



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 43 No. 9 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) September 2019

The Methods for Learning the Truth

By Brian Donovan

There are three main methods used in the study and search for the truth that every Bible student should be aware of, and learn how to apply. All three methods are used by the Lord in the scriptures as He reveals both simple and deep truths. The three methods are repetition, association, and contrast. Repetition is considered the most boring, yet it is a very good teacher. Whenever we hear something over and over again, we tend to remember it much easier. Advertising executives are aware of the power of repetition, and that is why they are willing to spend millions of dollars on the same advertisement being repeated fifty times per day. It doesn't even have to be the truth ("Things go better with Coke", "Have it your way at Burger King", "Our law firm is on your side", "The pope is the Holy Father", etc.), but as long as it is repeated often enough, the listeners will remember it. The Lord uses repeti-

tion to teach throughout the scriptures, and all of mankind can be sure that it will always be the truth and not some lying mantra. For instance, beginning in Genesis 12:1-4, the Lord speaks of a certain piece of ground that He says belongs to Abraham and his seed, through Isaac (Genesis 26:3-4) and then Jacob (Genesis 28:13). This truth is repeated so often throughout the Old Testament, only a Bible-rejecting Muslim, a college educated American, or a politically correct Republican or Democratic liar who says what the voters want to hear, would attempt to deny it. The Lord makes it plain through repetition, that the land is His (Leviticus 25:23, Deuteronomy 32:43, II Chronicles 7:20, Joel 2:18 and Joel 3:2), and He gave it to the nation of Israel (Deuteronomy 11:24, Joshua 1:3, 1 Kings 9:7). Paul makes it plain that the body of believers in the New Testament does not replace the nation of Israel, in neither the spiritual promises nor the physical promises. Though the individual Jew without Christ is lost and on their way to hell (Romans 9:1-3), the Lord is not through with them as a nation, and will restore them to the land that He gave to them, and to

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Sin, Reproof, and Instruction

By Peter S. Ruckman

“As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear” (Prov. 25:12).

“A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool” (Prov. 17:10).

“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life” (Prov. 6:23).

“It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools” (Eccl. 7:5).

The words *reprove* and *rebuke* are two similar terms that mean “to correct verbally.” A rebuke is stronger than a reproof. In the New Testament, Paul includes both as part of the job of a preacher.

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; REPROVE, REBUKE, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 4:2).

When it comes to the matter of reproof and rebuke, *they can be very difficult to accept*. It is hard to believe that someone who “tells you off” is your friend. In America today, where everyone’s nerves are on edge all the time and about to fall to pieces the first time someone says “Boo!” it is very hard for anyone to accept instruction.

Since the Civil Rights Act (1964), no public school student accepts rebuke or reproof. I have talked to teachers in the public school system. I have had them tell me that there is a certain type of student (forbidden to be identified lest you be jailed for

“hate speech” or “racism”) they can’t make behave at all. If one type of student wants to go to the bathroom in the middle of class, the teacher can have him sit down and wait until it is time for a bathroom break. But if the other type of student gets up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom without asking, and the teacher asks him to sit down, the kid will curse the teacher and keep walking, and there is nothing the teacher can do about it.

Kids—especially teenagers—get reproofs all the time. “I see you haven’t made your bed yet.” “You’ve got too much make-up on.” “You’re not leaving this house dressed like that.” “Get off the couch and find something to do.” “You’re not leaving the table until you’ve drunk all your milk.” “No dessert until you’ve eaten your vegetables first.”

It’s hard to take those rebukes all the time, isn’t it, kid? You feel like momma and daddy are trying to keep you from having any fun or are just trying to control everything you do, but that’s not the case at all. They are trying to *train* you to be a *responsible adult* some day, and until that day comes, they have to *protect* you from making a wreck of your life.

It is difficult to *make application* of a wise rebuke. You want to pass it on to someone else rather than apply it *to you*. When the young prophet condemned Ahab for letting Ben-hadad go when it was God’s intent that he be killed (1 Kings 20:42), that was a hard pill for Ahab to swallow. He went home **“heavy and displeased”** (1

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Kings 20:43). It was hard for him to accept the rebuke. David fared a little better when Nathan pointed that old boney finger of his at the king and said, "**Thou art the man**" (2 Sam. 12:7). Instead of pouting up, David confessed and said, "**I have sinned against the LORD**" (2 Sam. 12:13). Because of that, he got some mercy, but he had to accept a hard rebuke.

When a fault is called to your attention, it is not easy to confess your need. Pride rises up; you want to defend yourself. A Christian said once, "God could never use me for anything until I realized I was never intended to be a great man." It's hard for some men to admit they're just small. That's why I think it would be good for every young man to spend some time in the military: have the DI and the sergeant and the CO cuss you out, ream you out, yell at you, and chew you up and spit you out. That will give you a good "estimation" of yourself. I have a sign back in my office that someone made as a joke: "God loves you; everybody else thinks you're a JERK."

Listen, I know it's not easy for an unsaved person to sit in church and have a preacher tell him he is going to hell and fry like a grease ball, but those things need to be said. That's why a lot of those "FM" preachers on the radio never say it. They depend on their listeners to send in the money to keep them on the radio. Hell isn't good for business, so they "tone down the message with words polite, and gently keep damnation out of sight." When I get on TV, I tell my viewers,

"I don't want your money; I want your hide." I would much rather have someone write in and say, "I didn't like the tone of your voice, but I listened anyway and realized you were telling the truth, and I got saved," than to have him send me a check for \$20,000 to stay on the air.

Richard Wurmbrand spent time in a communist concentration camp in Romania for preaching the gospel. Do you know what he said about how the communists treated the Christians in that country when they first took over? Well, at first, the Christians didn't think they would have any problems because everything went on just as it had before: the pastors were allowed to preach, and the churches weren't shut down. Wurmbrand said the first sign of trouble was when the communists would let the preachers say God was good, but they wouldn't let them say the *Devil was bad*. In other words, the communists had no problem with the preachers preaching John 3:16 and "**God is love**" as long as they didn't say anything about *sin, hell, and the Devil*. Nothing negative; everything positive. Then later, the communists tortured the Christians, imprisoned them, and shut down the churches.

Americans want to claim all the promises of blessing in the Bible and dispense with all the cursing. Christian FM stations are filling their time with more and more music, and less and less preaching. Even with what little preaching there is, the style has changed: it is this smooth, slick style

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that would never think of upsetting the listener or getting him under conviction.

William Booth said, "Our modern Christianity is religion without scripture, Christianity without the Holy Spirit, heaven without hell, discipline without spirituality, and morality without God." I might add Christian education without shame or reproach and separation without soulwinning. I can't even remember the last time I even heard of one of these purpose-driven, promise-keeper, seeker-sensitive fellows open his mouth about leading sinners to Christ.

It is troublesome to obey a rebuke or reproof from the Lord. Sometimes it will cost you something to obey Him. All of us—and I purposely included myself there because what I am about to say is true of anybody, anywhere—are *morally lazy*. Nobody has any trouble leading a good life as long as there is no particular pressure in doing so, but when the pressure comes, then it is "something else," as they say.

Living right might cost you something. Back in the Gospels, those Jews were afraid of being kicked out of the synagogue if they identified with Christ (John 9:22). If a Catholic gets saved, he loses his burial plot in the Catholic graveyard. You wouldn't believe how many Catholics to whom I've witnessed that that was a real hindrance in coming to Christ. I have known Jews who have gotten saved, and their grandparents cut them out of the family inheritance. An Oriental

worries about "losing face" with his friends, relatives, and society at large. When obeying God costs people something, they cave in to the pressure: that's moral laziness.

The New Testament says that in the last days, Christians won't "**endure sound doctrine**" (2 Tim. 4:3). "**Sound doctrine**" is associated with "**reproof**" (2 Tim. 3:16). When Paul says to the young preacher, "**But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine**" (Tit. 2:1), there is nothing in the chapter about what a Christian is to *believe*, not even about the rapture in verse 13. Everything is directed at how a Christian is to *behave*, even in regards to the rapture (see vs. 12).

Listen, you can't love good without hating bad. You can't love flowers without hating weeds. If you can't hate properly, you can't love properly. Do you want to plant a garden? Then you have to *break up* the ground. You can't love that Bible unless you hate other books. If you think you can, you're just kidding yourself; you're living in a dream world.

When people miss heaven, they miss it for what they *don't do*. What don't they do? *They don't believe on Jesus Christ for salvation*. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit came, He would come to "**REPROVE the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**" (John 16:8). Of what sin does the Holy Spirit reprove the world? It's *unbelief*: "**Of sin, because THEY BELIEVE NOT ON ME**" (John 16:9). In Revelation 21:8, the top two

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sins that send someone to hell are being “**fearful, and unbelieving**.” A sinner hears what God wants him to do, and he’s afraid to do it because it will excommunicate him from his church or separate him from friends and family or cause him to lose his income or stigmatize him in society. What God wants him to do is *trust Christ*, so a sinner goes to hell for something he *won’t do*—trust Christ.

The greatest misconception in America is that a person has to *do something* to get to hell; usually it involves adultery or murder (the two great Catholic “mortal sins”). You want to go to hell? I’ll tell you just how to do it. It doesn’t involve killing anyone or stealing someone’s spouse or robbing a bank or being a sex pervert or lying or “selling your soul to the Devil” or anything. Just *do nothing* and you’ll make it. That’s because you are a natural-born sinner under the wrath of God (Eph. 2:1–3; John 3:36). You can stay in that condition as a depraved profligate or highly moral, outstanding citizen, but you will make it to hell either way. If you don’t want to go to hell, then there is *one* thing you have to do—ONLY ONE—and that is *trust Christ*.

You have your role in salvation, and God has His. God’s responsibility is to *do everything necessary to redeem you*; yours is to repent of your own ways of salvation and *accept His way*. God’s job is *regeneration* (Tit. 3:5); your job is *receiving* (John 1:12). Your responsibility in salvation is to *confess the Saviour* (Rom. 10:9–10);

His is to *pardon your sins*.

Now *it’s wise to accept a rebuke*. Proverbs 6:23 says, “**reproofs of instruction are the way of life**”; that is, they are a good way to stay alive if you take heed to them. It’s wise to accept a reproof in some circumstances because *it is due*—you *earned it*. When you are guilty, you deserve a “dressing down,” and you ought to pay attention to it and change accordingly.

A wise reproof is sometimes a *wholesome corrective*. That’s why you give your kids chores when they are young—to build character. The modern way is for the kid to turn in his parents for “child abuse” when they make him do what he doesn’t want to do; that way the kid grows up with no character and turns into a criminal. If you think of your earthly parents as “mean” or “bullies” when they make you do something, kid, what are you going to think of your heavenly Father when He tells you to do something?

“When I was just a little girl
Sometimes my mother said to me
Come take your medicine, my
child,

And it will make you well, and she

“Would bring the hated bottle out,
And yet I did not hate the hand
Which measured out the bitter
dose,

Although I did not understand.

“And now a child of larger growth,
My heavenly Father watches me,

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And notes my soul grow weak
and ill

Who better knows the remedy

“Than He, our great Physician?
Lord

I love and trust that tender hand

Which measures out the bitter
dose

And someday I shall understand.”

(by Martha Snell Nicholson)

No child understands everything his parents tell him growing up, but when he gets to be an adult, at some point it “hits him” what they meant. When I was about twelve years old, I remember my dad telling me, “If you ever have a big roll of bills on you, don’t ever show it in public.” Well, I was twelve; where was I going to get a big roll of money during the Depression? But later on, when I became a young man getting his pay in the military, I saw the wisdom of what he said. Something else he told me at the time was: “Never take candy or gum from a stranger.” I didn’t know then why he said that. I do now. If you are a teenager reading this, you had better watch out taking drinks from people you don’t know. If I were you, I wouldn’t even go to a party where drinks are being served. It’s nothing these days for some guy to be “hitting” on a girl and to slip something in a drink he gives her so he can take her out and then rape her. I say “girl,” but these days, you had better be careful about taking a drink even as a guy. You may end up with your whole life ruined by some communi-

cable V.D.

Who are you going to allow to “correct” you? Someone will for either good or ill. These Christian professors took correction from some scholar who had no more sense than they did when it came to the *truth*. Who “reads the riot act” to those Bible correctors? I don’t hear the “Christian celebrities” doing it? I hear them preaching about abortion and sex perversion and left-wing socialistic Democrats, but I never hear them preach about these crooks who mess up your Bible. If the Bible can’t reprove you, who will? If you are so smart that you can change God’s Book, then who is going to reprove you? If you have no one who can reprove you, then that makes you “God”!

That’s why God raised up an old junkyard dog like me to bite the seat out of the britches of those messing with that Book. Thank God He has raised up a lot more, now, to do it besides me. That’s right! Thank God for that! These “Christian” scholars, publishers, translators, and professors have needed someone for about 130 years now to stand up to them and tear them to pieces for what they’ve done to that Book. In these last days, God has raised up an army, and I don’t care whether they are one of my graduates or in my “camp” or not. Thank God they’re going after the crowd that messes with the Book. As far as I’m concerned, the more the merrier. Amen, amen, and AMEN!

What these birds need is some Elijah to stand up and just mock them,

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ridicule them, and make fun of them (see 1 Kings 18:27) *just like they've been doing to the Book behind closed doors in the classroom.* That's what these Moslems need. Of course, it would make them mad enough to kill whoever did it, but that's because their god is a weak, anemic *punk* who can't do his own killing.

It is also because those Moham-medans have *no self-control.* During Ramadan, they fast during the day and eat twice as much as they normally would—they just do it at night. Some Moslem man sees some woman walking down the street without her head and face covered. Do you know what his first inclination is—I mean if he thinks he can get away with it? That sex-obsessed neurotic thinks he has the *right from Allah* to rape that woman. That's because his “prophet” (Mohammed) couldn't control his own gonads. Mohammed had to have fourteen wives and any number slave girls and concubines to slake his lust. If he wanted a nine-year-old girl (when he was fifty!), he took her; if he wanted his adopted son's wife, he took her. *No self-control!* Mohammed never took a reproof or a rebuke in his life unless it was a “reproof” from “Allah” about even attempting to control, or being ashamed of, his sins.

“Oh, blasphemy, Ruckman! How dare you talk that way about our prophet and our god!” How dare you *not* talk that way. I mean, the very idea of following a god who can't give you any assurance of salvation out-

side of killing someone who doesn't agree with your religion. Following a god who can't give his prophet one future event to be fulfilled in history when Jehovah could give you 48 in His Book on just one Man (Jesus Christ). Following a “prophet” who would kill folks under the guise of religion in order to *get their stuff.* Following a prophet who would have men or women (even pregnant women) killed in the most horrific ways possible *just for making fun of him.* That's not being zealous for God or for the truth; that's emulating all the worst traits of a sinner just like yourself.

A wise rebuke is *a much milder treatment than a harsh punishment.* Listen, wouldn't you rather get right by God talking to you rather than taking the whip or the scourge to you (Heb. 12:5–6)? If you have any sense you would. I had rather take a “whipping” from the Book than from a car wreck or a disease or a busted-up family or a bankruptcy or a disability, etc. Think about it: if God gave you what you actually had coming to you, it would be worse than a “bawling out,” wouldn't it? Yes, I think so. If you don't, you are either naive or conceited and arrogant beyond measure.

A preacher friend of mine in Jacksonville, Florida once went through a “knock-down-drag-out” fight with some of his deacons. The one who was giving him the most trouble met him out in front of the church. While puffing on a cigarette and blowing smoke in that pastor's face, that deacon told my buddy, “I pay my tithes,

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and I do as I please around here. I was here before you came, and I'll be here after you are gone." My friend said to him, "If that's the way you feel about it, then I can no longer be your pastor. God will have to be your pastor, and you will have to answer directly to Him." By four o'clock the next morning, that deacon was dead; he shouldn't have changed pastors. It would have been a lot safer to deal with my buddy and find a way of getting along with him than bowing up until it took God to break him. That pastor was a lot more gentle with the fellow than the Lord was.

Some of the brethren get so "particular" that *no* pastor can teach them anything. They end up by themselves with only the Lord to give them any instruction, and the Lord has some pretty rough "teaching methods" sometimes. It is a lot safer to sit under a man and have him yell at you and "ream you out" than have the Lord apply the "board of education" (a paddle!) to the "seat of knowledge."

Paul ended up blind for three days (and probably had eye trouble for the rest of his life) because he wouldn't listen to Stephen. Peter ended up humiliated before his peers because he wouldn't listen to the Lord's warning at the Last Supper. Nebuchadnezzar ended up on all fours eating grass because he wouldn't listen to Daniel. Pharaoh ended up "sleeping with the fishes" because he wouldn't listen to Moses.

That Bible says, **"the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance"**

(Rom. 2:4), but when a fool resists God's goodness because of a hard, impenitent heart, he treasures up **"wrath against the day of wrath"** (Rom. 2:5). Too hard to take a rebuke, so he gets the whole load dumped on him.

The grace of God warns a fellow and calls judgment to his attention. As a whole, America has paid no attention to God's warnings since World War II. One of these "man-on-the-street" interviewers went out and asked people, "Do you think you will go to heaven when you die?" The answers he got show that Americans are some of the most pagan, stupid, biblically illiterate people on the face of this earth.

One guy said, "Yes, it will be a small recompense for the dirty deals that have made my life a hell on earth." Not a word about him doing anything wrong; I guess he was sinless.

A barmaid replied, "I don't know, but I read a book once that made sense. It said the Devil was a woman." Things have changed since she said that; now "God" is a woman. What all that means is hard to say; that barmaid certainly had no clue.

A nightclub owner said, "I always try to do the right thing, and I have been forced out of business twice. Yes, I'll go to heaven as sure as the good Lord has mercy in His heart." The poor guy just got a raw deal, so naturally God would feel sorry for him and let him into heaven.

A typist said, "I could not conceive

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of such a place as hell where someone would burn forever. Of course, I'll have to make a stop at purgatory first to be cleansed from my sins." Why, you superstitious backwoods heathen, what are you talking about? What makes you think fire can cleanse you from sin? It doesn't in hell.

Now notice in all this that no one is bad enough to go to hell. In fact, most of them don't consider themselves to be guilty of anything. Even the woman who talked about going to purgatory wasn't bad enough to go to hell. (I guess not even Adolf Hitler was in her system, since there is no hell.)

A salesman: "Well, heaven for climate; hell for company. I'll be with my

friends for a long time." That's very true, except they won't be your friends in hell, nor will you be their friend. Notice that the guy didn't say anything about his sins sending him to hell; he just preferred to be with his friends.

A disc jockey: "Only God knows, but I have hopes because I never killed anybody. I've got plenty of time to think before I act, because I'm young." The guy thinks because he has never killed anybody that he hasn't done anything else against the holiness of a righteous God.

Those are typical answers. Not one of those people allowed God to talk to him (or her) or reprove him or rebuke him *from His written word*. Those people figured they didn't need

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Bad Attitude Baptist Blowout

— **September 19–22** —

Speakers for this Blowout:

- Steve Andrus
- David Peacock
- Paul Sherrouse

Evening Services—6 P.M.

Morning Services (Beginning Fri.)—10 A.M.

Bible Baptist Church

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to worry about anything, and they based that on *their own opinions*; not on what God said. God let them go on that way until they woke up in hell.

The worst thing God can do to a sinner is to leave him alone in his ignorance. The worst thing that can happen to someone is to attend a church twenty, thirty, or forty years and never have a preacher point his finger in that person's face and say, "You're wrong, and you're going to hell and burn if you don't take Jesus Christ as your Saviour." A preacher who won't do that is afraid of losing the "tithers" in his congregation. He is more concerned with his income than he is the souls under his care.

The worst thing God can do to you is *not* to reprove or rebuke you. Listen, a good parent doesn't rebuke you or reprove you or chasten you because he hates you; he does those things to correct some character flaw in you so it won't ruin your life later on. I never thought my daddy whipped me because he hated me, and I had practically no fellowship with him. How is it I can see what my daddy was trying to do for me, and yet most people can't see the love in God's correction?

I love to go over to Germany and Austria, but do you know what I feel even just flying over that place? I feel a spiritual dearth in that land.

The Holy Spirit has stopped dealing with those people *as a nation*. I understand you can still witness over there and win one here and maybe a couple there, but you aren't going to experience any great revival or mass conversions to Christ, no matter how many "crusades" Billy Graham holds there. God has stopped dealing with them as a people, and I honestly think it is because of how they treated His Book (German rationalism and higher criticism) and how they treated His people (the Jews). You are seeing the same thing similar happen here in America. When God writes "*Ichabod*" over a country and stops dealing with it, then it is doomed.

"Hear, o earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the FRUIT OF THEIR THOUGHTS, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it" (Jer. 6:19).

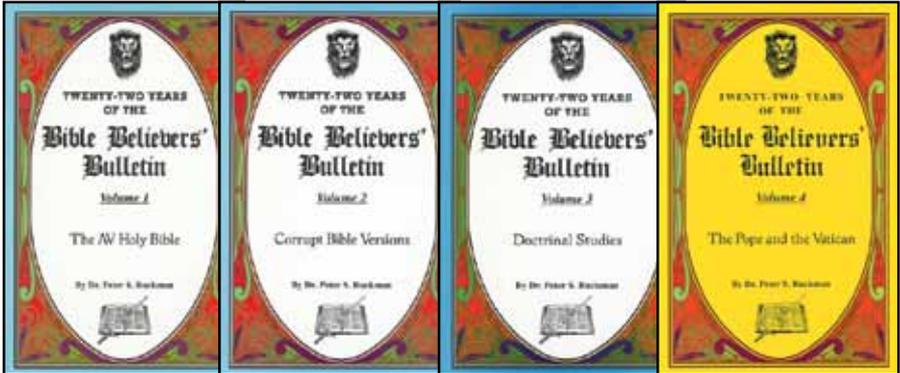
"You don't want the Bible or prayer in schools, or the Ten Commandments telling you how to live? All right, have it your way, but don't come crying or bellyaching to me when the sex perverts molest your kids in the bathrooms or the Moslems run you down with trucks or dopeheads shoot up your schools or international socialists (i.e., COMMUNISTS!) riot in your streets. I let you have *your way*, but it wasn't what *I wanted*."

What's New at the Bookstore?

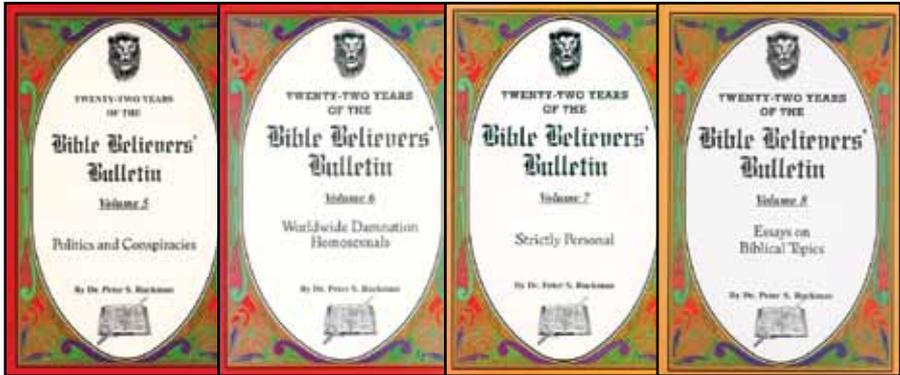
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The Methods for Learning the Truth

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their Messiah (Zechariah 12:10, Joel 2:32, Romans 11:25-27). The problem is that this will not take place until after the tribulation period, and the judgments of God wipe out the great majority of the Jewish population, leaving a very small remnant (Isaiah 10:20-22, Jeremiah 44:28, Amos 5:3, Romans 9:27, Revelation 11:13).

When the Israelites were led out of Egypt by the way of the Red Sea, the Lord records the event in detail in Exodus chapters 14 and 15. The fact that it was a miracle of the hand of God is undeniable after reading those two chapters. Yet the Bible "scholars" all seem to be in agreement that it was no miracle, but simply a crossing of marshy ground and all of their maps show the Jews going down into the Sinai Peninsula through the "reed sea" well north of the Red Sea. The scripture shows that the crossing was through waters that **"were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left"** (Exodus 14:22), and after they got to the other side, the waters **"returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh"** (verse 28). This event is so important that the Lord uses repetition throughout the scripture so that the Bible believer can safely reject the scholars and learn the truth. The Red Sea crossing is repeated in Numbers 21:14, Deuteronomy 11:4, Joshua 2:10 and 24:6, Judges 11:16, Nehemiah 9:9-11, Psalm 106:7,22, Acts 7:36, and Hebrews 11:29. Anyone who teaches that they crossed the "reed sea" or

"marshy ground", not only exhibits a lack of intelligence and Bible ignorance but is attempting to steal the glory that is due to the Lord God. Repetition is the method that is used by the Lord to allow the reader to learn this truth. Satan has tried to obliterate this truth since he knows that the Red Sea crossing is a picture of the lost sinner being saved out of the bondage of the world (Egypt), as well as a type of the rapture of the church. How else could you explain the complete agreement among critical "Christian" scholars that Israel did not cross the Red Sea?

The Lord also consistently uses contrast as another method to teach men the truth. In the book of Proverbs (written to give **"the young man knowledge and discretion"** Proverbs 1:4), the scripture uses contrast in twenty-six out of thirty-two verses in chapter 10 alone. In the middle of each of those twenty-six verses, the Bible reader finds the word **"but"** as a contrast. This is the negative method of learning the truth. For instance, Proverbs 10:2 says, **"Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."** When a man is willing to admit to the negative in the first half of the verse, he has a greater chance of recognizing the truth of the last half of the verse. The contrast points out the important difference between the lack of profit in temporal treasures, versus the eternal profit of righteousness. Contrast is used from the very beginning of the scriptures, where in Genesis 1:3, the

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Lord contrasts light with darkness. In Deuteronomy 30:19, Israel is given the contrasts of **“life and death, blessing and cursing”**, and told to choose one or the other. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul contrasts the **“natural”** man with the **“spiritual”** man (I Corinthians 2:14-15), showing that the things of the Spirit of God are spiritually discerned. Discernment, by definition, is the ability to understand by means of separation. The child of God can only do this by exercising his spiritual senses to **“discern both good and evil”** (Hebrews 5:14), through the word of God (Hebrews 4:12), which allows the believer to divide asunder and make distinctions through contrasting the negative against the positive. The Lord uses the contrast of Adam and Christ very strongly in both Romans 5 and I Corinthians 15. In Romans 5:12-21, Adam is connected with sin, death, the offense, condemnation, disobedience, and judgment, with the contrast of Jesus Christ being connected to life, grace, righteousness, obedience, and the free gift. The same contrast is repeated in I Corinthians 15:12-20, 45-49, and summed up with **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”** (verse 22).

Yet in spite of all this, contrast is probably the most rejected method of learning, since it requires the student to accept and admit that there is a negative side to every truth. In other words, before salvation can be received, damnation must first be accepted; before heaven and eternal life can be received,

hell and eternal death must first be accepted. And this method of learning is not only for the lost sinner to be saved but for the child of God to **“grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”** (II Peter 3:18). The positive **“spirit of the world”** (I Corinthians 2:12) is NOT the one which we have received, **“but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”** So it should be evident that in order for the saint to grow up and please God, he must reject the positive spirit of the age in which he lives and learn by contrast, while he admits and accepts the opposing lessons taught by the Spirit of God. One of the reasons for the complete lack of discernment in the lives of many believers has to do with this very subject of contrast. It is so much easier to just “get along” and ignore the contrasts than to learn the truth and then make a stand for it. Whenever the Christian takes the time to contrast the world of Facebook with the holy scriptures, he runs from it, rather than into it. When his spiritual senses are exercised by reason of use, the child of God recognizes the contrast and can even feel the difference. Meditating for forty-five minutes on the pure words of God, contrasted with forty-five minutes on the Internet, results in a different spirit. One feeds the new man, while the other feeds the old man. One builds spiritual strength, while the other builds carnal strength. The contrast of the fleshly emphasis of what man is doing, found on YouTube,

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The Methods for Learning the Truth

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versus the spiritual emphasis of what God is doing, found in the King James Bible, is evident to anyone who will stop and consider the two. It is interesting to listen to the personal testimonies of Christians who have finally put away the Facebook, the YouTube, and the rest of the unclean world of the internet, and watch them learn by the contrast. Due to the present days of apostasy, Christians today either don't care about the truth, or are too concerned with fitting in and being socially acceptable, to admit to the contrasts that the Lord has put before them.

The third important method of learning is by association. The Lord teaches as much by showing how things are similar, as He does by how things are different or contrasted. In Hosea 12:10, the Lord says, **"I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used similitudes, by the ministry of the prophets."** Association is not only a great way to learn something, but also a great way to remember it. After seeing (or even reading about) Ezekiel taking a razor to his hair and beard,

then dividing it into three portions and burning a third with fire, cutting a third part with a knife, and then scattering a third part into the wind, a man could not easily forget the similitude. No doubt many Jews going into one of the three Babylonian captivities of 606 B.C., 598 B.C., or 586 B.C., remembered the association. The prophet Jeremiah, preaching with a wooden yoke around his neck (Jeremiah 27:2), was giving a perfect association of the coming invasion and captivity by the Babylonian kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar (verse 8), and though the lesson was rejected, the false prophet of peace, named Hananiah, was completely disturbed by it and tore it off Jeremiah's neck (Jeremiah 28:10). Even a lying false prophet was able to pick up on the association, but instead of learning from it, he tried to destroy it.

Of course, the Lord Jesus Christ remains the master of the method, and it can be found in His teachings throughout His ministry. In Matthew 13, the Lord teaches about the kingdom of heaven repeatedly using association. The Lord Jesus preached that

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 the kingdom of heaven is: **“like to a grain of mustard seed”** (verse 31), **“like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened”** (verse 33), **“like unto treasure hid in a field”** (verse 44), **“like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls”** (verse 45), **“like unto a net, that was cast into the sea”** (verse 47), as well as **“like unto a man that is an householder”** (verse 52). There certainly is no excuse for the Bible student not to know plenty about the kingdom of heaven. All the child of God would have to do is study what each of those things is like, and he could find the truth he needs to know about the physical kingdom of heaven.

The two main words to look for in your Bible study regarding association, are **“like”** and **“as”**. When Jesus was finished preaching to the Pharisees, calling them **“hypocrites”** no less than seven times in one sermon (Matthew 23:13,14,15,23,25,27,29), as well as **“blind guides”** (verses 16,24), and **“fools”** (verse 17), He closed with giving them an association as to what His love was like. He said it was **“AS a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings”** (verse 37), but the lost religious leaders refused Him, and as a result, lost out on His protection. Jesus looked on the multitudes of common folks and saw them **“AS sheep having no shepherd”** (Matthew 9:36). He told His disciples that He was sending them **“forth AS lambs among wolves”** (Luke 10:3). The seeker of truth can

learn by association by studying sheep, shepherds, lambs, wolves, and hens.

The Christian is taught by association that he is to live his life **“LIKE AS Christ was raised up from the dead...even so we also should walk in newness of life”** (Romans 6:4). The Christian life is not lived out by adding Jesus to what you are doing; it is a completely new life, as a dead man coming to life. The Lord tells us that His scripture is **“AS unto a light that shineth in a dark place”** (II Peter 1:19). The Christian can learn some things if he pays attention to the similitude. A light that is shined into a dark place reveals pitfalls, dangerous places, things to avoid, as well as the safest way to go. The King James Bible is just such a light. Even as the child of God learns from the scriptures by associating what things are alike, at the same time, he can learn by contrast. For instance, just as the open Bible puts a light on any subject you want to look at, so a closed one leaves darkness and danger.

Back in June, while in Scotland, I was allowed the privilege to preach in a five-hundred-year-old church building, that in 1601, housed a group of Scotch ministers who met with the King of Scotland at the time (James VI), asking for an English translation of the holy scriptures that could be authorized. Although he was in favor of it, he was not given the authority by the Lord until two years later when he became King James I over all of Great Britain, at the death of Queen Elizabeth

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The Methods for Learning the Truth

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in 1603. One of the first acts of the new king was to convene a committee at Hampton Court in 1604, resulting in the King James Bible of 1611. Yet back at that same Scottish church where I preached in Burntisland, the scripture lights were slowly turned off and over the years, the darkness has resulted in a Good News corruption on the pulpit of that church, no preaching of the gospel of Christ, no pastor, and a queer pride parade in Edinburgh the next day. At least for that one day, that old church building had the scripture opened **“as a light in a dark place”** and a soul was saved from hell before leaving. Over the next few days, I had the honor of preaching alongside a few faithful men on the streets of Glasgow, as Brother Dana Vogelpohl allowed me to take part in the street ministry he has been carrying on for a number of years joined by missionaries Tyler Campbell, Carl Miller, and Pete Dickens (from England). These missionaries (all graduates of Pensacola Bible Institute) still preach on the streets, and in the marketplaces, as they shine that KJV light in a dark place, and how great is that darkness.

John Knox's burial spot is marked by a very small marker on the ground of a dead church parking lot, in a space painted #23. The Scots revere the pagan philosopher David Hume, marked in the streets for all passing by to see, with a life-sized statue and his foot on the Bible, while Patrick Hamilton's martyrdom memory is trampled on a sidewalk by visitors to St. Andrews.

No one is told that the Bible-believing preacher suffered six agonizing hours as the Catholics botched his burning at the stake. George Wisehart's martyrdom is similarly marked on a sidewalk at St. Andrews with his initials (GW) being trampled and missed by visitors. This preacher of the gospel of Christ was summoned before the murderous Roman Catholic bishop named Beaton, then hanged and his body burned to ashes. His death stirred up one of his students by the name of John Knox.

The Scottish Reformation led by these men affected England and the KJV 1611 in ways of which few are aware. Knox preached against the Roman Catholic Mary Queen of Scots (the mother of the future King James) and even preached the coronation sermon for the infant King of Scotland. During the period of Scottish history known as the “Killing Time” (1661 to 1680), it is estimated that about 12,000 Christians were martyred throughout the land. Yet the Bible preaching of those brave martyrs, which was **“as a light that shineth in a dark place”** was put out and the darkness that took over the land became the inspiration for a witch named J.K. Rowling. Sitting at a cafe window overlooking the cemetery where the Scotch martyrs were thrown into mass graves, this woman claimed her inspiration for writing the Harry Potter series. A few yards to her left, it is said that almost two hundred years earlier, the fourteen-year-old Mary Shelley got her inspiration to write

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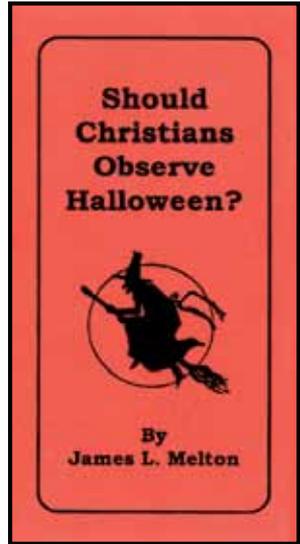
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The Methods for Learning the Truth

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Frankenstein, overlooking the same
Greyfriars Kirkyard cemetery.

Shortly after leaving the streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh, I was in the darkness of Venice, Italy, and in the middle of the square of San Marcos Church (where the Roman Catholic Church claims they have buried the body of the evangelist Mark), I chickened out of preaching there, concerned about what the police might do. The next day, I repented, and from the middle of San Stephano square, the Lord gave me help to preach alone with hundreds of lost Italians around who were stunned and listened. From there, I knew I had to return to the square of San Marcos where I had failed the Lord the night before, and along with Brother Colvin, shone the light on a few hundred more lost souls. Though the police looked on and seemed unsure what to do, there was no price to pay, there was no Roman Catholic bishop to burn me at the stake, there was no whipping post to fear, but there was still a great joy to know that I could be associated with my spiritual heritage, simply by obeying the call.

The association method of learning should arouse present day Bible believers, to see that only the holy scriptures are **“as unto a light that shineth in a dark place”**, and the answer is to shine that light in the open air of the streets of this country. We have been privileged to be called into this line of Bible-believing, outdoor street preachers, and what an honor to even have an association with their bloody and

fiery deaths, though we are not worthy to even tie their shoe latches. Yet how few are left that will take the reproach of Christ to the public, but instead, build themselves a comfortable ministry that hurts no one's feelings and remains respectable in the eyes of the lost souls around them.

Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

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

October 11–13

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

November 8–10

Bible Believers Baptist Church
128 Goodman St.
Munfordville, KY 42765
Pastor Sean Riggs
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HEAVEN AND HELL



You don't hear much preaching about Hell anymore, and most people have no idea what Heaven is like. Since both states are unseen and lie in the future, they are denied by materialistic evolutionists. "Modern man" is woefully ignorant and confused about the future state after death, but the Bible says:

travel faster than the speed of light, many worldly pastimes become obsolete.

B. A MENTAL STATE. Jesus Christ, Paul, and John all described it as an actual place (2 Cor. 12:2; Rev. 4-5).

C. A PLACE WHERE ALL ARE SAVED. You don't put the Masons, Illuminati, CFR, UNESCO, Khazars, international bankers, and Catholic Popes up in Heaven with William Booth, Billy Sunday, Peter, James, John, and Paul. If you did, "Heaven" would quickly be "Hell."

III. HEAVEN IS:

A. A PLACE OF REJOICING (Rev 19:7). It will be "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Pet. 1:8 cf. 2 Cor. 12:1-4; John 17:24).

B. A PLACE OF PLEASURE (1 Cor. 2:9). There, anyone can do anything he wants to do, think anything he wants to think, and say anything he wants to say without having to stop to think about its ethical import because he has a mind just like Jesus Christ's (Rom. 8:29). Absolute, holy, perfect, sinless FREEDOM is the ultimate goal of salvation.

C. A PLACE OF LIFE. The Author and Giver of life is there (1 John 5:10-20).

D. A PLACE OF WORSHIP (Rev. 4-5). The chief theme of Heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. HELL IS NOT:

A. A PLACE OF SINFUL COMPANIONSHIP. The saying is: "Heaven for climate, Hell for company." But if "God is love" (1 John 4:8), there is no love in Hell. Your best friend here will be your worst enemy there. Hell is characterized by "GNASHING OF TEETH" (Matt. 22:13). That is the epitome of HATRED (Psa. 37:12, 112:10).

B. A PLACE OF SINFUL PLEASURE. A contemporary polka tells us that there is "no beer in Heaven." There is no beer in Hell either: nor are there any pool tables, bars, lunchrooms, cocktail parties, ranches, picnics, concerts, TV programs, tennis matches, flowers, trout streams, beaches, or forests. No one enjoys Hell.

C. A PLACE WHERE A MAN GETS A SECOND CHANCE. Your chance is NOW (2 Cor. 6:2): it is the duty and ministry of "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4) to see to it that you misuse this chance, misread it, misinterpret it, abuse it, or postpone it until you get home to the Lake of Fire. He has permission to do this because of your SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS (Isa. 64:6).

II. HEAVEN IS NOT:

A. A GLORIFIED WORLD. The descriptions given in Revelation 21-22 say nothing about old hound dogs lying by the fireplace and grandma calling for "supper time." In sinless bodies that can

IV. HELL IS:

A. A PLACE OF WEEPING, WAILING, TORMENT AND PUNISHMENT (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 22:13; Rev. 14:10-11, 21:8).

B. A LAKE OF FIRE "PREPARED FOR THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS" (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:14-15). Don't go there; you don't have to.

If you would like to be sure of a home in Heaven some day, then come to Jesus Christ in simple faith and sincerity, saying something like this:

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

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THE THREE CROSSES



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

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

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

C. THE MIDDLE CROSS

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

A. THE FIRST CROSS

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

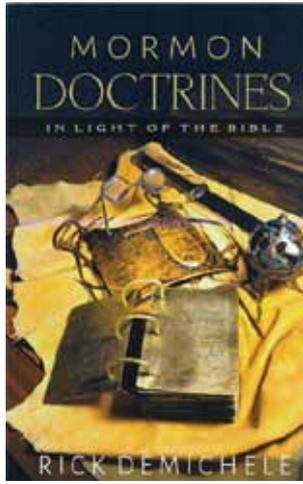
B. THE THIRD CROSS

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

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

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

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



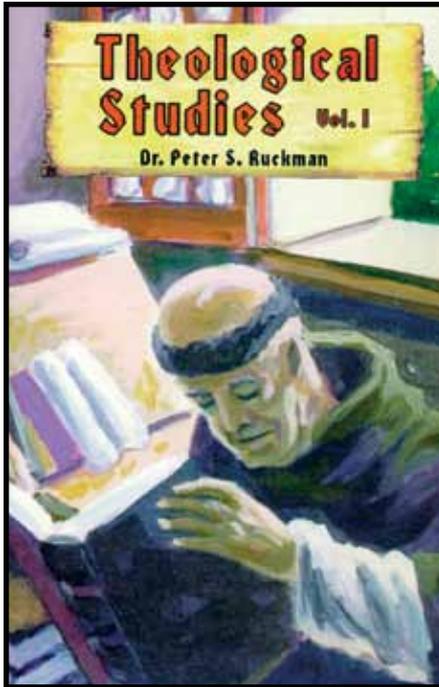
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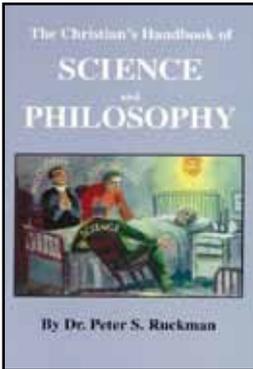
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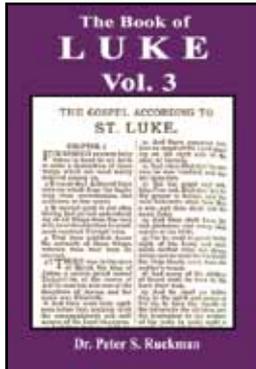
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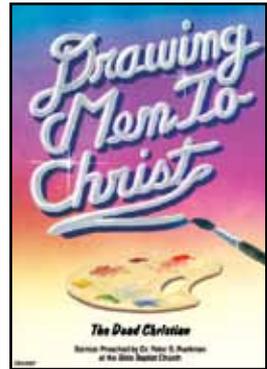
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Religion, a Big Flop

By Robert Militello

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

Human beings exhibit a desire to turn toward something eternal and all-encompassing. Our nature moves us to find something or someone to worship. Religion will never be out of fashion, and with it **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4) will fill up hell with souls that trusted in their feelings and not God’s word.

People seem to sense that there is something that they are supposed to be adoring and even, on a deeper level, worshiping. More now than ever before, billions of souls are looking to find something that makes life meaningful. This restlessness of spirit (the Germans call it “wanderlust”) will make space exploration a twenty-first-century “holy crusade.” We must find out what’s out there. Religion has failed to unite mankind. Space probes now carry the hopes and dreams of so many wanting answers to questions that religion can’t handle.

When Neil Armstrong put his feet upon the moon’s surface, a new religion was born. Now we search for “God” with scientific instruments costing billions now and trillions later. We must have answers. Life without meaning leads to more and more suicides. Humanity needs a god who is neither holy or unholy. That god must do what religion fails to do, which is to satisfy the desire for peace of heart and freedom from the fear of judgment to come. Such a god will have the world at his feet. He’ll come peaceably and the world will be seduced.

“The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords” (Psa. 55:21).

Satan’s chief spokesperson on earth, Pope Francis, has lost the confidence of millions of Catholics who see him as an amateur geopolitician who has turned his back on Catholic doctrine. Religious people still lost in their sins are prone to look to someone who speaks with authority. A consequence of rejecting the authority of God’s word is making a man your god. Cult leaders in America, going back to Joseph Smith, the Mormon “prophet,” get their followings from those who desire religion more than the power of the cross. Paul prophesied to Timothy of these lost souls in 2 Timothy 3:5, **“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.”** When asked what is my religion, I answer that I don’t have one because I don’t need one. I have salvation. When filling out a questionnaire which includes boxes labeled Catholic, Protestant, Jew, or other, I check “other.” If there is space next to that box, I write in the word “salvation.” Giving folks something to think about is a good deed. It’s a deep-breathing exercise for brains that have gone to sleep, and there’s plenty of that these days.

So the pope, as the Devil’s mouthpiece, has a job to do. Somehow, he must convince all who cling to various religious traditions that there must be one flock and one shepherd. “United we stand, divided we fall,” this is the medicine necessary to heal humanity and save the planet. The international

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Religion, a Big Flop

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communist slogan of years ago was: "Workers of the World Unite." That failed, but Satan never stops trying. He gets his flunkies to sell his lie that all men are brothers. Really? Years ago, the "Rev." Jessie Jackson of Chicago wanted to cash in on federal grant money. So he founded an organization in Chicago called PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) and lined his pockets handsomely. Let's all get together and build a better world and focus on that which unites us and not that which divides us (doctrine). You get sick of hearing this continually. If folks would read a King James Bible, they would discover much to their horror what will really unite the nations of the world. The desire to destroy Israel and steal God's land will emerge as the great unifier. God's word lays the plan of the Devil bare for all to read, and not one religious leader dares to teach on it. So much for religion.

Salvation is an experience, not a religion. It is a transformational event that takes a soul out of darkness and into the kingdom of God. There is a power behind it that religion knows nothing of. Martin Luther labored to acquire peace with God by doing all the church required until the Holy Spirit opened his eyes to what was meant by "**The just shall live by faith**" (Rom. 1:17). My attendance at Mass every Sunday while in Catholic schools did nothing to transform me. The only notable experience I remember was my stomach making noise and wishing the priest would finish reading the same monotonous script that bored most people to death. Religion often leads to de-

pression because the expectations it offers the practitioner are never realized. It contributes nothing to the plague of self-righteousness which keeps a soul from Calvary and then sends that poor soul to hell. It dresses up in white robes like the pope and successfully hides its inward corruption and foul-smelling decay. It grows best where God's word is unknown.

Paul boasted of his religious fanaticism (see Gal. 1:13-14), so the Lord used his past to antagonize the Jews who, like Paul, counted on their religious customs to please God. Many Jews have been taught that Paul did more to harm Judaism than Jesus Christ. "**The gospel of the grace of God**" which Paul preached to the Gentiles (Acts 20:24) infuriated those Jews who would never relinquish their hope in the law written down by Moses. Paul was to first-century Jews what Luther was to sixteenth-century Catholic clergy. Religion professes to be a friend of truth, but when its traditions are challenged, it shows its teeth. It has done nothing to lift the standard of living in nations whose populace clings to religious dogma. Look at the Muslim world; if it weren't for oil, they wouldn't be able to feed their camels. How about Latin America where Catholicism kept populations in ignorance and darkness for centuries? Catholicism's fruit is poverty, corruption, violence, and political instability.

"For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (Luke 6:43).

We are living in momentous times. Religion has failed and most thinking

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Religion, a Big Flop

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people know that. Actually, religion needs a “savior,” someone who can skillfully marry the religious world with the scientific community. Is evolution a fact, or have aliens, so-called “star people,” had a hand in the development of human beings? The History Channel and others on cable TV offer a number of programs dealing with UFOs and the origin of great structures built by ancient civilizations. Our population is being prepared subconsciously to look for “gods” from heaven. When the church of Jesus Christ leaves this world suddenly and mysteriously, a window of opportunity will open for **“the god of this world”** to establish a one-world religion built upon what the aliens tell the nations are the real “facts” of history. **“The God of forces”** spoken of in Daniel 11:38 will be seen as the real god, and his genuineness will be attested to by an international body of scientists in the pocket of the Antichrist. Oh, what a great and spectacular delusion God has prepared for those who have rejected His word (2 Thess. 2:10–12). No wonder the Scripture says, **“shall he find faith on the earth?”** (Luke 18:8).

Clearly, what keeps religions from uniting now is doctrine. Ecumenicalism is a last-days attempt to bring denominations together by ignoring doctrine and stressing God’s love. It is assumed that the Holy Spirit desires all Christian persuasions to unite. You know the mantra, “One Shepherd and one flock”! Drop restrictive doctrinal positions and unity will be achieved. The end justifies the means, and how can there be world peace without religious peace? So the Devil’s christ

will have his work cut out for him. He will be ably assisted by the false prophet working signs and wonders to establish the religious credentials of the man wanting his number on all human beings.

Now, there is one doctrine, a fundamental of the faith that unites professing Christianity, and that is the deity of Jesus Christ. The world may recognize him as a prophet or a great moral teacher, but this particular doctrine will not effectively block the UN from partnering with the pope to build a kingdom of peace and prosperity for all nations. There are statements that Jesus made during His brief ministry that the world cannot and will not abide. The Lord’s insistence that He was the way to God and that there is no other way, is a blanket condemnation of all religions. There is no doubt in my mind that Pope Benedict XVI was “retired” because he would not give an inch of the Lord’s word in this matter. The Jesuits working feverishly to bring the church of Rome into partnership with the UN had Francis making statements that implied that other ways to God were not to be condemned.

Our Lord was a bigot from the world’s point of view and trafficked in “hate speech.” **“I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”** (John 8:24).

He was clearly telling the Jewish religious establishment that He was the heir to David’s throne. All nations will have to bow before Him. Twice in that scripture, Jesus points out the certainty of damnation if one refuses to believe in His claim to power. This

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Religion, a Big Flop

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warning cuts to the heart of all religious activity and carries a sting to it that saying that you are God **“in the flesh”** does not contain. A one-world faith will not allow the threats made by Jesus to have even the slightest credibility. When Moses and Elijah return in the tribulation to verify what Jesus said, the opposition will be ferocious. When these two voices are silenced, the world will rejoice and declare a season of gift giving like Christmas to celebrate the end of the torment received at the hands of Moses and Elijah (see Rev. 11:10).

For organized religion and the evangelical and fundamental churches to remain viable in today's America, they must ignore many negative statements made by Jesus. Negativity, rebuke, and threats of damnation will not fill the pews on Sunday. There was once a time in our nation when mainline Protestant churches and Catholic priests preached on hell. Religion received respect because most believed in life after death and a place of torment. Not long after World War II ended and our society became increasingly more prosperous, sermons on hell went to the back of the file cabinet. In the Muslim world, preaching on hell is not ignored, so religion among Muslims flourishes. In Europe, churches have closed by the thousands. Anglican, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Catholic, Orthodox, and other churches have been vacated, some being turned into museums and nightclubs. Some months ago, the Lord set fire to Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Lord is behind everything that happens good or bad, and France got a taste

of what the Lord thinks about giving glory to “Our Lady.”

In a world where most consider SELF to be “God,” what church you go to or what religion you identify with means little. Many now prefer to call themselves “spiritual” rather than religious. Like the breakdown of the traditional family, the place that religion holds in the minds of many has deteriorated. Failure to preach the whole **“counsel of God”** (Acts 20:27) has robbed religion of its credibility, and for that, every Bible believer ought to rejoice. What men should turn to is the word of God and see for themselves what came out of the mouth of Jesus that this world holds in contempt. How about this? **“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword”** (Matt. 10:34). Also, **“I pray not for the world”** (John 17:9) And, **“the whole world lieth in wickedness”** (1 John 5:19). This present world is evil according to Paul in Galatians 1:4, and who wants to hear that in the General Assembly of the UN? A church or a religion for this world to unite under has to reject the King James Bible in order to give people hope. Our Lord, in His wisdom, will give our world a man who will give new life to the Rev. Jesse Jackson slogan. “Keep Hope Alive.” And why must this be so?

“For they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices” (Prov. 1:29–31).

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On February 3rd of this year, the Vatican released a document on "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together." This paper was published in conjunction with the pope's visit to the United Arab Emirates. It begins thus: "Faith leads a believer to see in the other a brother or sister to be supported and loved." What "Faith" is that, your Holiness? My Bible does not teach that everyone is my brother and sister. Here is the Bishop of Rome making a bold attempt to hasten the unification of all religions. This document, dictated to the pope by "**the god of this world,**" was signed by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb. For the most part, Francis won over most of the Muslim world except the extreme crazies with his plea for peace and understanding. The time is short, and the table is being set for the Man of Sin to come out from behind the curtain. God forbid a Christian should allow the enemy to put him/her asleep in these last days before we get called home. What a tragedy!

This overpowering urge to merge, which is what drives the ecumenicalism of today, began in earnest with the World Council of Churches and then the National Council of Churches. Coincidentally, the WCC was founded in 1948, the same year when Israel became a sovereign state. In 2009, this council called for an international boycott on goods produced in Israeli settlements, which it described as illegal, unjust, and incompatible with peace. The WCC considers Christian Zionism to be dangerous and a distortion of the word of God. It should be obvious

to those who study God's word and seek to understand the currents of world opinion that hatred of Jews, and especially Israel, will bring Muslims, lost "Christians," and others into one foul-smelling tent in the near future. Religious unity will be used as a cover to steal God's land. So in a perverse way, religion does have an answer as to what ails the world. It is the same solution proposed by Hitler to make Germany great—get rid of the Jew!

Our God has a surprise in store for those who feel warmly toward religion but hate the truth. He has set up Jerusalem as the flash point which will put an end to satanic worship and Jew hatred in the UN.

"And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE EARTH BE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST IT" (Zech. 12:3).

Such will be the inglorious conclusion of all religious effort to bring peace to a world that sought peace, but not the Prince of Peace. All men's inventions will fail to stop His coming. Jerusalem today is a trap waiting to be sprung; "**a cup of trembling**" (Zech. 12:2) and a terrorism plot designed by the God of Israel to paralyze the Muslim world with fear.

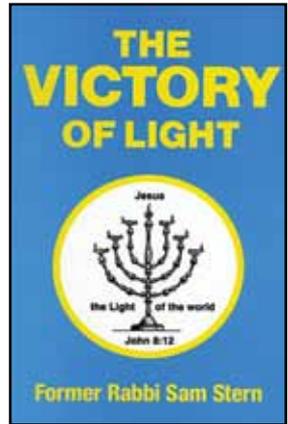
Religion to me is like a drunk that refused to sober up. It peddles a dream that the word of God exposes as a nightmare. It gathers under its wing personages who have large followings and a flare to inspire others to dream, like singers, poets, entertainers, writers, politicians, authors, etc.

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The Victory of Light

The inspiring story of the late Rev. Sam Stern, who was born in Poland and ordained as a rabbi. He fled from the Nazis to Russia with other Hasidic youth who posed as Polish. As a refugee after the war, he lived in a DP camp for several years. Rabbi Stern was then called to Providence, RI to serve in his capacity as a rabbi. Soon after, he found his Messiah Jesus Christ in his new homeland and dedicated his life to serving his Lord.

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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.

Religion, a Big Flop

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I remember how the John Lennon (the Beatles) song "Imagine" was pushed to the top of the charts in late 1971 because of its lyrics. That song served as a kind of international anthem for one-world, religious wackos.

"You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope some day you'll join us
And THE WORLD WILL BE ONE
..."

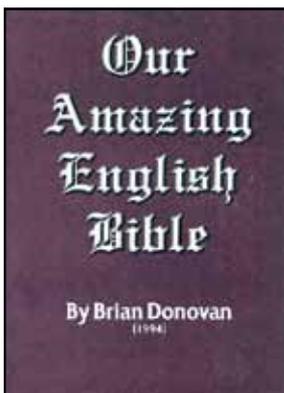
Since 2005, "Imagine" has been played prior to the New Year's Eve ball drop in New York City's Time Square. It would be fitting to play the song when Pope Frances gives his New Year's greeting to all from the balcony of his palace of corruption and moral degeneracy. Lennon referred to himself as a dreamer. The priests and nuns that educated me were dreamers—how sad. Those who dream that their good works and religious devotion will get them to heaven wake up in hell. Dreamers are often dangerous.

When a child of God, saved by grace alone and not religion, considers how many billions are believing

lies, praise, worship, thanksgiving, and obedience must be rendered continually to the Jewish Lamb of God. I've had people tell me they don't believe in miracles. My response is abrupt: "You're looking at one!" There's no way your reasoning ability can bring you to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Science, religion, education, politics, and a good reputation entitle you to nothing from heaven. That's bad news for this "selfie" generation. The words of life are found in a book that few seem interested in. My Bible doesn't flatter man. It destroyed almost all my religious understanding, thank God! If a bold, faithful witness for the Lord hadn't stuck a knife in my esteem for Catholicism, you wouldn't be reading this. Will you be bold enough to do the same for one poor, lost soul hoping his or her religion will open heaven's door?

Our Constitution promises freedom of religion, but my Saviour gives freedom from religion.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).



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