, dying liars wanted to make a liar out of you. They agreed with the “bewitchers” of Galatians 3:1 that you didn't need to obey the truth.

29) *Luke 2:33*. Full-blown Ebola in all of its glory. Was Joseph Christ's “father,” as the modern translations say? Mary said he was (Luke 2:48), but she knew perfectly well that he *wasn't* (Luke 1:32, 35). According to Jesus' comment on the “debate,” Joseph certainly was NOT His father (Luke 2:49). It's a sign of a sick mind that forces Mary's words from verse 48 into Luke's mouth in verse 33 *when Luke was writing under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost*. The diseased conservative hypocrites tried to mislead you in the hopes you wouldn't catch them at it; that is their “deathstyle.”

30) *Acts 4:13*. Here the terminal patients have tried to make themselves look good by “doctoring up” the apostles. These sick, dying reprobates want you to associate them with Peter and John so you will think they are like them WHEN THEY ARE NOT. Well, it doesn't look too good

to line themselves up with men who were **“unlearned and ignorant.”** That would be an insult to their higher education and advanced degrees. Solution: *get rid of both adjectives*. So said, so done—to the tune of over 200 sick English versions.

31) *2 Corinthians 11:6*. Again, the corrupt Bible corrupters (ESV, RSV, NRSV, NKJV, NASV, New Living Translation, Holman Christian Standard Bible, NIV, etc.) like to fancy themselves to be like the apostles, so they must “dress up” any negative traits a real apostle had. Paul is not allowed to be **“rude”** if you are dying from the disease of “Scholarship Onlyism.”

32) *2 Corinthians 10:10*. They did it again (see no. 31); they never fail to dress up or doctor up (shellac, veneer, alter, etc.) Paul's language if it doesn't match *their* language (e.g., see Phil. 3:8). Out goes Paul's **“contemptible”** speech. That would be too insulting, uncouth, and offensive of a way to describe the apostate Laodiceans who are trying to “sidle up” to Paul while at the time revising the holy scriptures to meet *their own standards*. Spiritual cholera and typhoid.

33 & 34) *Acts 4:27, 30*. Twins infected with AIDS from their mother's womb. In both verses, God's **“holy child”** joined God's **“image”** (Heb. 1:3) and **“God”** Himself (1 Tim. 3:16) in the “hazardous waste container.” God's **“child”** was aborted by the new versions and a **“servant”** delivered in His place. The dying, apos-

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# Deadly Diseases in the Body of Christ

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tate corrupters pulled David—God's "**servant**"—out of verse 25 and stuck him into verses 27, 30 so you would associate the One who died for your sins and rose again to give you eternal life with a FULL-BLOWN SINNER. God's "**holy child**" was anything but a sinner.

35) *Acts 3:19*. Since not one committee member on the RV committee, ASV committee, NKJV committee, ESV committee, etc. (make your own list), understood the two different applications of the new covenant (see Heb. 8:8–10; Rom. 11:25–27; Isa. 40:1–4), they found a way to cover up their ignorance by bringing you down to their level of ignorance. Of course, to do that, they had to reject the advanced revelation found in the King James English text (typical "standard operating procedure" for these invalids).

Here in the AV text of *Acts 3:19* was a clear statement that Israel's sins *as a nation* would not be blotted out (and had not yet been blotted out according to Col. 2:17) *until the future*. This placed the infected, dying "walking corpses" doing the revision right back into Ezekiel 40–48, where they were when faced with Colossians 2:16–17. The stupid, blind, bungling "recognized scholars" couldn't handle the "**sound doctrine**" here in *Acts 3:19* any more than they could in Colossians 2:16–17, so they changed the wording.

They changed the words "**when**" and "**shall come**," indicating *future*

application, to "*so*" and "*may come*" so that the "blotting out" takes place *now*.

Since *not one* "Bible-believing" Christian on the ASV, NASV, NKJV, NIV, or ESV committee believed any *Bible* was the holy scriptures (1 Tim. 3:15–16; Rom. 1:2), they altered the verse to teach a *monstrous lie*. Every corrupt, rotten piece of junk on the market since 1901 read Colossians 2:14 back into *Acts 3:19*. Colossians 2:14 was *individual salvation* under "**the gospel of the grace of God**" (*Acts 20:24*); *Acts 3:19* was *national salvation* exactly as it was in *Acts 2*. Peter made no mention of Jesus Christ dying for *anyone's sins* in either *Acts 2* or *3*. In *Acts 2–3*, Peter's preaching was NOT that of Galatians 1:8–12; Romans 5:10; or 1 Peter 1:18–19.

"Moral of the story": no Bible reviser since 1901 could "rightly divide" "**the word of truth**" (2 Tim. 2:15). They spread their communicable disease to you, if they can, so it will kill you just as it killed them.

Israel's sins as a nation will not be "**blotted out**" until the second advent. Not one Bible teacher in America in any major Christian college, university, seminary, or Bible institute was (or is) aware of that sound Biblical doctrine.

In our next installment, we will continue to examine these debilitating diseases that infest the Christian "scholars," professors, teachers, and the translators and revisers of the modern versions in American Christianity.

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# What is Hate Speech?

By Robert Militello

**“They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly”** (Amos 5:10).

Freedom of speech, which is the right of all Americans, is under a ferocious assault by those who desire to control the thinking of the masses. Mark Zuckerberg, the CEO of Facebook proposed last April to establish a so-called “Supreme Court” to decide what is hate speech. This “Court,” made up of prominent citizens, not employees or relatives and friends of Facebook employees, will decide what is acceptable for millions to read. These decisions will be based on community standards according to Mr. Zuckerberg. How about that? Mark Zuckerberg is under intense pressure to reform how Facebook conducts its business. Personally, I couldn’t care less, as I have despised Facebook since its inception. All social media outlets pose a grave danger to Christians who take their walk with the Lord very seriously. Sadly, in these last days of the church age (Laodicea), the brethren have gone blind (Rev. 3:17) and are ignorant of Satan’s devices (2 Cor. 2:11).

Now what might be these “community standards” by which judgments will be made as to what is or is not hate speech? I have a standard, and it is has nothing to do with community standards. God gave me a book written by Jews who had light that poor Mr. Zuckerberg, a lost rich Jew, knows nothing of. That Book is my standard, and by it I judge all things. Today, in our increasingly sick society, Facebook and other social media fill a need in millions to feel relevant. The desire to “stay connected” has

become ever so powerful these last days before the church is removed and judgment falls. Even Billy Graham, some forty years ago, stated that he believed God’s Holy Spirit was withdrawing from America. He said this after a vice-president (Agnew) and later the president (Nixon) had to resign in disgrace—a first in American history.

As fear and anxiety grow in a population drifting further and further away from God, the desire to express one’s self is integral to believing your life has meaning. Believe me, if you are not spending real time with God’s word, your understanding of what constitutes a meaningful life will be clouded with confusion. You will live in a perpetual, mental fog. How’s that for feeling relevant? So social media will grow even if the Congress regulates it because it has become an extension of therapy for millions. This new form of therapy (free if you have Internet service) must identify “hate speech” and keep it from being read because negativity is so destructive—don’t you know? Can telling someone they will go to a burning hell at death unless they turn to Jesus be considered hate speech? We shall see if the Zuckerberg censors going by community standards really believe in free speech. Don’t hold your breath.

There was a time in America when states, counties, and communities tried cases on traditional societal standards. Those standards were, for the most part, based on God’s word. I’ll give you an example. In 1964, the U.S. Supreme Court gave a landmark verdict in the case of *Jacobellis vs. Ohio*. Nice *Jacobellis*, an immigrant

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# What is Hate Speech?

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from Italy, highly educated, was a manager of several "art" theaters in Ohio. This was back in the late fifties when America still had a social conscience. In 1959, one of Mr. Jacobellis' theaters showed a film called, "*Les Amantes*" (The LOVERS) and there was an explicit sex scene in the film. That scene was objectionable to many in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, so the District Attorney had Mr. Jacobellis arrested and prosecuted under state obscenity laws. He was convicted and fined \$2,500. Ohio appellate courts upheld the conviction.

Lawyers for the chain of theaters that Mr. Jacobellis worked for and others from the ACLU (The American Civil Liberties Union) appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. On June 22, 1964, the Supreme Court overturned the conviction declaring the film not to be obscene and to be constitutionally protected. The decision split the Court and was quite controversial in its time, but who remembers it? Justice Potter Stewart said the Constitution guards all obscenity except "hard-core pornography." When asked what that was, he replied, "I'll know it when I see it." What was happening back then after we elected our first Catholic president, and prayer and Bible reading were prohibited in public schools, was a satanic shift away from using God's word to regulate society's behavior. Now that we have a society that uses the Constitution to protect filth, will that society be just as zealous in defending the free speech of Bible believers? What do you think?

**"And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom**

**we may enquire of the LORD: but I HATE HIM, for he doth not prophesy good concerning me . . ."** (1 Kings 22:8). Christians prophesy. We tell lost folks that a burning hell is where their souls will go off at death. Yet because so many of God's people want to be liked ("like on Facebook") and not hated, they refrain from prophesying. Paul warns the Roman believers about those who employ "**good words and fair speeches**" (Rom. 16:18) not wanting to appear sharp or hateful. The devil has fooled most believers in these last days by suggesting that a good testimony involves not being negative. Sadly, the result of this demonic strategy is now clearly seen. Too many of God's people are suffering from lockjaw when it comes to rebuking sin and confronting rebellion. A key work of the Holy Spirit is conviction, but that makes folks tense and uncomfortable. So we have politicians in the pulpit instead of Micaiahs.

Last year, a Christian man who had been attending a "Bible" church in Chattanooga got himself in trouble with the pastor and eventually had to leave. When this brother told me what happened, I got a better understanding of just how much dry rot was in the pulpits of America. "Brother X" told me that the pastor was feeling combative one Sunday morning and gave a personal rebuke to the congregation over stuff not worth mentioning. Later, at the end of the message, he apologized for being what he considered too forceful. This apology for speaking plainly is what disgusted my brother. So "Brother X" sent an email to the pastor questioning why he

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# What is Hate Speech?

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sheepishly said that he was sorry for being bold. Please understand that what this man considered "boldness" would have been useful material for a good Jewish comedian to entertain his audience. If this Chattanooga preacher had attended a sermon by John the Baptist, he would have had an epileptic fit. That is what is badly needed in America today. Well, the email to the pastor was the beginning of the end for "Brother X." After that, he was considered "*persona non grata*." He wasn't on board as a team player. He exercised independent thinking, and that's dangerous to men who want the flock to worship them as if they were popes.

What offends people today is not obscenity of lewd jokes; it's a preacher who cares for the health of a soul more than the sensitivities of the listener. When a society loses the fear of God, it can no longer distinguish what is poison and what is healthful. There's no cure for this in politics, science, education, or philosophy. As we prepare to leave this evil world, biblical truth will seem ever so hateful, and too many of God's people have qualms about being hated. If you want to see for yourself just how sensitive many believers have become towards negative truth, try street-corner preaching or witnessing with a negative scripture sign. I used Matthew 23:33 in Brooklyn and Manhattan, and Hebrews 10:31 in Pensacola. Making folks uncomfortable with God's truth is the best and most exciting calling a man can receive. **"Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"** (James 4:4).

What amazes me is how quickly the devil is able to mobilize well-meaning saints willing to tell me how awful my approach is. It seems that my emphasis on judgment and the fear of God turns people off. Well, how about that? I never read, "How to Win Friends and Influence People." Instead of the sweet spirit of Christ, I'm possessed with an angry and bitter spirit according to some pious and "Spirit-filled" brethren. Somehow, the idea of being engaged in spiritual warfare became a relic of the days when evangelists held citywide crusades. Since the hippies of the sixties embraced the "Make love, not war" mantra, Laodicean Christians replaced the command to repent with their own pathetic, "God loves you!" non-biblical nonsense. Would these fearful saints feel safer if they went to public places and gave out flowers while tapping a tambourine? What happened to "Onward Christian Soldiers"? Too many of God's people have deserted the battlefield outside the church building for a chair, a computer, and an account with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. In-your-face witnessing has real value: it sharpens a Christian in the art of give and take. I prefer words coming out of a body's mouth than coming across a screen where facial expressions and body movements have no role to play.

**"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ . . ."** (Rom. 1:16). Christians in America don't suffer for their faith in a physical sense. Why won't they declare God's word publicly and rejoice in the ridicule and scorn that will follow? **"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my**

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# What is Hate Speech?

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**words of him shall the Son of man be ashamed . . .**" (Luke 9:26). Notice the pairing of Jesus and His words. One can boast of Jesus and yet shy away from using His word to upset someone who was just told, "Jesus loves you."

Years ago, on a Brooklyn street corner in an Italian Catholic neighborhood, I preached, "There's no hope in the pope." The things that came out of my mouth were meant to turn souls away from the traditions of Rome to the words of God. Loving God's word means hating that which opposes it.

**"Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I HATE EVERY FALSE WAY"** (Psa. 119:104).

God's word is hate speech to those who embrace lies, and why not? The devil was a liar from the beginning. Why should the Holy Spirit fill a saint who is hesitant to use his or her tongue to war against lies?

Well, on a pleasant Saturday afternoon, I was confronted by a lady who kept shaking her head at me with a pained look on her face. Her facial expression made me think she might have been constipated, but that was not the case. She told me she was a Christian and was turned off by my message. Also, she said that she felt led by the Holy Ghost to confront me and show me a better way. I tried to explain to her that one must plough before sowing seed and that ploughing is not smooth. She didn't get it. So I asked her if she would have rebuked John the Baptist for speaking coarsely and sparing none of his listeners. She could not respond to my question, but went on talking about how Jesus loves everyone and we must

show that same spirit to all. Finally, she stopped. I said, "Sister, the Holy Spirit did not send you to me with that message. It was the unholy spirit who uses those devoid of any spiritual discernment to discourage those sent to save souls from hell."

It was sad. She kept shaking her head. A person convinced against his/her will is of the same opinion still. This is what the body of Christ is filled with these days. Another Jesus is presented to church goers on Sunday mornings. That "Jesus" would never offend folks, and he too would condemn the hate speech that comes out of the mouths of many who profess to know him. If there was any one thing that all of Dr. Ruckman's critics could unite around, it was the "hate speech" that he used to characterize their biblical ignorance and habit of lying. Don't take up boxing if you can't take a punch. There's a spiritual war going on all around us. Christianity prospers on the battlefield, not at a piano recital. Thank God daily for the Bill of Rights, as it was given to us by God to help overcome the fear of being punished for speaking freely.

My mom told me what it was like growing up in a police state where one wrong word could put you away. She was four years old when Hitler took power in 1933. The following year, she started school and so began her indoctrination in Nazi thinking and practice. German glory was promoted daily and that glory was personified in one man: Der Fuehrer. To say anything negative about Germany's "Messiah" was to get a visit from the Gestapo. What a way to live, amen? Christians have it made in America,

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# What is Hate Speech?

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but accusations of hate speech have muzzled their mouths. It took years after coming to the United States for my mom to speak freely about many things. Now at 89, she is ready always to tell you what she thinks.

Some believers get bolder as they get older, while others just kind of "mellow out." How goes it with you? Germans say, "*Wie gehts es ihnen?*", while Italians say, "*Come stai?*", I heard both growing up. When Jesus saw Peter and Andrew by the Sea of Galilee, He didn't ask them, "How's the fishing going?" He said, "**Follow me**" (Matt. 4:18–19). Notice how the Jew eschews small talk and gets right down to business; that's our Saviour!

**"Wist ye not that I must be about MY FATHER'S BUSINESS?"** (Luke 2:49). Our business is to speak God's truth to one and all, and if some describe that truth as hate speech, why should I or any saint withdraw and give the battlefield over to the enemy? The Judgment Seat of Christ will be kind of a court martial for many saints who showed cowardice in battle. Why go into the millennium with a dishonorable discharge from the Lord's army? That thought ought to terrify you, and if it doesn't, you are still too concerned with how others view you.

Learning what to love and what to hate is a solemn obligation for which every believer will give an account to God. The world and your experiences in this world will not give you a true understanding of what is precious to the soul and what is poison. Evil is often packaged as benevolent and harmless, so Solomon wrote: **"no man knoweth either love or hatred**

**by all that is before them"** (Eccl. 9:1).

Our minds are polluted by sin. We are unable to make correct judgments about many things without wisdom from above. Jesus told believers in Laodicea that they had gone spiritually blind and that they needed to anoint their eyes with eye salve (Rev. 3:17–18). If you will beseech the Lord to clean out your eyes with his Holy Spirit, you'll see things you ought to hate which you have not noticed before. My hatred of social media does not come from man or my education. Billions of souls worldwide are connected and use various sites completely oblivious to any hidden danger. These simple souls are no match for the devil, who is the unseen architect behind this addiction of staying connected. Mark Zuckerberg is just a front man who has become filthy rich by allowing Satan to direct his way. Many Jews are brilliant and the devil knows how to capitalize on that gift as long as the Jew remains outside of Christ.

How does a believer remove himself from any addiction once it becomes evident that he/she has been caught in a snare of the devil? First you must petition the Lord to give you a holy hatred for what you thought was harmless. Don't lean to your own understanding, or you'll remain in the spider's web. Go to war and fight.

**"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"** (Phil. 4:13).

Too many of God's people have a "loser's" mentality yielding ground to the enemy and quitting the fight with a "what's the use?" remark. Smokers

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# What is Hate Speech?

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who fought the addiction successfully for a while, sometimes for years, fall back when turmoil comes. Denying yourself something that gives you pleasure, even though you know it is destructive, can be an exercise in futility. God must put a holy hatred in your heart for yielding to anything that undermines your fellowship with him. That has to be your first priority—walking with your Saviour with a good conscience. The more you learn how to hate that which offends our Lord, the more the world will hate you. Can you handle that?

Hatred of Baptist preachers in Virginia by the Anglican Church (Church of England) caused James Madison and Thomas Jefferson to protect religious rights with the second amendment of the Bill of Rights. Baptists were imprisoned in Virginia for preaching without a license. Our God used the hatred of the Anglicans to give me freedom to preach God's word in public places. Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, our third and fourth presidents, never professed faith in Christ. Unless a miracle took place, their souls are in hell, but they did believe in what is known as the free marketplace of ideas. If you believe something passionately enough, you ought to be able to defend those views in free, open debate. Anyone convinced of the rightness of their beliefs need not fear having to give a reason as to why such views are praiseworthy. Religious people are the most intolerant of all. Self-righteousness is the father of narrow-mindedness. Religious people killed Jesus Christ. When you speak and preach with

certitude and authority you become a target of men energized by the devil. Baptist preachers were whipped in Virginia. What would their opinion be of most Baptist pastors today whose churches are nothing more than social clubs? You might as well join the Elks or Lions.

**“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”** (Gal. 1:10).

What pleases men today? Any preaching that is the least bit threatening to a Christian's comfort zone will be diced and sliced by Laodicean believers at Sunday dinner. If the truth of a preacher's message can't be impugned, then something else must be found at which to throw stones. I remember a lady walking out at Bible Baptist after the Sunday service complaining about Dr. Ruckman's tone of voice. Her husband looked at her sheepishly and shrugged. Isn't that pathetic?

If the day ever comes in America when the right to speak freely will have been severely curtailed by so-called, hate speech laws, it will be the result of intense lobbying by the sodomite community. Preaching against that wicked lifestyle is something that causes the queer population to go into spasms. No class of sinners react so intensely as gays do when the word of God is used to stab at their sin. Go to a public park in San Francisco, Manhattan, or Tel Aviv, Israel for that matter, and see what happens when you open your mouth reading loudly Romans 1:18–32. You better wear body armor. Freedom of speech

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# What is Hate Speech?

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is a fine thing for those who traffic in pornography, but for a preacher willing to expose sin publicly, well, that's another story, amen?

We've made a lot of "progress" in America these past forty years since the Lord sent me to a busy street corner in lower Manhattan. It wasn't so unusual then to say, "Our God is holy and hates sin." Now, it's "God loves you." That's what sells today. If you

haven't noticed, there is a direct correlation between the rise of the homosexual lobby and the willingness of churches and ministers to repeat over and over again that God loves everybody. God's holiness has diminished over the years to the point where He is not angry with the wicked anymore. His Spirit no longer tells men to repent, but rather, "Let Christ into your life." Now, who is going to

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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.

# What is Hate Speech?

Continued from 37

get offended over that? Christianity today wears a dress. It has become effeminate. The salt has lost its saltiness. How much longer will this process of spiritual decay go on? Jesus Christ is coming back for his bride, and she is out of shape, to put it charitably. A woman wants to look her best for her beloved. She makes every effort to watch her figure. The months leading up to the honeymoon are not the time to let yourself go. Yet that is what is happening now. You've got to be blind not to notice. Only after the Judgment Seat of Christ is passed will this be true: **"Thou art all fair, my love; THERE IS NO SPOT IN THEE"** (Song of Sol. 4:7).

How's a Christian to keep a joyful spirit with all that he or she sees going on these days? Grace saved us and grace will keep us.

**"It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT. They are new every morning: GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"** (Lam. 3:22–23).

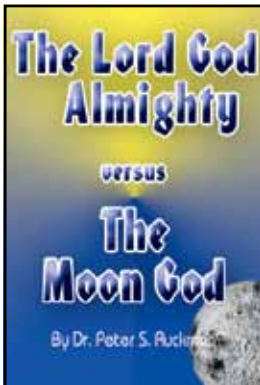
There is no real comfort to be found anywhere in this world apart from the scriptures. There, and only there, do I get instructed on how to view things and how to think.

**"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof"** (Matt. 6:34).

We will leave here at God's appointed time, hopefully very soon. Until then, you have your instructions; they are stated plainly.

**"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come"** (Luke 19:13).

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