



# Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 44 No. 11 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) November 2020

## GIVING GOD THANKS

By Brian Donovan

The holiday of Thanksgiving in our culture is a yearly reminder of how grateful we should be for God's blessings every day of the year. For the child of God, the most reasonable and natural attitude is one of thankfulness to God, while the lost man has only his fallen and sinful human nature to run his life, and being thankful to God is completely contrary to his ego. The fallen nature of man loves to think of itself as worthy of everything it can get and hates to think of itself as needy of God's mercies. The lost sinner attempts to convince himself that he is self-sufficient, and certainly not dependent upon any God, except himself. He claims to be a "self-made man" who "pulls himself up by the bootstraps", and is "capable of anything he puts his mind to".

The scripture has his number and describes it plainly in Romans 1, declaring, "**Because that, when**

**they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools"** (verses 21 -22). The verses that follow the ingratitude of the lost sinner, lay out the downward steps that began with the refusal to be thankful and glorify God, saying, "**And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things** (verse 23). . .**and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator"** (verse 25). The condition of the educated masses of Americans is manifested by their love of their so-called "mother" (either the USA or the Earth, it is the same pagan worship). This generation claims that they are going to "Save Mother Earth" (by being green and reducing their carbon footprint) and "Make America Great" (by putting Trump back in office), but is completely ignorant of the fact

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# The Impossible Commandment

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

**“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment”** (Matt. 22:36–38).

**“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God”** (Col. 3:1–3).

And then from a negative standpoint:

**“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”** (1 John 2:15–17).

According to the rabbis, there are 613 commandments in the Mosaic law. All 613 can be distilled down to the Ten Commandments given by God on Mt. Sinai and written with His own finger on tables of stone. But those ten are summed up in two great commandments according to Jesus Christ in Matthew 22. So having dealt with the “Ten,”

we now want to look at the two.

According to the Son of God, **“the first and great commandment”** is **“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”** The account in Mark 12:30 adds, **“and with all thy strength.”** Now get that. The FIRST commandment is not to love your neighbor or your fellow man; that is the SECOND commandment.

All of the political and religious liberals “put the cart before the horse” and either equate loving your neighbor with loving God (*which it is NOT*) or loving your neighbor first over loving God (*which is the wrong order*) or only loving your neighbor and ignoring altogether the commandment to love God. That’s *humanism*. It may take the form of Marxism, socialism, communism, ecumenism, “racial reconciliation,” “gay liberation,” “women’s lib,” “children’s rights,” or a welfare state; but it is humanism, pure and simple. It is putting man in the place of God in one’s affections. The *first* commandment is to love God over even your closest relations or your own life (Matt. 10:37–39).

Now I call this commandment “the impossible commandment” because in my life I have never been able to love God with ALL my heart, ALL my soul, ALL my mind, and ALL my strength. I don’t see

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how anyone can. I am commanded to love my wife in Ephesians 5:25. The elder women in the church are to teach the younger women **“to love their husbands”** and **“to love their children”** (Tit. 2:3–4). Christians are commanded to **“love one another”** (John 15:12, 17; 1 John 3:23). Then having said all of that, you are told not to love the things down here (1 John 2:15–17) but to love the things up there (Col. 3:1–3). Well; the people you are commanded to love are down here. Things can get very confusing at times.

I have had plenty of time to think about these things, and I want to say some things about this commandment. First, *men cling to the things they love in this life*. Solomon observed that God has **“set the world”** (not *“eternity”* like modern perversions read) in the hearts of men so that they can't find out His work **“from the beginning to the end”** (Eccl. 3:11). I know the truth of that statement. I have been around this world and have seen the beauty God put in it. This world is a beautiful place. The only problem is the *people* in it. Men tend to love the things they can *see*, and they can see the *world* God has set in their hearts. It's hard to love something you've never seen. This world with all its beauty tends to stick to you much closer than heaven because you've never seen heaven. This world is much more real than New Jerusalem.

Asking the average American these days to receive Christ is equivalent to asking him to burn everything he owns. I know why people don't come forward during invitations to receive Christ: they feel if they do, they will have to give up everything. They cling to the things they love, and the thought of giving up those things just kills them. Men will cling to life until the last gasp of breath. That's just the way we are.

In the concentration camps, some of those Jews got to the point where they couldn't think at all; they just walked around in a daze and did what they were told. When they were down to skin and bones where they couldn't work anymore, those guards would tell them, “Go over and lay down with the corpses. I don't want to have to shoot you and carry you over there myself. So you go lie down over there, and I'll shoot you there.” But even in the state they were in, nine times out of ten, they wouldn't obey that order. They might as well have. They were starving to death and were about to be shot anyway, but they still clung to life.

I've read the accounts of Richard Wurmbrand and Haralan Popov in the communist camps. The thing that disturbs me the most is that neither one talked about heaven. It seems to me that if a Christian were under constant torture and left in solitary confinement with no light at all for days at a time that

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he would think about heaven, but it never came up in their books.

The problem is that preaching can't pull down the strongholds of what you can see, feel, hear, smell, and touch. You can sit through three hours of Bible teaching and preaching on Sunday, and then go back to the way you were on Monday morning. That's because the flesh—and it doesn't matter if it's the flesh of a saved person or an unsaved person; flesh is flesh—clings to what it loves in this life.

The next thing I want to say is that *love is a present indulgence or a future desire*. You are in love with something or somebody right now, or you are going to be in the future. The old saying is: "Better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." People are obsessed with goals, but it has been my observation and experience that the more goals you obtain, the more miserable you get. If a person has nothing to look forward to, then he contemplates suicide. Life doesn't seem to be worth living if you have no yearning to motivate you. Alexander the Great conquered all the civilized world of his day, and once he had met his goal, he got depressed and cried over no more worlds to conquer. That's when he got so drunk that he burst a blood vessel in his head and died.

Nature abhors a vacuum. There's nothing worse than nothing. I think the most miserable people in the world are those who

have retired and have nothing to do. I can't imagine anything any worse than that.

Sixteen-year-old Diana Humphries of Houston, Texas, to escape boredom, killed her four-year-old brother with a .22, and when the police caught her, she was getting ready to kill her parents. When asked why she did it, she replied, "Because nothing exciting ever happens around here."

Nature abhors a vacuum. That's why people in Hollywood keep getting married after a string of divorces. It's for the *novelty*. After the "conquest," the novelty is over, so they move on to the next conquest.

Sinners imagine they will lose everything if they receive Christ and have nothing to take the place of what they lost. The famous "lover" Casanova fornicated with 112 women during his lifetime and contracted syphilis eleven times. So why did he keep on doing what he did and suffering the ravages in his body (mercury, the "cure" back then for syphilis, was as bad as the disease)? Because he would rather suffer the torment than quit and have nothing to do. His last words were: "I die as a Christian." Some "Christian"!

Men continue to perform destructive habits even when they know those habits are killing them. The reason they do is if they quit those habits, they figure there will be nothing else to do.

Sigmund Freud—the "great" psy-

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chiarist who presumed to tell you what you think and how you think and where you get your drives, tendencies, and motives—smoked twenty cigars a day. He finally got cancer of the jaw and had to have thirty operations on his jaw. After that, he had to *force* his jaw open to smoke his cigars. He kept on smoking until the open cancerous places on his jaw got to smelling so bad that his dog wouldn't even stay in the same room with him. He took so much morphine for the pain that he almost doped himself to death. He said, "I prefer to think in torment than not to think at all." He stayed alive just to think without any regard to *what* he was thinking. He thought himself straight into hell.

TV is made to create artificial needs and artificial tastes for you to satisfy, and very few people are exempt from it. I have seen people build beautiful log cabins out in the woods to "get away from it all." But out in front of the houses sit great big satellite dishes for the television set. Here they are miles from anyone, and they are pumping New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles right into their living rooms. That's human nature—it always has to strive for something it doesn't have.

The heart is always grasping for something. The greatest suffering is where all is distasteful. That was Elvis Presley's problem. Presley's former wife said, "The trouble with Elvis is that he's got nothing to do.

He's seen it all." So he took pills to go to sleep, and he took pills to wake up. He took pills to get an appetite; then he took pills to curb his appetite. He took pills before going on stage, and he took pills after the show to relax. His doctor called him a "walking pharmacy." He had fourteen different drugs in his system when he died. In the last three years of his life he consumed 19,000 pills.

What was his problem? Life bored him. So he shackled up with married women, and he shackled up with single women. He had all the money he needed and didn't know what to do with it. So he would buy expensive cars and give them away. He would go out in front of "Graceland" and take whoever was hanging out there in the middle of the night on a plane trip to Denver, Colorado for a banana and peanut butter sandwich. The old boy had everything he wanted, and it didn't satisfy.

Buddha said that by annihilating your mind you annihilate your desires. That's true, but it puts you in the place to commit suicide because you've nothing left to live for. Our nature is inseparable from our desires; we're always craving something we don't possess.

A great sage once said that the two greatest tragedies in life were *not to get your heart's desire* and *to get your heart's desire*. If you don't get it, you wonder what it would be like to have it, and if you do get

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it, you wonder why you worked so hard to get it.

Now you've got to love something. You will either love or you will die. You will either love what's down here, or you will love what's up there. Karl Menninger, the dean of American psychiatry, wrote a book entitled *Love Against Hate*. The idea behind it is if a person doesn't learn to love properly, he will give way to hate, which produces death and destruction.

The desire for things down here is never fully satisfied. Take sexual love, for instance. Solomon had a thousand wives, and they didn't satisfy him. He said he couldn't find a woman among a thousand to satisfy what his soul sought (Eccl. 7:28). That fellow ended up in idolatry and dying before his time.

The goals taught in the government schools (formerly "public" schools) are *animal* goals; they are insatiable. They are all animal appetites associated with loving *yourself*, and they can never be fulfilled to the point of satisfaction.

One of the greatest disappointments I ever had was in a prison where all the inmates had committed three felonies before they were thirteen. I was preaching to kids nine years old who had killed their parents. Before I preached, I would walk the halls and look at these "inspirational" posters put up to motivate the kids. One of the posters said, "Don't make your choices based on the crowd . . . ."

Well, that's good, but that wasn't the end of the poster. It then went on to tell the kids on what to base their choices so they would turn out right: ". . . make your choices based on *your feelings* . . . ." Why, *that's what got the kid in there to begin with*. ". . . *your values, your needs*. Not going along with the crowd can help you stand out in the crowd." Someone is trying to make a god out of the kid. That's how to get him in prison. But that is the world.

The greatest asset for staying alive is not money or power; it's *enthusiasm*. When you've lost enthusiasm, you've lost it all. I like to be around little kids because they're enthusiastic. That Bible says, "**And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men**" (Col. 3:23). It says in Ecclesiastes 9:10, "**Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.**"

Enthusiasm will keep you going when nothing else will, but it has to be enthusiasm about the right thing or person. Let's just face it—you have to be in love with something you can't see. You have to be in love with New Jerusalem; you have to be in love with God. You should *want* to see the One who loved you enough to die for you; He should be real enough to you to give you a reason to live.

All unsaved people reject the gospel for the same reason—*fear* of losing something they love. In

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Revelation 21:8, the Lord gives you a list of people who will be in the lake of fire, and the one that tops the list is **“the fearful.”**

Sometimes that fear is a legitimate fear. I have talked to four Moslems back in my office after services at different times, and every one tells me the same thing: if he gets saved and leaves Islam, he will be killed by other Moslems. That's not the “extremists” or the “radicals,” like Bush and Obama want you to believe. That's *standard Moslem teaching*.

One of my pastor buddies up north led a sure enough queer to the Lord in prison. That fellow wasn't just a queer; he was a “queen.” That is, he was a man who acted like a woman. When he got saved, he said, “I guess this means I'll have to stop what I'm doing.” My pastor friend said, “Yeah, you should.” And that converted faggot looked my friend in the eye and said, “Preacher, if I do, the others will kill me.”

That's your “gays.” Those are the ones who just want the right to “love” who they want to love and marry who they want to marry. Those are the ones who want access to your kids in the schools so they can recruit them into their perverse deathstyle because they can't reproduce naturally. They would kill anyone trying to leave their sexual perversion if they could get away with it.

All my buddy could tell that guy

was: “I'll pray for you.” In less than a week, that poor guy was dead. He got saved and it cost him his life.

Of course, with most people, that is not the case. It's “if I get saved I'll have to quit drinking, smoking, using dope, or \_\_\_\_\_,”—you fill in the blank. The problem is they don't love God to give up whatever it is. I used to have a father-in-law named “Pop” May. “Pop” May worked hard and took care of his family, but he loved to drink. I witnessed to him over and over again, but he never would trust Christ. Someone told me he finally got saved just before he died. I hope that's true.

But do you know what “Pop” May's problem was? “Pop” May's trouble was when he was confronted with salvation, he would see Jesus Christ on one side hanging on the cross, loving him enough to die for his sins, and on the other side he would see a bottle of liquor. And every time he would choose the bottle of liquor. What was the problem? It was a *love* problem—“Pop” May loved the booze more than he loved God or Jesus Christ.

Sometimes it's not the fear of losing something you don't want to give up; sometimes it is the fear of the unknown. “What if I do get saved? What then?” Well, gird up your loins like a man and jump into it.

Back in my unsaved days as a drunken Army officer in the Philip-

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pires, I painted a series of pictures I called "psychopathic symbolism." One of those pictures was "The Fear of the Unknown." It's a picture of a guy in the desert. He's on his hands and knees, his clothes torn, obviously dying of thirst and heat. He's staring into the mouth of a cave, which I illustrated with colors that made it look cool, fresh, and inviting. Beside the fellow are two bodies of his dead buddies which the buzzards in the picture have picked clean until they're nothing but skeletons. The guy who is still alive stares in horror at the mouth of the cave because he's afraid to go in. He doesn't know what's inside, and it terrifies him.

That's human nature—men will die with what they know rather than take a chance. Some sinners will go to hell and burn before they would take a chance on receiving God's Son.

The way Darwin got rid of the problem was to eliminate the first three chapters of Genesis. If all you are is an evolved ape, then you don't have to fear judgment; you don't have to worry about fulfilling your animal desires. When Paul preached to the monkey men in Athens, they listened to him right up to the point where he talked about **"the resurrection of the dead,"** and that busted up the meeting (Acts 17:32). Why? Because when Paul talked about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, he talked about *the judgment of God.*

**"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, that he hath raised him from the dead"** (Acts 17:31).

There is personal accountability to a personal God for the way you lived down here after you were told to love Him with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Evolution is for sissies who can't face reality.

People go all to pieces when they hear our young men out on the street corner preaching, "YOU'RE GOING TO HELL!" They're in an emotional panic because they're going to face God at the judgment and wind up in hell.

The reason evolution appeals to highly educated people is because most of them are *immoral*. When Julian Huxley was asked on a TV interview once why evolution "took off" like it did, he gave an honest answer (for once): "The idea of God interfered with our *sexual mores*." In other words, he wanted to fornicate without having to answer to the One who said, **"Thou shalt not commit adultery,"** and evolution gave him an "out."

Bob Jones Sr. used to say, "The greatest tragedy on this earth is high mentality with low morality." A modern scientist is a psychotic idolater who can't sleep without a rational explanation: he can't go to sleep at night without worrying

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about what it means if the Bible is true.

The current trend is to blame a person's actions on his "environment." "Well, this poor black child grew up in a ghetto, and that's why he ended up killing someone." Abraham Lincoln was born and raised in a log cabin that would make some of the apartments in the "projects" look like palaces, and he ended up becoming president of the United States. A person can come up through a bad environment and turn out good. Contrariwise, a man can come up through a good environment and make the biggest mess you ever saw—for example, Adam and David and Solomon.

In closing, let me say this: *you have to love something more than life to be saved*. You have to come to a place in your life where you think it is more important to get saved than to live. Positionally speaking, when you get saved, the "old man"—i.e., the old Adamic nature—is dead with Christ on the cross (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 2:20).

There's a big debate among the brethren about what *repentance* means in regards to salvation. Well, I'll tell you one thing it means: it means you would rather love God and accept His Son than cling to the old Adamic nature that will send you to hell. I know you will have a battle with sin until the day you die or the day you go up at the rapture, but at least you desire to give up

the old life and receive the life offered to you through the Lord Jesus Christ. A man can get to the place where sin is so obnoxious and so abhorrent to him that he would give or do just about anything to quit.

I've been along there. When I came to the end of myself, I went to the only place I knew as an unsaved man to go—I went to a Catholic church. I went into the rectory at St. Michael's in downtown Pensacola and grabbed Father Sullivan by the cassock and said, "I've been around this world. I'm tired of men; I'm tired of women; I'm tired of art; I'm tired of music; I'm tired of sports; I'm tired of money; I'm tired of drugs; I'm tired of liquor; and I'm tired of myself. I'm fed up! If there's anything in this life worth having, I want it. You got it?"

I wish somebody would come to me like that! I'd fix his wagon in five seconds. I'd tell that bird, "You bet your life I've got it!" But a Catholic priest? Don't make me laugh.

I asked the "Father," "You got it?" He knocked the ashes off his stogie and said, "What you need to do, my boy, is join the church." Of course that didn't pan out. The Lord put Hugh Pyle across my path, and he led me to Christ before I was "confirmed" in the Catholic Church.

After I got saved, I decided to go to Bob Jones University. Do you know why? Well, it sure wasn't to learn the Bible. If I had gone for that reason, I would have been defrauded. When I told Father Sullivan I

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was headed off to BJU, he asked me, "What would make a man like you want to go to a place like that?" I told him, "They say that up there they don't drink or smoke or dance or go to the movies. That sounds like a clean place to me. I've never been in a clean place in my life. I think I'll go see what it's like."

But I wasn't ready to get saved until I had become fed up with the life I had been living. I was ready to blow my brains out because I had had enough. I go to jails and prisons, and preach to the convicts there. I can look in their faces and tell which ones haven't had enough yet. Some of them are up in their forties and fifties, and haven't had enough yet. I get mean with them over that. I'll point my finger at them and say, "The problem with some of you is that you haven't had enough yet. You have plans right now, don't you?" And those tough guys will just look at me unresponsively, but I can see them flinch a bit when I say that.

Now how are you going to be able to love an unseen God? Well, first, you have to *shut the world out*. The world clamors for your attention and will do anything to distract you. You have to shut it all out and pay attention to what God tells you in that Book. The world's affections are right down here, and you need to shut them out to set your affections on things above.

Then you need to *give up your own righteousness and receive*

God's. People who try to earn their salvation estrange themselves from the One who died for them and wants to *give* them salvation. If you are depending on a religion, a church, a sacrament, or anything you *do*, you are cutting off your chance to be saved. The One who wants to save you doesn't want *your* sacrifice because *your* sacrifice wouldn't do you any good anyway. He wants to have mercy on you.

"Could my tears forever flow, could my zeal no languor know, all for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. In my hands no price I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling."

Do you love God? Well, if you do, it's not because of anything you did for Him. It's because of something *He did for you*.

**"We love him, BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US"** (1 John 4:19).

**"Herein is love, not that we loved God, BUT THAT HE LOVED US, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins"** (1 John 4:10).

**"BUT GOD COMMENDETH HIS LOVE TOWARD US, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"** (Rom. 5:8).

Don't tell me you love God if you turn down the love He offered you through the sacrifice of His Son. You don't love God if you are pitting your righteousness against Him. If you love God, you will love His Son. IF you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you will trust Him for salvation and not your own good works.

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that the earth's destruction is due to sin (Rev. 11:18), not excess carbon dioxide, and America is headed for hell for forgetting God (Psa. 9:17), not for putting Democrats in office. These steps continue until **"knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them"** (verse 32).

For the Bible-believing Christian, because we have so much to be thankful to our Lord and Saviour for, it can become easy to take many of His blessings for granted. And so this time of year is a good time to reflect and consider whether or not we have allowed ourselves to slip into an ungrateful attitude. First of all, we can thank Him for our physical life. As David proclaimed about three thousand years ago, **". . . thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well"** (Psa. 139:13-14). We tend to take a healthy birth as a given, until we go through it ourselves with a child or grandchildren. To see our little ones enter this life with whole limbs, eyes and ears that work, and fully developed and functioning inner organs, is a great cause of thanksgiving to the Lord God. It is the Lord alone who forms the physical body in the womb, and the scripture consistently gives Him the credit and praise for it.

**"Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb . . ."**(Isa. 44:2) **". . . and he that formed thee**

**from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things. . ."**(verse 24). **"Then the word of the LORD came unto me saying, Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee. . . "** (Jer. 1:4-5).

These verses show that it is not the hospitals and doctors to whom credit is due, but to the LORD who formed the physical body in the womb. We can also be thankful even when there is a deformity. The Lord God himself takes credit for creating the deformity (Exo. 4:11 **". . . or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have not I the LORD?"**). The correct

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## Bro. Donovan's Meeting Schedule

### 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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response from the child of God is to admit that **“he hath done all things well”** (Mark 7:37), and that the Lord has **“created all things for his pleasure”** (Rev. 4:11). He brings life into this world for His pleasure, and in order to manifest His own works, the Lord at times brings in the lame, blind, and deaf (John 9:1-3).

The life of the soul that begins with the breath of God at birth is also something to be thankful to the Lord for. The scriptures are quite plain that man becomes a living soul when the Lord gives him breath. As Elihu said, **“The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life”** (Job 33:4). As the book of beginnings also says in Genesis 2:7, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground (the physical body), and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (spiritual life), and man became a living soul”** (soul life). The three parts that make a human being a living soul are not present in the womb, and there is no scripture that says otherwise. The life of all flesh (including animals) is in the blood (Lev. 17:11,14), but man does not become a **“living soul”** until the **“breath of the Almighty”** is given. How thankful we should be to the Lord when we witness the healthy birth of a new life coming into this world.

Without question, the next thing to be thankful for is **“eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”** (Rom. 6:23). The greatest moment in the life of any sinner is the day he receives the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. This is done

by turning to God in repentance and admitting his lost condition as a sinner headed for hell. This repentance is not quitting individual sins, but a **“repentance to salvation”** (2 Cor. 7:10) that turns from whatever it is the sinner may be trusting (such as idols—1 Thess. 1:9), and receiving the free gift of eternal life (Eph. 2:8-9). This repentance is a change of mind in the sinner to agree with what his Creator says about him. The greatest day in my life was when I saw my actual lost condition before God and took His way out. The **“simplicity that is in Christ”** (2 Cor. 11:3) is something religions will corrupt and try to make hard to obtain. But the Lord has paid the cost for your salvation and offers it as a free gift, and that is something for which to be truly thankful.

We live during the time of the mystery Church Age in which the doctrine of the eternal security of the believer is in place. The apostle of the Gentiles (Paul—Rom. 11:13) repeatedly makes it plain in his writings to the Church, that the believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30), and that nothing can separate the child of God from his Saviour (Romans 8:38-39). Through study and rightly dividing the word of God, we find that this was not true of the believer during the Old Testament dispensation, as his salvation was connected not only to his faith, but his personal works of righteousness, and his damnation was connected to his personal wickedness (Ezek. 33:12-18). This works and faith requirement is also true of the tribulation saint, as he must endure to the

Continued on 13

# GIVING GOD THANKS

Continued from 12

end (Matt. 24:13), and refuse to take the mark of the beast (Rev. 14:11), and keep his commandments (verse 12). We need to rejoice at the foot of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, considering the great mercy of God in Christ to the saints in this age.

The next thing we can be thankful for is the AV1611 King James Bible. The scriptures are the reason we know who the Lord Jesus is, and what He did. Without the scriptures, we would continue to be living in a dark place, **“having no hope, and without God in the world”** (Eph. 2:12). It is the word that is **“able to save your souls”** (James 1:21), it is the word that is able to keep you from sin (Psa. 119:11), it is the word that is able to do an effectual work in the believer (1 Thess. 2:13), and it is the word that is able to be a **“lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path”** (Psa. 119:105). The scriptures are perfect (Psa. 19:7), eternal (Matthew 24:35), pure (Psa. 12:6), holy (2 Tim. 3:15), true (John 17:17), and faithful (Rev. 21:5). The very words of the King James Bible are **“given by inspiration”** (or they are NOT scripture—2 Timothy

3:16), and they are powerful and alive (Heb. 4:12). The words that come off the pages of the AV1611 are **“spirit”** (John 6:63), and each time we open and read this great Book, the eyes take light into the body (Matt. 6:22), that allows us to see **“through a glass darkly”** (1 Cor. 13:12). A transaction takes place when we read the KJV as we **“with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image”** (2 Cor. 3:18). Yet how easy it is for us to forget and take the Book we hold in our hands for granted and not be thankful.

Coming down through the ages, our forefathers **“had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented”** (Heb. 11:36-37), and they did it all for the love of the Lord God and the Book. With this in mind, **“seeing we also are compassed about with so great**

Continued on 14

## SEPTEMBER'S SERMONS

*Brian Donovan*

Worthy Is The Lamb  
The Great Encourager  
Four Ways God Answers Prayer  
Holding Ground

*Zack Colvin*

The Name Of Jesus Christ  
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# GIVING GOD THANKS

Continued from 13

**a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us**" (Heb. 12:1), Since we **"have not yet resisted unto blood"** (verse 4), ought we not be thankful and get ourselves ready for the chance to be found in this holy line of believers? The thought often comes to me that the enemies of the King James Bible, and the persecutors and killers of the saints, is the same line from which I was saved and called out of. The satanic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church is beginning to rise and come against the one Book and the true church, which is His body (Col. 1:22-23).

We need to be more in prayer that the believers will not continue to be caught away into the political and religious trap of the whore, as we come into these last days. Donald Trump is caught up in the snare of the political whoredoms of the Roman Catholic Church, even married to one of her children; hence, he continues to keep this nation in her trap. **"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time"** (1 John 2:18). The spirit of antichrist has been released, and the world is passing away (1 John 2:17). Satan's last efforts of the seduction of the church are in play, and the scriptures are written as our hope of discerning and recognizing the problem (1 John 2:26). The virus that recently spread across the world was another attempt to shut down the gospel, and it has

worked quite well if you look at the response.

We can be thankful for a Bible-believing church. The local church is the visible and physical means by which believers can gather for worship. When the saints gather together, we are encouraging each other that we are in this together (1 Thess. 5:11 **"wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do"**). There is no such thing as an "internet church" (no one is gathered), and there is no such thing as an "internet pastor" (it is an office of the local church). These modern internet sensations think that they have won the day with the virus closing churches and losers now tuning in to hear them. They measure their success by the number of "hits". Any Christian that would refuse to gather with other believers, just because of some pressure put on them, is getting the garbage they deserve from these fake "pastors". Ask any shepherd; sheep are known to be dumb enough to leave the good pasture they have been led to, only to turn to weeds and toxic ground. Many of these sorry Christians will not return to the local church, because they are now enjoying sitting in their pajamas, and drinking coffee, while they "attend church". We do not need technology buffs—we need soldiers.

The American church of the last one hundred and fifty years has known little to nothing of persecution that comes with serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Though the walls are beginning to close in on us,

Continued on 15

# GIVING GOD THANKS

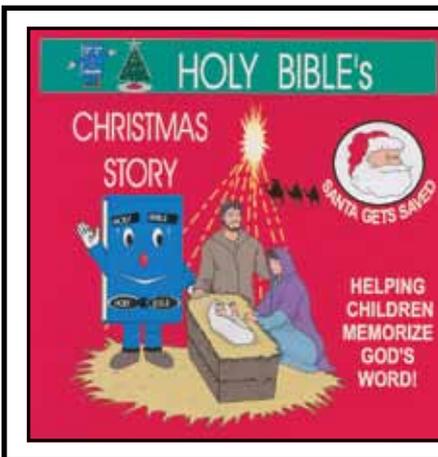
Continued from 14

we still do not know what it means to be jailed, whipped at a post, or burned at a stake for preaching the truth. The saints at Thessalonica received the word **“in much affliction”**, having **“suffered like things of their own countrymen”**, yet they refused to **“be moved by these afflictions”**, and they understood that those were the very things that they were **“appointed thereunto”** (1Thess. 1:6; 2:14; 3:3). The saints at Thessalonica were commended for their response to the persecutions (1 Thess. 1:7 **“so that ye were ensamples to all that believe”**). Today, we should be thankful for the examples that have gone on before us, as well as the many mercies that the Lord has shown to this day. But we should also be thankful for the road that the Lord is leading the church through in these last days. We have a chance to stand for Him in the **“midst of a crooked and perverse nation”** (Phil. 2:15), and without knowing exactly what lies ahead for us, we can be thank-

ful that our God and Saviour Jesus Christ is not only faithful to call us into His work, but faithful in performing it (1 Thess. 5:24).

Every saint of God in this country that still has a KJV Bible-believing church to go to, should be very thankful for it. It may be that shortly, the believers will have to meet in their homes, or in dens and caves and wooded areas. The recent crackdown was only a trial run for what is next. It should not be taken for granted if you have a place to sing the old hymns of worship (that still has not given in to the strobe lights, and rock bands, and Starbucks in the foyer), a place to fellowship with like-minded believers, a place that fights against the spirit of the age, a place that refuses to be politically correct, and a place where the emphasis of the meeting is on the preaching from the powerful, old English 1611AV.

**“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”** (Col. 3:15)



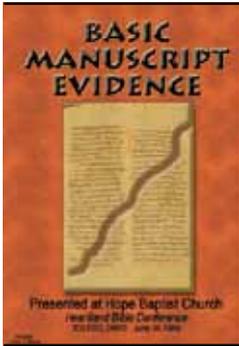
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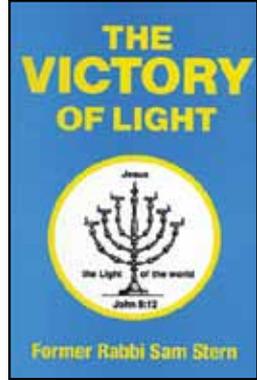
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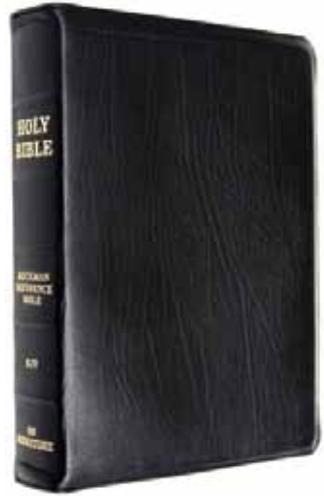
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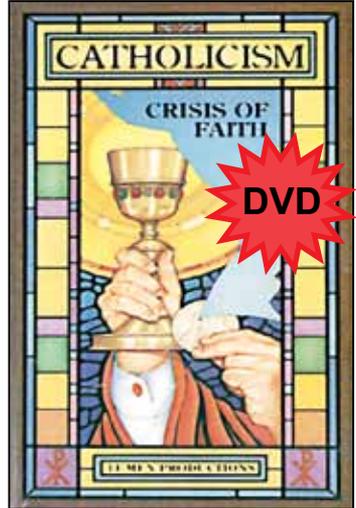
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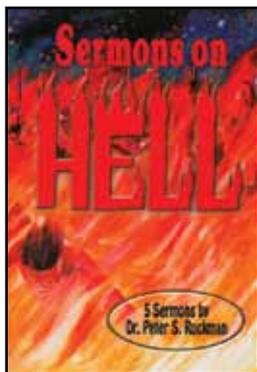
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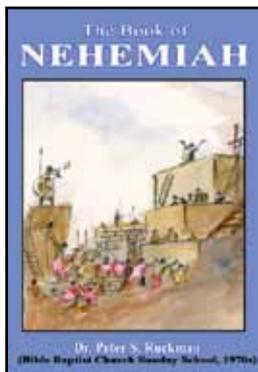
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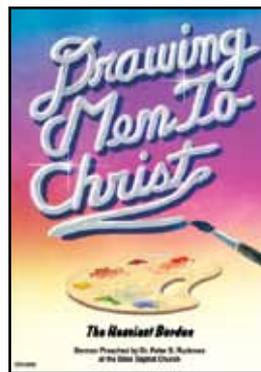
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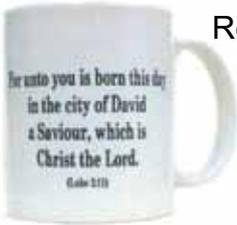
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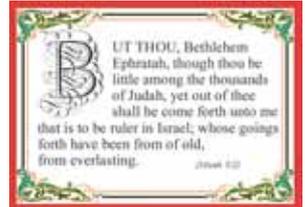
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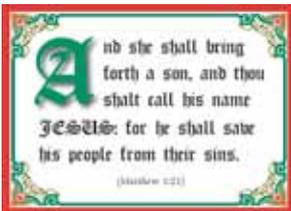
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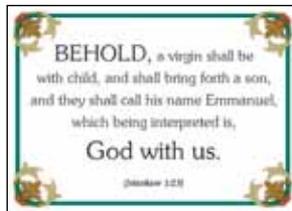
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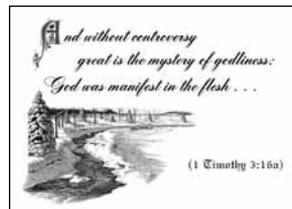
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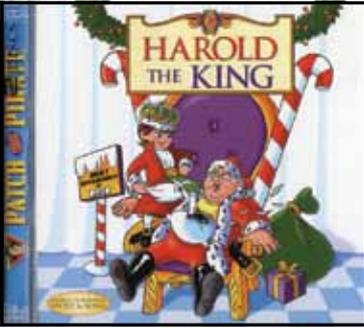
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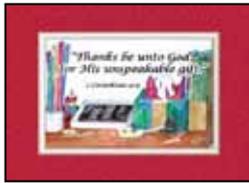
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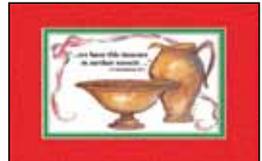
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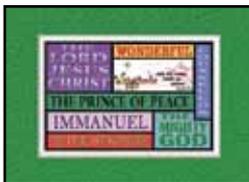
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# A Feast Neglected

By Robert Millitello

**“I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food”** (Job 23:12).

The traditional Thanksgiving feast in November reminds us to be grateful for God's bounty, and that's good. Nevertheless, there is a feast that believers are called to daily that surpasses, by far, anything that appears on a Thanksgiving Day table.

To love the Lord is to love His food. How is it that many of God's dear saints fail to show up at His table and nourish their souls each day? No English-speaking person saved by the blood of God's Son from a literal, burning hell should cease to thank God daily, and profusely for the King James Bible.

**“I will worship toward the holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: FOR THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ABOVE ALL THY NAME”** (Psa. 138:2).

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, so how highly should we esteem our Authorized Version when God says that He has put it above His name? Think on that a while when you say it is hard to find time to eat the words of life.

Consider the activity that will go on in millions of America's kitchens on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning before the traditional Thanksgiving Day celebration. What earnest preparation and tender care go into the effort to make sure the food to be eaten that day (and sometimes days later) would satisfy every soul present lifting a

knife and fork. Do you look forward to feeding upon God's word daily? Is it a chore, a duty to be attended to? God's word is always fresh and a delight to those who seek after Him with an honest heart.

**“O taste and see that the LORD is good. . .”** (Psa. 34:8).

The word *taste* shows up twenty-one times in the King James Bible. As a people, Americans love to eat—just check the waistlines of our fellow citizens! The first time *taste* appears in God's word is Exodus 16:31. **“And the house of Israel called the name thereof Manna: and it was like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.”** God's people were treated to something enjoyable, not tasteless, like the white of an egg. Books of men are tasteless. They offer little to a hungry soul. I know by experience—do you?

There is no way the human mind stained with sin can comprehend the medicinal effect that the word of God has upon the soul. It is a spiritual antibiotic given by the Holy Ghost with no negative side effects. You cannot overdose on it. The changes it brings in your spiritual well being are, in time, readily apparent. Folks are going to know that you've switched diets. Haven't you heard the saying, “You are what you eat”? You ought to become a pleasant tasting honey wafer in God's mouth, or He may get a sour stomach from the way you live.

**“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor**

Continued on 25

# A Feast Neglected

Continued from 24

**hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth”** (Rev. 3:16). You have a particular taste in God’s mouth, and what might that be? Love God’s word and walk past those places where the food of Egypt will entice you and destroy your fellowship with the Lord. Egyptian food leaves an unpleasant aftertaste.

**“How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth”** (Psa. 119:103).

I’ve spent lots of time in the Lord’s sweetshop. There’s no decay there, no cavities to worry about. Our God is a master confectioner. You’re told to taste the Lord to discover His goodness, but our taste buds have been corrupted by the transitory delights of this world. Eve couldn’t resist the devil’s temptation to taste what she was told to leave alone. There may be delights on a Thanksgiving table that you won’t resist, although you know they may be bad for your health. Human nature being what it is, we put aside our misgivings about such food items by saying, “One little bite won’t hurt.” Thanks be to God that there are no such guilt feelings attached to eating too much of the Lord’s food. There you can gorge yourself with no regret afterward. Can you say that about any dish man can cook up? The picture of a King James Bible lying around your home or apartment hardly worn, and looking almost new, will testify against you at the Judgment Seat of Christ. There you’ll see how foolishly you acted, setting aside God’s Filet Mignon while eating the

stale pretzels served on TV and the Internet.

How do you get a practical understanding of just how precious God’s words really are—to esteem them as highly as Job did? I think about my King James Bible as a treasure given to me by my heavenly Father years ago. Suppose your father told you that he had to go away, and you would be without his physical company for a very long time. Growing up without a father around is a sad situation indeed. Many have to make their way through life dealing with that painful circumstance. So, suppose your father, before he leaves, puts a lengthy letter in your hand. Then he tells you that all you should learn about your father is now yours to know. In the letter, your father reveals himself in the most profound way. He tells you his innermost thoughts. He educates you as to what people are really like and how the world you live in will not be able to bring real joy to your heart and soul. All you need to know as to how best to function in this world is found in his letter. He closes by reassuring you that you will be together again and will be forever safe in his arms. What would such a letter mean to you? Quite a lot, don’t you agree?

That letter, no matter how many pages it consisted of, would be read and reread over and over again. It will soon show evidence of being handled daily and will have tear stains on some of its pages. Your father’s love for you will show up

Continued on 26

# A Feast Neglected

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as fingerprints on every page. His words will burn in your heart, and nothing in this world could, in any way, diminish the profound affection you feel for your father's words. As long as you draw breath, that love letter will be near you. Would to God every soul redeemed by the blood of the Lamb will discover in this practical way, the treasure he has in the King James Bible. Many saints do not make this discovery and leave this world, never knowing how rich they could have been spiritually, had they spent more time eating God's words. When you have been invited to a feast, and you show up with little or no appetite, you grieve the founder of the feast. Enjoy your Bible, **"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God. . ."** (Eph. 4:30).

A great blow was dealt our nation on June 25, 1962. The U.S. Supreme Court declared school-sponsored prayer unconstitutional. The following year, in Abington School District vs. Schempp, the Court banned Bible reading in public schools. According to the Court, prayer and Bible reading violated the first amendment to the Constitution, which bans any linking of the Church and State. God's food was taken off the menu in our public schools, and what a price our society has paid since then. Imagine how many of our nation's children would have developed Bible reading habits had not the Court told our public school teachers to close the Book that made our country great. Shortly after that Court ruling, our

first Catholic President was shot in the head in Dallas, Texas. Was there some kind of message in that? Can a book make a nation great? Queen Victoria of England thought so. Our public school system, once the envy of the world, had a friend in the King James Bible, but that friend was told to leave. So who came in to replace him? Guess. Every time you hear about another school shooting, remember that reaping what you have sown is a law the Supreme Court failed to take into account.

It's hard to thank God for the gift He gave us in the King James Bible when you are taught that the Book has flaws.

**"For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God. . ."** (2 Cor. 2:17).

Imagine sitting at a Thanksgiving table that had on it stale biscuits, with other items half-cooked and unappealing. That would help spoil the pleasure you looked forward to once you sat down to eat. Millions who profess Christianity cannot rejoice over God's word because all bibles have errors in them—or so they have been told by the so-called scholars. Who is going to be excited when the new car he just bought is rolled off the lot, and a small but noticeable dent appears on the body? We want our new car perfect, amen? Those who were brainwashed into believing God failed to keep His promise and preserve His words in the most important tongue on earth were robbed of a great comfort. Not until

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# A Feast Neglected

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they hit the Judgment Seat of Christ will they realize just how great their loss was. If you think all Bibles have errors, can you honestly say, **“Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it”** (Psa. 119:140)? Thank God that what I am expected to eat daily is not just pure; it is *very pure*.

When the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible was celebrated in 2011, many books, articles, and testimonials appeared praising the gemstone of English literature. Gordon Campbell, a historian at the University of Leicester in England, made a remarkable admission for a man outside of Christ. He wrote, “New translations will come and go, as our language changes with each generation. But as long as we can understand the King James Bible, this four-century-old book will be seen as the voice of God and the highest poetry of man.” How many unbelievers, including men of high learning and station in life, were constrained to praise a book that did not flatter man and warned them of judgment to come? Every time you open the KJV, someone not appearing in mortal flesh is speaking to you. What makes believers sit in front of the TV being spoken to for hours by commentators and “news analysts”, yet showing little or no interest in listening to the only voice of truth that there is?

I remember times when I sat riveted to a lecture given by a university professor who had mastered his subject. Jesus and Paul were teachers. I think of what it might

have been like to sit and hear what they had to say. There is no book printed with paper and ink that speaks to its readers like the KJV. A living book from the living Son of God has so much to say to you, so no wonder that the seven letters sent to the churches in Revelation 2 and 3 all end the say way. **“He that hath an ear, LET HIM HEAR what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** God’s people tend to go deaf over time, and the reason is a book staying closed too long.

As the spiritual darkness intensifies all over the globe in these last days, the light emanating from God’s pure word shines more brightly. We rejoice in that light, knowing that the world is not our home. Our tickets to the Father’s house have been bought by God’s own blood, and we are now nearing the boarding gate. There is something better about this Thanksgiving than all the previous ones combined. I’m closer to home, **“for NOW is our salvation NEARER than when we believed”** (Rom. 13:11).

There is a glory in each of us waiting to be revealed, and the god of this world can offer no such thing to his cursed subjects. When those without hope fill their bellies at Thanksgiving, what can they look forward to? Many will eat in sorrow because the onset of old age will bring attendant health problems and then the grave.

Is there a Thanksgiving table in hell? There, the King James Bible will be cursed repeatedly, and the

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# A Feast Neglected

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cries of the damned for one drop of water will be never-ending.

How precious are the gifts of salvation and the Book that tells of how it was accomplished? **“What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?”** (Psa. 116:12). Give that question serious and prayerful consideration. What takes place at the Judgment Seat of Christ will be largely determined by how you responded to that challenge.

This article may well be in your hands before election day. You should know that the election will do nothing to change America's spiritual condition and our national destiny. As a nation, we are terminally ill. The medicine (King James Bible) that God has provided for all ills, personal and societal, has been woefully and irredeemably neglected. There is a price to pay now. We must reap what we have sown. To where this nation is headed, regardless of what party is in power, was made plain by David some 3,000 years ago. **“The wicked shall be turned into hell, and ALL THE NATIONS that forget God”** (Psa. 9:17). Is that plain enough? What is America in God's sight? See Isaiah 40:15 and 17; it is not very flattering. God's word doesn't pull any punches.

So what will I do as a Christian and a citizen of heaven? I'll vote, as I have since 1964, when I voted for Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona. President Lyndon Johnson appeared to me as phony as a three dollar bill. I was involved in politics

before my conversion, and I learned a few things.

First, folks don't really vote for someone; they vote against someone. Primarily, they vote their fears and not their hopes. A winning strategy for any campaign is to scare voters over to your candidate by painting your opponent as someone akin to a serial killer. Negativity works. Hellfire preachers know that fear can move more people out of their comfort zone, although hearts have been getting harder and harder as the years roll by. So, I believe that voting helps accomplish what Paul wrote to Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:7. **“Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without.”** All my Jewish friends knew I took voting seriously, and that opened doors for me to witness. **“Let everyone please his neighbor for his good to edification”** (Rom. 15:2). Also, **“I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some”** (1 Cor. 9:22). It is understood that **“all”** means are all lawful means. I enjoy going to the polls, as I have had many opportunities to bring Jesus Christ into the conversation with other voters waiting in line. I can't do that with a mail-in ballot.

Now, as far as the political process goes, it is corrupt from top to bottom. The love of money has crept into every major decision made in Washington, D.C.

**“A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment”** (Prov. 17:23).

Almost every politician sent to

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# A Feast Neglected

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Washington by the voters seems to get rich after being there a while. Lobbyists representing particular interest groups brag about certain politicians being in their pocket.

**“Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts”** (Prov. 19:6).

Still, for all of this, the Bible

believer is told to pray and give thanks, **“For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour”** (1 Tim. 2:2).

We are pilgrims and strangers in this world, and wherever we are

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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.

# A Feast Neglected

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placed, we will suffer in some way if we stand without compromise for the word of God. The Jews were told how to behave after being removed from their own land.

**“And seek the peace of the city wither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it; for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace”** (Jer. 29:7).

Heaven is our home, but we are not there yet. We are caught in the cross-currents of hatred, division, social unrest, and ever-increasing lawlessness in this present evil world. But, we must be about our Father's business. Every Christian ought to thank God for being alive in these times. The opportunities to put forth God's truth are everywhere if you look for them. I remember talking to a politically-minded young person once who embraced the slogan, “No Justice, No Peace!”. I told him that real justice and peace will one day come when the Just One and the Prince of Peace comes. That opened the door to a fruitful exchange. People say things that make little or no sense because of their gross biblical ignorance. Politics is no cure and never will be for what really ails all of mankind. I heard it often said by Dr. Ruckman, “Back to the Bible, or back to the jungle.” Guess which path we are choosing daily. Individuals make up nations, and when individuals close the words of God, nations drown in corruption and unrighteousness.

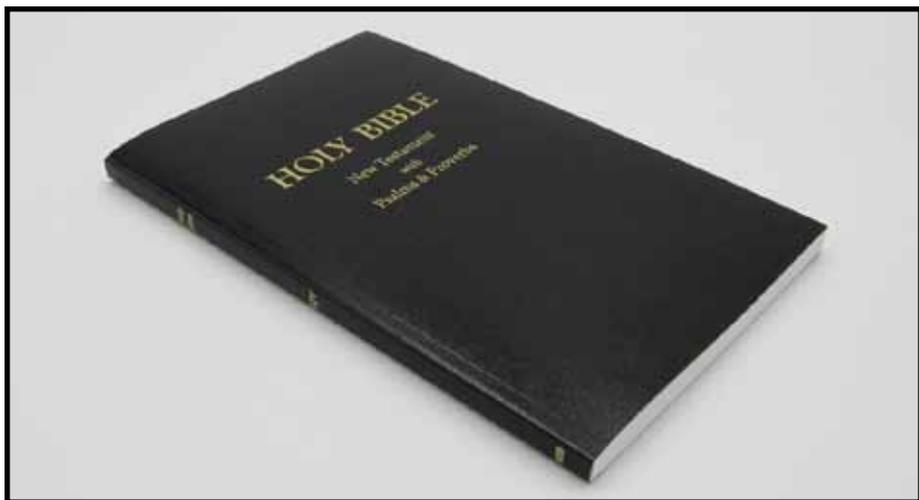
“That Book, sir, is the Rock on which our Republic rests” (Andrew

Jackson, seventh president). I have researched quotes about the Bible made by U.S. presidents. All point to the unique and special place the Bible holds in our national consciousness. Good words and fair speeches are the stock and trade of those holding high office. The Captain of my salvation presently sits at the right hand of my Father's throne, not in the White House. Somehow, we have arrived at a place where to state such a truth causes some of God's people to see you as unpatriotic, or worse—even, disloyal. How did this happen? Easy, the Book gets closed, and blindness sets in. The Holy Spirit foretold this in Revelation 3:18. When you put the gift above the Giver (America, or anything, or anyone above the word of God), you have been played for a fool by the enemy of your soul. There will be much to answer for at the Judgment Seat of Christ. To desire the office of a bishop is a good thing, but what an awesome burden that puts upon a man looked to by a flock hoping to be fed well and guided wisely. If you have such a minister, give thanks to God. We have two such men here at Bible Baptist.

**“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of DOUBLE HONOUR, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine”** (1 Tim. 5:17). Thank you, Pastor Donovan and Bro. Colvin.

**“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and BE YE THANKFUL”** (Col. 3:15).





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