



Bible Believers' Bulletin

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

July 2019

The Great Work Of Sorrow

By Brian Donovan

Though he wrote to the **“twelve tribes which are scattered abroad”** (James 1:1), making the doctrinal application to the Jews in the tribulation who are looking for the **“coming of the Lord”** (James 5:8), the book of James has profound practical application for the saint in this present church age when it comes to the subjects of temptations (James 1:2), trials (James 1:3), and patience (James 1:4). In order for the child of God to become **“perfect”** in finishing his course, he must endure some trials and sorrows that are given by his heavenly Father for his good.

The Christian is given **“exceeding great and precious promises”** (II Peter 1:4) so that even in the midst of hard trials and bitter sorrows, he knows that they are working in him an eternal purpose. Very often, we are unable to see any good, or any purpose, in the sorrows of life that come our way. We may not know the reason in the here and now, but we can rejoice in the fact

that we will know hereafter (John 13:7).

The book of Luke opens with the story of a priest and his wife, Zacharias, and Elisabeth, who were **“both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”** (Luke 1:6). In the midst of a time when the majority of the priests were **“blind leaders of the blind”** (Matthew 15:14), and known for their love of gifts and money (Matthew 23: 16-19), Zacharias stands out, (obviously among some others who were also serving with him), as one who loved God and found it an honour to serve in His temple. Yet we find that in the home of this godly couple, hung a great and heavy shadow of sorrow, namely, that with both being now **“well stricken in years”**, Elisabeth was barren (Luke 1:7). They had come to the conclusion that both the reproach and frown of God was upon their lives, yet they still went about trying to serve Him. At their advanced age, they had to accept the fact that there would never be an heir to carry on, who would one day grow up in the ministry and also await the Lord’s coming. The pain and sorrow of that unanswered prayer cut Elisabeth deeply, and she was not even told why

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The Typical American Man

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

(Part Two of Two)

(Editor's note: This is part two of a sermon using Paul's encounter with Felix in Acts 24 as a type of how a typical lost man in America deals with the gospel.)

Now what was Felix's problem? He wanted to get rid of an unpleasant feeling: "**Felix trembled**" (Acts 24:25). *He was under conviction.*

I have seen men like that. I met a couple of Moslems once who had come to hear me preach: a white man and a black man. I shook hands with both of them afterwards, and that white kid's hand was as wet as if you had dunked it in a bucket of water: it just dripped sweat.

I have seen people stand in an invitation and grip the pew in front of them until their knuckles turned white. If you went back there afterward, you would find that place soaked with sweat. Dry mouth, sweaty palms—someone is *scared stiff*. Felix was so scared at the preaching of Paul that he shook, he trembled.

Felix felt perfectly *miserable*. He knew the truth, and it made him mad. "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you *mad*."

That's why people don't like street preaching and personal work. I talked to a lady here in town once, and she said, "I'd like to come to your church, but my husband doesn't like to go there." All right, if he doesn't want to come to my church, then don't come, but I wonder why he doesn't. Usually it's the other way around: the man wants to come and the woman doesn't. There's no need to get mad at me. People get mad at the preacher

for *kicking their conscience awake*.

If you lie down in the snow, you are in danger of falling asleep and freezing to death if somebody doesn't keep you awake. Back in World War I, those Germans got so tired from attacking and counterattacking, that when the next time it came to attack, a lot of them had to be punched to wake them up. That's what happens when a preacher delivers the message as he should: it wakes the conscience out of a sound sleep, and people don't like it.

Felix heard Paul preach, and his conscience began to bother him. It was like coming across a bad accident on the side of the road: it's horrible, but you just can't help but look and "rubberneck." Paul's preaching upset Felix, but he couldn't resist calling him in over and over again to hear what he had to say.

A lot of people hear me, and it just grates them the wrong way. They aren't even sure why they don't like my preaching. Maybe it's the "*tone of my voice*." "Well, I just don't like to go out to Ruckman's church; a *certain class of people* go out there"—all kinds of excuses. Do you know what the problem is? The Holy Spirit begins to put His finger into some things in their heart they need to get right, and it upsets them and bothers them.

Did you ever stop to think of why unsaved people talk about a person's "hell" being on this earth? A person must be going through something pretty bad to make a statement like that. How would he know his "hell" is here if he didn't have it right then? But Dwight L. Moody said this: "This earth is all of hell a Christian will ever

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experience, and this earth is all of heaven an unsaved man will ever experience." A Bible preacher comes along and "spoils" the unsaved man's "heaven"; he scrapes off the veneer and exposes the lost world for what it is. Contrariwise, when the preacher gets through, the Christian's "hell" isn't so bad when he has his Saviour and the promises in the Book with him to go through it. It's all a matter of "perspective," as they say.

Do you know what you are reading there in Acts 24? You're reading the story of a *convict*, but it's *not Paul*. Felix gets through with Paul, and he leaves him in jail for **"two years"** (Acts 24:27). But Paul in jail is more free than Felix in the governor's palace. Paul's conscience is clear (Acts 24:16), while Felix's is eating him alive. Felix is under *conviction*: he's the *convict*.

You can always tell a "convict" by the fuss he puts up over the preaching of the word of God. "Quit trying to ram religion down my throat," "That's just your interpretation," "I don't think it's right for those people to stand on the street corners and yell at folks," blah, blah, blah. Those are the ravings of a *bad conscience*. It makes the person with it sensitive and thin-skinned.

We Bible-believing Christians are just as offended by the way unsaved people think as they are with us. We don't have them arrested for it or sued for it or killed for it. Do you know how I know I have the right belief? Because I would not kill a man or harm a man or harass a man or threaten a man with any kind of "action" no matter what he believed. If he told me my

Bible was a joke, I'd just smile at him and say, "Well, someday maybe you'll get saved and not talk like a fool. God takes care of fools and drunkards, so you have double protection." If you get so mad with me that you have to shut me up or shut down my church, your religion isn't worth a dime.

Listen, do you think I would ever be invited to speak about Jesus Christ and the Bible in a mosque in Saudi Arabia, with a promise of safe conduct there and back? Why, you know that would be a joke. Yet we have had two Moslems come in to speak to our students about what they believe (and to answer questions too!), and no harm came to them. I have had Moslems come to hear me preach; I didn't threaten to enslave them or cut their heads off if they didn't receive Christ. I have had two Moslems admit to me that if I talked about Mohammed in their country the way I talked about him here, I would be killed. Why is it they didn't need to worry about that in my office? Somebody has the wrong religion!

Now Felix got a definite impression from Paul's preaching, and *he wanted the world to obliterate that impression*. Felix had Paul put in jail for two years and just waited. He'd bring Paul out of jail and hear him; then he would send him back again and wait. That happened again and again over a space of two years. What was Felix doing? He was letting the world get rid of the conviction he felt every time he heard Paul preach.

I will never know until I get home to glory how many people have heard me preach and had an impulse to

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come forward and receive Christ, but they never responded to that impulse and came. The moment they got out the doors of the church, there was the traffic, there were the restaurants, there were the radio and television, there was the job the next day, there were the wash and the dishes and the lawn and the spouse and the kids and the bills, and on and on. All thoughts of God, the Bible, Jesus Christ, sin, salvation, hell, and the New Jerusalem just went away—poof! just like that. The world was waiting right outside those doors to gobble them up. That Bible says, **“the cares of this world . . . choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful”** (Mark 4:19). When a man rejects Christ, the world steps in to obliterate any impression the Bible and the Holy Spirit made on him.

All kinds of excuses are used: “When I get to where I can live it, I’ll get saved,” “Let me get my family affairs straightened out first (or my bills or some bad habit or the wrong friends—any excuse to put off accepting Christ), etc. After putting it off time and time again, the lost man will say, “I’ll get saved on my deathbed.” Do you know how many people get saved on their “deathbed” in that Bible? One!—the penitent thief on the cross. The old saying is that one got saved on his deathbed so that none would despair, but *only one* got saved on his deathbed so that *none would presume*.

It is *possible* for a sinner to get saved just before he dies, but the *probability is extremely low*. Out of all the people who lived on earth from Adam to Christ, *only one* did it. What

do you reckon your chances are? Why do you think you’ll be the *exception* instead of the *rule*? The exception *proves* the rule, and the rule is you probably *won’t* get saved just before you die.

People, that world system is set up to take your mind off everything God said and to cause you to forget it. The Devil has an SOP for you, sinner—a Standard Operating Procedure he uses on everybody. The first thing he will try to do is *prevent you from hearing* the word of God. If he can’t do that, then he will work on you so you *don’t understand* the word of God. If you hear it and understand it, then he will try to get you to *forget* the word of God. If you remember what you heard and understand, then his final step is to get you to *disobey* the word of God. Everything the Devil does is aimed at *what God said in that Book*. He uses the world to *distract* you from it and cause you to *forget* it.

What was Felix’s trouble? Well, Felix was married to **“a Jewess”** (Acts 24:24), and he was afraid if he professed Christ it would bust up his home. He knew how the Jews felt about Jesus Christ (see John 8:41, 10:31–33).

I don’t know if you faced any “consequences” for receiving Christ when you got saved, but some of the brethren had a tough decision to make when they got saved. There was a ship from Egypt docked out at the Port of Pensacola one time, and a couple of the Moslem sailors came out to the Sunday evening service and got saved. They came back to my office to talk to me after the service and

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ask if they should witness to the other Moslems aboard ship. You see, if they did, it was highly likely they would be killed, because under Sharia (Koranic law), any "apostate" (a Moslem who leaves Islam) is to be killed by other Moslems. (Moslems who get saved have more sense and knowledge of these things than our politicians.) What do you say to someone in that situation? All I could tell them was to pray about it, and that was between them and God. You say, "Ruckman, you should have told them to . . ." Yeah, that's your problem: you are too quick to hand out advice about something about which you know nothing.

One of my friends led a homosexual to the Lord up in Michigan. That fellow who got saved had been a "queen" (a crossdresser, a transvestite) for years. That guy told my buddy, "I guess this means I'll have to give up what I've been doing." The soulwinner said, "Yeah, that's what it means." The new convert said, "The others will *kill me*."

That's your sodomites who want the "right" to "love" anybody they want: they will *kill* anybody who leaves the "lifestyle" (see Gen. 19). That was from someone who *knew* what those kind of people are. They're in the grade schools, high schools, and colleges right now trying to recruit your kids into their perversion.

All my buddy could tell that guy was: "I'll leave that between you and the Lord. That's your business; I'm not qualified to tell you want to do." I think that's the right thing to tell someone like that. What do you know about being a brand new baby Christian and

having to decide whether or not you are going to be a martyr for Jesus Christ?

I must admit, I don't know of many converted faggots who got right and stayed right, but that one did. He went back to that old crowd and told them what he had done and let them know the old life was over. Sure enough, within two weeks he was dead—killed with a soldering iron. Some of the brethren have to face a lot more trouble than you ever have when they receive Christ.

Now Felix was hoping for a *better time* to get saved: "**when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee**" (Acts 24:25). Of course, the better time *never came*.

If you stay away from the preaching, others will follow you. If you shrink back from doing what God wants you to do, you will have an affect on other people. Do you know why pastors of fundamental Baptist churches warn their young people against coming to Bible school at PBI? It's not because they'll "turn out like Ruckman." That's a smokescreen to hide the real reason. The real reason is the pastors know if their young people come here and pay attention in class for three years that they will know more Bible than the pastors do and the people who taught the pastors at the major fundamental, conservative, and evangelical "institutions of higher learning." Those pastors don't want any of their parishioners to know that their pastor blew his money down a rathole for four years. Don't follow a bad example like that.

Felix was a governor; people

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looked up to him. Don't you know that a lot of people would follow him if he didn't become a Christian.

Here is the Catholic Church speaking for "Christians" the world over and telling everyone that they get the new birth by being sprinkled by a Roman Catholic priest. That's the Catholic Church assisting every sinner on this earth to go to hell. There's no telling how many millions of people they damned with that.

Do you know what the Catholic Mass is all about? It is all about getting the sinner to receive a *thing* (the wafer) instead of a *Person* (Jesus Christ). **"Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for HE . . ."**—not some starchy cookie—" . . . **for HE shall save his people from their sins**" (Matt. 1:21). Substituting a wafer and a bottle of shinny for a living Saviour will put you in hell just as sure as the world, but multiplied millions of people do that because they follow the lead of a bunch of lost religionists headed there themselves (Matt. 15:14).

Salvation is in a Person, not a thing. It isn't in baptism or sacraments or prayer beads or a church or a religion or Ramadan or the Shahada or the Hajj or jihad. It's in the *person of the Lord Jesus Christ*.

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

Another thing about Felix was that he *wanted money* (Acts 24:26). Felix put Christ off for a *buck*. Felix had the apostle God sent especially to **"Gentiles, and kings"** (Acts 9:15) right in front of him, and he missed heaven by a "country mile." You couldn't have

asked for a better preacher if you were a lost man. Paul wrote more than half the New Testament and had had a supernatural appearance of Jesus Christ to him when he got saved on the road to Damascus. Felix got as close to salvation as a man could get and then stumbled on into hell. The rich young ruler did the same thing; Judas did the same thing; Herod and Pilate did the same thing.

I have read or heard of hundreds of cases where someone up in the woods of Minnesota, Montana, Colorado, Canada, Alaska, etc., has gotten trapped outside in a blizzard trying to find the way back to his cabin and later been found dead only 200 yards away from the door. So near and yet so far. Is that you? Have you come all the way up to the gate of heaven only to end up someday in the lake of fire because you won't enter **"in at the strait gate"** (Matt. 7:13)?

You say, "Ruckman, I don't believe in hell." You will when you get there. That rich man in Luke 16 did: he believed every word of it, but it was *too late*.

You say, "But why would God send a man to hell to burn forever and ever?" Because, sinner friend, you are pitting the filthy rags of your own self-righteousness (Isa. 64:6) against the perfect righteousness of a holy God. The Lord takes that personally, because He's the only one who legitimately can. It's not a "petty" thing with Him. Add to that the fact that He sent His own Son to pay the penalty for your sin, and then offer you His righteousness as a free gift based on that sacrifice. If you turn down such a

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thing, how would you think He would react?

Listen, you can pay for any crime you commit against another man *down here* in time. But you are not dealing with a man who lives seventy, eighty, ninety, or a hundred years when you're dealing with God! You are dealing with *an eternal Being who made you*. You will pay for your sins as long as God lives—*forever*. That's because your sin was against *Him*. You try pretending you are more righteous than God, and you think you'll get away with it? You won't! You will experience the part of God's nature that **"is a consuming fire"** (Heb. 12:29). It won't just be "separation from God" like Billy Graham and the pope teach.

According to the statistics about 7,452 people die in this country every

day. If even a tenth of those are saved in the current condition of this nation, I would be surprised. Will you be one of the Americans who goes to hell from a nation that has more churches, more Bibles, more tracts, more Christian radio stations, and more gospel preaching than probably any other nation on earth? I am afraid Felix will have plenty of company in the lake of fire from America.

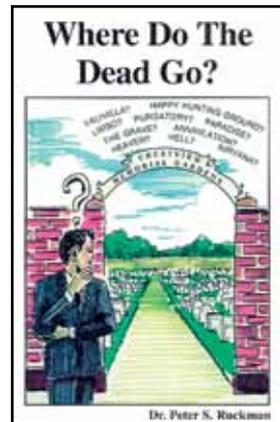
Are you saved? Do you know where you are going when you die? Are you trusting your own righteousness or the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus? Whatever you do, don't make the same mistakes that Felix did with his own soul. He put off salvation. He put off salvation to avoid conflict in the home. He put off salvation trying to get money. Felix has been paying the price for nearly 2,000 years now. Don't be a typical lost man like Felix.

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it was happening. Through a number of years of praying and crying and pleading with the Lord to open her barren womb, these two had no idea that they were being prepared to bring forth the long-awaited “**messenger**” who was to blaze the trail before the coming of the Lord (Malachi 3:1).

As so often is the case, as Zechariah went about his service for the Lord (Luke 1:8), he was visited by God and received the answer to his prayer. Gabriel not only announced to him that he and his wife would have a son (Luke 1:13), but that this son would be filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb (verse 15), would come into this world in the spirit and power of Elijah (verse 17), and would be the fulfillment of a four hundred year old prophecy as the messenger to go before the Lord Himself (Malachi 3:1-2). Zachariah remained without speech for the next nine months, but once the child was born, his tongue was loosed (Luke 1:64), and he preached a prophecy that showed just how full of the scriptures his heart was, as he quoted the Psalms, Isaiah, Genesis, and Micah (Luke 1:67-79). His wife Elisabeth was also full of the scriptures in the midst of her sorrows, and because of that, she was able to discern the will of God when her cousin Mary came to visit while they both were pregnant (Luke 1:39-45). But had it not been for the sorrow of those years of barrenness, Zachariah and Elisabeth would have missed the blessing of the meeting with Gabriel, as well as the joy of raising the long-awaited forerunner

of the Lord Jesus.

Sorrow opens our eyes and allows us to see beyond the hurt and loss. Sorrow is the great teacher that washes the infected coating of the temporal and the self-serving from our eyes, that we might see the eternal. Sorrow allows us to be gentle with others who are hurting and who are also walking under its shadow. One of the Christian's best friends will be sorrow. We naturally are prone to run and hide from it, yet it is that very heartache that prods us to keep a view of the eternal and points out to us the faithful Saviour who draws that much closer to our side, thanks to the sorrow. The sorrow of a private, personal, unanswered prayer is the door that opens and brings the child of God unto the throne of grace, **“that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”** (Hebrews 4:16). The unanswered prayer that seems to remain so barren is the friend that brings forth the tears and the broken and contrite heart, that cannot remain hard and selfish any longer. The **“weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning”** (Psalm 30:5). The morning that we are about to enter is an eternal one with no night there.

Thanks to the many years of sorrow, there must have been some extra care in Elisabeth's and Zacharias' raising of this child. Their eyes were washed clean by the tears, and they were able to place so much more of an eternal purpose in the discipline of their boy. He was to be raised for a unique public ministry of six short

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months, that was to be preceded by thirty years of isolated preparation. No ordinary man could be used to fulfill what he was he called to do. John spent time alone with the scriptures, away from his peers, in the sorrows of loneliness. By the time of his showing, he did not even realize just how different he really was in his thinking, his diet, or his dress code, as compared to the others. John would go out and preach, and the crowds flocked to his outdoor pulpit in the Jordan valley. All of this attention caused the Pharisees to check him out, and when they asked if he were the Christ, Elijah, or that Prophet, John replied **“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness”** (John 1:23). The time quickly came for John to step aside and turn over his disciples and his crowds to the Lamb of God. But this was no problem since, in the sorrows of his loneliness, John had already learned that to begin with, they never really were his disciples, nor his crowds. The crowds he once preached to, now clamored around Jesus, looking for a sign, and even disparaged John’s ministry with the statement that **“John did no miracle”** (John 10:41).

Zacharias and Elisabeth’s boy soon sat alone in a prison cell, while the crowds attended to the preaching of Christ. He had the nerve to point his finger in Herod’s face and preach against his sin, while faithfully executing his calling, doing exactly what the Holy Ghost led him to do. He found himself again in the familiar position of drinking in the sorrow of loneliness as he sat

in his cell and began to go over the scriptures of the prophets in his mind that he knew so well. He thought of the prophet Isaiah’s words, **“And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joys upon their heads...”**, he thought of the desert he preached in, and remembered reading, **“the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose...”**, he heard of the stir that the Messiah was causing, even among the Gentiles, and he thought of how it was written that **“the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising”**. Yet in the midst of his sorrow, perhaps more than any other, John remembered the prophecy of the servant of Isaiah 42 along with the promise that he would **“open the blind eyes, TO BRING OUT THE PRISONERS FROM THE PRISON...”** (Isaiah 42:7), and what better time to fulfill those words than right now? John was not only human but carried within him the melancholy spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17), who also once licked his wounds in private sorrow and wondered why he was the only one (1 Kings 19:10). So one day John called for two of his faithful men and sent them to remind Christ that he still sat in prison (Matthew 11:2-3). John had no doubt who Jesus was, for he had seen the Spirit descending like a dove and remaining on him (John 1:32-33). But sorrow was doing its work, and the flesh was fighting back in a death struggle as it always does. The question from John’s disciples caused Christ to proclaim that, **“Among them**

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that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11), but in typical fashion, Jesus did not say it until John's disciples had already left and could not report it back to John (verse 7). The Baptist had to continue for a little while longer drinking from the well of sorrow alone. John's head was eventually severed and delivered on a charger to the adulterous Herodias (Matthew 14:10-11), causing the Lord Jesus to retire alone into a desert place Himself (Matthew 14:13).

King David was also a man familiar with the blessings of sorrow and its accompanying fruit. With a myriad of family troubles with his children, his best friend's Dad (Saul) trying to kill him, and his closest advisor (Ahithophel) turning on him, David learned the deep lessons that only sorrow can teach. The Lord put David into a position where he could only lean on the Lord's help and mercies. He cried out, **"For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance"** (Psalm 55:12-13). David drank deep from the well of sorrow until he could not even speak. He wrote, **"I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred"** (Psalm 39:2). So many of the psalms were penned in the midst of personal sorrow in his life.

The sorrow of a dying baby seemed more than his heart could bear, as he **"lay all night upon the earth"** (II Samuel 12:16), considering the havoc that his own sin had caused, only to watch next, as one of his sons forced his own sister (Amnon with Tamar), followed by another son (Absalom), killing that same brother. Eventually, the favoured Absalom would rise to steal the kingdom from his father, and then be killed for his crimes. **"And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!"** (II Samuel 18:33).

The work of sorrow caused David to spend much time with God alone, and we are privy to his prayer life in the form of the psalms in a way that has helped countless Christians to be reminded to cling to the Lord, even as the tears are flowing. **"Lord, how long will thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions...This thou hast seen, O Lord: keep not silence...Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears...My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?... Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? arise...a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."** David's victories through his sorrows have become a rallying cry in the scriptures as a help to those in sorrow even today. Even in

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the hardest of our trials, we are given both comfort and strength through the promises found in the Psalms.

Yet the greatest comforter of sorrows remains the **“man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief”** (Isaiah 53:3), the Lord Jesus himself. Though **“despised and rejected of men”**, the Lord Jesus Christ went so deep into our well of sorrows, till he alone **“hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows”** (Isaiah 53:4). He cared when we cared not, he loved when we loved not, and he obeyed when we obeyed not. Whether it was alone in the desert to face the devil (Matthew 4:1-2), or in the darkness before dawn in a solitary place (Mark 1:35), or on a mountaintop to pray alone (Mark 6:46), or to face his accusers without friends (Mark 14:50), or hanging on Calvary's cross, forsaken by his God (Mark 15:34), or laying in a tomb with a stone rolled over the door (Mark 15:46), Jesus has put himself in position as our shield and buckler in all of our sorrows. Since he has already gone through it in our place, he can **“be touched with the feeling of our infirmities”** (Hebrews 4:15), and is the great bearer of our burdens, and helper in our need, and able to succour in our times of trial and sorrow (Hebrews 2:18).

“No one ever cared for me like Jesus,

There's no other friend so kind as he;

No one else could take the sin and darkness from me,

O how much He cared for me.”

“What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry,
Everything to God in prayer!”

“Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?

Take it to the Lord in prayer,
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,

Thou wilt find a solace there.”

If the reader is in the midst of heavy sorrows, be reminded that it is only for awhile. Not only will the Lord Jesus never leave you in your sorrows, he will soon show up to **“gather them that are sorrowful”** (Zephaniah 3:18). The Christian has the promise that sorrow can work in us the great work of repentance (II Corinthians 7:9). So often, it is not until sorrow comes close enough to cling from the start of our day through the closing of our eyes at night, that we finally find it **“after a godly sort”**, till it has wrought in us a **“carefulness”**, a **“clearing”**, an **“indignation”**, a **“fear”**, a **“vehement desire”**, and a **“zeal”**, and we find ourselves back in fellowship with our Saviour and **“clear in this matter”** (II Corinthians 7:11). May the Lord be pleased with our response to the work of sorrow in each of our lives as we offer the **“sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name”** (Hebrews 13:15), even thanking him for that sorrow which is so despised and hurtful to our flesh.

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A Typical Lying Fundamentalist

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

The following quotes are from a letter by Bob Jones III, back before he moved from "President" to "Chancellor" of Bob Jones University. They are to a Bible-believing young man in Birmingham, Alabama. I reproduce them here because they are so very typical of the outrageous lying that passes for "logical argument" among fundamentalists and conservatives in refuting the Bible-believing position on the scriptures. Things haven't changed in fifteen years, or for that matter, in the last sixty years since I attended BJU. Egotism, stupidity, and the inability to read sixth-grade English are the hallmarks of these apostates. So here is Bob Jones III, a typical lying fundamentalist.

"The writers (note the *plural*) of Scripture knew they were being moved by the Holy Ghost, and they said so." *They said nothing of the kind.* Bob Jones III quoted 2 Peter 1:21. Look at the verse.

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God SPAKE as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Bob Jones III quoted that verse as if he had good sense. *He couldn't read what was written.* There's nothing in the passage about any "writer of Scripture . . . being moved by the Holy Ghost."

You say, "Peter's talking about the 'prophecy of the SCRIPTURE' (2 Pet. 1:20), Ruckman." That's true, but verse 21 says nothing about any "writer"; it says, **"holy men of God SPAKE as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."** There's nothing about *writing* in the passage.

In all this gas about "inspiration" and

"the original autographs," the president (now chancellor) of a Christian university couldn't even discuss the process of inspiration as described in the scriptures. It is given in Jeremiah 36.

"And it came to pass . . . that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee . . . Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book" (Jer. 36:1–2, 4).

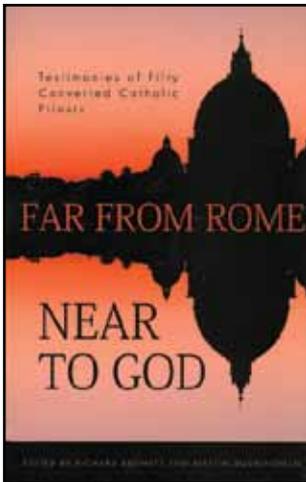
In that passage, the Holy Ghost wasn't moving the "writer of Scripture" at all. *Baruch* was the writer. The Holy Ghost was moving Jeremiah to *speak* the prophecy, and Baruch was writing it down as Scripture, exactly as you find it in 2 Peter 1:20–21. Bob Jones III couldn't read.

"The writers of Scripture knew that they were being moved by the Holy Ghost, AND THEY SAID SO." They did?! Care to show me where Mark claimed that the Gospel he wrote was **"given by inspiration"** or that he was **"moved by the Holy Ghost"** when he wrote it? The writers of Ruth, 1 & 2 Chronicles, and Esther *"knew* they were being moved by the Holy Ghost and they *said so,*" did they? Chapter and verse? Second Peter 1 is not the profession of the writers of those books; it is a revelation given to Peter hundreds of years after the fact.

The lie Bob Jones III is trying to foist on this young man is that since the King James translators didn't claim inspira-

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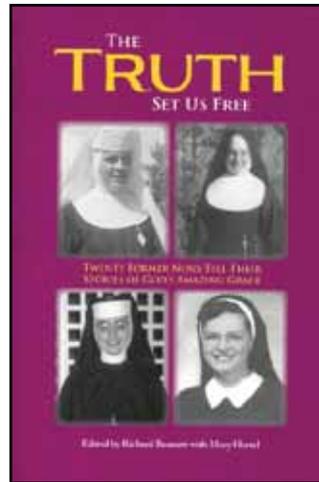


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A Typical Lying Fundamentalist

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tion for their work that the AV couldn't possibly be **"given by inspiration of God."** Well, throw out Matthew, Luke, and Acts, then, because Matthew and Luke never claimed "inspiration" for their works either.

Get rid of Paul's epistles because he never claimed to be "inspired" as he wrote them. You say, "They are called **'scriptures'** in 2 Peter 3:16." That's *Peter* claiming inspiration for Paul's work; it's not Paul doing it. As far as the record goes, Paul didn't "know he was being moved by the Holy Ghost," and he never "said so." You want the real "kicker," though, about 2 Peter 3:16—*Peter never claimed inspiration for his own writings.* Evidently, one can write "inspired Scripture" under the moving of the Holy Ghost, and *be oblivious of it.*

Back to Bobby III: "Where does this leave everyone who spoke English before 1611?" I've got a better one for you, Bobby: *Where does it leave everyone who spoke Greek before the New Testament was written?* Where does it leave 98% of the world's population who never spoke or read *Hebrew* when three-quarters of the Bible was originally written in Hebrew? Why did God "verbally inspire" "original plenaries" in a language 98% of the world would never understand? Answer that one, buddy, before you try destroying a young Christian's belief in the Book God has given him.

Bob Jones III: "Those were the best days of the church," referring to the ten imperial persecutions from A.D. 70–313 and the Reformation before 1611. The years of Roman persecution

were the church's "best days," were they? According to which church historian? Would you care to ask the martyrs whose blood flowed all throughout the Roman Empire if *they* thought those were the church's "best days"?

Why, the King James Bible brought about more revival and more missionary outreach in 300 years than "the originals" brought about in 1,500 years. And as much as God blessed the right text in the vernacular translations of Europe, not even they were as used of God as the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible. *That* was the Bible taken around the world by British and American missionaries in "the Great Century" of the missionary movement (the nineteenth century). The King James Bible went into 160 major languages and 200 minor languages before 1900 and eventually went to the moon. Between the British and Foreign Bible Society and the American Bible Society, the King James Bible went into a billion copies. No other Bible produced during, before, or after the Reformation ever attained that circulation. So when it comes to *the proliferation of the scriptures*, not even the Reformation can lay claim to "the best days of the church."

Bob Jones III: "The church did not have the King James translation, but they had the scripture." Hold the phone! What do you mean "they had the Scripture"? I thought **"ALL SCRIPTURE IS GIVEN BY INSPIRATION OF GOD"** (2 Tim. 3:16). You mean to tell me Bob Jones III believes Christians from, say, A.D. 200–1604 had **"scripture"** that was **"given by inspiration."** Don't you believe it.

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A Typical Lying Fundamentalist

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The official position of Bob Jones University, as given by the head of its Bible department back in 1990 (Stewart Custer), is: “The Bible is indeed the Word of God INsofar as it AGREES WITH THE WORDING OF THE ORIGINAL GREEK AND HEBREW AUTOGRAPHS” (*The Last Grenade*, 1990, pg. 53). In other words, Bob Jones University takes the same position as *the Mormons*: “The Bible is the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly” (eighth article of the Mormon faith). Bob Jones University will “one up” the Latter Day Saints, though, by not only telling you where the mistranslations and “unfortunate renderings” are but what parts you are to *throw out* because they are not in “the original autographs.”

Problem: no one at Bob Jones University has the “original autographs.” What they have are “inferior manuscripts” (*those on which the King James Version is based*) and “superior manuscripts” (the *Alexandrian manuscripts* on which the Westcott-and-Hort text is based; i.e., the text of the RSV, ASV, NASV, NIV, ESV, the Roman Catholic Challoner-Rheims Version, and the Jehovah’s Witness New World Translation)—see *The Last Grenade*, page 50.

If only “the originals” were “**given by inspiration,**” then *no one* at Bob Jones University from the president down to the janitor has a copy of the scriptures. If only the original autographs are “inspired,” then no one from A.D. 120 (P52)–1568 (the Bishop’s Bible) had “the Scripture” because “**ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God.**” Nobody in A.D. 100, 200, 300,

400, 1500, or 1600, had David’s original Twenty-third Psalm or the original autographs of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Amos, Hosea, Joel, or Zechariah.

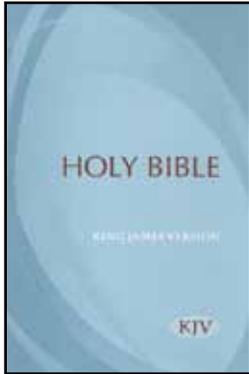
My, my, what desperate lengths a pathological liar will go to justify his dirty, rotten sins. His first statement and his third statement were vicious lying of the worst sort, and his second statement was a lie by implication. Everything he said was a lie from start to finish. Nothing has changed since those statements were made; the lies still go on. Here is the current position of the school as found on its website ([www. bju.edu](http://www.bju.edu)) under “Statement about Bible Translations”:

“Although Bob Jones University does not hold to a King James only position” Well, neither do we. We use 26 different translations here at the Pensacola Bible Institute. The difference between us and Bob Jones University is that we USE 26 translations and BELIEVE *one Book*; at BJU, they USE the King James and *believe nothing*. They will correct *any* version, *any* Greek text, *any* translation with *their own opinion*: they are their own final authority. At PBI, we judge everything *by the Book*: IT is the final authority.

“. . . we continue to hold the widely used King James Version (KJV) as the campus standard in the classroom and in the chapel pulpit” Why? Why hold to something you say is from inferior manuscripts? I’ll tell you why—\$\$\$! They still use it because, despite BJU’s best efforts over sixty-plus years, the majority of professing Bible-believing Christians in this country still read that Book and believe it to be God’s words

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A Typical Lying Fundamentalist

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to them in English. Bob Jones University uses the *KJV* because they have to: it's Semler's "Accommodation Theory" applied by fundamentalists instead of Catholics and German rationalists.

"The position of the University on the translation issue HAS NOT CHANGED since the founding of the school in 1927." That's 2014. So what Bob Jones III wrote to that young man years ago is the *current position* on the scriptures. Nobody at Bob Jones University has a copy of the scriptures, and nobody there has ever seen a copy of the scriptures, and they haven't since 1927.

"We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible IN THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS . . ." So nobody at BJU has ever "**searched the scriptures**" (John 5:39) or read the scriptures or memorized the scriptures because "**ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God,**" and at Bob Jones University only the "original manuscripts" were verbally plenary "inspired."

". . . and we believe that God has supernaturally preserved every one of His inspired words for us today." Just not in Luke 2:33; Romans 8:1; Colossians 1:14; 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 5:7; or Revelation 22:14 in a King James Bible. "God has supernaturally preserved every one of his inspired words"—just not in the inferior manuscripts on which the King James was based and which brought about the greatest age of revival and missions the world has ever seen. He chose to "supernaturally preserve . . . His inspired words" through gnostics and philosophers down in Alexandria, Egypt, and through rationalists, evolutionists, spiritualists, and Pusey-

ites in Germany and England.

"However, from the founder to the present administration, we have never taken the position that there can be only one good translation in the English language." When I went to school there, they sold the RSV New Testament in their bookstore. When they finally came to the conclusion that the RSV was "Liberal," they dumped it for the NASV, which came from the *same corrupt Greek text as the RSV*; ditto the ASV, NIV, and ESV. Those are some of BJU's "good translations."

Now that is Bob Jones III and Stephen Jones, his son who is (as of 2014) the current president of the University and put out the above "Statement about Bible Translations." They are *liars*; they are *professional liars*—they make their living off lying about the Book. But there is nothing particularly unusual or unique about their lying. They are typical of the kind of lying that goes on in Tennessee Temple, Pensacola Christian, Crown, Liberty, Regents, Kings, Moody, Fuller, and the Seminaries at Dallas, New Orleans, Louisville, and Denver. We have listed 320 of these liars in our work *The Christian Liar's Library* back in 1997 (which see).

Now before closing this brief discourse on a typical lying fundamentalist, I would like to pose a challenge to the apostate fundamentalists that we have made many times before. I would like any faculty member, professor, or "administrator" at any of the apostate institutions listed above to send us one verse in *any* major version of *any* major Bible translation in *any* language, from *any* set of manuscripts, which states *any*

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A Typical Lying Fundamentalist

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of the following:

1. *Only* the original autographs are inspired.

2. The “*original autographs*” were inspired.

3. The original autographs are the only *inspired Scripture*.

4. The *Textus Receptus Greek copies* are “the word of God.”

5. The AV was *not* “**given by inspiration.**”

6. *No translation* was “**given by inspiration.**”

7. No translation *could* be inspired.

8. A man has a right to call any *dead* book (cf. Heb. 4:12) that is not “**given by inspiration**” the “Word of God.”

9. Calling a book the “Word of God” makes it *Holy Scripture*.

10. Every Christian in America and England *before 1950* thought the Authorized Version was full of errors and only *the original Greek text* was inerrant.

11. The Spanish, French, Italians, Polish, Hungarians, Romanians, Russians, Tamil, Burmese, etc., never had the scriptures a day in their lives because the *scriptures* are *only* the plenary, verbally inspired “originals.”

12. You can trust any of these apostates whose ultimate and highest authority is *his own opinion* about what he “*uses.*”

I will “prophesy” here: you won’t hear one word out of those lying hypocrites in public. They will wait until they are behind closed doors in their classrooms where they can’t be taped, and mock and ridicule what I just presented to them WITHOUT GIVING ONE VERSE FOR WHAT THEY PROFESS TO BELIEVE.

You see, they traded in their Bible for a pile of lost pieces of paper none of them has ever seen and lied about them being in one book when they never were. They then pretended that you have the words from those lost pieces of paper in Nestle’s Greek text (or Westcott and Hort’s Greek text) when they themselves would change those words in a heartbeat if they thought they were wrong. In the end, they are their own “God” because *they* decide what God said and what He didn’t say based on their own *opinions* and *preferences*. But they will tell you *anything* to make you think they “stand for the absolute authority of the Bible.” They are typical lying fundamentalists.

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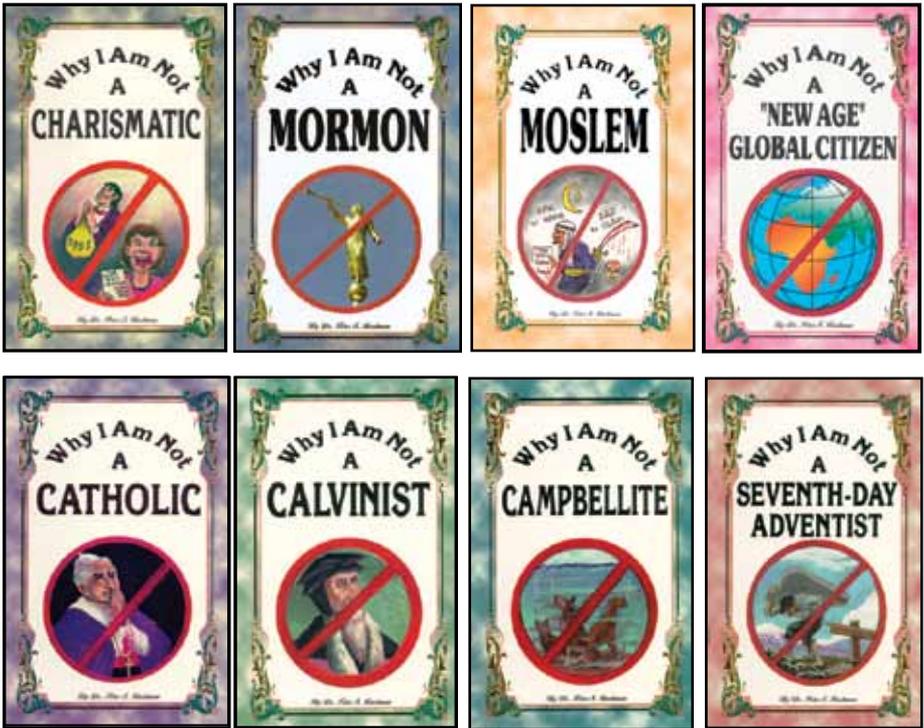
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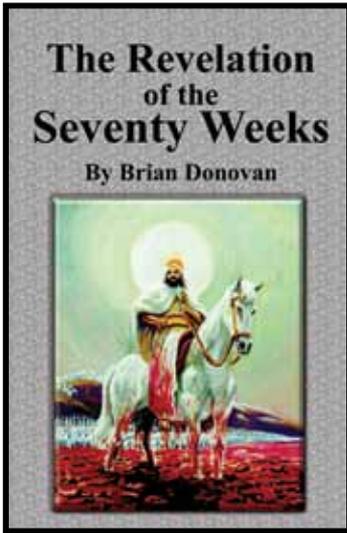
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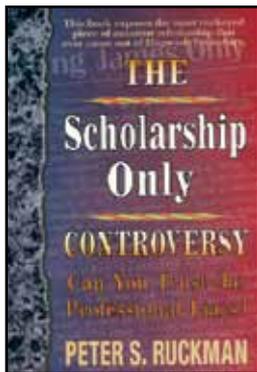
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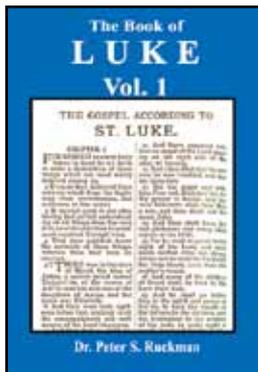
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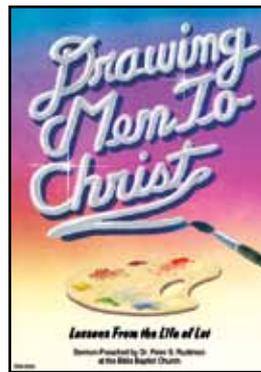
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The New Athenians

By Robert Militello

“(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)” (Acts 17:21).

Thanks to the internet and smartphones, Americans have become modern day Athenians. Our local news station here has a special segment called “What’s trending?”. Life for so many in our society has become so vapid that the desire to hear and to pass on what is new is helping to spawn a mental health crisis. Have you ever heard this expression of exasperation, “Stop the world; I want to get off”? Our minds are finite, and we can store only so much information before there is an overload. Many are now badly overloaded.

Years ago, no one ever heard of Alzheimer’s, though the term *senility* was understood by all. Today, we know that Alzheimer’s is a cause of dementia and is considered a disease.. In Latin, *mens, mentis* means “mind,” and you get the words *mental* and *mentality*. The mind we have inherited from our first parents is diseased by sin. It has made mental cases of us all. Only the Lord walked this earth with a completely unpolluted mind. Curiosity, which in itself is not evil, was the gate by which the serpent was able to seduce Eve. Genesis 3:6 tells us that Eve liked what she saw and somehow deduced that the tree she was told not to eat of had the capacity to make her wise. Isn’t that interesting? She was told that she could be as God by acquiring a wisdom (knowing good and evil) that the LORD GOD kept from her and Adam. And what

did she learn by satisfying her curiosity? What’s new, Eve? “I learned that I was naked, and I didn’t know that before.” Wonderful, now what?

What followed Eve’s adventure into the unknown with a husband who put her above his God was sixteen hundred plus years of human depravity. It got so bad that the LORD had to drown out everyone except Noah and his family and start all over. Now Noah was a righteous man, but not a perfect one. His sons and grandchildren were not untainted by sin. The door of Mother Eve’s mind opened to Satan by her desire to be wise would cause the best of men to cry out, **“O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”** (Rom. 7:24). Job, who was said by God in Job 1:8 to be **“a perfect and an upright man,”** says **“Behold, I am vile”** (Job 40:4). The extent of our depravity caused by sin is not apparent to us. God has to dig it out and expose it because it is so well hidden in the best of us—Amen?

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and DESPERATELY WICKED: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9).

Is there anything really new about how men live their lives?

“The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN” (Eccl. 1:9).

Germans say, *“Was gibt es neues?”*—What’s new? Thanks to Martin Luther, they got the Bible in their own language, and that was really something new. Neverthe-

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The New Athenians

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less, do they read it? That's the only book man will ever read that reveals something new to every honest heart searching for truth. Everything else is days-old bread which you can bring to your neighborhood park bench and feed the pigeons. Man has nothing to offer that is really new. He experiences joy and sorrow, fights with a guilty conscience, gets old if he's lucky, and then gives up the ghost. What follows will be very new if he dies without Christ. While alive, did he open a Bible to discover what follows this life? He could have, if he wanted to. What is and will always be worth pursuing is the knowledge of Scripture. So today, because of men's ignorance of God's word, what is really new to them is what God thinks of men and their inventions.

Heaven couldn't give two flips about what is trending or what the new smartphones can do. You would be wise to take heed to the Lord's advice: **"Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls"** (Jer. 6:16). In these last days, the Lord has allowed the Devil to give men knowledge never dreamed of by their ancestors. Daniel was told by God in Daniel 12:4 that **"many shall run to and fro [look at the airports on a holiday weekend], and KNOWLEDGE SHALL BE INCREASED."** If you have a Ruckman Reference Bible (you should have), look at Dr. Ruckman's note on Daniel 12:4. See in 1 Corinthians 8:1 and 1 Timothy 6:20 where the Christian is warned about

men's knowledge.

When the atomic bomb was first tested on July 16, 1945 in the desert of New Mexico, men marveled at a 40,000-foot-high mushroom cloud that brought in something really new. Humanity now had the power to destroy this earth. What belonged only to the Creator was put into men's hands at last. Here's where Mother Eve's curiosity had taken us—isn't knowledge wonderful?

A Jew from New York City, Julius Robert Oppenheimer, became the father of the atomic bomb. Ironically, the code name for the first test of this new bomb was *Trinity*. Oppenheimer, in a letter to a friend, said, "Why I chose the name *Trinity* is not clear." But Oppenheimer had been impressed by a devotional poem by John Donne, and the poem opens with: "Batter my heart, three person'd God." This Jew was God's instrument to end the war with Japan. President Harry Truman ordered two bombs to be dropped: one on Hiroshima and, a few days later, one on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered. President Truman was told that Japan had two million men under arms ready to defend their islands. It was estimated that an invasion of those islands by the Army and the Marines would result in one million casualties, dead and wounded. To spare American families the enormous grief such an invasion would cause, Truman ordered the bombs dropped. A lost Jew used by God brought the suffering America had experienced since Pearl Harbor to an end. Our God gave a Jew in America knowledge that Hitler's scientists had been developing and

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The New Athenians

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 were on the brink of perfecting. What then, if Hitler had the bomb first? Somehow, it always comes back to the Jew—amazing, isn't it? I have a Jewish Book that tells me of a Jewish Saviour, and in that Book, I possess all the knowledge and wisdom I'll ever need to walk with God. As of A.D. 90, when John wrote the book of Revelation, God gave man His last word. Man can't add anything to it. What you need to know is in that Book, and there's really **"no new thing under the sun."**

Advertising agencies know better than most the power of two words to seduce Americans into trying the products being marketed. Those words are *new* and *improved*. Consumers yield to these advertising gimmicks because it is human nature to desire something better than what you already have. In a garden of perfect peace and delight, Eve was willing to seek for more. Satan had the same desire, and it took him down. He lost a very lofty and exalted position as the anointed cherub. Adam, being given a free will, had to be tried to see if he would obey God freely. Jesus, as a man, was tried. He had opportunity to step out of His Father's will but closed the door on that prospect. Our Lord got the victory in a garden on the Mount of Olives while Adam and his helpmeet lost it in a garden of serenity where they walked with God. Contentment is a state of being that few attain, even among God's own. We sing, "When peace like a river attendeth my way," but how many saints live within that peace daily? Wanting to hear or tell something new is the reason most

saints will never know the reality of the peace that **"passeth all understanding"** (Phil. 4:7), and that is a real shame.

"New" shows up 150 times in the King James. The first time is in Exodus 1:8 with **"a new king over Egypt."** That wasn't good for God's people. Revelation 21:5 says, **"Behold, I make all things new."** So the story of the Lord's saints ends well. For sure, the Bible is very good news for those who love the truth and resolve to walk in it.

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13).

Paul, commissioned by God to take the gospel to the Gentiles, stood the Greek philosophers on their ears with the account of a Jewish rabbi who rose bodily from the dead. If that could be verified, it was the most astounding news flash the world would ever hear. Whether news is considered good or bad depends upon your understanding of God's word. Almost all the news given by the major networks and news outlets is crafted to make people of faith look foolish. News items are carefully selected and edited to promote the idea that man is his own savior.

Stories, all human interest ones, are newsworthy if they highlight the triumph of the human spirit over all obstacles. Nevertheless, the unstoppable barrage of terror incidents and mass shootings, especially school violence, speaks to the futility of men's efforts to make the world a better place to live in. Man is a failure and has been for over six thousand

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Continued from 26 years, but this obvious fact (not opinion) is to be minimized at all cost by promoting man's technology, medical achievements, and space exploration. It's human to want to feel good about yourself, so in a subtle way, news outlets act as pseudo-therapists. We want to hear, "You matter," "God loves you," "Believe in yourself," "Think positive," and "Live in the moment." Sounds good, amen?

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

When the temple in Jerusalem was burned to the ground and utterly destroyed in A.D. 70 by Titus, the way to approach a holy God was removed. The Jewish sacrificial system of burnt offerings and blood on the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies was violently discarded just as Jesus had foretold in Matthew 24:2. There had to be a new way to approach the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, or there would be no way at all. Paul told all who would listen, Jew and Greek, that there was a new way. This was really news. God had given to Paul a special revelation, **"the gospel of the grace of God"** (Acts 20:24), which the other apostles knew nothing of. All men everywhere could be declared righteous by simply trusting in a dead, and yet alive, Jewish rabbi named Jesus. The temple of God would now be a called-out people, Jew and Gentile, from all nations. The living God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, would dwell within earthly bodies and remain there sealed until the end of earthly life.

This news could not be contained and kept in the possession of believing Jews in Jerusalem. It had to be published everywhere throughout the Roman world and then to the four corners of the globe. That work goes on today, and by means of advanced technology, the truth of how to approach God is being made known to all. While man dreams of going to the stars, those who are born again look for the One who will take them past the stars to the Father's house.

Greek philosophers amused themselves with the notion that they were searching for wisdom by pondering the so-called **"deep things of man."** Nonsense, **"the wisdom of this world"** is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor. 1:19–20). One observable fact pointed out by Solomon in 980 B.C. would have been enough to expose their intellectual shallowness.

"Seeing there be many things that increase vanity, WHAT IS MAN THE BETTER?" (Eccl. 6:11).

That question lets all the air out of man's balloon and categorizes all philosophy professors (I had a few in college) as gas bags—nothing more! Man has gotten worse with time, at least since the flood, and the "triumph of the human spirit" ends with a reality check by a holy God **"in the valley of decision"**—see Joel 3:9–14. What's really new is what most men fervently hope is not true—a book that tells men, "You're a fool!" Intellectuals read books. They like that, but what they don't like is a book that reads them. Same goes for reporters and news editors—a class of people that thinks Catholicism is Christianity

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and a jackass in a Halloween costume represents Christ on earth.

“Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied”(Prov. 27:20).

Sin infected man through the eye-gate first. Eve saw and desired. We see and covet. Television put covetousness in the human heart on steroids. Many products on the shelves of grocery stores today became famous through advertising on television. God knows how many contracted lung, throat, and mouth cancer because the tobacco industry saw the potential of television to prosper and make rich those who sold their filthy weed. Showing me what's new is better than telling me what's new, so today the Devil uses a screen to snare new prisoners. Dr. Ruckman's ability to illustrate his sermons through a drawing helped countless souls grasp the truths found in God's word. Nevertheless, it's the preaching of God's word that saves. There's nothing new about preaching. Men first heard it coming out of a man's mouth while building a boat on dry land. Imagine asking Noah, “What's new?”. How about water falling from the sky upon your heads and drowning everyone like rats—how's that for hearing some new thing?

If anyone has the opportunity to declare what is really new and unheard of, it is the Bible-believing Christian. This world will be ruled by a Jewish dictator, and men will not go to war with each other for a thousand years. Again, how is that for something new? The Creator of the universe will put rebels against His government into a lake of fire

on earth, and no lawyer will file an appeal to a higher court. Talk about something new—there it is! What about a city made in heaven fifteen hundred miles long, foursquare, and hovering over a new earth? That's not science fiction. That will be or God is a liar. Men gathering on Mars Hill in Athens desired to hear and tell new things so long as those things did not include standing in judgment before a holy God. You would be amazed at how selective sinful human beings can be when it comes to what new thing they choose or choose not to believe. One who witnesses regularly knows exactly what I am talking about.

There is on the part of every believer an obligation to speak only that which he knows to be true. Many things we hear are not worth repeating, but sometimes they must be reported. **“It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you”** (1 Cor. 5:1). Were the Christians in Corinth gossiping to Paul? Be careful as to what you understand gossip to be. It can refer to a person. Webster's 7th Collegiate Dictionary says it is “a person who habitually reveals personal or sensational facts.” Gossip can be, and often is, this—“a rumor or report of an intimate nature.” It can often be covered with a pious veneer in order to hide malicious intent. “Pray for sister So-and-so; things are not good with her.” There are times when things ought to be brought to light. In such cases, you'll need wisdom because the Devil can charge you with being a gossip so as to keep hidden those things that ought to be exposed. Paul

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heard lots of things from believers wherever he went. Should he have stopped his ears when and if a local church needed guidance?

Paul did not hesitate to name names and alert the body of Christ to what the enemy was up to. What things were said about Paul? Those who are most zealous for the holiness of God and the authority of God's word, along with the integrity

of a congregation, will be slandered. It goes with the territory. Dr. Ruckman had it thrown at him from all sides. Pastor Donovan and preachers who fear God more than men will attract a "godly" bunch of gossips afraid that such men are lacking in what the loose tongues consider to be love. How is it that news seems to travel faster in church circles than in men's barbershops and women's

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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.

The New Athenians

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salons? Growing up in Brooklyn and having lots of Jews around me, I heard the word *yenta*. I asked my cousin, who lived in a multiple-dwelling building with almost all Jewish families, what the word meant. He laughed and said that *yentas* are the reason he was going to move the first chance he got.

In Leo Rosten's *Hooray for Yiddish*, five definitions for the word are offered. It means "a gossipy woman," "a blabbermouth," "someone who can't keep a secret," "a vulgar, ill-mannered woman" and "a man who acts the same and is afraid of his wife." Now, the early church was just about all Jewish, so imagine the pastoral problems that showed up back then. Really, what is new in human behavior—not much. To experience the real flavor of Jewish gossip, you need to be a fly on the wall in a beauty parlor on a Friday afternoon before Shabbat. Jewish neighborhoods have no shortage of salons. Gay men make up much of the staff, and under those hair dryers, stories are flying around like flies in a zoo. I know because my brother-in-law owned a beauty shop in Midwood, Brooklyn. That's where Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders grew up, and Senator Chuck Schumer and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and former Senator Barbara Boxer of California. It was there that I learned how important it was for a Jew to hear all that was new and then to retell it with certain embellishments.

"Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass

there in these days?" (Luke 24:18). On the road to Emmaus, two Jews couldn't fathom why the "**stranger**" that was walking with them hadn't known about Jesus of Nazareth and what happened to Him a few days back. Now, the big news was the body of Jesus was not in the tomb, and some yentas in their company were told by angels that Jesus was alive. How's that for a headline in the *Jerusalem Post*? Wonder of wonders, the Lord can even use yentas to spread stuff around quickly—amen?

So when it comes to gossip, we ought to fact check what we hear, if possible, or put what was told us in a closet. Paul told the philosophers and debaters in Athens things that were incomprehensible. How does a dead body come to life again after three days? Proof is great if you can get it. Thomas wanted it, but was upbraided for lack of faith. I wasn't there to see Jesus crucified or to see Him alive later, and you weren't there either. Yet we believe what was told us and written about in the Gospels. Is it because we are smarter than most? The Holy Spirit alone opened our hearts to believe. Now we pass along to others what we know, because knowing now and not when you are dead that you can have eternal life is new to almost everyone. It certainly was new to me as a lost Catholic. A Bible believer has, until he dies, the only real news that is worth hearing. Open your mouth for Jesus. That's why we are here.

"And some believed the things which were spoken, and SOME BELIEVED NOT" (Acts 28:24).

RADIO LOG

<p>ALABAMA</p> <p>Huntsville-Decatur WBXR 1140 AM 10:30 A.M. Sat. WBXR 101.3 10:30 A.M. Sat.</p> <p>Mobile WIJD 1270 AM 8:30 A.M. Sat. WIJD 97.9 FM 8:30 A.M. Sat.</p> <p>CALIFORNIA</p> <p>Lancaster KFXM 96.7 FM 7:30 A.M. Sun. kfxm.com (streaming) 7:30 A.M. Sun.</p> <p>COLORADO</p> <p>Aurora KLTT 670 AM 10:30 A.M. Sun.</p> <p>FLORIDA</p> <p>Pensacola WEBY 1330 AM 8:00 A.M. Sun. WEBY 99.1 FM 8:00 A.M. Sun. WNVY 1070 AM 3:30 P.M. Sat. WNVY 104.5 3:30 P.M. Sat.</p> <p>ILLINOIS</p> <p>Bone Gap WXWS-LP 100.1 FM 1:30 P.M. 9:30 P.M.</p> <p>INDIANA</p> <p>Indianapolis WBRI 1500 AM 6:00 P.M. Sat. WBRI 96.7 FM</p> <p>KANSAS</p> <p>Kansas City KCNW 1380 AM 6:30 P.M. Sat. KCNW 96.1 FM 6:30 P.M. Sat.</p>	<p>LOUISIANA</p> <p>Alexandria-Lafayette-Lake Charles KWDF 840 AM 9:00 A.M. Sat. KWDF 99.7 FM 9:00 A.M. Sat.</p> <p>MICHIGAN</p> <p>Lupton WMSD 90.9 FM 8:15 P.M. Wed.</p> <p>MISSISSIPPI</p> <p>Tupelo WCPC 940 AM 10:00 A.M. Sat.</p> <p>NEBRASKA</p> <p>Omaha-Lincoln KLNK 1560 AM 6:00 P.M. Sat. KLNK 101.5 FM</p> <p>NEW MEXICO</p> <p>Albuquerque-Santa Fe KXKS 1190 AM 11:00 A.M. Sat. KKIM 1000 AM 8:00 A.M. Sat.</p> <p>NORTH CAROLINA</p> <p>China Grove WRNA 1140 AM 4:00 P.M. Sun.</p> <p>Kannapolis WRKB 1460 AM 4:00 P.M. Sun.</p> <p>PENNSYLVANIA</p> <p>Wilkes-Barre/Scranton WITK 1550 AM 6:00 P.M. Sat. WITK 94.7 FM 6:00 P.M. Sat.</p> <p>VIRGINIA</p> <p>Richmond WDZY 1290 AM 7:30 A.M. Sat. WDZY 103.3 FM 7:30 A.M. Sat.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Fight Bible Radio</p> <p>finalfightbiberadio.com 5A.M. & 5 P.M. (PST) Mon.-Fri.</p>
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<p>ALABAMA</p> <p>Andalusia—Ch. 63 10:00 AM Sun. Covington Co.—Ch. 42 10:00 AM Sun. Opp—Ch. 59 10:00 AM Sun. UHF—Ch. 25 10:00 AM Sun.</p> <p>CALIFORNIA</p> <p>San Pedro—Cox Communications 6:30 PM Fri. San Diego—Cox—Ch 24 & 18 4:00 PM Wed. San Diego—Time Warner—Ch 16 Time varies</p> <p>CONNECTICUT</p> <p>Willimantic—Charter Comm.—Ch 192 5:30 PM Tue.</p> <p>IOWA</p> <p>Dubuque—Media Com—Ch 81 Times Vary</p>	<p>MICHIGAN</p> <p>Battlecreek—Access Vision—Ch 16 2:00 PM Sat.</p> <p>MONTANA</p> <p>Missoula—MCAT—Ch 189, 190 2:00 PM Mon.</p> <p>NEW YORK</p> <p>Broome—Time Warner—Ch 6 4 PM Mon. /6 PM Wed. Buffalo—Public Access—Ch 20 5:05 PM Sun. Elmira—Corning—Ch 1 9:00 AM Sun. Farmington Time Warner—Ch 12 8:00 PM Sun. Mid-Hudson Cable—Ch 11 3 PM Wed. Lockport—Ch 20 LCTV 1301 4:00 PM Mon. 10:00 PM Fri. Suffolk—Ch 20 12:30 PM Sun. Woodbury—Cable Vision—Ch 7 14:00 PM Fri.</p> <p>NEW MEXICO</p> <p>Albuquerque Community Cable—Ch 27 5:00 PM Mon. Los Alamos—PAC 8 6:00 PM Sun.</p> <p>TEXAS</p> <p>Brownwood—Ch 777:00 AM Sun. San Angelo—Ch 55 7:00 AM Sun.</p>
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