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**DEAD OR ALIVE**  
**And Other Articles**  
**By David R. Merck**

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1998

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Article 1  
DEAD OR ALIVE

In Rev. 3:1 we read, "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." According to this verse of scripture the church at Sardis had a profession but she was spiritually dead. The word dead comes from the Greek word nekros which means corpse. Sardis was a church of Zombies; physically alive but spiritually dead.

A person has five basic senses: touch, taste, sight, hearing and smelling; and a person has five basic vital signs that will be checked to determine if one is dead: pulse, heart beat, blood pressure, breathing, and brain function. When these vital signs read zero we say a person is dead. A church also has five basic vital signs that indicate life: FAITH, FREEDOM, FERVENCY, FIRE, and FRUIT; and when these vital signs read zero we say a church is dead. Does the vital signs of the church indicate that she is alive and well, or do they indicate she is dead and decaying?

Let us ask five questions concerning the five basic vital signs of the church to help us determine if she is alive or dead.

1. Has her FAITH been fettered?

Hebrews chapter eleven is replete with action verbs telling us what was accomplished by the great champions of faith. Does the church of our day exhibit such monumental acts of faith, or do we see her fettered with unbelief? If her faith has been fettered she is dead.

2. Has her FREEDOM been wrested?

II Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." If the Spirit of the Lord is in the midst of the church there will be glorious liberty and freedom. If the carnal spirit of the world is in residence true freedom has been wrested away and in its place there is bondage, fear, and false-fire, and she is dead.

3. Has her FERVENCY been destroyed?

Notice with me Romans 12:11, ...fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; and James 5:16, ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Is the church exuding the same fervency in serving the Lord as in by-gone years, or does a spirit of apathy, lethargy, and complacency have her in its cruel, death-dealing clutches of destruction? If so, she is dead.

4. Has her FIRE been extinguished?

The Psalmist said, " My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned:..." Psalms: 39:3. Fire, fire is my cry and shall be till I die, I can feel the fire burning in my soul. Is this really the cry of the church today? If not, her fire has been extinguished and she is dead.

5. Has her FRUIT been deprived?

Let us see the luscious array of fruit the church should be bearing in ample quantities. Galatians 5:22-23 reads, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. If she has been deprived of her fruit by the hirelings of the devil, she is dead.

Yes, Sardis was dead and much of the church world of our day is too; but thanks be unto Jesus, for he gives us a five-fold recipe for a resurrection from the dead in Revelations 3:2-3, "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent... 1. BE WATCHFUL 2. STRENGTHEN 3. REMEMBER 4. HOLD FAST 5. REPENT

Oh, church, follow the recipe and be no longer dead but, ALIVE! The End

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## Article 2

### A PREPARED PLACE

In John 14:2 we read, ...I go to prepare a place for you. Jesus is here referring to a place called Heaven. John in chapter one tells us that Jesus was the maker of all things that were made, and it took Him only six days to do so. Just think, if it took only six days to create the heavens and the earth; the fowl and the fish; the sun, stars, and moon; and man, what will Heaven, the prepared place, be like when it is taking the great preparer 2,000 years to prepare? Let us take a look at the prepared place called Heaven!

The prepared place is a beautiful place! Revelation chapters 4, 21, and 22 give us a glimpse inside this prepared place. Our words will never suffice in describing the unsurpassed beauty of Heaven! A professional writer using adjectives with precision adroitness will come up short in his quest to describe the magnificent beauty of Heaven! Grant your mind free reign and let it fly on the wings of imagination, and when it has exhausted itself in the ethereal realms of Heaven it will simply declare, "Indescribable beauty!"

The prepared place is a dwelling place! It is the dwelling place of God -- Ecclesiastes 5:2 -- God is in Heaven. It is the dwelling place of the Lord -- Psalm 11:4 -- The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in Heaven. It is the dwelling place of angels -- Revelation 5:11 -- And I beheld and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne. It is the dwelling place of the saints -- John 14:3 -- And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. Hebrews 11:10 -- For he (Abraham) looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. He was not looking for an earthly dwelling place. This old world is not our home, we are just passing through. We are looking for a prepared place called Heaven!

The prepared place is an eternal place! Time will be no more in that celestial city! Moth and rust will not wreak havoc in that city! The foundations of that eternal city will never crack and crumble with age! The residents of this city are eternal and will shine as the brightness of the stars forever! The preparer of this city is eternal -- Rev 21:6 -- And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Psalm 106:48 -- Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting.

The prepared place is a happy place! Heaven will be a happy place because certain things will be absent. Sin will never own a place in Heaven! No sorrows will be known in that city! The funeral procession will never be seen winding its way through the streets of that city! No cemeteries with their cold stone markers will announce to the passerby, "This is the repository of the dead." No tears will ever flow down the cheek unbidden because all tears will have been tenderly wiped away! No more broken hearts over there! No more heart rending parting over there! Sickness which racks this fleshly tabernacle with pain here below will be unheard of over there! Heaven will be a happy place because certain things will be present. Just think: shining faces, perfect love, eternal life, glorified bodies, holiness, joy unspeakable and full of glory; but best of all, we will behold the great preparer Himself face to face, Jesus Christ!

The prepared place is a holy place! Holy, because of God's presence! Sin cannot stand in God's presence. Holy, because all its occupants are holy! Hebrews 12:14 reads -- Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. The occupants are holy or they could not see the Lord. No sinners will be there to make it unholy. Rev 21:8 -- But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. We see from this verse that sinners will be somewhere besides Heaven. One will not find a gambling den, a bar room, or a brothel in that holy place! There will be no spittoons and ash trays in Heaven! Nothing defiling or mean will find a welcome in the prepared place called Heaven!

The prepared place is for a prepared people! Those that enter into Heaven have availed themselves of the necessary means to gain an entrance through the pearly gates. They have been washed in the blood of the Lamb! They have on the wedding garment! They have been sanctified by the fiery baptism of the blessed Holy Ghost! They are walking in the newness of life! Their citizenship has been changed and now their names are listed on the great roll call of Heaven, the Lamb's Book of Life! Their lamps are full of oil and burning brightly! They are watching and praying! They are listening for the trumpet sound! They are a prepared people. My friend, are you prepared for a residence in the prepared place called Heaven? If not, you need to turn to the great preparer, Jesus Christ!

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### Article 3 A STANDARD OF HOLINESS

#### Introduction

A standard is a device used for measurement. We have standard weights and measurements. We have set standards in the industrial, medicinal, and automotive fields. In education one must meet or exceed certain standards to advance to another grade level or to receive a diploma or degree. Organizations have certain standards one must meet to become members and to advance within the organizational structure. Religions have standard requirements for membership.

The Bible sets forth standards for those who adhere to its teachings. In I Peter 1:16 we read, "Be ye holy; for I am holy." In this verse we see the Bible's pre-eminent standard: A Standard of Holiness. The scriptures further state, "... and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14. This standard of holiness is God's minimum requirement for an entrance into heaven. How do we measure up to God's Biblical standard of holiness? Do we have it? Do we live it? Remember, an experience of holiness for each of us is what Jesus suffered and died for. Heb. 13:12 -- Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Holiness is not just a lofty, unreachable pinnacle or ideal, but ample provision has been made for its attainment in this life through Christ Jesus.

This wonderful standard of holiness will permeate every aspect of our lives. Let us notice three basic areas where holiness can readily be seen outworking in our lives if we are the happy recipients of the marvelous sanctifying power of Jesus Christ!

#### A Holiness Standard of Love

Unless my assessment of the situation is faulty, we are not witnessing nearly enough of true holy, brotherly love manifested in our day. On the contrary, we are witnessing a spirit manifested that is quick to cast one another out of fellowship and that being done with an arrogant condescension. It seems so easy for so many to malign instead of love. So easy to surmise evil instead of giving the benefit of the doubt and placing the best construction on a brother's actions. So easy to seek the welfare of one's self instead of the welfare of the brethren. So easy to lay heavy

burdens on others when we are not willing to bear the same burdens ourselves; and when the brother fails to bear the burden as we judge he should according to our superior wisdom, we are quick to play buzzard and pick him to pieces. So easy to destroy others in order to build up ourselves.

It is indeed high time that we had a revival of brotherly love. A love that will be courteous enough to hear ones brother out, rather than close our ears to him with a pharisaical haughtiness. A love that will not allow us to carry on a personal vendetta, a smear campaign, or a war of words toward a brother. A love that in honor prefers our brother before ourselves. A love that rejoices in the spiritual, physical, and financial well being of a brother rather than a spirit of envy, jealousy, and covetousness toward him. A love that causes one to gladly lay down his life for the brethren. A love which will not allow us to take undue advantage of a brother. A love which is so fervent we will not have a diabolical inward satisfaction when a brother falls; on the contrary, we will weep over the errant brother and will do our best to restore such an one in the spirit of meekness, all the while recognizing the fact that we are not exempt from the possibility of falling. A love that places trust and confidence in a brother to such an extent that we do not readily believe every report we hear via the grapevine. A love that does not smile to one's face and as soon as he turns about thrusts him through with cruel, cold, cutting words. A love that does not relish the short comings, failures, and mistakes of our brother. A love that does not put down a brother's educational attainments and talents when he makes use of correct grammar and a well-honed vocabulary. A love that does not necessarily affiliate one's self with the majority in condemnation when a brother is being crucified, but desires to know the whole truth and nothing but the truth about his brother. A love that is not guilty of Athenianism which loves to tell or hear some new thing about a brother. A love that does not allow our ears to become repositories for untruth about our brothers. A love that does not allow the tongue to wag out innuendoes, invectives, gossip, and down right lies about a brother. A love that keeps us from running around calling a brother a viper to all who will lend an ear. A love that does not wish for misfortune to fall heavily on a brother just because he does not measure up to our notions on every little point. A love that will not allow us to desert a brother when the going gets tough. A love that is like unto Jonathan and David's love for one another. A love that does not carry around a sin- meter with an automatic on switch when around the brethren; and when this sin meter is turned toward us, its automatic off switch is immediately activated.

This brotherly love we have been referring to is not disingenuous, two-faced, or hypocritical, but is true-blue. It has no ulterior motives. This love seeketh not her own. It is "do unto others as we would have them do unto us." It is not "do unto them before they do unto you." It is not "dog eat dog." This love will cause one to perform acts of kindness to the brethren with an eye single to God's glory and no hope of anything in return. We love the brother of low degree and this love does not play favorites. We love all the brethren, not just the ones with fat wallets on their hips.

Love will cause one to be considerate of another's feelings. It will say, "Thank you", "I am sorry", "Please forgive me", "I appreciate you", etc. It will cause one to be courteous enough to answer letters, and to send receipts and a thank-you to those who might send an offering.

All too often fellowship has been severed, churches have split, denominations have crumbled, and precious souls have been damned when brotherly love failed to operate and a self-assertive, stubborn, and selfish spirit prevailed. It seems to me that when one is approached about some area of his life or church problem a barrier of coolness is erected instead of an humbling, confessing, and a repairing of the breach.

Lest someone thinks we are endeavoring under the guise of brotherly love to give quarter to sin, please think again. When it comes to thus saith the Lord, His Word definitely and always has first consideration above everything and everyone.

Some key verses on brotherly love we would do well to consider are: John 13:34-35 -- A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 15:12 -- This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:17 -- These things I command you, that ye love one another.

We must keep God's holiness standard of love operating. How can this be accomplished?

1. Be sanctified holy.
2. Live in a spirit of prayer and pray for the brethren.
3. Cultivate brotherly love.
4. Forget not to communicate.
5. Resist Satan's accusations about the brethren.
6. Keep the glory on your soul.
7. Consider the beam in our own eye and not the mote in our brother's eye.
8. Think not more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

This wonderful standard of love will cause us to love the sinner with a true compassion. We are willing to extend them a hand of love. We will love them even though we do not condone their sin. We do not view the sinner with a pharisaical righteousness, but realize that if it were not for the saving grace of God we too would still be in the darkness of sin's night. This wonderful love causes us to support missions, and transforms us all into missionaries seeking the lost through praying, witnessing, giving, and living.

Love will be operative in our husband-wife relationships, in our family relationships, in our church relationships, and even toward those who would be considered our enemies. Space limitations will not permit us to deal with these areas.

Brethren, we must remember love is one of the fruits of the Spirit. If we do not have love for mankind and the brethren we are not measuring up to God's holiness standard of love.

### A Holiness Standard of Conduct

An old saying with which we are all probably familiar is relevant to our discussion of conduct and is, "I can't hear what you are saying because your life speaks so loudly." Say, dear friend, we may give a lot of lip, but it is our life that counts. We preach our funeral while we are living. A story is told of a funeral service in which a preacher lavished praise on a deceased father for his wonderful life, his loyalty to family and friends, and his great general conduct during his earthly sojourn. After so much of this the new widow leans over to her son and whispers in his ear, "Go up there and see if they have the right person in the casket." Our life is the only Bible some people will ever read, and with this in mind how careful ought we to be in our conduct.

Calvinists teach that one must sin every day in word, thought, and deed. I am glad to know that Jesus can deliver from sin and this teaching is a fallacy; but it is in these three areas: word, thought, and deed, where our conduct comes into play. We cannot begin to give full coverage to conduct in these three areas, but we do feel certain specific areas of conduct need some attention.

How is our conduct in word? Matthew 12:37 -- For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. With this scripture in mind, what manner of persons ought we to be in the use of our words. There needs to be a great carefulness in the type of words and the manner in which we use them. -- Lying words can create false impressions. Years ago a camp meeting board was about to choose an evangelist for the next year. One, whom they had recently heard preach (but who otherwise was a stranger to the members of the board) was suggested. They all were enthusiastic in his favor -- all but one man who had a personal dislike for this evangelist. While the others were speaking very favorably as to this evangelist's being chosen, the dissenting brother kept silent until time to pass the ballots. It was apparent that everyone present would vote for this brother which one man didn't want. At the crucial moment he spoke up and said, "Brethren, before we vote on this man as our speaker for next year, don't you think we should investigate as to what became of his wife's first husband?" That did it! It put a strong suspicion in all minds present. It created a false impression that the evangelist's wife must have been married previously, and her first husband must still be living. They immediately went into a huddle. No one else on the board had ever met this evangelist before, and such a question had never crossed their minds. But they immediately felt, because of the question that had been raised, that he might be a had risk, so they dropped his name and voted in favor of another. In less than twenty minutes after the business meeting closed someone in the camp, who had known this evangelist as close friends for many years, convinced the inquirer that the man's wife was now living with the only husband she had ever had. The dissenting voter had employed the "innuendo scheme," to get what he wanted, and it worked! But who would want to stand in his shoes when he stands before the judge of all the earth on that awful day when slander -- (defaming one's image and reputation, intentionally) will be dealt with as one of the worst sins a person could possibly commit against another, and not actually take his life.

-- Slang words give the world an impression that we are just like them.

I will refrain from using any of these type words in this article but I feel the readers are familiar with what I am referring to. It is sad indeed that so many stoop to such a level as to use slang and in so doing demean their conduct before the world.

-- Stretched words which give an inaccurate account is unbecoming of good holiness conduct.

In our conversations it is so very important that we do not add to or take away from the facts. If we do not have an accurate account to give regarding some occurrence it is best to leave unsaid what we are not sure of. Some are so anxious to tell a story they will not give any regard to the truthfulness of it or whether or not they are misconstruing it. When talking about something they heard, they will put words right in people's mouths that were not said. This is stretching it to the point of nothing less than an old-fashioned lie.

How about our conduct in thought. No one knows what goes on behind closed doors or so they say. What does God's word say? I Chronicles 28:9 --... for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts:... Prov. 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:... What about our conduct when it comes to our thought life.

-- Is our thought life carrying us to a fantasy world?

Men, do you engage in sexual fantasies in your thought life? What about you ladies? Does our thought life keep us in the gutter?

-- Is our thought life carrying us to the realms of the holy?

Phillipians 4:8 -- Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

How about our conduct in deed?

-- Do our deeds exemplify a life of holiness? I John 3:18 -- My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. True holiness will get us far beyond mere talk and will effect our very deeds. James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction,... Do we visit the widows in their afflictions and help them in the time of need, or do we pay them visits only at the first of the month to sweet talk them out of a portion of their meager pension check? -- Does our deed of signing our name at the bottom of the tax form speak of holy conduct when we knowingly have falsified or misrepresented the facts.

A Holiness Standard of Dress

Years ago when a preacher preached on holy dress standards his congregation would amen him and often times shout him down. Today when a preacher preaches on holy dress standards a

peculiar quietness permeates the atmosphere as a glum look comes across people's faces and a sigh of ho-hum or oh no is breathed. Why is this? Holiness professors are just that, and are not possessors; therefore holiness dress standards are no longer attractive to them. On the contrary, these professors hold a disgust for them which is evinced by their reactions toward dress standards and by their own personal dress habits.

Dress standards are still in vogue with God's old-fashioned, sanctified saints even though we might be termed Victorian, antiquated, out of date, or out of step. We still appreciate Biblical dress standards which cover the body in an appropriate manner, which distinctly separate us from the world, and which bring glory to God! We do not frown on those who endeavor to please God in the area of dress, but we say amen to those who dare to bear the reproach of old-fashioned dress standards.

Many are the arguments that are made against a holiness standard of dress. "Long dresses and long tongues" to which we reply "Short dresses and sharp tongues." "Long dresses look so sloppy," to which we reply "The issue is not sloppiness but modesty." Some individuals will not appear as neat as others regardless of how long or short their dress is. A movie star can attire herself in an evening gown that sweeps the floor and no one will be hooting sloppy, but rather will be commenting on how glamorous, gorgeous, and lovely she is. "Salvation is not all in dress" to which we reply "It is not all in undress either." "Some of the most wicked, conniving, ungodly, and immoral people have very old-fashioned standards" to which we reply "The most godly, consistent, and faithful people we know have old-fashioned standards of dress."

Church people of today are often heard saying, "Dress standards are non-essential and pharisaical." They say, "God looks on the heart and that is what we need to major on." Yes, God looks on the heart but man looks on the outward because he cannot see the heart which indicates to us the absolute importance of leaving a clear-cut impression on those we come in contact with by our modesty, separation, and godly deportment in dress.

The whole issue of dress centers around modesty. Modesty bespeaks holiness. Immodesty bespeaks worldliness, familiarity, and lust. To be immodest is not Christian, is readily recognized by the world as their own accepted form of dress, brings a reproach on Christ, and disgraces the cause of God. Modesty for men, women, and children is an absolute imperative. Modesty is only definable in God's word. I Tim 2:9 -- In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; Deuteronomy 22:5 -- The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God. Isaiah 3:15 -- What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord GOD of hosts. Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts. In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon, The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers, The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings, The rings, and nose jewels, The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins, The glasses,

and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the veils. And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty. These are just a sampling of scriptures which speak to the issue of dress. If we endeavor to define modesty by any other standard than His Word we will have a host of definitions placing modesty of dress anywhere in a broad spectrum of ideas from near nudity to veiled faces.

In this article we cannot begin to cover all the aspects of dress but we desire to touch on a few areas pertinent to our discussion.

High heels do not hold any place in a holiness standard of dress. According to one writer, high heels are considered sexually attractive partly because they make the legs look longer and because they produce what anthropologists call a "courtship strut." We might add before passing on that short skirts, sheer hose, shaven legs, and spiked heels go together all for the purpose of revealing attractive, shapely legs which will be scrutinized by the many of the opposite sex.

Full-length sleeves should be a part of our holiness standard of dress for men, women, boys, and girls. Full-length sleeves bespeak holiness. Short sleeves bespeak worldliness. Elbow length sleeves bespeaks compromise, the middle ground, and is indicative of the fence-straddler.

Gay, gaudy, and flashy attire sends out signals that speak of shallowness, frivolity, and looseness not holiness. According to one writer clothes are nothing less than the furniture of the mind made visible. Oh, dear reader, what kind of signals are our clothes sending out to others therefore revealing to them the real status of our innermost sanctum. Let us notice a chart put together by what we would consider a worldly individual which shows the devolution of how dress is viewed over a period of time.

Indecent ----- 10 years before its time  
Shameless ----- 5 years before its time  
Daring ----- 1 year before its time  
Smart ----- Current

I realize that there are those that will quickly find fault with my brief assessments on the subject of dress, and I may even be characterized as some sort of pervert to even think that someone would lust on an improperly dressed person; but we need to recognize that we are living in a real world of real unbridled passions. Some people want to live in a fantasy world of naiveté, but we need to wake up and face the facts and quit making little naive excuses for our looseness in dress in the Conservative Holiness Movement. Old-fashioned standards of dress do not turn the people of the world off, but they sure do turn a lot of holiness professors off.

If the above issues concerning dress are so insignificant and small why all the howl when they are frankly discussed. Why not just relinquish that which cannot be worn to the glory of God and be done with it.

Conclusion

Regretfully, I have come to the conclusion that many will reject much of what we have discussed in this article. We are living in a day when truth will be rejected by those who have already made up their minds, have set their wills, and hardened their hearts regardless of how scriptural and convincing the arguments, how correct one's logic may be, and how sincerely, sweetly, and humbly it is presented. Jeremiah 6:17 -- Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. We are keenly aware of the fact that a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still, which leads us to another conclusion, which is this: Oh, how we need a revival of holiness in our day so that people would get their spiritual eyes opened so they could comprehend how essential it is to have a true standard of holiness, not just a form of godliness. Again, I Peter 1:16 -- Be ye holy; for I am holy.

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#### Article 4 NEW AGE

##### INTRODUCTION

New Age is age-old; therefore in all reality it is not new, but is an age-old systematic philosophy of lies conceived in the mind of Satan, hatched in the incubator of hell, diabolically foisted on mankind, propagated by the myriad forces of evil, and has, is, and will continue to wreak great havoc upon the souls of men. One must remember that Satan is the father of lies and anything coming from him will be based on lies, buttressed by lies, and cloaked with lies. Satan has many lies with many names. The name of his lie might be New Age or something else, but whatever it is called, wherever it is found, however reasonable and plausible it may seem, be sure, if it is coming from him it is lies, lies, and more lies. The term New Age has come into vogue in recent years, and we hear it being used in many circles such as: education, health, and religion just to name a few. Just what is this New Age philosophy, what does it teach, what are its origins, and are there any Biblical examples of it? These are just a few of the questions we hope to answer as we consider this age-old lie of Satan.

##### THE FATHER OF NEW AGE

Satan is the father of lies, (John 8:44 ...for he is a liar, and the father of it.); thus he is the father of the New Age philosophy because it is founded upon a system of lies as we noted in the introduction. All through the scriptural and historical record we find a slimy, sooty, serpentine trail of lies left by him. God is not the author of sin, nor is he the father of lies. This heinous distinction belongs only to Satan. In the unfathomable and unsearchable eons of the past never once has a lie been formulated in the great mind of God, much less emanated from his being to any of the creatures of his vast universe. God is the very epitome of truth; he cannot lie (Titus 1:2 ...God, that cannot lie,...). Satan is the very epitome of lies. In fact, he is so adept at lying that he lied himself right out of heaven.

As the god of this world, Satan is going to and fro in the earth and walking up and down in it as a roaring lion, as a little fox, as a ravening wolf in sheep's clothing, and as an angel of light. However he walks he is always artfully and cleverly going about his work of deceiving the masses

of poor, gullible humanity with lies, all the while being aided and abetted in his deception by his offspring, old carnality already in residence in the hearts of fallen humanity.

When we discerningly investigate the lie of New Age, we soon discover Satan does indeed hold the rightful place of ancestral progenitor or the father of New Age.

## THE HISTORY OF NEW AGE

Old-age is a true characterization of New Age. New Age is simply a new name given to the deceptive, systematic, lying philosophy of Satan in this late hour. New Age is as age old as the fallen Satan.

Historically we can see how Satan has used his lies. He succeeded, by lying, in inciting an insurrection in heaven to dethrone God which miserably failed and brought cataclysmic results on himself and a third of heaven's angels. He entered into the Garden of Eden and, by lying, persuaded mother Eve to disobey God's explicit command not to eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, resulting in Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden and the pronouncement of death on mankind. He convinced Cain, by lying, that a bloodless sacrifice was sufficient to please God; but in the end Cain shed his brother's innocent blood, thus incurring on himself the status of vagabond on the earth. He persuaded Nimrod and his followers, by lying, to build a tower to reach to heaven, but their efforts at self-exaltation fizzled when God twisted their tongues. He produced, by lying, such an arrogance in Korah that he testified that he was just as qualified, capable, and holy as Moses; but God testified that he wasn't, and Korah quickly went down alive into the pit where only the unholy go. His artful lying deceived Judas Iscariot into thinking that silver from crooks would be more satisfying than salvation through Christ; but the silver burned his hand, the rope burned his neck, and the memories of that dark night will burn in his mind's eye in the long, dark night of eternity. He persuaded the Emperor Constantine, by lying, to establish Christianity as the state religion, thus corrupting the pure white church with the black soot of the world. He has foisted on humanity, by lying, a plethora of religions with their false teachings giving their adherents a false hope, only in the end, landing them in an all too real hell. He duped Darwin, by lying; and we have evolution with its survival of the fittest, and the teaching that man came from a fleck of cosmic dust, primordial ooze, a fish, a pig, or who knows what else; and oh yes, let us not forget the monkey. By lying, he has cleverly swept multitudes into various sub-cultures such as the Beatniks, Hippies, Peaceniks, Yuppies, and Punk Rockers by his offers of peace, drugs, and sex; but look at the blighted, ravished, and wasted lives of millions.

And now, in this Laodicean age, Satan is dancing with fiendish glee as his age-old lie takes on a new twist and cloaks itself with the black robes of perhaps the last and one of the greatest lies before Jesus comes, NEW AGE!

## THE BASIC TENET OF NEW AGE

When I was just a teenager, the Hippie movement of the sixties and seventies was in full swing. One of the favorite phrases of this sub-culture was 'do your own thing.' The idea was, if it feels good do it. If it turns you on, do it. Do it regardless of what society has to say about it, regardless what mother and father say about it, and even do it regardless of what God has to say

about it. Do your own thing regardless if it is illegal drugs, illicit sex, or cop killing; just do it. Do your own thing regardless of the consequences. (Dear reader, sin does have consequences!)

This "do your own thing" philosophy of the hippie sub-culture is the same philosophy and basic tenet of the New Age culture that is blossoming all around us in these last days, and is transcendent in character reaching all the way back to Satan's fall. Yes, the "do your own thing" philosophy is the spearhead on the New Age shaft being propelled upon humanity by the volatile fuel of Satan's lies.

Let us revisit history to see how this basic tenet plays itself out on the stage of time. Satan said, "I will do my own thing and exalt myself above God." Mother Eve said, "I will do my own thing and I shall be as gods." Cain said, "I will do my own thing and offer the sacrifice that I choose." Nimrod and his crowd said, "We will do our own thing of self exaltation." Korah said, "I will do my own thing and destroy God's man, Moses." Judas Iscariot said, "I will do my own thing and satisfy my lust for money." Constantine said, "I will do my own thing and make my own state religion to solidify my power." Darwin said, "I will do my own thing and hold forth the big lie of evolution; thereby endeavoring to escape my responsibility to God. After all, I evolved; I was not created, much less by God." The hippie crowd said, "We will do our own thing when and however we choose." (The hippie crowd is still much in existence, only now they hold positions as teachers, doctors, professors, lawyers, ministers, media moguls, congressmen, and yes, even the presidency of the United States of America) Today the New Agers are saying, "Do your own New Age thing."

## THE TERMINOLOGY AND TEACHINGS OF NEW AGE

The following is not intended to be a definitive listing of terms, definitions, and insights into New Age; but a brief overview of this subject with a desire to inform and enlighten our readers. The terms we will discuss are current and are used regularly by the news media and by the various groups and factions who are in favor or opposed to New Age thought and teachings.

1. Abortion -- A diabolical way for New Age mothers to eliminate what they see as an inconvenience to their New Age life style, and an escape from the responsibility for their sin. (Abortion is nothing less than pre-meditated, cold-blooded murder in the worst degree)

2. Broad-mindedness -- No depth, just breadth. An all-encompassing embrace for that which fits within the New Age mind-set. The cry is for an open-mindedness for sin. This same open-mindedness is a closed-mindedness toward the authoritative teachings of God's word and is in perpetual motion trying to discredit it by ambiguous fallacies. (Remember, it is the broad way that leads to hell for all who travel it, New Agers and apostate religionists included)

3. Devaluation of human life -- First it is death to innocent unborns. Then, doctor-assisted suicide with Doctor Death, Jack Kervorkian, leading the way. Next the old folks, the insane, and the non-taxpayer. Who will be next? Could it be the undesirable, despicable, and conscience troubling Christian? (One of the New Agers' most important goals is the destroying of the sanctity of human life; and at the same time elevating dogs, skunks, and snakes to a level of sanctity equal or superior to that of humans who are made in the image of God)

4. Deviant behavior -- A deviating from accepted norms. The accepted norms of the New Agers are the very things that a God fearing society and God's Holy Word condemns as deviant; such as homosexuality, lesbianism, mother earth worship, etc. (If one cries out against these sins and others of the New Agers, he is looked down upon with arrogance and disdain)

5. Environmentalism -- A movement that wants to save some cockroach from extinction, but sanctions partial birth abortion. (New Age at its hypocritically, absurd best)

6. Evolution -- A fraudulent system designed to help mankind escape his responsibility to his Creator. This is not a new teaching, but is held to tenaciously by the New Agers. This is one of the chief pillars in New Ager's belief system. ( There is no such thing as evolution, theistic or otherwise, as far as God's wonderful creation is concerned. The only evolution I know anything about is found in 2 Tim 3:13 - But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.)

7. Health and Fitness -- People have gone health crazy in these last days of New Age. Satan has deceived people into believing that if they eat just right and exercise like Olympic hopefuls they shall be as gods and live forever. People won't eat a plate of pork, but will eat piles of pills and gobble down a veritable witches brew of herbs. As H. E. Darnell once said, "You can eat all the pills there are, but one day you are going to die." (How many people do you see going down this New Age path; Conservative holiness people included? I believe in being healthy, but we better not make a New Age god out of it.)

8. Inclusion -- An all inclusiveness where little is excluded. Nothing is rejected on a moralistic basis because the New Agers reject morals. (A rejection of morals is a rejection of the God of morals)

9. Nihilism -- The New Agers doctrine that denies any objective ground of truth, especially moral truth as contained in God's word. (If New Agers can't put their hands on something tangible they will not believe in it. Why do you think they worship rivers, rocks, and trees?)

10. Political correctness -- A political formulation of what is considered acceptable speech and conduct. (Much of the speech and conduct of God's children is incorrect because it condemns their sinful, New Age lifestyle)

11. Promiscuity -- New Agers are an adulterous, licentious, deviant, and perverted crowd. This New Age society of our day is down the tubes. Sexual matters are taught and discussed openly in sex education classes in the public schools. "They are filling children's minds with all kinds of ideas: a) that traditional values and Christian morality are 'junk'; b) that most parents are 'ignorant, intolerant, irrational, and old-fashioned'; c) that the Scriptures are 'moralizing nonsense'; and d) that the old 'shalt not's' are simply no longer relevant," says Rus Walton. (The preceding quote slightly edited)

(Little children of our day know more than many of our grandparents knew on their wedding day)

12. Relativity -- New Age teaching that says, "Nothing is absolute or authoritative." Nothing is black and white; everything is in the gray color scale. God's Word is considered relative and not absolute. How can anything be right or wrong if not based upon the defining source of right and wrong -- the Bible. If one stands for Biblical right and wrong he is accused of being judgmental, legalistic, mean spirited, bigoted, homophobic, and intolerant. We live and are governed by a consensus of the people not God's precepts and commandments. (Look at what a pitiful condition we are in as a whole because of the consensus of a New Age society of people)

13. Revisionism -- A revising of the past to bring it up to the acceptable current New Age standard. Oh, I forgot, they don't believe in standards??? Uh, only their own. (In short a removing of the ancient landmarks if you please)

14. Self-esteem -- The New Age teaching that is 180 degrees from the Biblical teaching of self-abasement. What Christian psychologist from Colorado Springs trumpets self-esteem? (I realize one needs a certain amount of self-esteem or he would sink into a despicable state of disrespect for his person; yet, on the other hand we should never subordinate self-abasement to self-esteem)

15. Situational ethics -- The New Age teaching that advocates one should do what is best for him in any given situation even if it is not morally acceptable. Example: If one needs to tell a lie in order to get ones self out of a jam, it is acceptable, so go ahead and do it. This teaching is nothing less than a lie in action. (In short, situational ethics is the same, old "do your own thing" lie of Satan)

16. Unity in diversity -- A New Age stew pot chocked full of everything, whether right or wrong, to achieve common ground. Cooperative compromise if you please. It is never right to compromise God's truth to bring us to a so-called common ground or a unity in diversity. Unity in diversity never has and never will work. (See our article: 'Unity In Diversity' in the July -August 1996 edition of The Voice of the Nazarene)

## THE INFLUENCE OF NEW AGE

New Age teaching has permeated every facet of life. The influence of Satan's New Age lie has a stranglehold on every institution whether it be human or divine.

Society is reeling and rocking like a giant ship without compass or rudder on a tempest tossed sea. When society tosses out God's Word as the standard of our conduct she loses her bearings and is brutally battered about by Satan. Look at the sexually transmitted diseases killing thousands, brutal murders at the hands of demented killers, violence in the streets, theft, rape, and discontent. Why? We are doing our own thing. We are using the New Age compass to chart our course and society will soon be completely inundated by the sea of sin and will sink to the abyss of hell.

Government has been entangled by the New Age spider web of deceit. All around the globe the great spider, old Satan, is wrapping up nation after nation into his new world order and

there is no way for them to break free. The inevitable anti-christ, one world government is dead ahead!

Educational institutions are rife with New Age teaching. Our impressionable youth are being molded into the mind set of the New Agers by the daily incessant teachings emanating from the classroom lecterns.

The news media cloaks current events in New Age rhetoric all the while shaping public opinion to abhor that which is good and to love that which is evil.

The entertainment industry is very busy portraying man as his own New Age god. Sports, Hollywood, and all types of entertainment stars are exalted and paid millions for their exaltation of man. The Olympic games whole program is centered around the New Age idea of 'look what man can do'; in short., "ye shall be as gods."

Financial institutions are all busy bringing about a new system whereby no one will be able to buy or sell without a mark in the forehead or hand. All of the world's larger financial institutions headed by greedy New Agers are moving quickly toward a Satan-controlled New Age cashless society.

The home has not been exempt from the New Age onslaught. Homes are split by divorce. The television is the baby sitter. Mom is out pursuing a career instead of looking well to the ways of her house. Heather has two mommies and Johnnie has two daddies. The home is no longer a bastion of love, togetherness, and cohesion under the direction of a manly father and a feminine mother, but is just a place to check in, shack up, and check out.

And finally, the church has succumbed to the mighty influence of New Age theology. She has new bibles, new beliefs, and new standards. She no longer fasts but feasts. She no longer prays but plays. She no longer shouts the glory down, but shouts at the sports arena. Her pulpits no longer thunder forth the truths of God's word, her altars are barren, and the prayer rooms are empty. She now has a new world view, worldly standards, and worldly leaders. She has been shorn of her glory by New Age barbers who love to trim and cut away at the truth. Even, the conservative holiness movement is being seductively enticed into the New Age church. (Believe it or not)

## SATAN'S NEW AGE PATHS OR GOD'S OLD-FASHIONED PATHS

Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Rom. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Joshua said in Josh 24:15 - "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Do we choose to follow New Age philosophy? Do we choose to be conformed to this New Age world? Do we choose to serve the New Age gods of this world? Do we choose Satan's New Age paths or do we choose God's Old-Fashioned paths? The choice is ours, dear reader. What will you choose? The eternal destiny of your immortal soul hinges on your choice! As for me and my house we choose to serve the LORD! Can you say with me, "I have made my choice forever: I will walk with Christ my Lord?"

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## Article 5

### PREFERENCE OR CONVICTION

#### INTRODUCTION

Early in the 1980's I attended the trial of a brother who was in court because a school district brought charges against him for having his children enrolled in a non-public school. Happily the case went in the brother's favor and he was able to continue sending his children to the school where they had been attending.

Many things I found to be interesting about the case: the large number of holiness people from many states who rallied behind the brother, the film crew present from the news media, the attorney's arguments, and the shouts of glory and praises unto the Lord when the judge dropped all charges! Truly, it was a time of precious victory! Having considered the case from time to time for a number of years, the thing I have found to be most interesting and most significant about the case is the fact that several times during the proceedings the judge interrupted and asked the brother whether or not it was a conviction or a preference for him to have his children enrolled in the school where they were attending. Each time the brother responded with the answer, "It is a conviction, not a preference." Ultimately, the outcome of the case hinged on his response.

The test question that the judge used is profound and could be asked of us in a host of areas. Do we do what we do and do we live the way we live because of conviction or preference? The matter of conviction and preference has been dealt with by many and applied in many areas, but let us consider this most important matter from a holiness perspective! (In this article you will notice in several places I have inserted points of clarification contained in parenthesis for a clearer understanding of the issues.)

#### DEFINITIONS

Every belief a person holds is one of two types: conviction or preference. We may be able to articulate and affirm our beliefs, but are they mere preferences or are they convictions? Let us view the definitions of belief, conviction, and preference as a matter of clarification:

1. Belief -- Something believed, or accepted as true, especially a particular tenet or a body of tenets accepted by a group of persons.

2. Preference -- A preferring of something, someone, or situation, yet it is changeable.
3. Conviction -- A strong unchangeable persuasion or belief.

Having given basic distinctions between beliefs, preferences, and convictions let us now expand on the thought of our article: Preference or Conviction.

## PREFERENCE

A preference is a very strong belief accompanied by very great intensity of feeling. Preference can be zealously followed to the extent one will do anything or give anything for their belief. One's preference may be of such importance that he will instruct his children in them because he desires that his children make it to heaven.

Having seen the extent to which a preference will carry people, it is still possible under certain circumstances that a person will change. If a person does this, their belief was simply a preference and not a conviction. (Occasionally under certain situations a person may change and it is justifiable. A holiness person will consider the use of alcohol to be a sin but when used medicinally as in a doctors prescription or a pre-formulated cough and cold product it can be advantageous to the persons well being. I am not condoning buying a bottle of whiskey. There are other similar areas where this thought could apply. I trust no one will misunderstand or misrepresent what I am saying. Another area where people may change is when they do not have perfect light and insufficient instruction in some way and when they are enlightened or instructed they change for the better. An example is my Grandfather Merck. He was an old-time saint with strict standards. He was a Wesleyan Methodist preacher for many years until his home going in 1953. He was known as a great man of prayer and was highly regarded for his holy life. On one occasion a visiting preacher was in my grandfathers home and was partaking of cold biscuits on Sunday morning. You see, my grandfather believed it was wrong to prepare warm meals on Sunday. When my grandfather had finished his meal he proceeded to put corn meal in a bucket of water and placed it on the wood stove to heat. As this was taking place, the visiting preacher was observing and asked my grandfather what he was doing. My grandfather replied he was heating up feed for the hogs. The visiting preacher asked my grandfather if he could go along when he went to feed the hogs and my grandfather said yes. They went together to the hog lot and my grandfather proceeded to feed the hogs. The visiting preacher asked my grandfather why he was giving the hogs warm feed. Grandfather said, "Because it is good for them." The visiting preacher said, "Aren't your children more important than hogs?" My father, who is now 82 years of age and was just a boy at the time this incident occurred, testifies to the fact that from that time forward they had warm meals on Sunday!)

As was previously discussed, under certain conditions a person will change and it was noted that when this happens the belief was a preference and not a conviction. Let us now notice some circumstances under which people sometime change:

1. Peer pressure.

A preacher has a strong belief. We'll say, he is against divorce and remarriage under any circumstance. During the course of time his fellow ministers talk to him with persuasive arguments. We see he is gradually being left out of the loop, he senses he is virtually alone in his stand. He can't abide this pressure from his peers so he caves. His belief was a preference and not a conviction.

## 2. Family pressure.

Mom and Dad for years boldly testified that it was wrong for someone to live in adultery, but low and behold their son marries into an adulterous relationship! Mom and Dad are caught between a rock and a hard place. They feel the heat. All the while holiness professors are giving them furtive glances and the gossip's tongue is wagging with glee. Before long Mom and Dad go silent on the issue and cease voicing opposition to their sons adulterous marriage and begin to justify it by saying his bride was an innocent party. Their belief was a preference and not a conviction.

## 3. Job pressure.

Dad has worked at the factory for fifteen years. His job pays well and has good benefits. He enjoys his work. Suddenly he, along with his fellow employees, learn that the company to which the factory belongs has been swallowed up by a mega-merger and many changes will soon be coming down the pike. One of the changes will be working on Sunday once a month. For years Dad has been the teacher of the adult Sunday school class at the local holiness church and has boldly condemned Sunday work in his teaching. Dad is now in a dilemma. He is only a few years from retirement. If he refuses to work on Sunday (after all, it is just one Sunday a month) he could jeopardize his job and might lose his retirement, benefits, and health insurance. Dad caves. To ease his conscience a little he begins attending the holiness church over in the next town where the pastor says, "God understands your situation and it is alright." Dad's belief was a preference and not a conviction.

## 4. Congregation pressure.

The holiness preacher is seated in his study. He is pondering his message for the Lord's Day. At a certain point in the message a certain line of truth would fit in quite well. He feels prompted to insert it. We'll say the truth is about long sleeves for holiness people. The preacher feels strongly about the issue, but he realizes there are some in his congregation who wear short sleeves and are good tithers. If he comes down too strongly they might leave or, worse yet, he might be asked to leave. He can't abide the thought. It is his best pastorate ever; a good salary, all utilities paid, a brick veneer church and parsonage, and a 100 plus congregation. If he had to leave, he might have to get a job and pastor a little snubbed congregation of thirty or less. He doesn't heed the prompting. This preacher had a preference and not a conviction. A true preacher will preach with conviction regardless how the parishioners respond!

## 5. Litigation pressure.

As was mentioned in the introduction law suits are a real possibility in matters of our beliefs. If we have our children in private schools or home schools, we face the possibility of litigation. If we preach against homosexuality and abortion, we face the possibility of litigation or worse in the near future if things continue in our society and government as they are now. If we change our beliefs under the fear and pressure of litigation, our beliefs have been preferences and not convictions.

#### 6. Jail pressure.

If our beliefs would land us or our wives in jail, would we stand? Would we stand up to the jailhouse environment? Would we stand up to the tongue-wagging of the holiness crowd as they ridicule us for having gone too far with our beliefs? E. E. Shelhammer once spent time in jail for preaching on the streets. While in jail, he simply preached to those outside as he stood at a window. Some holiness folk ridiculed him instead of standing behind him even in his day. John Bunyan spent twelve long years in Bedford Jail for his beliefs; separated from a loving wife and a blind daughter. Would we stand such a long duration of time under such circumstances? Bunyan did! If the threat of jail causes us to change our belief, it is only a preference and not a conviction.

#### 7. Death pressure.

God only knows what lies ahead for his people. In some parts of the world persecution has been, and continues to be all too real, even persecution to the point of death. In the annals of history we read of untold thousands who have been burned at the stake, crucified, fed to wild beasts, and beheaded; all because they would not change their beliefs. (Read Foxe's Book Of Martyrs) If, because of our beliefs, we would face death would we change? If so, then our beliefs are preferences and not convictions.

### CONVICTION

A conviction is a belief we will not change. Our belief means so much to us that we will not change under any circumstance even though it means tremendous personal, financial, or associational loss. If a man believes his beliefs are God ordered and God required, and not simply a resolve or dedication, he will stand with conviction.

In the United States, the judicial system has viewed conviction as protected by the Constitution. Not so with preference. Even if the courts continue to change and begin endeavoring to override our convictions, we will obey God rather than man and we will not change because our beliefs are convictions and not preferences.

(At this point we feel we need to touch on ideas, notions, opinions, personal convictions, and Biblical convictions. There are those in the holiness movement who endeavor to relegate virtually all convictions into the categories of ideas, notions, and opinions to justify their compromise and worldliness. There are still, however, such things as convictions; personal and Biblical. Biblical convictions should be adhered to by all. Personal convictions will not be at odds with the Bible or else we need to categorize them as fanaticism.)

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were men of conviction. They purposed in their hearts that they would not defile themselves with the king's meat. They had some things settled. They were not men of a vacillating character. They were men who were not made by a crisis, but were men who were exposed for what they really were by a crises. They were men of conviction, not preference.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not bow to the golden image, they would not bend under the king's ultimatum, and they would not burn. Why? They were men of conviction, not preference.

Daniel continued to pray to God even when to do so meant a trip to a den of lions. Daniel soon found himself in the company of lions; but, God gave the big cats a bad case of lock jaw, and he came out unscathed! Why? Daniel was a man of conviction, not preference.

## WHEN IS A CONVICTION NOT A CONVICTION

1. If others have to stand with you before you will stand, it is not a conviction but a preference. If your belief is a conviction, you will stand alone if need be. Our beliefs are not predicated on what a church or denomination teaches, or on what others say, but upon "Thus saith the Lord." We are right when we stand on God's Word!

2. The matters of our faith are non-negotiable. If we can negotiate away our convictions, they are not convictions but preferences. 3. If we must be assured of victory before we will stand, we have a preference and not a conviction. We are not fighting for the victory but fighting in victory! The promises are ours! Praise the Lord!

## A CONVICTION TEST

How can we know if a man is telling the truth about preference and conviction?

### 1. The test.

A conviction test is a man's lifestyle. What is truly on the inside will eventually show up on the outside. We will live our convictions with consistency. We will not be one thing one day and something else the next. True consistency is a rare jewel.

### 2. Application of the test.

James teaches that our works show our faith. Do we preach against sin and commit sin? Do we condemn sin in others and make allowance for sin in ourselves and our friends? Do we decry covetousness yet covet? In essence, our works will be in harmony with our beliefs, and we will be true-blue men and women of character and conviction. We will not just be wishy-washy, preferential yo-yos who are up one day and down the next. Can we be counted on to stand with conviction, and do we honestly pass the test?

## CONVICTION IN A NUTSHELL

If the Bible requires it (by the way the Bible requires far more than most holiness folk will admit), then it is God ordered and God required and should be considered as a conviction, not a preference. Not to adhere to God's word is a sin. Non-adherence is in reality disobedience which is sin.

## LIFE AND LIP

I am reminded of the words in a song which says, "Do you really love the Lord, or is that just what you say?" Do we just give lip service to conviction, or do we really have a conviction about convictions? Do our lives speak so loudly for a preferential lifestyle that others can't hear what we are saying about conviction? Many there are who make strong boasts but their lives are not marked by conviction. We preach our funerals while we live. When the preacher stands before loved ones and friends at our funeral will they really believe it when he says, "He was a man of conviction"? Joshua said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He said it with conviction and his life proved it. What about us?

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## Article 6

### THE RAPTURE

#### INTRODUCTION

In Matthew 24:44 we read --Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Dear friend, Jesus is coming soon! Jesus came to this earth the first time approximately 2,000 years ago and he is coming again soon! In his first coming he came as a babe in a manger, but when he comes in the rapture he will be coming as a king! The first time he came few were looking for him; when he comes in the rapture few will be looking for him. The first time he came was to purchase our salvation with the blood he shed on Calvary's cruel cross; when he comes in the rapture he is coming for those that have been washed in his blood! The first time he came he came to save all men; when he returns in the rapture he will be coming for the saved! May I ask you an all important question? Are you ready for the rapture, or will you be left behind? We are living in a late hour and the times are perilous! It behooves each of us to make all necessary preparations. Let us notice with great seriousness this subject: Christ's coming in the rapture!

#### THE SIGNS OF HIS COMING

The signs are seen in the physical world. Matthew 24:7 states: For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Sad indeed is the fact that one billion plus members of the human family lay down each night with hunger pains gnawing at their insides. Voracious pests continue to wreak havoc on the crops around the globe even though mankind has at his disposal a great arsenal of chemicals with which to fight these six-legged scourges of the harvest. Earthquakes are a constant threat around the world with the most recent killer striking in Kobe, Japan. Everyone here in the states is wondering when the "Big One" will finally hit California. Someone has said there is a tremor

somewhere on earth virtually 24 hours a day. If all these were not bad enough, we still have nation rising against nation. We are living in a day when mankind has made a science of killing his fellow man. We have stealth technology, biological and chemical weaponry, and the very epitome of dread, destruction, and death -- nuclear warfare. Some do not possess such awesome destructive power and resort to the bludgeon, bayonet, and machete to maim, mutilate, and decapitate their foes. Nation is rising against nation over ethnicity, religion, natural resources, and just plain old greed. What we have discussed in this paragraph will only increase in magnitude and get further out of control as the rapture nears.

The signs are seen in the social world. What saith the scriptures? Matthew 24:37-39 -- But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. In this passage of scripture we have an exact picture of what is transpiring in the world of today. People as a whole are doing much as they please with little or no regard for the outcome or what God's word has to say. Look around and everywhere you will see a society that is in great spiritual darkness and reeling in drunken stupor from its continual imbibing of the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches. Look at the outflow of a corrupt society: abortion, adultery, and anguish; drinking, dancing, and doping; fear, feasting, and fornicating; hate, harlotry, and heinousness; lust, licentiousness, and lying; murder, maliciousness, and molesting; pride, prejudice, and presumption; rape, robbery, and rebellion; sex, sodomy, and selfishness; worldliness, witchcraft, and wantonness.

The signs are seen in the political world. Again we refer you to Matthew 24:7 -- For nation shall rise against nation... We have already given consideration to this aspect but let us look a little farther. The political spectrum is colored black and gray. Corruption is rampant. Political leaders are looking for solutions to problems that are too big for them apart from God. Men's hearts are failing them for fear. Here are a few indicators of Christ's imminent return for your consideration: The United States of Europe is fast becoming a reality (the old Roman Empire resurrected). Israel is back in the promised land. Everything is shaping up for a 'New World Order.' Even President George Bush used the term when he was still in office.

The signs are seen in the church world. Looking to the scriptures we read: 2 Thessalonians 2:3 -- Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first... The church is in a calamitous state. As a whole she has committed spiritual adultery with the world. She has extended her pure white hand to the sooty hand of Satan. We have a church that has fallen away from God and rejected her Lord. Terms that describe her: apathetical, lethargical, indifferent, dead, dry, cold, lifeless, careless, lukewarm, fruitless, backslidden, apostate, reprobate, and sleepy just to name a few. In short she is everything she shouldn't be and nothing she ought to be. She has come to a place where she says, "I will not hearken and I will not obey." In this paragraph I am referring to the church as a whole. Be sure, Jesus will have a church to rapture, though it will be a remnant.

The signs are seen in the Jewish world. Someone has said if you want to see prophecy being fulfilled just keep an eye on the Jews (especially those in Israel). Likewise, if one desires to see the signs of Christ's soon coming, just watch the Jews.

## THE SURENESS OF HIS COMING

The sureness of his coming is seen in the promises. Acts 1:11 -- ...Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. John 14:3 -- And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Dear reader the promises of God's word are true. None of them will fail. They are just as real as life itself.

The sureness of his coming is seen in the Father's predetermined time. Matthew 24:44 -- But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

The sureness of his coming should stir us deeply because it is possible that the rapture could take place at any moment. Matthew 24:44 -- Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. If we say he is not coming until mid-tribulation we are setting a time and give people a false comfort and an opportunity to put off their salvation, nor can we any longer say Jesus could come at any moment.

## THE SUDDENNESS OF HIS COMING

The suddenness of Christ's coming will be characterized by quickness. Matthew 24:27-- For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Light travels at the incomprehensible speed of 186,000 miles per second or over seven times around the earth in one second. If the creator of all things can cause light to travel so quickly, I think it no problem for his Son to come quickly. Again we read: In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, I Corinthians 15:52.

The suddenness of Christ's coming will be characterized by quietness. Matthew 24:42-43 - Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

## THE SERIOUSNESS OF HIS COMING

The seriousness of his coming will be evidenced by the fact that certain elements will be departed from the world. The saints which make up the church will have departed. I Corinthians 15:51-52 -- Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. The Holy Spirit will have departed in the sense that he indwelt the church. Just think dear reader, no saints left after the rapture. No one left to pray for you. Oh, how terrible the thought! Hope will have departed for those who miss the rapture.

The seriousness of his coming will be evidenced by the fact that certain elements will be present in the world. All Christ rejecters, light rejecters, truth rejecters, and holiness rejecters will

be left behind. All hypocrites, gospel hardened, and worldly church professors will be left behind. All infidels, atheists, mockers, and skeptics will be left behind. The great sinful masses of mankind will be left behind.

The seriousness of his coming will be evidenced by the fact that a godless man will come on the scene. II Thessalonians 2:3-4 -- Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Who are we referring to here? The anti-christ.

## THE SEPARATION AT HIS COMING

Dear friends if you miss the rapture you could well be separated from personal acquaintances. Matthew 24:40-41 --Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left

If you miss the rapture you will be separated from godly influence. There will be no one to pray for you. No praying mother or father. There will be no old-fashioned churches to attend where the glory is falling and the true message of salvation is being preached.

If you miss the rapture the hope of your salvation is gone. The church age will be over. The door of opportunity for the Gentiles will be closed. You will be eternally separated from the saints, from Heaven, from God, and from hope! Think about it! Get prepared now! II Corinthians 6:2 -- ...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

## THE SADNESS RESULTING FROM HIS COMING

His coming in the rapture will be sad because some shut their ears and hardened their hearts to the gospel message and missed it. It will be sad because some slumbered and slept and missed it. Read Matthew 25:1-13. It will be sad because some said, "I will give my heart to the Lord later", but later never came and they procrastinated themselves right out of the rapture. It will be sad because some slipped and fell and missed it. Acts 1:25 -- ...Judas by transgression fell... Dear reader. it is wonderful to begin well, it is wonderful to run well, but we must finish well. Let us be careful not to fall by the wayside and miss the rapture. It will be sad because some sitting and reading this article will miss the rapture. Yes, some of you will miss it in spite of the prayers of the saints, in spite of the preaching of the gospel, in spite of the convicting work of the blessed Holy Spirit, and in spite of the precious blood of Christ that was shed for you! It will be sad for you because of a rapture missed, a judgment passed, and a Hell received. Please hearken, dear friend. Give your heart to Jesus NOW, live for him, and please don't miss the RAPTURE!

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## Article 7

A TRIBUTE TO BRO. ALLEN MCVEY -- BEHOLD, AN HOLY MAN OF GOD!

In II Kings 4:9 we read of a Shunemitish woman's perception of Elisha the prophet; "And she said unto her husband, Behold now, I perceive that this is an holy man of God, which passeth by us continually." As was the perception of the Shunemitish woman concerning Elisha, so it is with the perception of many concerning our departed brother, Allen McVey: Behold, an holy man of God!

Bro. McVey first passed by my life in 1979 when I was attending Bible college in Thomasville, North Carolina. My perception of him was, an holy man of God, and my perception remains the same today! His life has made an indelible impression on me and his blessed memory I will cherish as I endeavor to emulate his holy life.

As Elisha's life was characterized by holy living and wonderful deeds, likewise with Bro. McVey. Let us breathe of Bro. Allen McVey's fragrant, holy life for a few moments of time.

Bro. McVey received salvation early! How wonderful it is that he was blood-washed as a young man and did not heed the allure of sinful pleasures! How wonderful it is that his life was not marred by the scars of deep sin and the accompanying regrets! I perceive that his life as an holy man of God was greatly enhanced by his seeking and finding salvation early!

Bro. McVey walked with God daily! Enoch of old walked with God; so did Bro. McVey. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. His steps were not in the paths of sin, wickedness, and rebellion. He did not walk the broad path to destruction and eternal damnation, but his footprints were to be found on the narrow way, the highway of holiness, and the paths of God's choosing. I perceive that as an holy man of God, he was consumed of a daily desire to walk carefully and circumspectly before God!

Bro. McVey served the Lord consistently! With so many we find consistent inconsistency. Not so with Bro. McVey. He was consistent in the use of his words, his actions, his reactions, his communion with the Lord, his deportment, and his conduct. Oh! What a blessed consistency he maintained through life! I perceive that his status as an holy man of God is due in large to his consistency in serving the Lord!

Bro. McVey heeded the leadings of the Holy Spirit carefully.! Often in our travels, work, and correspondence together I would notice Bro. McVey's continuing quest to know the leadings of the Holy Spirit, and once he ascertained those leadings how he would follow on with persistence, resolve, and a carefulness not to grieve the blessed Holy Spirit! I perceive, that as an holy man of God, the many lives he touched and the work he accomplished resulted from a carefulness seldom manifested by mortal man to seek, to know, and to follow not one but all the leadings of the Holy Spirit!

Bro. McVey breathed of the heavenly! In turn, his life was effervescent with the fragrance of heaven. Oh, how easy it was to converse, to confide, to take courage, and to receive counsel from one who cared, who was concerned, and who would not betray your confidence. On more than one occasion I saw him turn his face to heaven and say, 'Oh Holy Spirit,' and I perceived that as an holy man of God heaven turned his way, with new fragrances especially for him!

Bro. McVey cared for humanity tenderly! To him color, race, nationality, or spiritual condition bore little credence. He cared for everyone's spiritual well being with a loving tenderness. He would point one and all to Jesus Christ as the answer to life's complex problems, as a guide on life's uncharted seas, as a shelter in the time of storm, and as our only hope of eternal salvation. On one occasion, when I was earnestly seeking help, he pointed his big index finger upward and proclaimed with unfaltering confidence, ' Look to Jesus .' I perceive, that as an holy man of God, he had a tender love of humanity that transcended personal desire for comfort and ease, and that all those with whom he came in contact are the richer for it!

Bro. McVey preached holiness passionately! He saw what so many preachers seldom see, the real need of deliverance from carnality, by the fiery baptism of the Holy Ghost. To him, holiness was not optional but an absolute essential. Holiness was the center piece of his preaching ministry, and I perceive, that as an holy man of God, he had what he so passionately preached!

Bro. McVey contended for the old paths persuasively! He had no desire to be turned aside from the faith of our fathers. He was not in the business of removing the ancient landmarks. He was not one to be found guilty of compromising the plain truth of God's word and true Biblical standards. In hearing him preach in favor of the old paths where-in is the good way, he would use all the resources at his command to persuade souls that this is the way, walk ye in it! I perceive, that as an holy man of God, Bro. McVey was sold 100% on the old paths, passionately. followed them and persuasively stood in the gap and made up the hedge!

Bro. McVey sacrificed willingly! No sacrifice was too large if he felt it would help you on to glory. He would sacrifice his time and finances, and groan in travail for one's benefit. He would bear you in his arms, enter into your agonies, lift you in prayer, and take your whippings for you. He would stand with someone even though it meant criticisms that would cut as a well honed sword to the very innermost recesses of his soul, and yet he would not repine, murmur, or complain. I perceive, that as an holy man of God, Bro. McVey would gladly lay down his life for the brethren!

Bro. McVey entered heaven triumphantly! There is no question in my mind that our beloved brother made a safe landing on yon blissful shore. I perceive, that as an holy man of God, he lived with eternities values in view, and that he is now triumphing in the eternal bliss of heaven, the residence of his blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! Many of us perceived that Bro. McVey was an holy man of God, but none so clearly as his wife and children whom he loved so dearly!

Yes, Bro. McVey passed by our lives many times in his earthly walk and touched us in profound ways. He will no longer pass by our homes, church services, camp meetings, or his beloved missionary work, but I believe he will pass by our hearts and memories again and again. I feel Bro. McVey is beckoning one and all to join him in that celestial city whose builder and maker is God. Let each of us live as he lived that we too may be holy men and women of God, and receive life everlasting at the close of the day! Amen and Amen!

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## A TRIO OF CARNAL RELIGIONISTS

### Introduction

Jude 11 -- Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. This verse of scripture gives us a thumbnail portrayal of a trio of carnal religionists. Space restrictions will not allow us to give a complete scriptural portraiture of each of these men, but we will list some scriptures which one can read to get a fuller picture of their carnal state. Cain -- Genesis 4:1-16; Balaam -- Numbers 22:1-33; Core (Korah) - Numbers 16:1-35. All too often we sadly realize the presence of carnal tares amongst the true wheat of God's church. We feel this trio of carnal religionists aptly portray the true nature of carnality, its depths of depravity, its insensibility, and its destructive nature. We write this article trusting that it will be the means by which some dear reader will see in these men a mirror image of their own self and will quickly seek God for deliverance from the awful carnal nature. If one does not get rid of carnality it will eventually get rid of them.

### I. Each of these men were religious.

Cain was a man of sacrifice. Genesis 4:3 -- And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

Balaam was a man of prayer. Numbers 22:8 -- And he said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam. Numbers 22:19 -- Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

Korah was a man of testimony. Numbers 16:3 -- And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

We have many people in the holiness movement who sacrifice much, pray often, and testify high. Dear reader, do you see yourself in these men?

### II. Each of these men were carnal.

Cain -- 1 John 3:12 -- Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Balaam -- Numbers 22:29 -- And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

Korah -- Numbers 16:1-3 -- Now Korah, ...rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto

them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

Dear reader, does the old carnal nature ever cause you to feel hatred toward your brother as in the case of Cain? Do you ever blow up and say hateful things as in the case of Balaam? Do you ever rise up against God's man as in the case of Korah?

III. Each of these men erred exceedingly.

There is nothing wrong with sacrifice and he was offering to the Lord, but Cain offered the wrong sacrifice. Genesis 4:3 -- And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. Cain's sacrifice was bloodless. Cain was the first man who wanted to take the blood out of religion. Without the shed blood there is no getting rid of sin. Cain was not covered by the blood.

There is nothing wrong with prayer, but Balaam prayed too often, and when God answered him the first time he failed to listen and persisted in praying again when he already knew his personal thus saith the Lord. It is a dreadful thing to pray and know God's will and yet ride roughshod over His answer when it is not to our liking.

There is nothing wrong with testimony, but Korah testified way too high. He testified to being just as holy as Moses, but we will learn later what God thought of his testimony.

Dear reader, what about your sacrifice? Is it just a mere penance or a bland attempt to ride high in God's approval ratings? What about your prayers? Are they genuine or mere end runs around God's commands? What about your testimony? Is it self-exalting or self-abasing?

IV. Each of these men gave indication of spiritual lack.

Cain showed he was lacking when he offered a tossed salad on the altar instead of the blood of a lamb.

Balaam showed he was lacking when he took a donkey ride in the wrong direction and then blew up when the donkey displayed more spiritual discernment than he. Numbers 22:21-30

Korah showed he was lacking when he gathered around him a host of big old cry babies and raised insurrection against Moses the leader of God's people.

Dear reader, you may go through all the motions of religion, but sooner or later old carnality will display its true self. You may fool some people all the time, you may fool some people part of the time, and you may even fool yourself by making all sorts of excuses for your carnal stirrings, but you can't fool everyone all the time. Be sure, there are some sanctified saints around that can readily discern that the old man is still on board, and never forget, God knows the true state of your heart.

V. Each of these men were rejecters.

Cain rejected the blood. Hebrews 9:22 -- ...and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Balaam rejected God's voice. Numbers 22:12 -- And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them.

Korah rejected God's man. Numbers 16:8 -- And Moses said unto Korah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi: (Korah would not hearken to Moses)

Dear reader, what does old carnality have you rejecting? Do you see yourself yet?

VI. Each of these men had a key sin.

Cain was envious of his brother Abel's acceptance with God.

Balaam had a bad case of greed.

Korah was jealous of God's man, Moses.

Dear reader, your key sin may not be one of the above, but if you are a carnal religionist, you have a key sin lurking in the closet.

VII. Each of these men persisted in sins path even after being warned.

Cain went right on in his sinful path when God told him his sacrifice was unacceptable and slew his brother. Genesis 4:5-10 -- But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Balaam went right on and endeavored to curse Israel when God had plainly commanded him not to do so.

Korah went right on in his sinful path even though Moses pled with him not to do so.

Dear reader what saith the scriptures? Proverbs 29:1 -- He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

VIII. Each of these men knew better.

Cain full well knew the dire consequences of disobedience to God. He knew first hand what sin had done to his parents in the Garden of Eden. He was well aware that only a blood

sacrifice was acceptable. He had lived with the Godly influence of righteous Abel day by day. Even with all this in his favor he went right on and did that which he knew he should not do.

Balaam was explicitly warned and directed by God not to go and curse Israel. A donkey warned him. An angel stood in his way and warned him. Just imagine the voice of God, the voice of a donkey, and the voice of an angel, but all to no avail.

Korah had seen what God had done in Egypt and at the Red Sea. He had been witness to and benefactor of God's special providing providence in the wilderness. He had witnessed the meek life of Moses. Korah had plenty of light, he was not in the dark, yet he chose the path of darkness.

Dear reader, be honest! You have been in Sunday School, church, revivals, and camp-meetings. You have read the Bible, and have heard the holiness message from God's holy men over and over again. You have been witness to the mercy and grace of God. With all of these things in your favor you still persist in going on in the glum profession of a carnal religionist.

IX. Each of these men perished.

Cain perished in the Land of Nod. Genesis 4:11-- And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; Genesis 4:12 -- ... a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. Genesis 4:16 -- And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.

Balaam perished on the battlefield with the enemies of God. Numbers 31:8 -- And they slew the kings of Midian, ... Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

Korah perished from among the congregation. Numbers 16:33 -- They, (Korah included) and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

Dear reader, it doesn't matter how religious you might be, if old carnality is on board you are harboring within your being a great enemy of God. Romans 8:7 -- Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Look what carnality did to this trio of religionists. Cain perished wandering around a destitute vagabond, cursed by God because he offered a bloodless sacrifice. Balaam perished on the battlefield with the enemies of God because he prayed one time too many. Korah went straight to Hell because he testified too high. Jude verses 11- 13 -- Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core. These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. How about it, dear reader, do you see your true self? Let me say unto you, "Please don't perish! Look to Jesus!"

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## Article 9 FEARFUL HEARTS

### INTRODUCTION

What saith the Scripture? Luke 21:26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth:...

Perilous times are upon us. Men are finding themselves incapable to cope with the myriad problems that are enveloping the earth with dark clouds of uncertainty. Solutions to these problems are proving to be as elusive as the so-called missing link of evolution. Global conventions are convened to bring together anthropologists, doctors, environmentalists, geo-political leaders, new-agers, philosophers, religious gurus, scientists, and world-bankers to lay out plans to bring an end to the doom and gloom that is so every-where present. They put mind, money, and muscle together only to see world conditions continuing to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Men gaze out on the future with fear in their eyes and in their hearts.

Proud mankind just will not come to grips with the reality, though fearful, that they and their sin are largely responsible for the perilous predicament in which they find themselves. Men think themselves to be gods with all the right answers and solutions, but just the opposite is true. Mankind cannot get out of his problems apart from God, but they have hardened their hearts toward God and have turned a deaf ear His way, and it appears that God has left the receiver off the hook and time is running out.

Let us explore some of the world conditions that are producing global heart failure!

### Diabolical Weaponry

Mankind has made a science out of killing. Huge sums of money are set aside for the express purpose of developing the most advanced, most efficient, and most deadly weapons of warfare. Military contractors along with the military leadership are constantly designing, building, and testing killing machines. Nuclear capabilities, stealth technology, biological munitions, and the interaction of computer systems have brought us to the brink of destruction.

World leaders are fearful of what will happen when these diabolical weapons are used by a trigger happy dictator or terrorist leader when he unleashes something that will throw the world into the chaos of near annihilation.

One can not imagine the dire consequences that would be wrought when nuclear weapons begin to hit large population centers and millions of people literally disintegrate in a million degree plus nuclear inferno.

What would happen when some puppet of a foreign regime quietly enters an alleyway in New York City and removes the lid from a small pint sized container and hurls it to the wind? Inside that container is the latest in biological destruction hatched in some far away laboratory. In

a matter of days or hours New York City has become the largest mortuary in the world with millions of dead. The city is cordoned off. No one is allowed to enter. The stench of millions rises to the heavens.

The two above scenarios would cause world leaders to play the blame game as they point fingers at the 'who-done-its,' and push buttons sending more death and destruction on its way.

Something to think about and something to cause men to have heart failure!

## Deadly Diseases

E-coli, Aids, E-bola, are words we have become familiar with in the last two decades. The little god that man thinks he is thought he had these diseases fairly well under control with his arsenal of antibiotics and was looking with great expectancy to the complete elimination of such diseases as tuberculosis. Many of the older diseases have mutated into drug resistant terrors and are back with a vengeance wreaking havoc on humanity. Drug companies, government agencies, researchers, and doctors are working feverishly in an effort to come up with treatments to combat these microscopic, but lethal invaders of the human body.

How can mankind cope with diseases that are so virulent that to come in contact with them means death in a matter of days or hours. Our centers for disease control have these dread microscopic monsters in highly secured environments for study. To approach these one must pass through air locks, be disinfected, dress out in oxygen equipped protective suits, and exercise the most extreme care in a very methodical controlled way to prevent the escaping of these terrible contagions to the outside environment where they would come in contact with the people, killing them by the thousands.

Aids has become a government protected disease. Any other disease which promises such a certainty of death would send its carriers into quarantine. Most of its carriers are homosexual and their promiscuous lifestyle is a major factor in their contracting the disease, but it appears that the homosexual is a government protected species not in danger of extinction, but proliferating at a truly alarming rate. The carriers of Aids have more rights than does the person who is clean. Whether or not the Aids virus has been lying dormant for thousand of years in some far-flung jungle, or is a recent mutation of something benign into what it now is, or if it is a direct creation of God, I do not pretend to know, but whatever the case I feel it is being used as a scourge from God as a punishment for sin. Millions world-wide are carriers and millions are dying. Truly, when one sows to the wind he will reap a whirlwind. One has said, "Aids occupies such a large part in our awareness because of what it has been taken to represent. It seems the very model of all the catastrophes privileged populations feel await them."

Something to think about and something to cause men to have heart failure!

## Uncertain Economy

In I Timothy 6:10 we read, "For the love of money is the root of all evil:..." Men are scrambling for money as never before. International bankers, business men, and the ordinary old

Joe have their eyes and hearts set on money and more money. Somehow they think more money will satisfy, but nothing apart from Jesus truly satisfies.

Trillions of dollars are flowing in the global economy. Men are keeping track of it all with an intensity of interest that I wish we could duplicate in the professors of religion in regards to the things of God! Men are playing the stock markets of the world; buying bonds, precious metals, and futures; investing in dividend producing retirement plans and Individual Retirement Accounts. Everywhere men are looking at the bottom line and asking the question, how can I reap a greater harvest of money and goods. One has said, The freedom to make a fortune on the Stock Exchange has been made to sound more alluring than freedom of speech. The only thing in this life that is certain is uncertainty. One never knows what a new day will bring. The economy can be great today and wiped-out tomorrow. One thing that makes the economy so uncertain today is that it is so interconnected globally. We are no longer living in a period of national economies, but have arrived at a point in time where the economy is global. The economies and stock markets of the world are to intertwined between Asian, European, and American that each feels the upward or downward momentum of each.

Let us pose a question. What if this global economy truly crashes? Remember the Great Depression of the earlier part of this century and its ensuing hardships. Then people were principled. They would bind together and help one another. If the neighbor had a piece of bread, you had a piece of bread. Today, people are unprincipled. Our morals and sense of right and wrong have been largely destroyed by the anti-God media, government, entertainment industry, educational system, and the apostate church. Back then people would give you a piece of bread, if a crash occurs now they will kill you for a piece of bread. Killing, stealing, and mass chaos would be of such magnitude that it could easily lead to marshal law and its ensuing control of mankind and eventual one world government.

Every type of precaution is being taken to prevent just such a scenario from happening to the economy, but always remember, God rules in the affairs of men.

Something to think about and something to cause men to have heart failure!

### Burgeoning Humanity

Six billion plus people now inhabit the planet. Questions such as these are arising from the global elitists of this world: Where will they all live, how will they all be fed, and where will sufficient water resources be found for them?

First of all, God knew what He was doing when he commanded Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. There are sufficient resources on earth to take care of mankind and his offspring. Look at what man has discovered on earth and all the different things that he is able to do with them for the benefit of man. God only knows what is yet to be unlocked in this old world that he has placed here for man's discovery and use. Yes, man has made a mess out of things, but God had everything set up for a continual Garden of Eden.

Garbage, sewage, pollution, environmental degradation, crime, overcrowding, insufficient resources, and a host of other problems are like a giant stalking humanity. There are insufficient resources, mind power, and will power to take care of all these problems without trampling on people's rights, causing wars, and a host of other nightmares.

I do not profess to have all the answers for all the very real problems that are with us now and will only multiply and increase as time goes along. Some of the above questions are legitimate, but should not be approached from a standpoint of people control via survival of the select, fittest few, but from a standpoint of what God will do according to His prophetic word. Dear reader, it is very apparent that mankind is going to wax worse and worse and the last thing he intends to do is seek God for solutions to the people problems on earth.

Something to think about and something to cause men to have heart failure!

### Ghastly Armageddon

Wars and rumors of wars are a staple of this end time hour. Tremendous expenditures, never-ending diplomacy, global alliances, go on and on in a perpetual quest to bring a permanent peace. Peace and safety are two much hoped for, but never achievable dreams until the King of Kings and Lord of Lords comes.

There have been literally thousands of wars down through the centuries for nearly as many reasons, but there never has been a war that will rival a future battle yet to come. Often, we hear this battle referred to in sermons and even politicians and military leaders make reference to it. What battle are we referring to? The Battle of Armageddon! This battle will truly be the big one, the one that they will not be able to control, the one that causes their hearts to tremble. Why do you think all eyes are on Israel where this great battle will be fought?

Something to think about and something to cause men to have heart failure!

### Inevitable Rendezvous

It is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgment. There is no way to escape it! No way to avoid it! No way to get around it! No way to postpone it! This is one thing that all men will inevitably face! The rendezvous with death and the judgment!

What will it be like to stand before the judge of all the earth and give an account for all our words, deeds, and thoughts? What will it be like when a final judgment is passed? Where will you be after you hear Him pass judgment on you?

Something to think about and something to cause YOU and ALL men to have heart failure!

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## INTRODUCTION

An implosion is the inward collapse of a building that is being demolished in a controlled fashion by the weakening and breaking of structural members by explosives. When a building is to be destroyed by this method specialists in this field are called in to evaluate the structure to determine the strategic locations for the explosive charges to be placed. Then they calculate the necessary amount of explosives needed to bring about the desired effect. When all things are in place, the explosives are detonated resulting in an implosion which is an awesome sight to behold. By this method massive structures have been reduced to heaps of rubble with absolutely no semblance of their former selves. Keep in mind that an implosion is an inward collapsing or a caving in upon its own self because of something destructive within.

Buildings are not the only things that have succumbed to implosions. People have imploded because of internal strife within their souls leading to self destruction. Governments, corporations, organizations, denominations, and a host of other entities have imploded because of mismanagement, corruption, schisms, apathy, and carelessness within the ranks. Legion are the individuals and entities that once stood seemingly impervious to the destructive forces without, only to cave from the destructive forces within, and in the aftermath, nothing is left but a heap of useless rubble.

Many of us have heard recounted time and again how great holiness denominations have imploded and have become inglorious heaps of rubble in contrast to their former days when they were monuments of God's glory. In the past the Nazarenes, Free Methodists, Wesleyan Methodists, Pilgrim Holiness and other groups spread scriptural holiness across this land and to regions beyond with the speed of a raging prairie fire only to later implode as the destructive fires of compromise ignited a conflagration within. Numbers of us have been sad witnesses to the implosion of these holiness groups in which we found Jesus as our blessed Lord and Saviour and gave of our energies unreservedly. From these cataclysmic implosions God saw fit to save a remnant from which sprang little holiness groups such as the Bible Methodists, Midwest Pilgrims, New York Pilgrims, along with a number of others which came to be known as the Conservative Holiness Movement.

Have implosions ceased? Sadly not! What happened to the holiness churches of the past is being repeated today in the Conservative Holiness Movement, only with far greater rapidity. Truly, history repeats itself! Satan and his imps with all their expertise have achieved virtual implosion in our conservative holiness ranks, and the dust of former years is now settling on the heaps of rubbish. The sacred cows of the Conservative Holiness Movement will not admit to her destruction even as the sacred cows of the mother churches would not. Those who will dare to proclaim her demise will most assuredly take a bruising from the high ups as well as their loyally devoted and deceived underlings. In the past, hundreds and hundreds found their way out of the dust of implosion in the mother churches, but now only the two's and three's will have the spiritual stamina and courage to find their way out. Then they will truly be able to sing from experience,

"I the lonely way have taken  
Rough and toilsome though it be;

And although despised, forsaken,  
Jesus, I'll go thro' with Thee."

Honest hearts will inquire as to the reasons for the implosion or the caving in of the Conservative Holiness Movement upon herself. What has brought about her demise? What sort of explosive devices has Satan successfully placed and detonated to bring about her destruction? Permit me the liberty to place before you for consideration a few of Satan's instruments of implosion, trusting that you will see the veracity of what this little scribe has stated thus far.

## SATAN'S INSTRUMENTS OF IMPLOSION

### I. Spurious Salvation

Key to the stability and structural integrity of any building is a sufficient foundation. Salvation from all sin through the shed blood of Jesus is the only foundation upon which to build individually and movement wise. The conservative holiness ranks still sounds forth with great eloquence the Wesleyan-Armenian doctrine of scriptural freedom from sin, but sadly they have not retained nor do they genuinely require the reality of the experience. The old-fashioned foundation of repentance, restitution, godly sorrow, and a forsaking of sin has been watered down to an easy-believeism and a salving over of sin. The way of death-route holiness is just a "name it and claim it" altar game. (From this point forward we will refer to the Conservative Holiness Movement as the movement) The movement has become satisfied with a spurious salvation of still births and coddled carnality thus destroying herself from within.

### II. Shorn Shekinah

Just as surely as Samson was shorn of his seven locks and wist not that the power of God that had rested upon him was gone, so has the movement been shorn of the glorious Shekinah and wists it not. The movement has lain her head in the lap of this old world and she is fast asleep. The enemies of true holiness have stealthily entered in and placed the shears to her head. Ah, but listen to her testimony as she says, "I am just as holy as ever! I will arise and will deal the death blow to the carnal nature! The glory will fall on me as in times past!" Sounds like Samson, doesn't it. Samson shook himself, but nothing happened. The movement shakes herself in the church, camp, and convention aisle, but nothing happens but a little emotionalism brought about by the repetition of some little shallow chorus sung over and over again. A few of the same old warm overs are at the altar carefully overseen by a host of shorn altar nurses. The glorious Shekinah has departed. The movement will not admit to this truth because she cannot see it due to the fact that her eyes have been blinded. She is busy going in circles grinding in the camp of the devil instead of shouting down the real glory. She vehemently denies the fact that the glory has departed and that the word Ichabod needs to be inscribed over her churches, camps, and conventions. Shorn of the Shekinah, she destroys herself from within.

### III. Sensuous Secularism

Noah would quickly recognize the age in which we are living to be on par with his age. Men of our day are pursuing the same sensuous and secular pleasures that men pursued in Noah's

day. It is sad enough that sinful men pursue those things that titillates the lust of the flesh, but how much more so when those of the movement are so entangled in the same pursuits. There are those in the movement that make allowances for Sunday work because one just has to make a living. Holiness folk can be found at Disney World and like places. Professors can be found on the golf course having a little friendly game of cow pasture pool. Many of the movement's churches are having bake sales, car washes, and hay rides. Theatrical productions right in God's house are in vogue. Pizza and pop are far more popular than the prayer meeting. The ball games for the church folk are far better attended than the weekly visitation outreach. One church I know of had a watch night service and had to have games and a fireworks display to keep everyone happy. Some of the movement's women can be found sunbathing at the pool side scantily clad in their sensuous swim wear. Short sleeves on holiness folk are popping up all over. Yes, sensuous secularism is self-evident in the movement because an implosion has been effected.

#### IV. Sacrilegious Services

Worship by those in the movement has degenerated into an irreverent attempt to portray themselves as pious parishioners, yet their lives are far from the level of piety. They can run the aisles and whoop and holler even though they have hard feelings toward others, tell lies, pull shady deals, tell smutty stories, file for chapter eleven bankruptcy to dodge their debts, have unmade restitutions, commit secret sins, and lust on the opposite sex.

Parents let their children run all over the church, wear a path in the carpet to and from the rest rooms, and wreak general havoc in the services. Little Johnny can fall and bump his head while running back and forth on the pew, and when he screams out, little mother asks "What's the matter precious." What the matter is, is that mother shouldn't allow little Johnny to run back and forth on the pew. But, mother will say, "He is hyper because he had too much sugar or too much caffeine in a pop before church. I say, "Nonsense." Mother is the one that needs to get hyper, but with a good old-fashioned switch.

Platform regulations no longer apply in our services. In some of the movement's churches adulterers, bobbed haired women, Sabbath desecraters, and even Promise Keepers' representatives are allowed on the platform.

Yes, sacrilegious services are a sure sign of implosion.

#### V. Sodden Substance

Luke 15:13 -- And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. What is our most precious substance? Our children! But sad to say, they are being wasted by riotous living within the movement. Lamentations 4:10 -- The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people. The movement is guilty of taking their own precious substance and boiling them alive as it were in their own sensuous pursuit after the world. In her quest for fine clothes, homes, cars, and careers, she has destroyed her own precious substance. She allows her substance to dress immodestly, company with those of bad character, and frequent the places of the world. By her lukewarmness and

hypocrisy she has created within her precious substance an attitude of incredulity and skepticism. If perchance a precious one endeavors to emulate the lifestyle of some great champion of the faith of yesteryear or associates himself with an old-timer of the present, a horror of great darkness immediately grips the pitiful ones and a concerted effort is made to pour kettle after kettle full of boiling water on the errant one. After all, better to be sodden than substantive. Riotous living by pitiful professors consummating in sodden substance is definitely an indication that an implosion has occurred.

## VI. Specious Sermons

Someone has said, "The most deadly thing there is, is ninety- nine percent truth and one percent error." This saying is applicable to so many of the sermons being brought forth from holiness pulpits. We have eloquence, oratory, and learning, but carefully sprinkled here and there in the sermons are carefully crafted illustrations and sayings all designed to cast stumbling blocks in the way of those that desire the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Old-fashioned holiness truth with standards is maligned and ridiculed from the pulpits in artful ways. Those who dare to stand in the gap and make up the hedge will have their integrity called into question in such a manner that those listening will feel it is best to steer clear of them lest somehow their slime would possibly rub off on them. All those who take advantage of the sacred desk in such a mean spirited manner will one day be called into question at the judgment, and the blood of those who listened to your sickening sermonettes will be required at your hands. Specious sermons go hand in hand with implosions.

## VII. Salivating Savagery

Holiness hyenas are standing in the shadows just drooling at the mouth in savage anticipation of their next meal. What might be on their menu? Will it be someone with whom they do not agree on some minor point? Will it be someone who has dared to take his stand on the conference floor against some intrusion of worldliness? Will it be someone who has dared to print truth that has cut across the grain or rubbed the fur the wrong way? Will it be someone who has called black, black and white, white? Might I say, "All of the above and more." What has happened to the brotherly love of yesteryear? Why is it that holiness people do not in honor prefer another above themselves? Why is it they can bite and devour one another? Why do holiness people practice condemnation, but fail to practice forgiveness? It is because the movement has become nothing more than heaps of rubble comparable to Babylon. Isaiah 13:21 -- But wild beasts of the desert shall lie there; and their houses shall be full of doleful creatures; and owls shall dwell there, and satyrs shall dance there. The wild beasts, (hyenas) are everywhere. One just never knows when one will come drooling, ready for a meal. Heaps of rubble and hyenas indicate a catastrophic implosion has taken place.

## CONCLUSION

An implosion has been successfully carried out by Satan in the Conservative Holiness Movement. We find only heaps of rubble inhabited by savage hyenas ready to devour anyone who might dare venture into the howling wilderness to endeavor to start a reconstruction program. I am indeed fearful that any effort to do so would be an exercise in futility. Genesis 6:3 -- And the

LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man... Has the blessed Holy Spirit ceased striving in the movement? Can we rebuild from the rubble as did Nehemiah, or will we need to start from scratch? Many of those who have resisted the powerful forces of implosion over the years are now beginning to desire rubble instead of structure. Yes, those who still contend for the faith are definitely in the minority as was Noah right before the flood. Do we find ourselves once again out under the stars?

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## Article 11

### IS SANCTIFICATION PROGRESSIVE OR INSTANTANEOUS?

A Compilation by: David R. Merck

#### Introductory Statement

The great Bible doctrine of sanctification by an instantaneous work of grace wrought in the heart of a believer has been and always will be fought with all the fierceness Hell can muster. Once again this great doctrine is under fire; only this time it is under fire from those who have formerly advocated this precious doctrine. There are those in the holiness ranks who are advocating a progressive work of sanctification rather than an instantaneous work stating that "The advocates of the past were wrong in their teaching on instantaneous sanctification."

May I give my own personal testimony here, "My heart was not purified in bits and pieces nor did the blessed Holy Ghost come in bits and pieces, but this wonderful experience was wrought all at once or instantaneously in my heart!"

In this compilation we will let the holiness giants of the past speak to this vital doctrine of instantaneous sanctification and let you choose this day with whom you will agree; the 'giants of the past' or the 'progressive know betters' of today!

You will notice that all the selected statements have the word instantaneous or one of its derivations incorporated in them.

Advocates of an Instantaneous Sanctification Wayne Aman -- Fountains and Rivers of Holiness

The instantaneous work of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and a heart purified by faith is the testimony of thousands of believers with undisputed integrity. -- Ismal Amaya, This is Entire Sanctification

The Bible teaches us that sanctification is an immediate or instantaneous work... -- Amos Binney, Binney's Theological Compend

...entire cleansing with the fullness or baptism of the Spirit, which is always given instantaneously. -- Samuel Logan Brengle, Heart Talks on Holiness

...an instantaneous work, (i.e. sanctification) wrought in the heart of the humble believer by the Holy Ghost. -- Henry E. Brockett, The Riches of Holiness

Now the Acts of the Apostles clearly teaches, and the experience of thousands of Christians confirms, that the "filling of the Spirit" may be received as a definite, instantaneous gift of God's grace subsequent to the new birth. -- Charles William Butler, A Holiness Manifesto

We enter it (i.e. sanctification) instantaneously,... -- Beverly Carradine, Sanctification

...it is an instantaneous work;... -- Samuel Chadwick, The Call to Holiness

...to deny the possibility of the instantaneous destruction of sin, is to deny that we can make an instantaneous act of faith in the sanctifying promise of the Father, and in the all-cleansing blood of the Son, and that God can seal that act by an instantaneous operation of His Spirit?" -- Adam Clarke, Entire Sanctification

We are to come to God as well for an instantaneous and complete purification from all sin, as for an instantaneous pardon. -- Thomas Cook, New Testament Holiness

...it (i.e. sanctification) is an instantaneous work. -- David Shelby Corlett, The Second Work of Grace

The Scriptures, however, are clear in their emphasis that it (i.e. sanctification) is an experience received by a believer subsequent to conversion, and that the work is done instantaneously. -- H. A. Erdmann, Office Work of the Holy Spirit

The work of sanctification is instantaneous,... -- John and Bona Fleming, Truth on Fire

Then it (i.e. sanctification) is instantaneous. -- A. M. Hills, Holiness and Power

Such a sanctification, INSTANTANEOUSLY received and accessible to all, the Scripture reveals and promises to those who seek. -- John S. Inskip, Holiness Miscellany

We are to come to God as well for an instantaneous and complete purification from all sin, as for an instantaneous pardon. -- Harry E. Jessop, We, The Holiness People

The crisis Blessing (i. e. sanctification) is an experience instantaneous in its nature,... -- S. A. Keen, Pentecostal Papers

...the gift of the Holy Ghost as an experience, distinctive, subsequent to conversion, and instantaneously received by faith,... -- Martin Wells Knapp, The Double Cure

The Double Cure (i. e. sanctification) is a work wrought instantaneously and by faith. -- Joseph Benjamin McBride, Entire Sanctification

...the work of sanctification is instantaneous. -- George Asbury McLaughlin, Inbred Sin

God destroys inbred sin instantaneously. -- C. W. Ruth, Entire Sanctification

...the divine work is instantaneous. -- Charles Henry Stalker, Holy Ghost Messages

Now, when the Holy Ghost comes He does an instantaneous work of destruction,... --  
Joshua Stauffer, When He is Come

In the experience of sanctification, which is one work of grace, and is wrought instantaneously, but is twofold in its nature (negative and positive) there is the cleansing of inbred sin, and the impartation of power. -- Daniel Steele, The Gospel of the Comforter

The entire eradication of the propensity to sin is by the direct and instantaneous act of the Holy Spirit responsive to a special act of faith in Christ claiming the full heritage of the believer. -- G. D. Watson, Advocate of Holiness: November 1879

Pardon and purity are both received by separate, specific acts of receptive faith are both instantaneously wrought by acts of the Divine Will;... -- John Wesley, A Plain Account of Christian Perfection

That it (i. e. sanctification) is given instantaneously, in one moment. -- J. A. Wood, Perfect Love

Purity being instantaneous, may be received at once.

## Conclusion

The overwhelming consensus of the great holiness warriors of the past was that holiness is an instantaneous work. The many pro-instantaneous statements given in this compilation are but a small fraction of what could be listed. The old warriors were like a mighty juggernaut quashing the false rubbish of progressive sanctification teaching. Let us stand with them in the continuing battle!

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## Article 12 THE SAD STATE OF WOMANHOOD

### Introduction

According to a certain cigarette advertisement if a woman smokes a particular brand of cigarette it is said of her, "You've come a long way, Baby." I whole-heartedly agree with the advertisement's assertion that she has come a long way, but it is a long way down! Ever since Satan beguiled Eve in the Garden of Eden, womanhood has been in a downward spiral of degradation. Nothing is sadder for the eye to behold than the plight of womanhood caught fast in the awful quagmire of sin's degradation. Nothing short of the marvelous saving grace of God is sufficient to extricate her from the predicament in which she is entrapped.

God's word has much to say about womanhood; both saintly women and the degenerate babes as portrayed in the cigarette advertisements are considered. Saintly womanhood is greatly exalted in His word. Nothing is more virtuous, honorable, or holy than saintly womanhood. One has said, "The true worth of a race must be measured by the character of its womanhood." We realize that there remains even today some women who are better characterized by "saintly" than by the cigarette advertisement's "baby". Degenerate babe-hood is denounced in God's Word. Eve became the first "babe" when she partook of the forbidden fruit. The woman of the cigarette advertisement became a "babe" when she partook of the forbidden cigarette. Untold millions of women in between have partaken of that which is forbidden, becoming "babes" only to be caught in the downward spiral, thus the sad state of womanhood past and present. Notice with us what type of women these "babes" really are.

### I. Careless Women

Isaiah 32:10 -- Many days and years shall ye be troubled, ye careless women: for the vintage shall fail, the gathering shall not come. (Foolish: unconcerned or indifferent; heedless: careless of the consequences) How aptly this definition fits the women of our day. Most could care less about the ramifications of their careless conduct in regards to their soul's salvation. Instead of cautiously and carefully seeking God for salvation and His plan and purpose for their lives, they are carefully heeding the warped, perverted, and twisted social imperatives of the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Dear Abbey, and Patricia Ireland and the NOW gang. (National Organization of Women) Women are indifferent in their worship of God, but can be found reverently bowing down and worshipping their bodies, careers, and the fashions of this old world totally oblivious to the fact that they will one day face God's judgment. Yes, women have come a long way down to the level of careless "babes".

### II. Foolish Women

Job 2:10 -- But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh...

(Foolish: impious or wicked) Mrs. Job was indeed an archetypal ancestor of today's modern "babe" with all her wicked impiety. Nothing is more despicable than one who so piously wears the aura of pride that they would stoop so low as to give such unmitigated council as did Mrs. Job. The world and even the churches are full of these foolishly impious babes flaunting their impiety in the face of God as they wrongly influence their children, husband, and peers. How terrible it is that there are those who are not content to go to Hell themselves, but are intent on dragging someone down with them. We need more Mr. Job's in our day who will put their foot down and tell it like it is, "Mrs. Job, you are a foolish 'babe'."

### III. Lewd Women

Ezekiel 23:44 -- Yet they went in unto her, as they go in unto a woman that playeth the harlot: so went they in unto Aholah and unto Aholibah, the lewd women.

(Lewd: preoccupied with sex and sexual desire; lustful; obscene; indecent) This type of woman is not only to be found on the street, in the bar room, or for hire in the houses of ill repute; but can be found on the church pew and in the Bible School. There is a preoccupation with the sensuous from those just entering young womanhood to old grandmas. "Babes" flaunt their sex in the face of men and even women on the job, in the bar, at school, in the place of business, and in the church. Many women have become more brazen and vulgar with their openness about the sensuous than men. These lewd women spend much time reading lewd novels, viewing lewd television shows and movies, and looking at lewd pornographic magazines, all the while degenerating to a level lower than beasts. As these lewd women pursue their wicked life styles, the vile homes are shattered, children are tossed into a tempest, and disease is spread. Aholah and Aholibah, we can easily recognize your bloodline in the modern day babe!

#### IV. Outlandish Women

Nehemiah 13:26 -- Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations was there no king like him, who was beloved of his God, and God made him king over all Israel: nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin. (Outlandish: of foreign origin) King Solomon went shopping in foreign lands and he imported many cheap women into his harem of 700 wives and 300 concubines. Could this be why he said in Proverbs -31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" He had been shopping in all the wrong places and shopping much too often. He should have chosen him one Hebrew wife, but he chose many outlandish women who caused him to sin and turned his heart away from God. Yes, Solomon had many outlandish babes in his day; today is no exception.

Women are outlandish in their attire. Short skirts, split skirts, sheer hose, shaven legs, shorn hair, and spiked heels are synonymous. Painted lips, nails, and bodies are outlandish. Jeweled ears, noses, necks, wrists, fingers, navels, and ankles are truly outlandish. All these outlandish things are so essential to the harem babes of this world, but they are foreign indeed to true holiness, and if holiness men go after such babes, their hearts have already been turned in this day of grace.

#### V. Pitiful Women

Lamentations 4:10 -- The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people.

(Pitiful: sorrow for a regretful situation) The women described in Jeremiah's lament were reduced to the level of cannibalism because of a siege brought about by God's anger for the sins of the people. Can we imagine the utter destitution of these women who no longer have well set hair and beautiful countenances, but are mere skeletons enshrouded in blackened withered skin as they sit by the simmering pot containing baby stew. The women of our day are to be pitied for the sad plight in which they are entrapped. How pitiful it is that the women of Jeremiah's day poached their babies because of starvation, and the "babes" of our day abort their babies because it conflicts with their careers and swinging life styles. I do not condone cannibalism, but to abort a baby for mere convenience is worse and is the very epitome of degenerate womanhood without

natural affections. Watch the babes as they march into an abortion clinic to commit premeditated murder in the worst degree. How much further can you go, "babe?"

## VI. Silly Women

II Timothy 3:6 -- For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,... (Silly: exhibiting a lack of wisdom or good sense; foolish; Lacking seriousness or responsibility; weak) Silliness in this text is equated with weakness. Weak women who easily succumb to the subtle solicitations of men just as Mother Eve succumbed to the subtle solicitations of Satan. The "babes" of this day think nothing of running off with a suitor and leaving a husband and children behind because she is too weak to be a real woman. It takes a real woman to stand her ground and put a man who is out of place in his place. Silly "babes" or saintly ladies, which will it be?

## VII. Strange Women

Proverbs 22:14 -- The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein. (Strange: unusual) Strange indeed are the unusual things that are transpiring in the realms of womanhood. Out of the home and on to the factory floor. Out of the normal heterosexual relationship to a lesbian relationship. Mainstream Protestantism is not appealing to the modern "babe." She is now attracted to New Age beliefs with its self-exaltation; or you shall be as gods. She had rather be rocking to Satanic music than rocking the baby. She has a cigarette in one hand and a beer in the other. She wears pants and cuts her glory off. Babe, you not only imperil your own soul, but the souls of others. You are a trap ready to ensnare the unwary soul.

## Conclusion

The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. Unless we have a return to true women rocking the cradles and forsaking degenerate lifestyles of "babes" we are doomed as a nation and as a world. May God reverse the sad state of womanhood we pray!

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THE END