



Bible Believers' Bulletin

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

October 2020

The Importance Of Your Vote

By Brian Donovan

Over the next two months (October and November), the majority of American Christians will be glued to the news channels (Fox, CNN, MSNBC, etc.), anticipating the outcome of the November elections. Sadly, the Bible-believing Baptist pulpits will also be spewing out the importance of “getting out and voting for Trump”, as if it were a matter of scriptural importance. Some of these preachers have come up blank in the past, telling us that after eight years of Clinton, Bush was the last gasp for Christians to save America. Then, after eight years of Obama, these same clowns are trying to convince Christians that Trump is now their last chance. Last chance for what? It would be nice if someone could point out how eight years of Bush, versus eight years of Obama, and now four years of Trump have made a difference in either the holiness or in the work of the church of Jesus Christ. There is not a single testimony of any child of God getting the Judgment Seat of

Christ in view, getting serious about souls, street preaching, the Second Coming of Christ, or personal soul winning, based on whether it was Clinton, Bush, Obama, or Trump in office. These “patriotic” preachers are merely interested in preserving their own comfort and their rich American lifestyles.

These backslidden charlatans have convinced American Christians that the USA is God’s friend and that He is on our side against the satanic nations like Russia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, etc. **“His watchmen are blind...dumb dogs, they cannot bark”** (Isa. 56:10). Anyone gullible enough to swallow this idea is exhibiting not only an ignorance of scripture (Isa. 40:15 **“the nations are as a drop of a bucket”**) and the facts of history, but also showing off what Americans are hated for around the world—their stinking pride. A Bible-believing Christian has no business making an effort to preserve the American gods of pride, abundance of idleness, and fulness of bread (which things Sodom was destroyed for, see Ezek. 16). The Christian is supposed to obey the powers that be (Rom. 13) and be a law-abiding,

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The Tenth Commandment

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s” (Exod. 20:17).

“For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart” (Isa. 57:17).

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

The last commandment of the Decalogue is **“Thou shalt not covet.”** The basic definition is to *want* something, so when it comes to spiritual things which God wants you to have, it is not a sin to **“covet”** them. Paul says, **“But covet earnestly the best gifts”** (1 Cor. 12:31) and **“covet to prophesy”** (1 Cor. 14:39). In other words, if you are going to want something, want the best of the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12, and in every list, tongues is at the very *bottom*. Every charismatic who tries to blubber-blubber in some “unknown tongue” is coveting the very least gift available. It is like eating tripe when you could be having filet mignon.

Now when it comes to the commandment, coveting is an inordinate desire for something. In Exodus 20:17, it is an inordinate desire for what belongs to another, but as we saw in Luke 12:15, it can be an inordinate desire for things in general. Related terms would be *lust* (see

Rom. 7:7) and *greed* (cf. Prov. 15:27; 1 Tim. 3:3, 8).

Covetousness is the most common sin committed because it is *not visible*. Other sins people commit you can see by their actions, and that acts to a small degree as a deterrent, but not so with covetousness. Covetousness is an inward sin that can’t be seen.

When Christ listed five of the last six commandments to the rich, young ruler there in Luke 18:20, He purposefully left off the command not to covet. That is because, of the last six commandments dealing with a man’s relationship to his neighbor, that rich, young ruler had a problem with covetousness. He could legitimately claim not to have committed adultery, not to have killed or stolen or lied, and to have honored his father and mother; but it was the love of money that finished him off (Luke 18:23).

The new “Bible” versions are put out by people with a problem with covetousness. They either covet money (Bible sales are big business), or they covet recognition—their version taking the place of the King James.

James says covetousness is the cause of war (James 4:1). Paul says, **“The love of money is the root of all evil”** (1 Tim. 6:10—changed in all the new “Bibles” to cover up the motivation for putting them out). In reading a book a day since I was ten years old, I have never come across an account where anyone confessed the sin of covetousness to a priest. There are records of people confessing all kinds of things, including serial murders, but not the fact that they lusted after

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or wanted something that they didn't have.

Psalms 10:3 says the Lord abhors **"the covetous"**—not just the sin, but the *one committing the sin*. What is the nature of covetousness that would cause God to hate the one who covets? People say, "God loves the sinner, but hates the sin" (a quote from *Gandhi*, not the Bible). No, that's wrong. The Bible says God hates certain people. It says, **"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I HATED"** (Rom. 9:13). Why was that? Because Esau lusted after a bowl of chili to the point where he was willing to sell his birthright (the right of the firstborn to represent the family before God) to get it (Heb. 12:16 cf. Gen. 25:29–33).

Covetousness is found in the list of sins in Mark 7:21–22; Romans 1:27–31; 1 Corinthians 5:10–11; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10; Colossians 3:5; and Ephesians 5:3–5. Jesus tells you to **"beware of covetousness"** (Luke 12:15). Paul writes, **"let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have"** (Heb. 13:5), and he says a bishop should not be covetous (1 Tim. 3:2–3). Covetousness is the source for fornication and adultery (Exod. 20:17), stealing (Josh. 7:21), and idolatry (Col. 3:5); and in this age, **"the love of money is the root of ALL evil"** (1 Tim. 6:10). The Pharisees derided Christ in Luke 16 because of their covetousness (Luke 16:14).

The nature of covetousness is to want and want, yet never be satisfied. Trying to satisfy covetousness is like drinking salt water—the more you drink, the more you want, until finally,

it kills you (James 1:15). The more things you get, the more you want. The more money you get, the more you want. I can't imagine being worth \$14 billion like Bill Gates and wanting to make another dime. Surely that's enough, but it wasn't. He went on until he made \$96.5 billion. I'm richer than Bill Gates: *I have all the money I want*. He doesn't.

I was talking to a banker out in Texas once, and he told me a lot of things about banking and money. When we got to the end of that conversation, I asked him, "In light of everything you have told me, what is the best thing I can do with my money." That banker was a Christian, and do you know what he told me? He said, "The best thing you can do with money is to get rid of it as quickly as you get it." The reason he said that was because he said, "Money is worth *less* as time goes by."

Those Mafia dons and capos weren't satisfied with the money they made even when they were making as much as eight million dollars a year. They would *kill* people to get more because they couldn't live off eight million bucks. Some of these football, baseball, and basketball players are the same way. They earn anywhere from \$50–100 million a year, and it's still not enough. Some of them burn through \$100 million in ten years and wind up flat broke. How does someone spend ten million dollars a year for ten years straight?!

In 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California, and the "Gold Rush" followed. Three hundred thousand people flooded into California between 1848 and

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1855. The greatest influx came in 1849, and those prospectors were called "Forty-niners." They came by covered wagons over the plains and by ship around Cape Horn and up the west side of South America. They all hoped to "strike it rich." Instead, a lot of them died of exposure and starvation traveling cross country, and those who came by ship had to contend with tropical diseases. There were outbreaks of cholera in 1850 and 1855. There was "price gouging," with eggs going from ten cents each to a dollar each, and a beam of lumber going from \$100 to \$1,400. Accompanying the Gold Rush were brawls, vice, gambling, murder, and prostitution. Hundred of thousands of people were just going crazy because of covetousness.

Now what are some notable results of covetousness? Well, one is the fable, created by the chief priests of Christ's day, that the Lord's disciples came and overcame a guard of battle-trained Roman legionnaires to steal Jesus' body from the tomb; that is why Jews don't believe the resurrection (Matt. 28:11–15). That lie was spread by *bribing* the Roman soldiers—*covetousness*. Gehazi coveted some clothes, and he got the leprosy of Naaman. Achan coveted the spoils from Jericho, and it cost him his life and the lives of his family. Judas coveted \$324.60 in American money (the value of thirty pieces of silver in 2013), and it caused him to hang himself. David coveted another man's wife, and it led to murder. That one act of covetousness cost him four children and a civil war where a lot of his subjects died fighting each other.

Eve coveted the forbidden fruit, and it led to the damnation of the human race. If the Lord hadn't intervened, not only would you wind up in a hole in the ground, you would wind up in *hell*.

The Holy Spirit wasn't exaggerating one bit when He said "**the love of money is the root of all evil**" in this age. If you don't see how that can be, you're not thinking. A drunk driver hits another car head-on, killing everyone in it—how can that be the result of "**the love of money**"? Somebody had to make the liquor; somebody had to advertise it; somebody had to sell it. Money exchanged hands through the whole process until the guy who bought the stuff ended up getting drunk and killing someone. The drug traffic is one big money operation from start to finish: the enslavement of people to grow the plants that produce it, the murder of people who get in the way of its distribution, the health problems connected with its abuse, the community problems where it is sold—the whole shebang. You say, "What about those serial killers and pedophiles, Ruckman? How is '**the love of money**' involved in that?" Why, don't you know? Those pederasts and sex murderers get a hold of pornographic material when they are young, and their appetite for it becomes more deviant until they act out their deviancy. Someone got paid to take the pictures; someone got paid to pose for the pictures; someone got paid to develop the pictures; someone got paid to print the magazines with the pictures; and someone got paid to sell the dirty magazines. I knew a Christian police officer in San Antonio, Texas who helped break up a child

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pornography ring where eight to ten year olds were photographed in the nude messing around with three to six-year-old kids. Well, money exchanged hands somewhere to put that trash out. There was a "market" for it; otherwise it wouldn't have been produced. **"The love of money is the root of all evil."**

States vote in lotteries to bring in more "revenue" (usually the excuse is "education"), but did you know that in the 70s and 80s, three states with state-run lotteries went *bankrupt*? They were New York, Michigan, and New Jersey. State lotteries are just legalized gambling; i.e., *lawful covetousness*. People gamble because they covet money.

A few years after the Civil War, organized crime tried to get a state lottery set up in Louisiana. (Oh yeah, man; there is plenty proponents of state-run gambling don't tell you when they try to get you to "help the kiddies." The mafia has its fingers all through the gambling industry—including state lotteries.) The governor at that time was a fellow named Francis Nicholls (first term: 1876–1880; second term: 1888–1892). He had served in the Confederate Army during the war and rose from the rank of captain to that of brigadier general. He lost his left arm at Shenandoah, his left foot at Chancellorsville, and an eye at Richmond.

Those well-dressed men laid out their proposal to the governor for a state lottery and strongly insinuated that he would regret it if he didn't agree to it and that it could be extremely "profitable" for him if he did (i.e., they bribed him). Nicholls told

those men, "Gentlemen, when you leave this room, you may leave me sightless and armless and legless, *but there's not enough money on this earth to buy me.*" That's *character*. When was the last time you had a governor, congressman, senator, or president like that?

Now there are some modern forms of covetousness. The main one is *television*. The purpose of television is to create, magnify, and promote covetousness 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Its purpose is to make you want things you don't have. I'm not just talking about naked women and handsome young men (although that certainly is on there). I'm talking about things like refrigerators, new automobiles, expensive restaurants, the latest clothing styles, etc. Television is a coveting machine.

Television has all kinds of filthy programs on it, like *Peyton Place*, *Dallas*, *Dynasty*, etc., because *sex sells*. One of those screen writers sent his script in to a producer saying, "I know this is filthy, but I need the *money*, and you do too."

Some men covet *position*. For example, Catholics have a rank of *archbishop*. Do you know what an archbishop is? *It is one rank higher than Jesus Christ*.

Jesus Christ is called by Simon Peter (supposedly the first "pope") the **"Bishop of your souls"** (1 Pet. 2:25). When a man takes the position of an archbishop (or a cardinal or pope, for that matter), he is claiming to be in a position higher than the Son of God.

Some people covet *land*. Alexander the Great did; Mohammed did; the popes did; Napoleon did; Hitler did;

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the Japanese under Hirohito did; Stalin did. That's why most wars throughout history were fought. Someone coveted land he didn't have, and he was willing to kill to get it.

Some people covet *recognition*. That's what Karl Marx wanted: he wanted the world to recognize him as some brilliant intellect, journalist, historian, and economist; and no one would because he was nothing but a drunken bum who never worked a day in his life and let four of his seven children die in filth, poverty, and hunger.

Do you know why rock singers and groups do the crazy things they do? They covet recognition. Some people will do anything to get attention. Strip naked, cut themselves, bite the heads off live animals, paint themselves up to look like freaks, etc.

If you were able to get all the gold, silver, platinum, and diamonds in this world, do you know what they couldn't get you? They couldn't buy eternal life, forgiveness of sin, peace of mind, character, or a clear conscience. If you have those things, you are richer than someone who has all the gold and other junk.

Covetousness is connected with all the corruption in elections and the government. Why, a person can't even get elected unless he is a millionaire. Appointments and promotions—someone is coveting position and recognition. "Environmental protection" and "biospheres"—someone is coveting land. Wars—either one side or both are coveting land or resources or power. Agencies and regulations—someone is coveting control. Law suits, bribes, international banking—someone is coveting money.

"The love of money is the root of all evil," including the suffering of cancer patients. You can buy all the "B" vitamins at the health food store, but the Food and Drug Administration won't let you buy B-17. Vitamin B-17 is the one that can help prevent and cure cancer. But there is no money to be made in crushed apricot pits, as opposed to chemotherapies developed and marketed by the big pharmaceutical companies.

I talked to a doctor about B-17 once, and he said, "It's dangerous." I said, "So is radiation." He said, "It doesn't cure cancer every time." I said, "Neither does radiation." Vitamin B-17 may not cure all cancers, but it cures as much or more than radiation. But doctors don't get a "kick back" for recommending B-17.

If you want to see a money-making "racket," just go into the car-selling business. Dealerships lure you in with a low price on a vehicle without telling you that is the price of the car before all the "extras" are added on. By the time you sign the papers to buy the car, you are paying four times the advertised price.

Some wit illustrated this with an invoice of a "Basic Cow" with "options." The basic cow is \$999.00. But you add on the "extra-large capacity stomach" for \$379.00, the "genuine cowhide upholstery" for \$179.00, the "two-tone exterior" for \$142.00, the "four-spigot, high-output milk system" for \$159.00, the "automatic fly swatter" for \$88.00, and about five other things, and that \$999.000 "basic cow" costs over \$4,400. That's how car dealerships work.

Now what is the cure for the sin of

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covetousness? Well, the first thing is to *admit that you are committing it*. The Apostle John says, **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”** (1 John 1:8). Sinners (saved or lost) will deceive themselves over covetousness by denying they are committing it more than any other sin.

Second, like the song goes, “Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” *Be grateful.*

Hebrews 13:5 says, **“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and BE CONTENT with such things as ye have.”** A few verses later, the same writer said, **“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips GIVING THANKS to his name”** (Heb. 13:15).

Want to see the same thing again? In Philippians 4:6, Paul says, **“in everything by prayer and supplication WITH THANKSGIVING let your requests be made known unto God,”** and then down in verse 11 of that same chapter, he says, **“I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.”** Gratitude is the bane of covetousness, because where one is grateful for what God has provided, he is content with what he has, and contentment is the death of covetousness.

Thirdly, *learn how to give*. Brethren, **“Ye cannot serve God and mammon”** (Luke 16:13). I know a lot of Christians try to, but it can't be done. Sooner or later, you will pick a side and stick with it. I am not saying a Christian can't be rich. I sincerely hope God makes every Christian

reading this rich. I'm sick and tired of seeing the Devil's crowd get all the money. Sam Jones said, “You can tell what God thinks of money by the kind of people He gave it to.” But I wish the Lord would give more money to people who love Him and love the Book. It has been my experience that Christians with a vision for God's work don't have the money to carry it out, and those who do have the money don't have the vision. It would be a “change of pace” to see Christians with the money controlling it instead of it controlling them. **“Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”**

Let's just face it, Americans don't “pay their rent” to God. If you are a Christian and spend any time in that Book, you know that everything you have has been *loaned to you by God*. One of these days, you will have to give it all up—the wife, the kids, the house, the car, the job, etc.—and give account of your stewardship (Luke 16:2). Americans think that everything God gave them *belongs* to them and they don't owe the Lord a return on His investment.

I am going to upset some of the brethren here who use “grace” to *rob God*. The Bible says, **“the tithe . . . is the LORD'S”** (Lev. 27:30). Of course, the God-robbing Christian will come up with all kinds of excuses not to tithe. “That was under the law. The tithe was the crops and cattle. There were three different tithes. Blah, blah, blah.”

Listen, those patriarchs tithed *under grace*—before the law. Abraham gave tithes of all the spoils he took in battle when he rescued Lot (Gen. 14:20). Jacob promised to tithe on

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everything God gave him while he was running from Esau (Gen. 28:22). The tithe is not a “gift” or an “offering.” When you tithe, you are just paying God back what you owe Him for everything He has given you. You haven’t begun to “give” to the Lord until you “shell out” *above* the tithe.

A rich Christian was showing a preacher his “spread” with all the land and the buildings on it and the fruit trees, etc. After he got done, that preacher shook his head and said, “My, my, isn’t that something. These are the things that make death so terrible.” Yeah, man, look at what you have to leave behind when you go. The old saying by preachers is: “Do your giving while you’re living; then you’ll be knowing where it’s going.”

Every Christian ought to answer the question: “Where will *your money* spend eternity?” Brother, sister, if you can trust God with your soul, can’t you trust Him with your pocketbook? That Bible says, “**lay up for yourselves TREASURES IN HEAVEN**” (Matt. 6:20). One of the ways you do that is by *giving* (Luke 12:33, 18:22).

You can only learn to give by *doing it*; it is not an “academic” exercise. Someone has said, “The birth of charity is the death of covetousness.” A parishioner said to his pastor, “I just can’t get interested in missions.” His pastor replied, “Interest in missions is like interest in a bank. You get interest on a *deposit*, and the interest grows *over time*.”

Most Christians I have known try to get by with how *little* they can give—that’s the sign of a covetous spirit. That Bible says, “**God loveth a cheerful giver**” (2 Cor. 9:7). You

want God to love you, don’t you? Then don’t be a stingy, begrudging tightwad.

A little girl was asked in Sunday school what *stewardship* was. She replied, “I think it means that I’ve got something, but I should use it for somebody else.” That’s a pretty good definition.

The ultimate cure for covetousness, though, is *heaven*. The unsaved mock heaven as “pie in the sky by and by.” Yeah, that’s what it is. The *dessert* comes *after* the meal.

Bless God, some day I will be in a place where *I don’t want anything*. That’s heaven—it’s a place where you don’t want or need anything ever again. You’re happy all the time because you are *perfectly satisfied*. Love without lust. Joy without selfishness. Riches without greed. Happiness without worry. Glory without pride. *That’s heaven*.

As George Whitefield lay dying, he quoted Psalm 17:15—“**I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.**” He grew quiet and said, “**I shall be satisfied.**” Then he got so quiet that those with him in the room had to get right up to his lips to hear him say, “**satisfied.**” That is the way to *live*, and *that is the way to die*—satisfied.

“All my life long I had panted
For a draught from some cool
spring,
That I hoped would quench the
burning
Of the thirst I felt within.

“Hallelujah! I have found Him
Whom my soul so long has craved!

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peaceful citizen, willing to take any punishment (Acts 5) that comes with living for the Lord Jesus, in whatever country the Lord God places him, under whatever authority He ordains.

Anarchists and rebels have been roaming the streets of America, preaching rebellion and destroying property, both public and private, when the majority of Americans are in favor of the police keeping order and arresting rioters. RE-READ, AND REMEMBER THAT STATEMENT. Statues of America's gods are being torn down, and because they stay glued to the news instead of the King James Bible, the Christians are in an uproar over it. If these images were of pagans like Zeus, Hercules, the Popes, etc., it would not be such a big deal, but these are the revered pagans of American history such as Jefferson, Washington, Lincoln, and the boys. This is actually a revelation of the backslidden, spiritual state of the Laodicean Church, for if the Christians walked through any big city in the USA and preached the gospel on those streets, they would see the pagan idolatry that Paul saw in Athens almost two thousand years ago. They would be incensed that any professing Bible-believing preacher would call this crooked and perverse nation "the friend of God". The best statues that could be put up to represent this nation would be those of Michael Jackson and Ellen Degenerate. Where are the Christian soldiers like the apostle Paul, being

stirred to preach against the pagan philosophies and pagan, unknown gods that Americans worship?

Since we are Bible-believing Christians, we will take a look at what the scriptures say about the nations, instead of allowing emotional, patriotic, goosebumps to control our thinking. There are a few hundred references in the Old Testament to "nations" and "kingdoms". The first mention comes in Genesis 10, where the Lord divided the "nations" by tongues and families, due to their unified attempts as a people of one language, to build a tower to reach heaven by their own efforts (Gen. 11). Then in Exodus 19, the Lord separated Israel as "**a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation**" (verse 6). Throughout Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, this special "nation" was given laws and commandments that further separated them from all the "nations". In the book of Joshua, Israel drove out the Canaanite "kingdoms" and took over the land that the Lord promised to Abraham and his seed.

The book of Judges gives a three hundred plus year history of the Lord punishing His people for their idolatry, using the surrounding pagan "nations", then raising up judges to deliver them again. The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles give the accounts of the "nation" of Israel and her kings, while the references in the prophets are mainly prophecies of the destruction that is going to happen to the "kingdoms" and

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“nations” of the Gentiles, specifically at the second coming of Christ (Joel 3:2, Jer. 30:11, Zeph. 3:8, Zech. 14:2, and the reader should especially take note of the word “**all**” in those references).

The Bible student cannot help but notice the major difference when he comes to the New Testament references for “nations” and for “kingdoms”. Beginning in Matthew 4, when the devil came to tempt Jesus Christ, he offered Him all the kingdoms of the world, and they were at his disposal to give. Satan is called the “**god of this world**” (2 Cor. 4:4), and he runs the Gentile kingdoms right now. When Pilate asked Christ if he was a king, the Lord Jesus answered that “**now is my kingdom not from hence**” (John 18:36). In other words, the present Church age in which we live is NOT concerned with running the physical kingdoms and nations, but with the spiritual kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17), using spiritual weapons (Eph. 6), not carnal ones (2 Cor. 10:4). The Old Testament is mainly a study of the physical kingdom of heaven, under the nation of Israel, while the New Testament Church Age is a study of the spiritual kingdom of God.

These “Make America Great” preachers have missed a major point that runs throughout the King James Bible. One day, the Lord Jesus is going to forcibly take control of the “**kingdoms of this world**” (Rev. 11:15), but that is not until His return to this earth after the tribulation. In

the meantime, the nations (including America) are as a drop of a bucket (Isa. 40), and they are run by the basest of men (Dan. 4:17). What

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Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

NOTICE:

PLEASE NOTE
CHANGE IN OCTOBER
SCHEDULE

October 9–11

Open Door Baptist Church
924 N. 11th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
Pastor Daniel Haveman
(701) 258-7573

November 13–15

Bible Believers Baptist Church
128 Goodman St.
Munfordville, KY 42765
Pastor Sean Riggs
(270) 524-5678

December 11–13

Anchor Baptist Church
10440 Crain Hgwy.
Faulkner, MD 20632
Pastor Bob Joseph
(540) 663-0192

January 15–17

Bible Believers Baptist Church
3857 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32256
Pastor David Peacock
(904) 260-8370

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Fox News and the Republicans want, what CNN and the Democrats want, is the same thing these Laodicean patriotic preachers want: a millennial kingdom without Jesus Christ—now. Someone has a great concern for their own safety, comfort, and wallet. This is in contrast to what the Lord Jesus Christ is interested in right now, which is to save lost sinners in order to **“take out of them a people for his name”** (Acts 15:14), and whether Jew or Gentile, make of them **“an holy nation, a peculiar people”**, in order for them to **“shew forth the praises of him. . .”** (1 Pet. 2:9). The body of believers today is supposed to be crossing national borders, going into all the world and preaching the gospel (Matt. 28:19, Luke 24:27), not trying to keep comfortable and making America great. This false gospel of politics and patriotic Americanism has become a god of the “Christian Right”, and it is about time that Bible believers recognize it and turn from this wicked, selfish spirit.

We now turn to some facts of history in regard to this “great Christian country”. By the hand of God, America was not founded and taken over by the Spanish Catholic explorers, though they arrived here first. It was English Separatists, breaking away from the apostate Church of England that founded the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1620. However, it turned out that they intended on setting up their own political kingdom on earth, calling it a “New Israel”, enforcing Old

Testament commandments in a New Testament setting. The black hats in Boston only allowed a preacher in town if he was licensed and sanctioned by them, following their doctrines. But the Lord had His own offscouring of folks who refused to submit to anything but the Bible and these are the men and women that make up our Bible-believing heritage.

In 1644, Thomas Painter concluded that infant baptism was not in the scripture and when he refused to submit his newborn infant to it, he received 20 lashes at the post in Boston, which he gladly accepted. When Roger Williams preached in Salem, without submitting to their covenants, he was railroaded out of town and went down the Connecticut River and over to Rhode Island, reaching the lost souls of his beloved Indians. In the aftermath, Salem was left with enforcing Old Testament laws, chasing down witches, and suffering them not to live.

Over the next one hundred and fifty years (1620-1770), the Lord had His Bible-believing saints rise up and preach in the open fields, in country churches, in the city streets, saving American souls by the thousands, with little concern for politics. As a matter of fact, by 1770, the majority of colonists were not in favor of rebellion, but remaining under the authority over them, while a rabble-rousing minority rose up and stirred the pot of rebellion.

In 1770, instigated by Sam Adams,

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The Importance Of Your Vote

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a small group of anarchists and rebels surrounded a British sentry (who was there to keep order), knocking him to the ground while throwing rocks and chunks of ice until other soldiers came to his aid. When the smoke cleared, five rebels were dead and six wounded in what the media doublespeak calls "The Boston Massacre". In December 1773, with the majority of colonists favoring peace and remaining under the authority of the established government, another group of rioters, dressed up as Indians (we are supposed to believe that this act was inspired by the Holy Spirit), destroyed private property, throwing tea into the harbor. The media doublespeak term for this is "The Boston Tea Party". It is a "party" when thugs destroy property.

Then in May 1775, another great "Christian", Ethan Allen stormed Fort Ticonderoga, claiming it in the "name of great Jehovah" (in whom he did not believe), and the "Continental Congress" (to which he did not submit). Staying long enough till the liquor ran

out, this "Christian" patriot went on to Montreal and was taken prisoner, until he was later released and returned to be hailed as a revolutionary hero by George Washington. Ethan Allen wrote a book called *The Oracles of Reason*, in which he ridiculed every Christian belief about the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Father, and the King James Bible.

One year later, in May 1776, Thomas Paine, the Adams boys (Sammy and John) and friends, overthrew the elected governor of Pennsylvania (while he was away on vacation) through a resolution that negated any official's authority who did not favor rebellion against England. Also in 1776, Paine's booklet was released called, *The American Crisis*, (one of the favorites to be quoted by the apostates today) in which he wrote, "these are the times which try men's souls" (the liar did not believe man had a soul), and "unlimited power belongs only to God" (the liar did not believe there was a God). But can't we please ignore the facts and pre-

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The Importance Of Your Vote

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tend that America is God's friend, founded on "Judeo-Christian principles"?

So now we come to the great "Christian authors of American liberty", the founding Fathers. The first five Presidents of the USA were all deists—not a one of them Christian. George Washington took great pains to hide any possible belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour with not one word of testimony from him in hundreds and hundreds of written documents. After his presidency, some ministers met with George and attempted to get a testimony of personal salvation. Thomas Jefferson later gloated that the "old Fox was too cunning for them" and they went home empty-handed, with George refusing to answer their question. Yet we are told he probably was saved because a great-granddaughter heard Aunt So-and-So say some ninety years later that he was baptized by Chaplain Gano. Some testimony for a Christian, eh?

The second president, Adams, claimed Christ's crucifixion and resurrection was "an absurdity" and that the Gospel accounts of His life were "fables that grew over time". Before Johnny became president, he won an important case as a lawyer, getting charges of wine smuggling dropped against another fine "Christian" Founding Father, John Hancock.

As the third president, Thomas Jefferson's infidelity is known worldwide as he wrote his own "bible", excising

all miracles from the life of Christ, since Tommy thought Him a mere man. The deism of these founders was so strong it spread through Yale until it was in complete apostasy by the late 1700s. Joel Barlow, a Yale graduate from 1778, wrote the *Treaty of Tripoli* in 1797, getting President Adams and all of Congress to sign and agree that "the government of the USA is not in any sense, founded on the Christian religion"...and that it has "no enmity with the laws and religion of the Musselmen" (Muslims). God bless this "Christian" nation?

The rebellion came to its real head at Lexington in June of 1775, when the British commander warned the anarchists to lay down their arms. Sensing that bullets were about to fly, Sam Adams and John Hancock did what every Muslim leader, who instructs his men to strap a bomb to himself for Allah, does—they ran for their lives. We are told by some historians that their cabinet positions necessitated this noble move "that they should avoid harm at all costs". The same historian tells us that the shots fired at Lexington are labeled a "holy scene" and really was a "battle over the legitimacy of biblical Christianity". No kidding? What scripture could possibly back up a claim like that? As if that were not enough foolishness, we are informed that the preachers of the day "did not confine themselves to a dissertation on doctrinal truths, nor mere exhortation to godly behavior". Instead, they

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“grappled with the great question of the rights of man”. It’s a “mere” thing to preach holiness, but a “great” thing to fight for your “rights”. And what rights does the Bible believer claim?

Over these last months, a minority of rioters and looters have run loose across this country, surrounding police, destroying property, while the majority of Americans want police in place, keeping order. President Trump labeled these protestors, “ugly anarchists and domestic terrorists”. Is he right? Of course he is. But isn’t that how the rebellion started with your so-called “Christian country”? You can’t have it both ways. If you are going to applaud Ethan Allen, Sam Adams, Jefferson, etc., then you must applaud these heroes throwing bricks at police, destroying property, and trying to bring about a new nation in Seattle and Portland, etc.

Listen to Tommy Jefferson again in the *Declaration of Independence*. “When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people (I thought all men were created equal?) to dissolve political bands (you mean armed rebellion?) with another (this doublespeak is the formation of a “Christian” country?). . . . We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal (except my slaves), that they are endowed by their Creator (Tommy said there was no Creator and that the universe came about by the collision of eternal atoms) with certain inalienable rights, that among these

are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” Does the Bible-believing Christian hold to these “truths”? Scripture for us, please. Tommy’s “noble words” are as anti-scriptural as anything Mohammed ever said.

The scriptural view of the nations is that every nation wants peace (Hag. 2:7), with comfort and food (Luke 12:29-30), without the Kingdom of God (Luke 12:31). **“After all these things do the Gentiles seek, but seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.”** The present preoccupation of Laodicean Christians with preserving the American way of life is against scripture and against the Holy Spirit of God. The “god of this world” runs the political nations, and the USA is one of them. This nation was founded by rabble-rousers who wanted their own kingdom without Christ Jesus, and they got it. Our Bible-believing forefathers, going clear back to the book of Acts, received government persecution, with no crosses on hills, no manger scenes on town greens, no ten commandment plaques, and no concern for who was in office. They preached outdoors and led souls to Christ from hell. The idea that America is an exception to the Lord’s view of the nations is an invention of modern Christians and is without support, either from scripture or history.

It has not mattered whether a conservative, right-wing Republican is in office, or a liberal, left-wing Democrat, this country’s political agenda is run by beings higher than

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the White House. For instance, in the 1950s to the 1960s, our government overthrew a democratically elected prime minister in Iran (Mosaddegh), to install the wicked Shah, who then spent about \$1 billion per year on American arms. In the 1970s, the USA helped "stabilize" the Middle East by aiding a fine young man named Saddam Hussein. In the 1980s, when Israel cornered some killer Muslim terrorists in Beirut, American soldiers helped another fine man escape named Yasser Arafat. Also, in the 1980s, fearing a Russian takeover, we armed another fine man named Osama Bin Laden. Still in the 1980s, Ollie North supplied Iran's fine leader (Ayatollah Khomeini) with weapons to kill Iraqis. This was our ally who said, "The purest joy in Islam is to kill and be killed for Allah." In 2000, the Bush family was allied with the fine Saudi royal family. This is a country you think is God's friend? What god are you talking about? None of this has anything to do with "biblical Christianity", no matter who says so.

Now make sure you get out to the voting booth and do your "Christian service" by getting Trump back in. After watching him hand over millions of taxpayer dollars to the Roman Catholic Whore and bragging to Roman Bishops and Cardinals that "they have never had a better friend in the White House", you can be sure the Lord will be pleased with your political preaching and efforts to

"Keep America Great". For the love of money is the root of all evil, and it has never been about the Bible, Jesus Christ, or anything close. It's "Black Gold", "Texas Tea", and greenbacks.

(Sing to the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies)

Well, the next thing you know Trump's a New York billionaire, the preachers said "Don, move away from there; the White House is the place you ought to be," so he packed up his stuff, and he moved to D.C. (Dirty Crooks that is, politicians, liars).

Now he wants four more years to make this country great, the preachers said, "Boy we can hardly wait, we'll even rally round the flagpole in "christianized" D.C., cause the most important thing is a strong economy" (offerings that is, bull markets, "revivals").

So the preachers all got busy and they made their pulpits hot. To make real sure, Trumpster got another shot, they wasted all that effort to get their man to win, but they're still not on the streets, trying to bring the sinners in (from hell that is, bearing His reproach, outside the camp).

Yet in spite of all their work the scriptures still are holding true, it never really mattered if they voted red or blue, the Lord God of the Book will always have His way, so He's telling

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this godless nation it's really time to
pay ("all" the nations that is, with the
USA leading the way).

God sends a little virus and they
don't know what to do. They jump
on their computers and the churches
fold in two. While they brag on all
the followers they have across the
earth, the Lord hasn't even started,

He's about to send a dearth (famine
that is, NYSE crash, riots).

Well it seems they all forgot that
the Lord will soon return, the God
and Country rallies He no doubt will
come and burn, the November elec-
tion is nothing but a joke, the vote you
thought important will soon go up in
smoke (Judgment Seat of Christ that
is, wood, hay, stubble).

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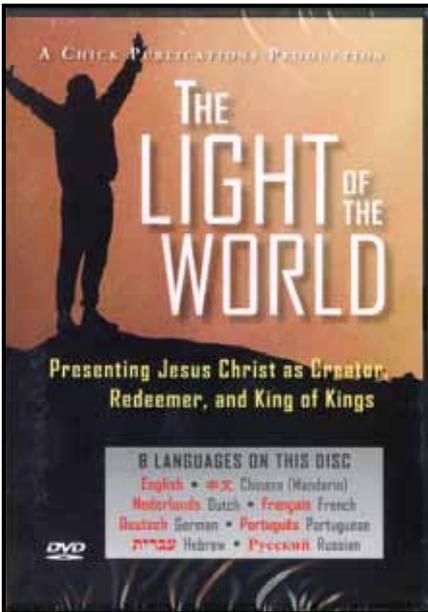
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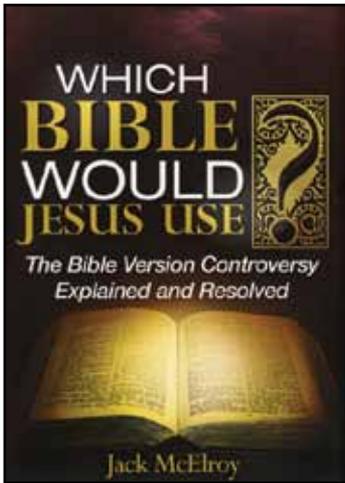
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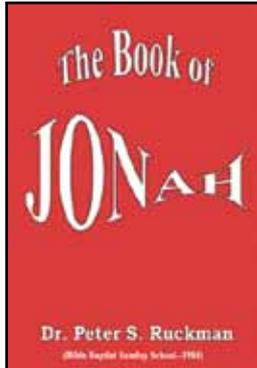
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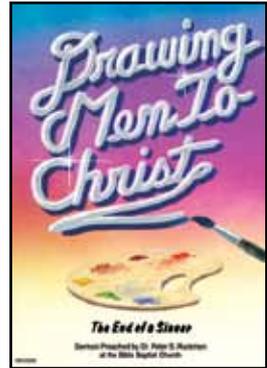
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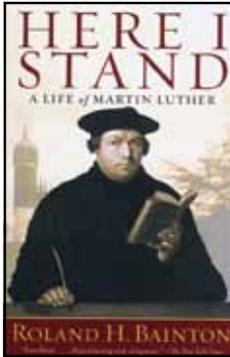
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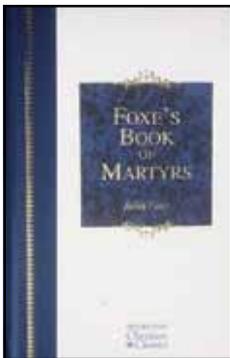
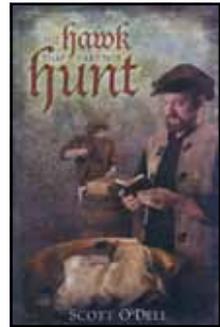
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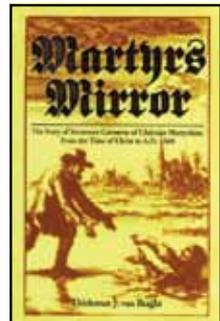
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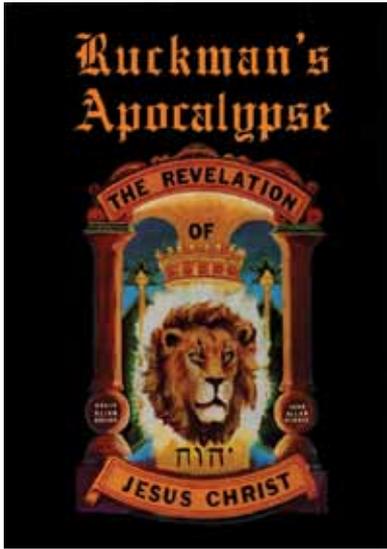
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(Plus Postage—page 18)

Who's Your Daddy?

By Robert Militello

“He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, even to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:11–12).

We are all God's children according to almost everyone who holds public office. This is the politics of inclusion. No one should feel left out. Never mind that God's word clearly teaches exclusion. Why hurt someone's feelings?

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).

Obviously, Paul was not an inclusionist; as a Jew, he knew the gentiles were a different bunch. A Jew knows from whom he came. He knows who is on the top of his family tree. Jacob was renamed Israel, a prince with God. Does a German know the first German, or an Italian, the first Italian? Besides the Jews, is there any ethnic group that can trace back to when they became a distinct nationality?

Both Jews and Muslims claim Abraham as their father, and Isaac had Esau to go along with Jacob. Yet those who are God's children by faith in the finished work of God's only begotten Son do not believe the rest of the human family can call the God of the Bible their daddy.

Jesus Himself did not believe that all Jews had God as their father. **“Ye do the deeds of your father”** (John 8:41). **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do”** (vs. 44).

For a Jew to speak this way to other Jews was more than shocking. All Jews believed in a God that had made their nation a son to Himself. To a Jew, all who are outside their family (Chi-

nese, Russians, Africans, Europeans, etc.) are referred to as the *“Goyim.”* When Jews use that term, it is not in a flattering way. If a Jew has any pride, he does not believe in the Fatherhood of God, unless he is running for public office, or works for a gentile and is seeking a promotion.

Ignorance of God's word has become a permanent mental disability found throughout American society. There are many causes for this sad state, but one, in particular, has done enormous damage. Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:2, painted a dark picture of the spiritual landscape in the days prior to the rapture (Titus 2:13). **“For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . .”** (II Tim. 3:2). There it is, plain as day. Make yourself “God” and decide what you feel is right or wrong.

When I hear someone say to another person, “Do you believe in God?” I groan within myself. How about, “Do you believe what God says?” Now, that question brings you to a place where most Americans feel uncomfortable. Folks don't naturally enjoy feeling stupid.

As a Catholic, I knew some Bible stories and heard a lot about Jesus. Nevertheless, I was woefully ignorant of what I needed most—the new birth. I dare say, almost all Catholics believe everyone is a child of God. Priests and nuns are no exceptions. Ask a Catholic if he or she believes Adolph Hitler was a child of God. When I bring up this point, I throw in a barely known bit of trivia. The murderer of six million Jews was never excommunicated by the church. He was a “son” to the end.

By promoting the non-biblical doctrine that God is everyone's father,
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Who's Your Daddy?

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preparation has been made for the coming one-world religion. The global government under the Antichrist will exalt man to a godlike status. Six is the number of man, and science, falsely so-called, will put man on a pedestal that will bring down upon him a wrath from heaven, clearly foretold in the Book of Revelation.

All man's culture, works of art, impressive structures, and brilliant inventions will be seen as trophies of vanity. There will be a new world order under a Jewish Dictator. He hates pride, and those who survive the Great Tribulation will bow before Him. The earth will be a vast cemetery for "all God's children" who believed the lies their real father told them.

How easy God made it in the New Testament to discover whether you know who is your heavenly father, if you'll believe the scripture.

"Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, COMETH UNTO ME" (John 6:45).

Can a Muslim, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Buddhist, Hindu, etc. claim God is their father? Because Catholics, Protestants, and Eastern Orthodox by the millions believe Jesus is God in the flesh, does that mean they are genuine children of God?

Telling a religious person that God may not be their father is implying that he or she may be a spiritual bastard. Who wants to hear that?

"They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you

the truth . . ." (John 8:39-40).

The truth is that without the new birth, and having reached the age of accountability, you belong to the devil, whether you know it or not. When someone tells me, "All men are brothers," I answer, "like Cain and Abel."

The brotherhood of man is a pious fiction found nowhere in God's word. This fiction is what led to the League of Nations and then to the United Nations. The desire for world peace without Jesus Christ heading up a world government is what causes people to embrace fairy tales hatched in hell.

Although not said publicly, orthodox Jews and others consider Jesus a bastard. **"We be not born of fornication . . ."** (John 8:41).

Mary and Joseph were well aware of this satanic attack. Mary covered up for her son in Luke 2:48. **"And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, THY FATHER and I have sought thee sorrowing."**

Quite obviously, Mary lied. When I point this out to Catholics who are open to truth, they go ballistic. They were, like me, brought up to believe that Mary was sinless.

A King James Bible is not interested in protecting anyone's feelings. Among other things, God's word is a destroyer of religious superstition. It sets those free who genuinely want to be free of men's traditions and fables. Sadly, today especially, few see a need to be free. Thus, a slave who loves his chains can never be free.

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sis-

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Who's Your Daddy?

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ters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26).

If you are born of God, your heavenly Father wants you to follow His Son, but there is a price to pay. Few will pay that price as they would feel significantly more comfortable reading Joel Osteen's "Your Best Life Now." Fathers who love their children have great expectations for them. I know my dad did, and my Father in heaven gave me a book to remind me of how He would have me conduct myself in this present evil world.

Why a Catholic priest should be called "Father" is something I never gave thought to growing up a Catholic. **"And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven"** (Matt. 23:9). I asked a priest about the meaning of this verse. I think he said something about how different things were back in the Lord's day.

Titles for religious phonies are part of the fabric of man's vanity. Honorary degrees making some preachers and pastors "Doctors" are quite common today in the assemblies of the saints. This is a Catholic thing that helps elevate the leaders of the church above the common folk.

Don't think for a moment that the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which God hates, are no longer around. Pastoral authority, Baptist popes (3 John 9), and self-appointed deputy sheriffs of the Holy Spirit tell us plainly that we are not in heaven yet, Amen?

The man who witnessed to me and got me saved in 1978 was my spiritual father as far as that goes. Yet, he didn't hang around to teach me the faith and oversee my development. There

is more to being a father in this world than just impregnating a female because that's the nature of things. What it takes to be a responsible parent is found exclusively in the word of God. Everything else on the shelves of your local library on parenting is statements of man's wisdom. Beware!

In the sixties, our society experienced a sexual revolution. Traditional values were called into question, and the availability of birth control pills opened the doors to mating with multiple partners. College campuses became amusement parks for those who desired the benefit of marriage without legal attachment. Children being born out of wedlock was no longer as rare as it used to be.

Those who cavorted with females enamored with the free love lifestyle ran the risk of being dragged into court for child support. Palimony suits made it imperative that tests be given to determine the real father of a child going into this world under less than favorable circumstances. "Who's the daddy" became the central theme of a popular TV show. Folks love that stuff but dare not admit it.

If God is everyone's father, the devil gets a free pass, walks out of court, and blames all society's ills on the "MAN UPSTAIRS." I have someone living within me that testifies to me in a clear fashion that the Father of Jesus Christ is my Father also.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again" (John 3:7).

Imagine a devout Jew, jealous for the law, resting in the righteousness that comes from obeying the Torah being told that he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. He is told that

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Who's Your Daddy?

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he needs a spiritual birth, something which he knows nothing of, or how else do you explain his reaction in verse 9. **“Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?”**

I sat for four years in an elite Jesuit Prep School, and not once did I hear anything about the new birth. Every student in that place assumed he was a child of God, and beyond that, we believed we were in the one true church founded by Jesus Christ Himself. God was our father, and the church was our mother. Also, to get the Lord in heaven to hear us (He was angry most of the time), we could prevail upon Mary, the Queen of Heaven, and Jesus would not deny His mother.

I don't know if Nicodemus was as confident in his belief system as I was in those days, or how else do you explain his going to Jesus alone and at night, so as not to be seen by his peers? He was troubled. Jesus was an enigma. If Jesus was not of God, how could He do the things He did? Also, the words that came out of His mouth had authority and power. A man from Galilee without any formal religious training spooked the Pharisees and Sadducees who heard Him.

Look around today, where is the man (a preacher) that is going to tell the big shots in politics, finance, science, etc. that their father is the devil? It is so much safer to say that we are all God's children.

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and EXHORT YOU that ye should EARNESTLY CONTENTEND for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3).

Our faith says the devil is the god of this world, and that he has the overwhelming majority of the human race bound to him—whether humankind knows it or not. After years of being conditioned to think positively as to the state in which our society now finds itself, words like hell, judgment, sin, and repentance are looked upon as some sort of spiritual Covid virus. People using such words need to be put far off like the need for social distancing as a protective measure against the harmful effects of hearing from a God who is holy and hates sin.

Bible believers who boldly stand for God's word are infected with something born in heaven, and not a government-funded research lab. We need to spread what we have as far and as wide as we can. The only vaccine that can wholly save a lost and dying sinner is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is it not a great wonder that a holy God uses sinful men to impregnate others with the holy words of God to bring forth children to fill the Father's house? That heavenly seed has the power to regenerate dead spirits if it is received by faith. Preaching and publishing the word of God is what makes the church a baby factory. We strive to produce children because our Father has no desire to see one soul damned forever.

“For. . .it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21).

The first time the word “father” shows up is Genesis 2:24. After Eve had been created, Adam received a charge from God. He was to procreate and get the human race going. Marriage meant leaving your home and

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Who's Your Daddy?

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becoming one with your wife.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24).

Jesus leaves the Father's house, and He first comes to His own—the Jews. He is rejected, but this great sadness will be compensated for. Our Lord's Father will give Him a bride. The Holy Spirit goes out to look for Rebekahs that are willing to go with a man they never met. That's us!

Right now, the Book of Acts is still being played out. Children are being born to our Father all over the world. We are a growing family, but if every Christian fished for souls like they are supposed to, our family would be so much more numerous.

Our Father would have no trouble feeding and sustaining untold millions more who would say yes to His Son. The devil seeks to enlarge his infernal home for lost souls, and our Father has no objection to seeing Heaven “overpopulated.” Like at the foot of the cross, there is always room for more. We are a hidden family in this world, and the Lord is pleased to have it this way.

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).

Imagine the shock and the traumatization that will come upon those who believed they were children of God and did not go up at the rapture. This will be the case with those who were witnessed to, and heard of the rapture. They will not believe the devil's lie as to

what happened to the missing millions. Then they will know that though they may have believed what the Bible said about Jesus, they never got saved.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

Doing the will of God was clearly explained to Nicodemus. **“Ye must be born again”** (John 3:7). So, **“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me, ye that work iniquity”** (Matt. 7:22-23).

Many saints have family members that are lost. The idea of these loved ones staying on earth after the Lord takes us away is heartbreaking. It is certain that a great number of families will be broken up. There'll be lots of crying and fear in that day.

After I got saved and spoke about the rapture to loved ones, some told me not to talk that way. I said that I must talk about what God says will happen, whether anyone believes it or not. The American way of life lends itself to such a spiritual complacency that you wonder what it takes to wake folks up.

Nothing that ever happened on this earth since Noah's flood will terrify the human race like the sound of God's voice calling His bride away. Paul heard the Lord when he was on the way to Damascus, but those with him were left baffled, and no doubt, terrified.

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Shocks come with living, and no preparation makes them easier to absorb. My grandparents told me what it was like on December 7, 1941, when listening to the radio that Sunday afternoon, they heard a program interrupted by the word "FLASH". A news announcer speaking nervously said the American fleet at Pearl Harbor had been bombed by Japanese warplanes. Everyone knew the world

had changed that day, and what God has in store for this present evil world will make December 7, 1941, nothing so special.

God's family, like all families, has its share of disputes among its members. This is sad, but human nature being what it is, we should not be surprised. Look at Paul and Barnabas, two close brothers having a blowup in Acts 15.

"And the contention was so
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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.

Who's Your Daddy?

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sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other . . .” (Acts 15:39).

Things got fixed later on, but many of God's children leave this world without repairing relationships when it was in their power to do so. Often, it is impossible to reconcile with brothers and sisters who can't seem to appropriate enough grace to let things go for the sake of Jesus Christ. Our Lord loves His bride unconditionally, but our old nature rises up and pollutes our love for each other.

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32).

It's hard to practice the love of Christ when a brother justifies himself by saying, “You don't know what so-and-so said about me.”

Did you know that the Bible is loaded with stories of dysfunctional families? It begins with Adam and Eve. Fathers beget foolish children, even the wisest of them like Solomon. In extended families, you are bound to find eccentrics and some black sheep.

I know a Jewish family in Brooklyn that produced lawyers, doctors, and educators. Once, I asked about a cousin in that family that I hadn't seen for a while. I was told that the family doesn't wish to discuss him. Later, I found out that he “went up the river”—a New York way of saying he's a convict.

God has children that have brought much shame to the cause of Christ. Still, our Father is longsuffering. These wayward children will always have a place at His table. They can still show up at any family gathering and find

some relatives that will show kindness. Every family ought to have a healer—someone who found the wisdom in what Paul wrote in Philippians.

“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, FORGETTING THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND and reaching forth unto those things which are before” (Phil. 3:13).

It's hard to forget yesteryear's hurts, but with Christ, all things are possible. What is required though, is the will to move on. Too many seem to relish the role of the grievously injured party. It's comforting to think you are “suffering” for Jesus.

My dad grew up in a large, extended Italian family. Nothing that was found in other Italian families in Buffalo, New York, was missing among my dad's relations. I heard stories throughout the years and would ask my dad about them. He used to say that when all is said and done—family is still family.

Does the Lord, our God, also not see things this way? What was the father's reaction when the prodigal said, **“I will arise and go to my father . . .”**? Did the father wish to give his son a stern lecture after hearing, **“And AM NO MORE WORTHY TO BE CALLED THY SON: make me as one of thy hired servants”**? (Luke 15:19). No, love overwhelmed all the hurt the father endured.

“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry” (vs. 24).

“It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING: great is thy faithfulness” (Lam. 3:22–23).

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