



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 44 No. 3

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

March 2020

The KJV 1611 God’s Perfect Book

By Brian Donovan

The Lord has condensed everything that man needs to know from his words, into just over fifteen hundred pages, yet the information he leaves out seems almost just as remarkable as the information that is given. The gospel of John begins with the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ as the eternal Word, dwelling with the Father before time began, and then says nothing of his birth or the first thirty years of his life, except that **“the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”** (John 1:14). He then spends over half of the book (chapters 12-21) on just over one week of his life, beginning **“six days before the passover”** (John 12:1) to his death, burial and resurrection. It is this silence found in the scriptures that causes an awe that makes them even more remarkable.

For instance, Matthew tells us that Jesus **“healed all that were sick”** (Matthew 8:16), without description or details, and then adds that **“the blind receive their sight, and the**

lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up...” (Matthew 11:5), as if these events were as common as eating breakfast. Each one of those healings represents an individual life that was dramatically changed, and no doubt, to each of them, the details were significant. John chapter 6 tells us that five thousand men were fed with five loaves and two fishes, and then closes the account with the statement **“When they were filled”** (verse 12), with little concern for “how” this great work was done. The Bible reader is left to read between the lines and the reason for the silence is given at the close of the gospel, where we are told that there were also many other miracles done by Christ **“which are not written in this book”** (John 20:30), but that **“these are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ...”** (John 20:31). In other words, the purpose for what the scripture says, as well as what it does not say, is to produce faith. There is not a single word of the scripture that is written to produce doubt...unless someone does not want the truth. Then these same scriptures become

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The Third Commandment

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exod. 20:7).

This commandment deals with the name of the Lord. In the Old Testament, that name is *Jehovah* (Exod. 6:3); in the New Testament, the Lord reveals Himself under the name *Jesus* (1 John 5:20). In the Old Testament, God counted His name so holy that the penalty for blaspheming it was *death* (see Lev. 24:10–16). In the New Testament, God thinks so much of the name of His Son that He exalts it even above His own **“glorious name”** (Neh. 9:5 cf. Phil. 2:5–11).

Now think about that last statement. If that is true (and there is no doubt in my mind that it is), then think about the extent of that exaltation. That means the name of Jesus Christ has been exalted by God above the name of Allah and Mohammed and Mother Teresa and that of the popes (any of them—either their real names or their *aliases*, like Paul VI or John Paul II) or the names of any man or woman the media is trying to create as a god or goddess for your devotion. Every other name is OUT.

You can't mess with that Book without blowing yourself to smithereens. That name is so important that the Holy Spirit tells you, **“there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12). The believer is commanded to pray in that name (John 16:23), and when he does, God answers the prayer in that name (John 14:13–14, 15:16, 16:24).

The Holy Ghost is sent to indwell the believer at salvation in that name (John 14:26).

Mary is OUT! She can do absolutely nothing for you at all. I know some of your mothers, grandmothers, and godparents don't believe that; I know some of them are fine, outstanding, moral people. The problem is, *what are you going to do with what God said in His Book about the name?* That's why this modern bunch wants to get rid of the Ten Commandments from the schools and government buildings: what God says causes *division*.

The third commandment, of course, forbids *cursing*. There is cursing going on all around you, in every facet of American life. Americans damn this and damn that all the time. They damn things on the job; they damn the traffic; they damn things and people at sporting events; they damn the weather; they damn the airplanes; they damn their food; they damn everything. *God's last name is NOT damn!*

Think about this: *what if God answered all those prayers?* You say, “What prayers, Ruckman?” The prayers to *damn* a thing. After all, that is what is going on when someone says, “Damn this” or “Damn that.” He is asking the only One who has the power to do so damn the thing.

When I get on a plane, the first thing I do is ask the Lord to take all the damns off. I know there are people who have been on that aircraft ahead of me, and people all round me, who have damned the plane, damned the weather, damned the pi-

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lot; damned the flight attendants; etc. I don't want to fly on a *damned* plane; I want to fly on a *blessed* plane. So I ask God to take away all the damns so I can have a safe, decent flight.

A little boy got back from church one time and was talking to his mother about the things he heard the preacher say. He said, "Momma, daddy uses the same words the preacher uses; he just uses them a different way." If a preacher is worth his salt, he will use the words *damn*, *hell*, *God*, and *Jesus Christ* in his sermons; they just won't be used the same way you hear them used out in the world.

Back there in the Old Testament, God told Moses, "Go back to Egypt and tell those Jews that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has sent you to them." Moses said, "But Lord, what if they ask me your name; what if they want to know who sent me? What do I tell them?" The Lord said, "You tell them my name is '**I AM THAT I AM**' (Exod. 3:14)." That's what the name *Jehovah* means—"the eternal, self-existent God."

That is changed in "Bibles" like the "fundamental" NASV and the "conservative" ESV and the imitation NKJV to "*I AM WHO I AM*." Why, that doesn't mean anything at all. *You are who you are*; you sure aren't *who you aren't*. That's like changing 1 Timothy 3:16 from "**God was manifest in the flesh**" to "*He who was manifest in the flesh*." Absolute nonsense! *You are manifest in the flesh*; you sure aren't a spook floating around. What was special about Jesus Christ that set Him apart from a sinner like you or me is the fact that He was "**GOD**

... manifest in the flesh."

God is "**I AM THAT I AM**." In other words, the reason He is, is because *He is*. That speaks to His self-existence: He wasn't created; He had no beginning. It speaks to His eternity: He always is—past, present, or future. That's the nature of God. Do you know why He is? *Because He just is*.

That is the name Jesus Christ claimed as His own in the New Testament (John 8:58–59, 18:16).

Over and over again in the Old Testament, you read something like this: "**as the LORD liveth**" (e.g., Judg. 8:19; Ruth 3:13; 1 Sam. 14:39, 45, 19:6, 20:3; etc.). That was a Jew taking a personal oath and sealing it by invoking the name of the Lord. Sometimes it was used correctly (like in 1 Kings 22:14), and sometimes it *wasn't* (like in 2 Kings 5:20). We would say today, "By God, I'll do this or that." The trouble is, such expressions become commonplace when they shouldn't, and people tend to use them without even thinking about what they are saying. That's taking the Lord's name in vain.

That Old Testament Jew wasn't to swear falsely by God's name or profane it when he did swear by it (Lev. 19:12). So when Jesus comments on the practice in the New Testament, He says, "**Swear not at all**" (Matt. 5:34). In other words, you shouldn't personally swear by God's name to do anything. You shouldn't need to invoke the name of the Lord to be believed. You should be honest enough and forthright enough that when you say yes, you mean yes; when you say no, you mean no; and when you

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say maybe, you mean maybe (James 5:12). If you go around saying, "By God this" and "By God that" all the time, sooner or later you will **"fall into condemnation"** because you will swear falsely, and then you will have used the Lord's name in vain and be held guilty for doing so.

Of course, that has nothing to do with taking a public oath in court, such as in Matthew 26:63-64. It used to be in this country that when a witness was put on the stand in court that he had to place his hand on the Bible and swear to God to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. That was back when America professed to be a "Christian" nation. It's not done anymore. Now you are only asked to "affirm" that you will tell the truth. Well, if your highest authority is whatever is best for *you* in any given situation ("situation ethics"), what makes you think you are going to get the truth in court? An atheist doesn't want to swear by God or on the Bible, does he? Well, with no moral absolutes, why should he tell the truth if he doesn't want to. After all, *he* is his own final authority.

Bob Jones University used to have a booklet they used to sell called *The Truth about the King James Version Controversy*, by Stewart Custer. Of course they don't sell it anymore. One of the reasons is because we "helped them out" by selling it at our bookstore so our customers could compare it with my answer to it, entitled *Custer's Last Stand*. The cover of that booklet has a man (presumably Custer) putting his hand on a King James Bible as if he is taking an oath in court to tell the truth (there

is a court gavel there so you "get the message"). Of course, Custer is taking an oath on a book *he doesn't believe*. He doesn't believe the King James is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. He can find you 3,000 mistakes in it in the New Testament alone. I know because I use the same Greek text he uses to correct the King James Bible. He might as well be swearing to tell the truth on *Playboy* or a telephone book: he doesn't believe either one of those is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth either.

Again, the name of God in the New Testament is *Jesus*.

"All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bringing forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all."

No one ever cursed in Mohammed's name. Do you know why? *Because there is no power in it.* Ditto Buddha and Mary. They had no power to rise from the dead; the worms got them. The cuss words are *Jesus* and *Jesus Christ*. Why? Because those carry an understood power to them.

Even Satanists don't swear by the name of Lucifer or Satan or the Devil. They may invoke his name in their rituals, but when they swear, they don't say "By Satan" because that name has no power. They use the name of the One to whom all power in heaven and earth was given (Matt. 28:18)—Jesus Christ.

It used to be you heard a lot more of that up North than you did down South because Southerners used to

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have it drilled in them, **“Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.”** With the Bible and the Ten Commandments being taken out of schools, that has changed a lot over the past couple of decades to where you are likely to hear it down South as much as up North. But it used to be that Southerners didn't mind saying *damn* and *hell* because, to them, that wasn't taking the Lord's name in vain since it wasn't said outright.

Nevertheless, Southerners found their own ways of getting around that. They say, “Con sarned” and “Gol durned.” Oh come off it! You know what you are trying to say. “Dad burn,” and “Gosh darn,” “Dad gum.” That's getting just as close to saying it as you can without actually saying it, but you know what you want to say if you think you could get away with it. “Jeepers creepers,” “Gee whiz,” “Jiminy crickets”—what are you trying to say, kid? “Jesus Christ”?

Real men don't need to swear at all. Their word should stand in its own integrity without any swearing. The old saying used to be: “My word is my bond.” In other words, if you said you were going to do something, no one doubted you because you always kept your word.

One of the marks of the depraved nature of man is: **“Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness”** (Rom. 3:14). That's Americans: they cuss everything.

A little boy was looking out the window one day and said to his mother, “Momma, there's a funny man sitting on the sidewalk talking to a banana peel.” Don't you know what

he was saying to that banana peel!

Another little boy asked his mother, “Can I go out and listen to daddy changing tires?”

A teacher asked one of the boys in her class what Santa Claus said as he comes down the chimney to put presents under the tree. The boy let out a string of cuss words, and the teacher, in a shocked tone, said, “He doesn't say that!” The boy said, “Yes, he does. I hid behind the sofa last Christmas and heard him say it when he tripped over a chair.”

Now you take this thing about “minced oaths” about which I talked earlier. Those are words and expressions you substitute to take the place of the actual cuss words. *Gosh, golly*: that's just trying to get around saying “God.” *Oh my goodness, for goodness sakes*: if you are saved, what is your goodness? Isn't it *Jesus Christ*—Romans 10:3–4; 2 Corinthians 5:21? *My stars, heavenly days*—**“swear not neither by heaven”** (James 5:12). Land's sakes, Sam hill—**“neither by the earth”** (James 5:12). There's many a slip 'twixt tongue and lip.

Taking the name of God in vain means one of three things. It can mean that you use it to *no purpose*, just to use it. That's how the Catholics used it in the Dark Ages. *Ods bodkins*—a reference to *God's body* in the wafer at the Mass. The French said, “Sacre bleu” (holy blue) to take the place of *sacre Dieu* (holy God). One of the worse cuss words in England is the word *bloody*—it is a reference to the *blood of Christ*.

All of that is just to show off. People don't mean anything by it;

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they just want to draw attention to themselves. Young men pick up the *damns* and *hells* and *Jesus Christs* to make themselves look tough because it is a defiance of the law.

Repetitive prayers like the Catholic rosary use God's name to no purpose. A Catholic doesn't think about the "Our Father" as he twiddles his beads; he just counts the number of times the priest told him to do it for "penance." Jesus called that "**vain repetitions**" and said it was a mark of "**the heathen**"—the *lost* (Matt. 6:7).

The next way you can use the Lord's name in vain is to use it to *your purpose*. That's how the charismatics use it. All that talk about the baptism of the "holyghost" and "Thank you, Jesus" and "God did it" and "In the name of Jesus," etc., is just to fleece the flock of every last dollar they have.

Back there in the Old Testament, Saul meets Samuel after the slaughter of the Amalekites and says, "**Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD**" (1 Sam. 15:13). About that time one of the cows he had saved for the spoil, which he was supposed to have destroyed utterly, sounds off.

Samuel says, "You have?! Then, **What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?**" (1 Sam. 15:14)."

Saul had gotten caught with his britches down, and to save his own hide, he said, "Oh, we saved those **'to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God'** (1 Sam. 15:15)." Saul was using the Lord's name in vain to make

himself look pious when he was a disobedient rebel.

When it came time for Isaac to bless Jacob's older brother Esau, Jacob dressed up like Esau and brought in some goat meat his mother had fixed up to taste like Esau's venison. Isaac wondered how Esau could have gotten a deer and fixed it that quickly, and Jacob said, "**Because the LORD thy God brought it to me**" (Gen. 27:20). Jacob was using the name for his own purpose—to deceive daddy.

Now there is nothing wrong with using the Lord's name to bless something if you are sincere about it. If you had a problem with cussing before you were saved and still have a struggle with it after you have been saved, a good thing to do to "break the habit" is substitute blessing the Lord for those cuss words. If you hit your thumb with a hammer, that's the time to say, "Bless God!" or "Glory." or "Thank you, Lord!" rather than some of the old, familiar words that come to mind.

The third way to use the Lord's name in vain is to use it to the *Devil's purpose*. The oaths taken in the name of God in the Masonic Lodge and in the Jesuit order aren't any kind of sacred oaths to God. When you vow in God's name to disembowel someone and cut out his tongue, etc., for the person revealing the secrets of the secret society, that's an oath taken to a devil, not to God. It's like that group of forty-plus Jews who "**bound themselves under a curse . . . that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul**" (Acts 23:12–13). Well,

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do you think they were serving God with that vow? Of course not. They were serving the Devil (John 8:44), but they were doing it in the name of God (John 8:38–42).

Before Paul was saved, he would take Christians and torture them until they took the name of God in vain: he said he **“compelled them to blaspheme”** (Acts 26:11). That was a self-righteous Pharisee (Phil. 3:5–6) doing the Devil’s work.

Back during the Inquisition, the Catholic priests would sprinkle the instruments of torture with “holy water” to “sanctify” them. That was asking God to bless something that would be used to persecute His children. That’s taking the Lord’s name in vain for Satan’s purposes. The communists would try to get Christians to urinate on the cross as a symbol of sacrilege.

When it comes to the Lord’s name, America is full of hypocrites. Doesn’t your money say, “In God We Trust”? Does America trust God? I know you individual Christians do, but does America as a nation trust God?

Ask the Moslems if America trusts God. When those nineteen Moslems bombed the Twin Towers, they didn’t bomb any churches or cathedrals; they bombed the center of commerce. They knew what America’s god was: it was a dollar bill.

If this nation trusted God, wouldn’t it put what He wrote in its schools? God Himself wrote those Ten Commandments, not Moses. The Supreme Court said if the Ten Commandments were posted in the public schools it might cause the kiddies to venerate them and obey them. Well,

what’s wrong with that, if you trust God like you profess?

The Moslems bomb the Twin Towers, and all the senators and congressmen get on the Capitol steps and sing, “God Bless America.” Shut your mouths, you hypocrites! God’s not going to bless a nation that gets rid of His words. The ACLU has been trying to get rid of the words “under God” from the Pledge of Allegiance ever since Eisenhower had them put in in 1954. “One nation under God”? There’s no sign of it in Congress; there’s no sign of it in the Supreme Court; there’s no sign of it in the public schools.

Thomas Jefferson has been used by the Supreme Court in every religious decision made after FDR. The “Nine Old Men” dug up a letter and took the expression “a wall of separation between church and state” completely out of context to say no public school can have prayer and Bible reading and post the Ten Commandments. They did that by applying the Fourteenth Amendment to the states over the Tenth Amendment that gave the states power over anything the Constitution doesn’t delegate to the Federal government. The First Amendment says, “CONGRESS”—get that; it has nothing to do with the public schools in Florida, Massachusetts, Texas, Alaska, Alabama, Missouri, etc.—“CONGRESS shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” Do you know what Jefferson said about that?

In 1798 (Kentucky Resolutions), he said, “that no power over the freedom of religion . . . being del-

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egated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, all lawful powers respecting the same did of right remain, and were reserved to the States or to the people." In other words, the Constitution didn't give the *federal government* the right to establish or prohibit the free exercise of religion. That was left up to the individual states and their citizens.

If there is any doubt about what he meant, look at what Jefferson said in his second inaugural address (1805): "In matters of religion I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution INDEPENDENT OF THE POWERS OF THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT. I . . . have left them, as the Constitution found them, under the direction and discipline of the church and STATE authorities."

In 1808, he wrote to a Samuel Miller: "I consider the government of the United States as interdicted by the Constitution from intermeddling with religious institutions, their doctrines, discipline, or exercises.

In 1785, James Madison, the author of the First Amendment wrote: "It is the duty of every man to render to the Creator such homage and such only as he believes acceptable to him. This duty is precedent, both in order of time and in degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society. Before any man can be considered as a member of Civil Society, he must be considered as a subject of the Governor of the Universe."

James Madison before the General Assembly of the State of Virginia in 1778: "We have staked the whole

future of our new nation, not upon the power of government; far from it. We have staked the future of all our political constitutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments of God."

If what Madison said is true, then this country is shot. It no longer considers its citizens subject to the Governor of the universe, and it won't even allow His commandments to be posted in its public schools or government buildings.

In the 1815 decision on *Commonwealth vs. Staples*, the Supreme Court said, "The destruction of morality renders the power of government invalid . . . The corruption of the public mind, in general, and debauching the manners of youth, in particular, by lewd and obscene pictures exhibited to view, must necessarily be attended with the most injurious consequences . . . No man is permitted to corrupt the morals of the people."

My, my, my, haven't we "progressed" since then! What happened to the Supreme Court? Well, in 1964, it ruled that nothing was really obscene unless you thought it was, and showing sex acts on screen was perfectly acceptable "free speech." You have stuff in your living room today on the "glass toilet" that would make that dirty picture on trial back there in 1815 look like nothing in comparison. But you understand, you can't post the Ten Commandments where the kiddies can see them because they might "read, meditate upon, and perhaps venerate and obey the Ten Commandments WHICH IS NOT A PERMISSIBLE . . . OBJECTIVE"

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(Stone vs. Graham, 1980).

So what happens? You reap those "most injurious consequences" the Court, back in 1815, said would happen: rapes up, assaults up, murders up, out-of-wedlock births up. I have preached in prisons where everyone in there had to have committed *three felonies* before the age of *thirteen*. Why is that happening? Because it is unacceptable for the kiddies to see "**Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal,**" etc.; but it is acceptable for them to see two people fornicating, someone being chopped up by a machete, innocent people being gunned down, "psychics" talking to the dead, thieves running from the police in a high-speed car chase, junkies shooting up, etc. What did you think was going to happen after all that? Charades?

Back to the commandment under discussion. The Lord says He won't hold the one "**guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**" Why is that? First of all, because the name is *the key to prayer*.

Jesus said, "**If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it**" (John 14:14).

He said, "**Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full**" (John 16:24).

Why would you treat that name as worthless if it is the key to getting your prayers answered?

Second, when you take God's name in vain, it drags it down into the dirt. You're taking a holy name and dragging it down to your level—that of a vile sinner. You take a name that

is supposed to be "**Wonderful**" (Isa. 9:6) and degrade it.

Finally, the Lord won't hold you guiltless when you take His name in vain because it is the name connected with the greatest transaction on earth. "**Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS**" (Matt. 1:21). "**There is none other name under heaven . . . whereby we MUST BE SAVED**" (Acts 4:12). "**For whosoever shall call upon the NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED**" (Rom. 10:13). Why would you take that name in vain when your salvation depends on it?

"At the name of Jesus bowing,
Falling prostrate at His feet.

King of kings in heav'n we'll crown
Him

When our journey is complete.
Precious name! Oh, how sweet!
Hope of earth and joy of heav'n."

I used to have an old Alabama redneck preacher in here named "Red" Robinson. He used to come up with some of the most original stuff you ever heard. He was commenting on that song above and said, "Do you really bow whenever you hear the name of Jesus? How about when you heard Jesus' name used as a cuss word; did you bow?"

I thought to myself, "That's pretty good. I'm going to try that the next time I'm at the sauna and someone says it." I was going to use it as an open door to witness. But the strangest thing happened. I waited a year for someone to do it, and it never happened. They used every other

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word in the book, but not *Jesus*.

When I was a boy, the cops would say, "Open (or stop) in the *name of the law*." If you didn't open up or stop, you were liable to get a bullet for your troubles, and no one would say anything to the cop at all. It was your own fault for defying the "name of the law." That's because the name carried power and authority behind it. That's why the Lord won't hold you guiltless for taking His name in vain.

One of our young men here at PBI used to work with an old cussing reprobate who always used to give him a hard time about being a Christian. Finally that Christian got fed up with that lost guy's filthy mouth and said, "You think you're really something, don't you?" That lost fellow raised himself up to his full height, stuck out his chest, and said, "Yeah, I can take you on."

That Christian said, "I can do something you couldn't do in ten years." That unsaved guy bristled up and said, "What's that?" "I can work an eight-hour shift without cussing, and you can't," said the young man. That shut that other fellow up; he knew he couldn't do it.

Another of our young men was on a roofing crew, and if you've never worked on a roof in Pensacola in the heat of July and August, you've missed a "blessing." Our young man became buddies with a black fellow on that crew who was also a Christian, and they would talk about the Lord back and forth loud enough for the other men to hear them and get a witness in without having to interfere with their work.

Anyway, there was a lost man on

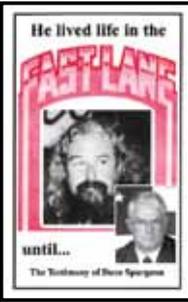
that crew who would cuss everything: "Damn this" and "Damn that." One day that black fellow said, "That fellow is an ungodly cuss, ain't he?" Our young man said, "I think he's a good Christian." That black guy looked surprised and said, "What do you mean by that?" Our student said, "Don't you see how many of his prayers God answers?" The black fellow said, "Man, he's not praying; he's cussing." Our young man said, "No, he asks God to damn everything, and God answers his prayers. Everything that guy touches turns to mud."

"I know of a name,
A beautiful name,
That angels bro't down to earth;
They whispered it low
One night long ago.
To a maiden of lowly birth.

"The One of that name,
My Saviour became,
My Saviour of Calvary;
My sins nailed Him there,
My burdens He bare.
He suffered all this for me.

"I love that blest name,
That wonderful name,
Made higher than all in heaven;
'Twas whispered I know,
In my heart long ago,
To Jesus my life I've giv'n.

"That beautiful name,
That beautiful name,
From sin has power to free us!
That beautiful name,
That wonderful name,
That matchless name is *Jesus!*"
("That Beautiful Name" by Jean Perry)



The testimony of Evangelist David Spurgeon recounting how the Lord saved him from the life of an outlaw biker.

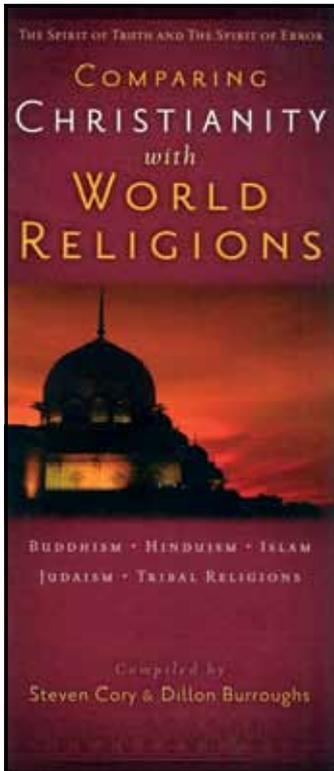
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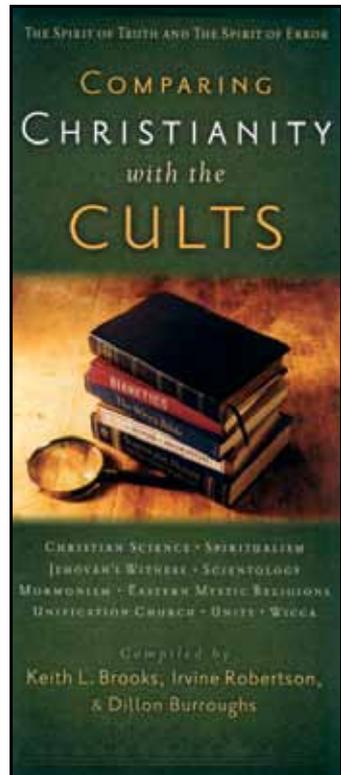


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The KJV 1611 God's Perfect Book

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a trap for the unbelieving heart, and the reader will find contradictions, errors, and outright foolishness within the Bible. Jesus told his disciples that the reason he spoke in parables was to keep the truth from those who have already closed their eyes and ears and hearts to it, that they should not **"be converted"** (Matthew 13:13-15).

The Bible critic sees the gaps of silence as a weakness and a reason to reject the scripture, and then looks to science, education, and man's inventions to fill in the gaps. Professing Christians have attempted to fill in the gaps by writing foolish and childish books such as "The Gospel of Thomas", "Maccabees", "Bel and the Dragon", and the "Book of Enoch". But these comic books cannot stand the test of scripture and are rejected for the imposters that they are by the Bible believer. Over the years, the Holy Spirit of God has guided the believers in both the early church period, as well as in these Laodicean days, to recognize, accept, and cherish the scripture which **"is given by inspiration of God"** (II Timothy 3:16), while rejecting the writings of men.

The lost educated world attempts to fill in the gaps of silence by writing foolish and childish books such as "Origin of the Species" (Darwin), "A Brief History of Time" (Hawking), "The Blind Watchmaker" (Dawkins), and "The Inflationary Universe" (Guth), among many others. These educated fools presumed that the Bible was a religious book that could be summarily rejected in their supposed search for

truth. As a result, the Lord God hath **"made foolish the wisdom of this world"** (I Corinthians 1:20), and each time these men open their mouths or put their pens to the paper, it comes out in a way that no one seeking truth could take seriously. They invent terms that are moronic and self-defeating, all the while trying to sound wise. They leave the world of reality and truth and instead speak of "multiverses", "infinite time", "quarks" and "the singularity". You could just as well seriously speak of "thagomizers", "fluffernutters", "updowners", and "tinkerbells" as the elements of creation, and be just as mistaken for a scientific authority.

Although there may be many things that a man can learn to make a living (physics, calculus, computer science, engineering, etc.), all he needs to know that matters for eternity, is found in the scriptures. The other stuff is not only trivial but temporary, unsure, and always changing. The Bible believer has a foundation that is sure and unchanging, and the King James Bible develops a unity among those of like-minded faith. We are commanded that we all **"speak the same thing"** (I Corinthians 1:10), have **"the same love"** (Philippians 2:2), **"mind the same thing"**, and **"walk by the same rule"** (Philippians 3:16). This could only be possible by having the same rule by which to speak, love, mind, and walk. Thank God that we have that one rule and it is not a preacher's opinion, a denominational teaching, a historic position, or even a creed, but the 1611 King James English Bible.

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The KJV 1611 God's Perfect Book

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If the believer had to go to the Greek or Hebrew, he would find so many differing manuscripts, he would not be able to **“speak the same thing”**.

In this article, we are going to give three major reasons how a child of God can know that when he holds the KJV 1611, he has the scriptures in his possession. Though there are other reasons, the three of most importance are 1) Its Preservation, 2) Its Preeminence, and 3) Its Power.

The promise of preservation is found in Psalm 12:6-7 **“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”** The Lord gave the scriptures of the Old Testament to his people (Israel), in their language (Hebrew), and then used the Levitical priestly scribes to preserve those words. From Genesis (1500 BC) to Malachi (400 BC), the Lord gave his words to one people, in one language. To the Jews **“were committed the oracles of God”** (Romans 3:2), and these words were given and preserved in the Hebrew language. Satan despises God's words and fights hard to destroy them, but it is a losing battle from the start as **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”** (Matthew 24:35). Long after the completion of the Old Testament scriptures, Jesus Christ entered into a world that was dominated by one main, common language, and that was Greek. Over the following ninety years

after his birth, the New Testament scriptures were given and preserved in that language. The thousands of manuscripts that comprised the New Testament books were not in Latin, Aramaic, Hebrew, or Syriac, but in Greek. As soon as they were being penned, Satan went to work to corrupt them (II Corinthians 2:17), but the Lord kept his words through **“prophets, and wise men, and scribes”** within the body of Christ, as promised by the Lord Jesus (Matthew 23:34).

The Lord had his words preserved in a Hebrew Old Testament, and in a Greek New Testament, yet nowhere were they brought together into a single book. The early believers did translate the New Testament from the Greek into Syriac (150 AD), Latin (180 AD), and Coptic (200 AD), yet still lacked a completed Bible into one language and one book. The Roman Catholic Jerome tried to put them together about 400 AD in Latin, but the Holy Spirit led believers to reject the Latin Vulgate, as it was the dead language of the satanic Roman church. While the Roman Catholic Church grew in power and married this world, true Christians witnessed and preached the gospel across the Roman Empire in the fields and the markets and the streets. The world was plunged into the Dark Ages (500-1500 AD) and was not brought out until two things took place, the printing press (1455) to make the scriptures available to the common man, and the rise of the British Empire (1488-1600) to circulate a common language (English) across

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the globe.

The Lord put men and kings and kingdoms into the right places at the right time, in order to bring about the preservation of his words into the worldwide, end time, universal language of English. In 1428, a sheriff and his officers, working as puppets of a Roman Catholic bishop and his abots, removed some flagstones from behind an old church in Lutterworth, England, and exhumed the body of a man who died and was buried there forty-four years earlier. What was left of the corpse was paraded through the streets, tied to a stake and burned, then the ashes were shoveled into a wheelbarrow to be dumped into the River Swift. Otto Colonna, (alias Pope Martin V) had condemned this man's teachings and hated the truth so much he wanted to be sure that this man's memory would never be honored. The man was John Wycliffe, and his "heretical" teachings were that salvation was by faith in Christ alone, the body and blood of Christ was not present in the wafer and wine of the Mass, confession of sins is not to a Roman priest but to God alone, and that Christ alone is the mediator between God and man. The previous antichrist, Pierre de Beaufort, (alias Pope Gregory XI), put out his papal bull in 1377 to have Wycliffe executed for the "heresies that he vomited", but the Roman Catholic cardinals were divided over who was actually the true Pope, and they chose two different men, and while one ruled from Avignon, and the other from Rome,

they excommunicated each other. This caused Wycliffe to comment, "I always knew that the pope was cloven footed, now he has a cloven head." Gregory died and his lost soul sank into hell before his bull against Wycliffe could be executed, and the old street preacher continued to preach until his death in 1384.

John Wycliffe's main crimes were to translate the Bible from Latin into the common tongue of English, as well as to train common, uneducated saints into outdoor field preachers of the gospel. These men were abused and beaten and ridiculed, but would not quit. Wycliffe's "heresies" spread through Europe into Prague and Bohemia to John Huss. Huss was thrilled with the idea of preaching outdoors and his followers were called Hussites, and carried on in the same manner as the Lollards that were trained by Wycliffe. Huss was burned at the stake in 1415 and later became an inspiration for Luther in Germany and much later, Tyndale in England. In 1525, Tyndale translated the New Testament into English, telling a pompous clergyman, "If God spares my life, I shall cause the ploughboy to know more of the scriptures than you."

The Lord then used the wicked Henry VIII to separate England from the Roman Catholic bondage (though Henry could not have cared less about the scriptures), and eventually put Elizabeth I on the throne for forty-five years from 1558 till 1603. It was during her reign that the English Empire grew across the world from America to

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Africa to the Pacific islands. Along with that rule, came not only the spread of the English language, but it's purification, making it the worldwide universal language of the end times.

In 1603, King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England and immediately called for an English translation of the Bible. The King James Bible was started in 1604 and finished and printed in 1611. By the approval of the breath of God ("**All scripture is given by inspiration of God**"), it became the Authorized Version of the scriptures. Over the next fifty years, the Great Bible (1539), Geneva Bible (1560), and the Bishop's Bible (1568), were all eclipsed and put aside as the KJV 1611 became the preeminent, powerful and preserved word of God in English. Some try to compare their language translations to the KJV (German, Spanish, Korean, etc.), but none of them are in the universal language that goes around the world. Just as the Lord gave and preserved his Old Testament scriptures in one language (Hebrew), and his New Testament

scriptures in one language (Greek), so the Lord preserved his whole Bible into one language (English), and put it into one Book.

Another reason a reader can know that the KJV 1611 is the scripture is its preeminence. Not only is it preeminent compared to any other book, but it gives the preeminence to the Lord Jesus Christ "**in all things**", as it should according to Colossians 1:18. In the search for the truth, the child of God can compare the KJV to every other book on this earth and find only one gives the preeminence to Jesus Christ in every case. In checking different versions of the Bible, there are certain test verses that determine whether or not Satan's hand has infiltrated the work. Since one of Satan's devices is to attack what God said (Genesis 3:1 "**...Yea, hath God said...?**"), it would be no surprise to find him at work in fighting the preeminence that the KJV 1611 gives to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan attacks the written word of God with a question, and this is found when he first shows up in the

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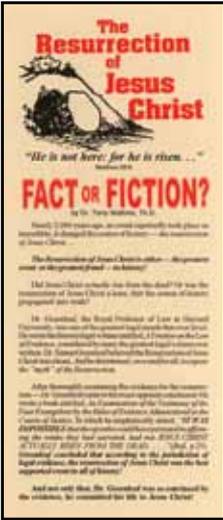
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garden of Eden, as well as when he personally attacks the Word of God in the flesh in Matthew 4, saying “**if**” three times to Christ before he is defeated three times by the same answer, “**it is written**”. Using “**subtilty**” (II Corinthians 11:3), the devil inserts “a better rendering”, or something “more easily understood than the archaic 1611” into the corruptions from 1881 to the present. The reader can check to see if the preeminence is given to Christ in every one of the following test cases. This would include foreign translations for those who wish to say that they are equal, or as some would ridiculously claim, “better than the KJV”. If Luke 2:33 reads that Joseph is the father of Jesus, it does not give the preeminence to Christ, but instead makes him a sinful man. If John 1:18 reads that Christ is a “begotten God”, then he is not God manifest in the flesh and the preeminence given to Christ is stolen. If Acts 4:27 reads that Jesus is God’s “servant”, instead of God’s “**holy child**”, he is not given the preeminence. The Muslims deny that God had a son, as does the NIV corruption of Acts 4:27. If Matthew 5:22 does not contain the phrase “**without a cause**”, then Jesus is in danger of the judgment like any sinful man, since he most certainly showed anger in Mark 3:5. If Daniel 3:25 reads “a son of the gods” (NIV), or “a god” (Living Bible), instead of “**the Son of God**” (KJV), then Christ gets no preeminence above Hercules, Zeus, or any of the Hollywood stars of today. If any reading of I Timothy 3:16

does not say “**God was manifest in the flesh**”, then someone is trying to steal the preeminence of Christ and is influenced by devils. If the dying thief in Luke 23:42 only calls on Jesus, and does not refer to him as “**Lord**”, then you have a satanic reading that cannot be scripture, as Christ is to be given the “**preeminence**” “**in all things**”. If the phrase “**which is in heaven**” does not appear in John 3:13, then the preeminence of Christ is removed as it denies that Jesus Christ is in heaven at the same time that he is speaking with Nicodemus on earth. If the blind man is asked if he believes on anything besides the “**Son of God**” in John 9:35, it is a corruption and does not give the preeminence to Christ. These are only some of the verses that will prove the Preeminence of God’s perfect Book, the KJV 1611.

The third reason that proves the KJV 1611 is the scripture in English is it’s power. The scripture says in Psalm 147:19, “**He sheweth his word unto Jacob...**” and in Ecclesiastes 8:4 “**Where the word of a king is, there is power...**”. When the Lord put everything in place for his words to be preserved into one Book, and in the worldwide language of English, He placed a King on the throne, not a Queen, and his name was James (‘Iakobos [Jacob] in Greek, is “James” in English). One of his first official acts as the King of England was to meet with both Anglican and Puritan scholars in order to put together a committee that would produce an English translation of the scriptures that would

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not be sectarian. James was previously prepped for this while he was yet the King in Scotland awaiting the death of Elizabeth I of England. The Scotch preachers met with their king in 1601 at a small church in Burntisland and pleaded for an official English translation of the scriptures to be done. Though he agreed that it was necessary, he did not yet have the power as the King of England, which would come in only two more years. Though it was never "authorized" by either King James or parliament, the 1611 became the Authorized Version by the hand of God.

The scripture is so powerful that even when all mankind attempts to overthrow it, they cannot, as **"the scripture cannot be broken"** (John 10:35). The "Mid-east peace efforts" will never work without the return of Christ and the scripture warns that the Arab (Ishmael) **"will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him..."** (Genesis 16:12). Try as they might, Ishmael's seed cannot be placated with land, oil, or money. The United Nations, World Health Organization, UNESCO, and other organizations claim that they want to eradicate poverty, but to no avail, as the Lord Jesus prophesied, **"For the poor always ye have with you"** (John 12:8). The Book is too powerful to overthrow.

The scripture has power to save (James 1:21 **"...receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your souls"**). The

"gospel of Christ" as found in the scripture, is **"the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"** (Romans 1:16). The sad fact is that most sinners only hear of religion and are not given the scripture to be saved.

The scripture has power to instruct and correct a man's ways. The KJV 1611 says that **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"** (II Timothy 3:16). Some of the corrupt readings say, "all scripture THAT is given by inspiration", as if there is such a thing as scripture that is not given by inspiration? If it is scripture, it is given by inspiration of God, and if it is not given by inspiration of God, then it is not scripture. There are no "scriptures" of the Moslems, Buddhists, Shintoists, Roman Catholics, or Mormons, etc. Sin blinds a man, and by studying and rightly dividing the word of truth, the child of God finds the power of the scripture to correct and instruct him. Back in the 1800s, an Admiral was coming into Charleston harbor without any maps. A black man on board drew out the way to shore with charcoal on a piece of wood. The Admiral scoffed and said that he would never go by that, until his men told him they had been using the old black man's way in safely for years. The scripture is the safe way home.

The scripture has power to comfort. Belief in the promises of the scriptures brings comfort, regardless of how the circumstances of life are going at the

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The KJV 1611 God's Perfect Book

Continued from 19 time. The KJV 1611 says, "**And we know that all things work together for good...**" (Romans 8:28) and not as the corruptions which say, "God works together with us for good." We have a promise that "**all things**" work for good, we already know that God works for good. Some of the things that we must go through in this life do not seem "**good**" at the time, but the scripture promise is that they are for good, no matter how they appear, and that is a comfort.

The KJV 1611 is the scripture in English, given by inspiration of God, and the question is, are you disciplining yourself to read, memorize, and take heed to it? Christians say that they love

the word of God, but one day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, the Lord will reveal whether you really loved it. The Judgment Seat of Christ will show how much time was spent with the Book. Will the Lord have to expose a lot of time with Fox News, YouTube, Yahoo News, Limburger, Hannity, and a bunch of foolishness on the Internet?

Go home tonight and prove the word of God for yourself. Get on your knees with an open Bible to Psalm 51 and read it as your own words, spoken from your own heart. Prove the Lord and see if He will not keep His promise to be faithful to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9), as you confess to Him.



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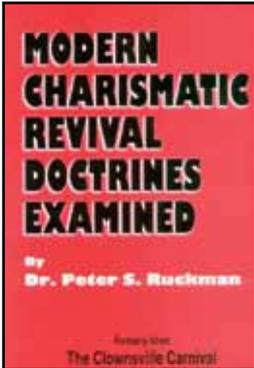
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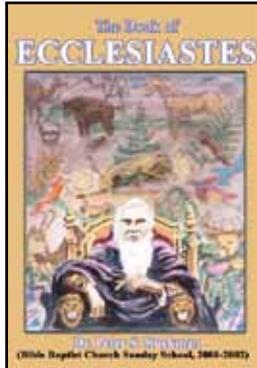
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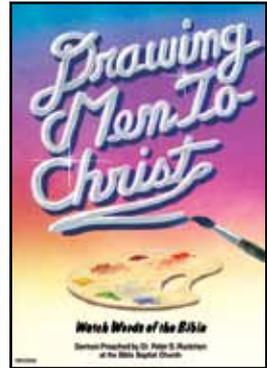
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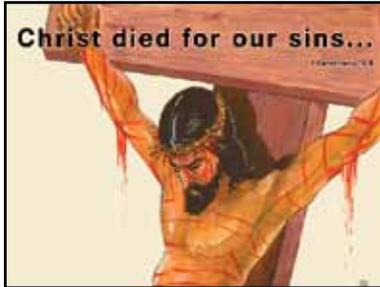
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Bible Baptist Church
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Asheboro, NC 27203
Pastor Tom Cochran
(336) 625-3095

May 1–3

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

June 12–14

Bible Believers Bapt. Church
1055 N.E. 25th St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Pastor John Robinson
(503) 706-7147

July 10–12

Faith Baptist Church
1302 Independence St.
Ft. Smith, AR 72901
Pastor Paul Sherrouse
(479) 650-4028

A Siege Mentality

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

In the Ruckman Reference Bible there is a note on Dan. 3:30. Dr. Ruckman listed seven points that he called great spiritual lessons found in that chapter. Point number three is “God’s people are always under attack.” Point four states, “Compromise will solve nothing.” And the next point is “God will honor an uncompromising stand.” A battle-tested soldier of Jesus Christ is a rare thing in the end-time Laodicean church. Compromise, surrender, and desertion have swept through the Lord’s army like venereal disease among the LG-BTQ crowd. A spiritual health crisis exists in the church of Jesus Christ because of carelessness, laziness, and an aversion toward real convictions. A disciple is to have convictions and not preferences when it comes to living the Christian life. “Onward Christian Soldiers” was taken out of the Presbyterian hymnals because it was deemed “too militant.” America’s pulpits are loaded with fruitcakes. Why aren’t more pastors preaching outdoors?

Nehemiah is a great book for those with a mind to fight for the cause of truth. Jews returning from exile in Babylon were determined to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. It was a holy cause, and as such, the enemy did all he could to frustrate the Jews.

“And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it” (Neh. 4:8).

God’s enemies always look like giants intimidating the people of God

with threatening speech and whatever else they can get away with. **“Be not afraid of their faces . . . ,”** God told a youth named Jeremiah (Jer. 1:8). Nehemiah told the skittish Jewish nobles, **“Be not afraid ye of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight”** (Neh. 4:14). Fear of the enemy caused Israel to ignore the exhortation to take the land, so they wandered in the wilderness forty years. Joshua and Caleb lived among spiritual cowards, and so are many today in the body of Christ. Only God knows how many of His saints have perished in a spiritual wilderness because of the fear of man.

“They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon” (Neh. 4:17).

I guess you can walk and chew gum if the circumstances so dictate, amen? Leave it to the Jews to strive single-mindedly in every endeavor they undertake. That’s how they build successful businesses while the Gentiles look on and envy them.

“Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?” (Luke 2:49). Where’s that determination today in the Laodicean church? Souls are going to hell all around us while thousands of pastors are engaged in “sharing and caring and building relationships.” How convenient. These men ought to get out to the highways, byways, and wherever else souls are passing and warn the wicked **“to flee the wrath to come”** (see Matt. 3:7; Luke 3:7). If this work is ignored, ex-

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A Siege Mentality

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pect more and more churches to become nothing more than sanctified social clubs. Who doesn't want to go to a church where you hear of someone being led to the Lord. That's what refreshes thirsty souls; not announcements of birthdays, anniversaries, and such like.

Anything the enemy can do to hinder Christians from doing the work of an evangelist, he will do.

“And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?” (Neh. 6:3).

Is trying to get someone saved **“a great work”**? What obstacles and distractions has the enemy employed in your life to take you away from God's work?

When I began Jesuit school in 1959, I was just 13 that summer. My dad knew that I would be getting a ton of homework each school night, so he bought me a desk for my room. It thrilled him to see me reading and taking notes. There were no computers then. My dad quit high school after two years to work and help support his parents. It was the middle of the Great Depression. He would tell my sisters to be quiet when I was studying because distractions were the enemy of concentration and memorization. He knew how important it was to keep your eye on the prize. Times have changed, Amen?

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14).

Is the Judgment Seat of Christ a place of great reward and great loss?

Certainly, it is. What soldier of Christ would not want a ribbon put on his robe of righteousness for fighting for God's truth? Paul had battle scars, plenty of them (see 2 Cor. 4:8–18).

“Wherefore I beseech you, be ye FOLLOWERS OF ME” (1 Cor. 4:16).

Where's the Lord's army today? Next month, on every major corner in Pensacola, there will be a man with a Bible or a scripture sign, preaching the truth. There is no better way to get a **“baptism of fire”** than facing souls with negative truth, the kind that saves souls. John the Baptist, Jesus, and the apostles were outdoor preachers. There were no church buildings then, with nice parking lots and a Burger King or Taco Bell nearby. Our creature comforts in America have softened God's men. Many have opted out of the battle for souls to pay attention to the political drama played out by every media outlet morning, noon, and night. This is, in our day, the most dangerous distraction being used by the Devil to keep Christians from God's business. Is it so difficult to see that the flag and the cross represent two very different worlds? Yes, politics can be interesting, and there is some drama in it for sure, but is it really **“my Father's business”**?

In Amos 4:12, the Lord says, **“prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”** Will the politicians we elect help you earn a commendation at the Judgment Seat of Christ? A Christian has a book and hopefully a place of prayer and study where distractions should not be allowed in. Time is short, and soon it will be report card day before the Jewish “Accountant” who saved our souls. He is neither Republican

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A Siege Mentality

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nor Democrat. He has a ledger book which shows Him just how much of a return He received on His investment in you. That should terrify you if you really know how carefully a Jew looks over his business dealings. Fear God!

We are told by the Holy Spirit in Jude 3 to **“earnestly contend for the faith.”** By implication, because that exhortation to fight appears just before the book of Revelation, Christians in the last days will be passive and not militant. Obviously, that is taking place in our day. An army on defense eventually gets worn down over time. It's important for a believer to look for open doors to strike at spiritual blindness with God's truth. Back in 1967, Israel had its back to the wall. Egypt, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq were preparing to engage little Israel in a war of extermination. Because Israel is a democracy and did not want to be an aggressor state, the Israeli military braced itself for pitched battle. Standing around with your hands at your side waiting to be punched in the jaw is not a winning strategy. God moved on Prime Minister Levi Eshkoh to forget about how the world would perceive Israel and to strike a first blow against Egypt—Israel's principal antagonist. This paralyzing fear that Christians have about how they will be perceived if they strike first with the truth is cowardice—nothing less.

Well, at dawn on June 5, 1967, the Israeli Air Force struck Egyptian air bases and saved the day for a very frightened Israeli population. The Egyptians were shocked. Surprise is indispensable in military situations.

Attempts at personal witnessing are really surprise thrusts designed to get the hearer to consider the state of his or her soul. The Gospels testify to the willingness of Jesus to strike first. He caught the woman at the well in Samaria with a surprise thrust: **“Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband”** (John 4:16–17). A chance encounter with a man railing against Catholicism led to my own salvation years ago. Nothing that a Christian goes through in this life is just happenstance. The plate before us comes from the Lord's kitchen.

Now, in my opinion, the only nation in this world that must function daily with a siege mentality shadowing its every decision is Israel. The pressures facing the Israeli Prime Minister are enormous. In the north is Hezbollah, and in Gaza is Hamas, and in Israel are thousands of potential terrorists just waiting for an opportunity to kill Jews. No nation is as security minded as Israel—they have no choice. They see danger all about them. Israeli settlers in Judea and Samaria always have their weapons ready, at hand. Jews are on the Devil's hit list. They are a reminder that God's word will prevail. Should not that same vigilance occupy our minds daily? Do we guard against sin as we ought? Do we see this world for what it really is and not what it presents itself to be? Can we properly understand how intensely the Devil hates us because of who it is that lives within us? Israel has no illusions about the hatred so many nations have toward them. Because the nation rejected their Messiah, the Gentile world sees

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Israel as an abnormality. Thank God the United States and a few others are not there yet, but they will be one day, or God lied. **“For I will gather ALL NATIONS against Jerusalem to battle”** (Zech. 14:2). All means all, so the Jew has no real friend today; no one that will stick with him to the end. We have, thank God! They will know they had a friend when they see the wounds in His hand, but by then, Jews will have taken a beating that even Hitler was not able to carry out.

There are words in our language that don't fit well with biblical Christianity. What about *relax*? It means “to make or become less tense or anxious.” Watch those words that end in X. There is coming a day when the saints of God will be without anxiety enjoying complete relaxation and rest, but that day is not here yet. We will strive against sin, and with unbelievers until the day we leave. Con-tending, exhorting, warning, striving, and plain speech are not hallmarks of the “sweet spirit of Christ” Christians boast about in these last days. Passivity is an open door for devils to put a firehose to the holy zeal Christians ought to have and what God expects them to display. Christian TV and FM radio have made Rip Van Winkles out of millions in America. **“Good words and fair speeches”** (Rom. 16:18) are a spiritual narcotic, and that's what most churches dispense liberally on Sunday mornings. “Relax, enjoy the worship experience, and bask in the love of God, praising Him for His goodness and mercy!”—that's how you get them coming back each week. No sermon given in these churches will cause anyone's palms

to sweat—you can bet on that. That's Laodicea.

New York City was a relaxed place on the morning of 9/11. The weather was clear, the temperature was pleasant, and there were no subway snafus. Something horrible was about to happen, and no one had a clue. Almost 3,000 souls would soon go into eternity—was anyone working in those towers ready to meet God so suddenly? After the tragedy, city officials did all they could to calm New Yorkers. They said that New Yorkers would not be intimidated and would not surrender their freedom to terrorists. The city where I lived and worked for most of my life is a proud city. The Lord exhausted His longsuffering that day and humbled our nation's premier metropolis. It was overdue just like the judgment that must come on Washington, D.C. one day. City leaders said we will not live under a siege mentality. You will if God says so.

Positive thinking mitigates against awareness of danger that is real and must be taken into account if we are to walk wisely in this world. Christians are often slow to perceive the influence of devils upon their thinking. There is an unseen world of evil spirits all about us, and happy talk does not alter that reality. Jesus warned Peter about what Satan was looking to do with him. The Holy Spirit sees clearly the unseen world about us and because of the confusion caused by modern “Bible” versions, many saints have lost the spiritual eyesight God wants them to have.

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and know-

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est not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and BLIND, and naked” (Rev. 3:17).

I suppose because of what Jesus told Peter about the Devil's intention, Peter went on to warn believers to be sober and vigilant (1 Pet. 5:8). Only God knows what you and I will have to face each day in the life of faith we were called to live here while waiting for that rescue promised in Titus 2:13.

On December 8, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress. A day earlier Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt declared war on Japan, Germany, and Italy. Life in America was set to change drastically. Our nation was put on a war footing. Factories were retooled to produce weapons. Ration stamps for food and gas were issued. Scrap metal drives kept young boys busy, and old rubber tires were collected from wherever they could be found. Men left their homes and enlisted in the armed forces. Women went to work in factories, and many were ready to serve their country in whatever capacity the War Department needed them. Hollywood celebrities went on tour selling war bonds. Every facet of American life was changing overnight. Our nation had a mandate—victory! Our freedoms and the liberty our citizens enjoyed since the Bill of Rights became law were under siege. Everyone knew what was at stake.

America's armed forces went into action. Soon, the telegrams began arriving home from the War Department. Loved ones cried as sad news came from the front. Gold stars be-

gan appearing in windows of homes where a soldier or sailor had given his life in battle. Severely wounded men were sent back to the States for therapy. Communities came together comforting those who lost husbands, sons, and brothers. The war brought to millions of Americans a sense of duty they had never known before. How is it today with the Lord's army? Have countless millions of pampered American Christians stepped outside the vanity of their minds and noticed that a war is going on about them? How many who claim to be followers of the Lamb leave their megachurches Sunday afternoon and march off to war?

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matt. 5:13).

Dr. Ruckman's comment on 2 Timothy 2:3 is a classic. He wrote, “Many Christians are brave on parade but cowards in battle.” Paul wrote in the next verse, **“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”** See that phrase **“that he may please him”**? That's why a believer is sent to the front. He or she must be willing to engage the enemy in battle. When my dad's infantry division was ordered to the front line to engage the German Wehrmacht, men sought for paper and pen to write letters to loved ones. Notes were jammed into the helmet linings; no one knew who would survive. We are called to a spiritual war fighting darkness with God's

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word and prayer. Really, what is our life here on earth if it is not at the Lord's disposal to use as He sees fit?

Paul wrote, **"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober"** (1 Thess. 5:6). When I read that verse, I think of Jonah falling asleep in the boat. He received a draft notice from the God of Israel to prepare for battle. He ran, and the Lord had not put him in hell for three days and nights before he thought better about obeying God. The fear of the Lord can do remarkable things with a believer who shows reluctance to speak up for Jesus. What will it take for many of God's people to respond to the Lord's call? Should it take a tragedy of some kind?

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor came as a bolt out of the blue to Americans listening to their radio on that quiet Sunday morning. Many were preparing for Christmas, and the president did promise that American boys would not go off to fight foreign wars. That all changed quickly. Consider how easy it is for our God to change the course of your life in a moment. Megachurches, modern "Bibles," wimpy pastors, and lazy saints have made it easy for the Devil to roar a little and send the army of the Lord into full-fledged retreat. Easily frightened saints balk at telling someone that evolution is a lie out of hell. These believers drop their weapons the moment the word *science* shows up. Sad, isn't it?

"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25).

Christians looking for lives of peace and safety cannot find those blessings without first establishing the fear of God as the principal thing. The world wants peace and safety but not the fear of God because He is holy. Here's what they are going to deal with soon:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and THEY SHALL NOT ESCAPE" (1 Thess. 5:3).

Talk about living with a siege mentality, this world has no idea of what the Lord will soon let loose. There's a war coming to the haters and despisers of God's word, and in that day the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ won't be busy organizing scrap-metal collections. They'll be running to the mountains and caves trying to hide from the face of the Lamb (see Rev. 6:16). Right now, Christians who are yielded are engaging a roaring lion, a fierce enemy. He will be defeated and put away for a thousand years. Yet, the lost will face another lion: the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Our Lamb will become the world's terror, and how will man's science and inventions save him in that day?

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

Wrestling (real wrestling that is, not the stuff on TV) can be bruising. Jacob found that out one night, and he had a limp to show for it (Gen. 32:24–25). You'll get wounded when

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you fight for the truth, and you should expect the fiery darts of the enemy to come your way. It's a great blessing to attach yourself to a cause or to someone who means more to you than your own life. Lost souls have given up their lives for worthless causes and have followed vain men to their own destruction. No one called to be a soldier of the Lord makes that mistake. You've got to be convinced your

cause is true and then go out to fight for it with all the Lord has given you.

In 1836, almost 200 men gave their lives in San Antonio, Texas to be free of Mexican control. For thirteen days, they were under siege in a mission compound known as the Alamo. These men believed their cause was worth dying for. When they were told that all efforts to relieve them had failed, they looked death in the face

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THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word "*Christian*" originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of "preference"—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are "almost the originals," although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can "tolerate" these if those who believe in them will "tolerate" US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of "PREFERENCE." You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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and said, "We'll fight." By the end of the day on March 6, only the women and children were left.

In a garden called Gethsemane, eighteen hundred years before the Alamo fell, a Jew from Nazareth, under a ferocious barrage from the enemy, fell on His knees in prayer. Horror came upon Him such as no man has ever known before. In a few short hours, He would literally become sin and make atonement for the sins of the world. Being a flesh and blood man, He cringed at the cup before Him. He sought for a way out, and His Father could have provided relief. If that had happened, death and the grave

would remain unconquerable. Jesus, as a man that exhorted others to "**Be not afraid**" (e.g., Mark 5:36), said no to that last temptation. He triumphed and we have eternal life. What a debt we owe. How many Jonahs, sleeping in a boat and running from God's call to battle, hear the trumpet blow and roll over in bed, still wanting to pamper the flesh? That Judgment Seat of Christ we must soon appear at will be, for some, an enrollment in God's hall of fame, and for far too many, a ticket to God's hall of shame. We make our choices here, and we will experience the consequences of those choices as sure as night follows day. How goes it with you?

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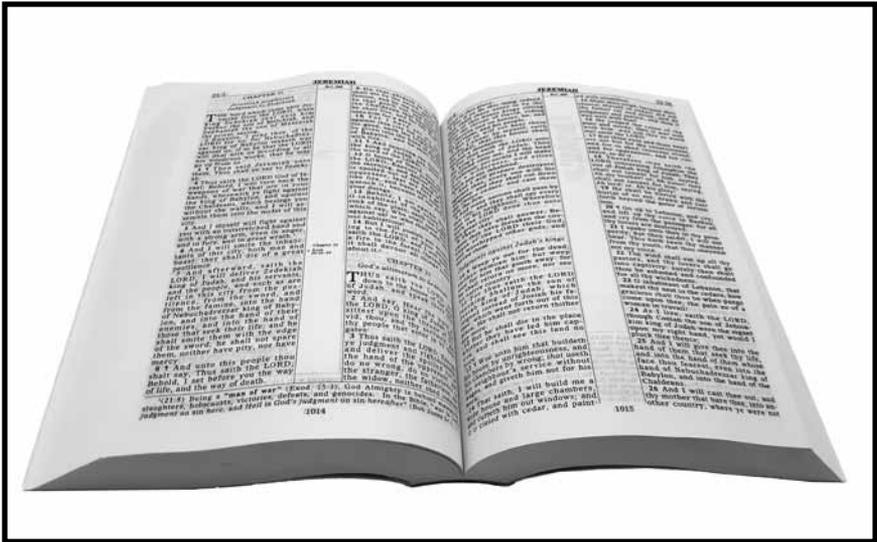


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(Mateo 28:6)

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