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**SHE HEARD OF JESUS**  
**And Other Articles in 1999 and 2000**  
**By David R. Merck**

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## Article 1 SHE HEARD OF JESUS

### Introduction

In Matthew 9, Luke 8, and Mark 5 we read of a woman with an issue of blood. In Leviticus 15 we read that a woman with an issue of blood was to be considered unclean and that there were certain prerequisites for her to meet if she was to once again be acceptable within Hebrew society. In essence, if a woman was unclean she was cut off and could not participate in the normal functions of life.

The poor woman in the above scriptures was living under the awful weight of uncleanness until she heard of a man Mark 5:27 "When she had heard of Jesus"... Hallelujah! This is the name that all men and women who are under the awful weight of sin's uncleanness need to hear! This is the name that all men and women who are cut off from the joys of salvation need to hear! Jesus was the solution for the woman's uncleanness and he is the solution for mankind's uncleanness today! Oh, how men and women need to hear the sweetest name to ever fall on mortal ear JESUS!

Hearing the name of Jesus completely changed this woman's life in the most astounding ways. Let us look at this beautiful story as it is related in Mark 5:25-34 and see what was wrought when this woman heard a name the name of JESUS!

### I. The Person

Mark 5:25 tells us of a CERTAIN woman. Though this woman was not named or described nor was her place of residence given she was none-the-less a very real specific woman. She had a history, although we are only told of the last twelve years in which she had an issue of blood. She no doubt had a most humble abode and very meager fare due to the fact that her finances were depleted. She was reduced to subsistence living and at the mercy of the alms giver. People avoided her and she was cut off from the natural discourse of life. Loneliness and despair were her lot. Any glimmer of hope had faded away long ago, and she had been lost in the vast world of the unclean, the untouchable, the unwanted, and the undesirables of her day. Even though the above is

true, she yet remained a CERTAIN woman with a CERTAIN problem that needed a CERTAIN cure and she heard of a CERTAIN man JESUS!

Census figures tell us that there are over six billion people in this vast world of our day and it is full of CERTAIN people with a CERTAIN problem that need a CERTAIN cure. The CERTAIN people are every man, woman, boy, and girl who have the awful CERTAIN problem of sin's uncleanness and they all need a CERTAIN cure and if they can only but hear a CERTAIN name JESUS then, and only then, have they found the source for a CERTAIN cure to their CERTAIN problem.

Often times a person feels, who am I? being such an infinitesimal speck in such a great teeming mass of humanity, but remember, you are still a CERTAIN person and a CERTAIN man JESUS has not overlooked or forgotten about you! He knows who you are, where you are, and what you are. John 3:16 says, "For God so love the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Son in this verse is a CERTAIN man JESUS, and whosoever is a CERTAIN person; whether it be the Certain woman with the issue of blood or a CERTAIN YOU!

Let us give the woman with an issue of blood a name which we will refer to her as in the rest of this article Miss Certain.

## II. The Problem

Turning again to verse 25 we are told that Miss Certain's problem was an issue of blood which produced uncleanness as has already been mentioned. Her problem was of long duration, twelve years. Man's problem of sin is of long duration, ever since the transgression of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Miss Certain's problem was incurable by any earthly means. Man's problem of sin is incurable by any earthly means. Miss Certain's problem produced shame, fear, sorrow, separation and would have led to an eventual death. Man's problem of sin produced SHAME Gen. 3:7 - And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked..., FEAR Gen 3:10 - ...and I was afraid...and I hid myself., SORROW Gen. 3:16 - ...sorrow..., a CURSE Gen. 3:17 - ...cursed..., a SENTENCE OF DEATH Gen. 3:19 - ...and unto dust shalt thou return., SEPARATION Gen. 3:24 - So he drove out the man...

Oh, what a problem an issue of blood caused for Miss Certain! Oh, what a problem sin has caused for humanity. For twelve long years Miss Certain labored under a heavy weight of shame, sorrow, sickness, suffering, and an uncertainty of whether a new day would only bring a continuation of misery or the horrors of death. Mankind has long been laboring under the terrible consequences of sin with a certain fear of death and the judgment. James 1:15 - ...and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Some might say, "Was it really so bad for Miss Certain?" To which we reply, "Would you really want to walk a mile in her shoes?" Still others would say, "Is it really so bad for man in his sinful condition?" To which we reply, "Look around and what do you see? Full prisons, broken homes, child abuse, drunkenness, perversion, immorality, suicide, lying, stealing, hypocrisy and

on and on!" Yes, Miss Certain's problem was VERY BAD and mankind's sin problem in VERY BAD! Listen to these words from the song "Deeper Than the Stain has Gone" Dark the sin that soiled man's nature, Long the distance that he fell, Far removed from hope and heaven, Near to deep despair and hell. Yes, dear reader, the sin problem is VERY VERY BAD, and whether or not you realize it you are walking the long mile in the sinner's shoes if you have the sin problem in your heart.

### III. The Physicians

Miss Certain truly ran the gauntlet in her search for a cure to her ailment according to verse 26. She suffered MANY things at the hands of MANY physicians for MANY years and spent MANY dollars, but after all of this she was not one whit better, in fact she grew worse edging nearer the grave each day. Let us look at what she must have gone through.

After a period of time Miss Certain realized that her problem was not clearing up. One day she HEARD of an herb doctor so off she went to him and after he had tried all his herbal concoctions on her the only result was her purse was thinner and she was worse. Later she HEARD of a doctor of chiropractic and she made her way to him week after week for a lot of snap, crackle, and pop, but her problem did not stop. She finally went away poorer, both financially and physically. Next, she HEARD of a therapy doctor and she made an appointment. It wasn't long until he had her doing all sorts of exercises which were all designed to help eliminate her problem. After many long months of this her problem was worse than ever and her savings had shrunk considerably. A dietary doctor was who she HEARD of next. After many years of special diets and dietary supplements her health and her purse had withered away even more. Then she HEARD of a doctor that specialized in just such illnesses as she was experiencing. When she went to this doctor she had great hopes, after all he was a specialist. He tried everything he knew only to see her emaciated form limp away with no hope and no money left.

Mankind has been no less persistent in his search for a remedy to his problem than was Miss Certain. He has HEARD of and been to every religious doctor coming and going; tele-evangelists, radio preachers, bishops, Brahmans, and popes ad-infinity. He has HEARD of and tried yoga, transcendental meditation, and a host of other deadly-dangerous occult practices from the nether world. He has HEARD of and tried self-esteem, self-help, and the power of positive thinking. He has HEARD of and tried Calvinism, Catholicism, Pentecostalism, and all the other 'isms.' He has HEARD that he can buy his way out of his problem of sin and buy his entrance into heaven. Mankind has suffered many things at the hands of a host of religious, money hungry, deceiving, physicians of the devil, only to limp away, broken and despairing, and nothing better, but rather the worse.

The great tragedy of the ages is that people have been looking to all the wrong physicians and in all the wrong places for a cure for their sin problem because they have not HEARD of a CERTAIN man JESUS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN!

### IV. The Proclamation

Twelve long years of uncleanness have elapsed in the life of Miss Certain, and still she has not heard what she needs to hear most, but she has heard weather reports, news, stories, gossip, and lies. She has heard of doctors, cures, remedies, and treatments.

Finally one day, we are told in verse 27, someone tells her of Jesus. Who told Miss Certain about Jesus we are not told, but whoever the messenger was told her in such a convincing and persuasive manner immediately a glimmer of hope shone in her soul in such a way as she had never before experienced.

It is truly sad that Miss Certain had to WAIT for twelve years before she heard of Jesus. It is sadder yet that untold millions are being bombarded daily by the votaries of evil with the messages of hell and are still untold and are WAITING for the glad tidings of Jesus Christ to reach their ears and souls so that a glimmer of hope could arise in their valley of despair.

There's a call comes ringing o'er the restless wave, "Send the light! Send the light!" Oh, dear reader, it is high time that we lose our HO-HUM attitude and become GUNG-HO PROCLAIMERS of Jesus Christ. May we cry out with the song writer: "My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim, To spread through all the earth abroad The honours of thy name." May we become FLAMING EVANGELS going forth with a proclamation that is so real, clear, definite, and glorious that those who hear us will be convinced of the veracity of our proclamation of Jesus until a glimmer of hope would arise in their souls and they too would set out on their quest to find Christ as did Miss Certain!

## V. The Press

When Miss Certain had heard of Jesus she wasted no time and immediately set her face to find Him. The first thing she encountered in her search for Him was the press, or The Crowd That Follows Christ. Anytime someone goes forth to find Christ they will encounter this crowd and not everyone in this crowd will be overjoyed to see you pressing toward the Saviour. Who are those that make up this crowd?

The DEVIL will be there in the press ready to devour anyone making an honest attempt to touch Christ. I Peter 5:8 ...because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

KINDRED will be there in the press to try to bribe, convince, and restrain you in your most earnest efforts to get to Christ. Matthew 10:36 -- And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.

RAVENING WOLVES will be mixed into the crowd arrayed in the camouflage of the tender sheep ready to use their rueful guise in the most despicable manner of subverting those who are in an urgent quest to find Christ. Matthew 7:15 -- Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

A host of HYPOCRITES will surely make up a goodly portion of the crowd. How many times have you heard someone say, "I got my eyes on people?" Yes, one must keep his eyes off the hypocritical people and on Christ or he will quickly loose site of his goal touching Jesus!

And for sure one will find here and there an old-fashioned, second-blessing, sweet, radical, Bible-believing SAINT who will pray, assist, encourage, and help a seeker plow his way through to Christ! Thank God for the Saints!

## VI. The Persuasion

In verse 28 we read, "For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole." Miss Certain was persuaded in her heart, will, and mind to touch Christ. Her words were not empty, shallow, hollow, and devoid of meaning; but were freighted with resolve and determination characteristic of all true seekers with a desire to touch Jesus! Let us view her persuasion.

Her persuasion was so strong that first of all it caused her to COME verse 27. Secondly, it caused her to OVERCOME all obstacles verse 27. Thirdly, it caused her to TOUCH Jesus verse 27. Fourthly, it caused her to TESTIFY verse 28. Fifthly, it caused her to HAVE believing receiving faith verse 28.

Oh, dear reader, there is just something about the name of Jesus that will PERSUADE people to action, even in this day, if only we can get His name to them by an active faith, persevering prayer, holy living, unctionized peaching, and pointed witnessing!

## VII. The Phenomenon

And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. Mark 5:29. From this verse we see that when a person finds Jesus and exercises the touch of faith things happen in a most PHENOMENAL way. How could it be otherwise? Jesus is the all powerful creator of the universe! All power in Heaven and in earth is vested in Him! To touch him is to come in contact with the quantum force of all eternity!

First of all, her touching Jesus brought immediate results STRAIGHTWAY! Secondly, her touching Jesus brought an immediate witness SHE FELT! Thirdly, her touching Jesus brought immediate healing WAS HEALED!

From this grand PHENOMENA we can glean the wonderful truth that faith produces a clear reality in the heart, mind, soul, and body of what Jesus does when we touch Him. When Miss Certain touched Jesus by faith, she immediately felt the glorious fact of what had transpired within her. FAITH FEELING FACT. Yes, dear reader when you too touch Jesus you can have the same wonderful results! In Christ we find no respect of persons.

## VIII. The Power

Picking up the narrative again in verse 30 we read, "And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my

clothes?" The word virtue in the preceding verse is translated from the Greek word *dunamis* from which the English word for dynamite is derived. Jesus has Dynamite Power! Hallelujah! Jesus has this inherent power residing in Him by virtue of His position as the "...only begotten Son of God." John 3:16. Yes, a supernatural, divine, Dynamite Power flowed out from Jesus inundating Miss Certain with such an efficacious cleansing tide that all her uncleanness was purged from her very being in a moment of time!

Jesus does hold all power in His mighty hand divine! He not only has power to heal as He did Miss Certain, but He can just as readily save from sin, sanctify and make holy, satisfy the deepest longings, keep from falling, and give joy unspeakable and full of glory! Dear reader, if you have a life that is wrecked by the disease of sin, you have made shipwreck of your never dying soul, your life is in shattered pieces, let me remind you, Jesus can do a marvelous thing in your life if you but will reach out and touch Him! Jesus has the power!

#### IX. The Production

But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. Mark 5:33. When Miss Certain felt the overwhelming dynamite power of Jesus sweep through four things were produced in her.

A. Reverential fear What transpired within Miss Certain so awe struck her she was now beholding her benefactor with such amazement and wonderment that an overwhelming sense of deepest respect and reverence gripped her very being. Oh, how we need more reverential fear in these days.

B. Knowledge She didn't have a maybe so, hope so, or I wish so experience. On the contrary, she had received a KNOW SO experience. One can truly know they have come in contact with Jesus!

C. Worship She fell down before Him. Oh, let us all worship and adore Him for His works amongst the children of men!

D. Confession When she came in contact with Jesus she told Him the truth. When we come in contact with Him our whole heart opens up before Him as an open book. Nothing is hidden from the all seeing eye of divine omniscience.

#### X. The Pronouncement

The words of Jesus in verse 30 are these, "And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague."

Notice with us that this verse is the pronouncement of Jesus. This is what Jesus had to say about Miss Certain, not what she had to say, even though she could have. It is good for us to be able to confidently testify of our own personal experience, it is better yet when someone testifies of their confidence in our experience, and best of all when Jesus himself testifies for us.

Listen to what Jesus had to say to her. He calls her Daughter. She no longer is an unclean outcast, but now is adopted into the royal family and therefore receives the title of Daughter. Jesus next makes a declaration of her faith. She is no longer wandering in the land of unbelief, but has had faith to believe for her healing and is now ready to soar, by faith, higher still in the boundless and unsearchable riches of Christ. He next pronounces her whole of her plague. Oh, what a wonderful change Jesus wrought in Miss Certain! For twelve long years she had been searching for a cure, for twelve long years she has been listening for these words, all in vain until now. The GREAT PHYSICIAN had done what no other one could do! Hallelujah! He can do the same for the poor lost sinner!

## XI. The Peace

Again in verse 30 we read, "...go in peace..." Searching, searching, searching! Yes, people are searching for peace and a sweet rest from the war that is raging in the soul. Oh, how they need to hear a declaration of PEACE! The sad thing is that they are searching for peace in all the wrong places, as did Miss Certain until her search led her to Jesus. Men and women are turning to alcohol, drugs, sex, money, fashion, music, cults, and on and on ad infinitum; but still the dove of peace has not sweetly fluttered into their soul. The Bible says, "...but the way of transgressors is hard." - Proverbs 13:15. The life of the sinner is freighted with despair, despondency, deprivation, discouragement, and degradation. Truly, the landscape of the soul in the sinner is barren, parched, and torn by the ravages of sin and Satan.

Dear friend, turn to Jesus and see what you will find! Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. -Philemon verse 3. Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour. -Titus 1:4. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. -II Thessalonians 3:16. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts... -Colossians 3:15. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. -Psalm 119:165.

In the song 'Sweetly Resting' we find these words: Peace which passeth understanding, Joy the world can never give, Now in Jesus I am finding; In His smiles of love I live.

## XII. The Plague

...BE WHOLE OF THY PLAGUE verse 34. The awful burden Miss Certain had carried is now GONE. She could now say, "Tis done, tis done, the great transactions done." Freedom from the awful stench of uncleanness is no longer a dream, but is now a reality.

Dear reader, the awful uncleanness of sin in your soul can be done away with by coming in contact with JESUS! The burden you now carry can be lifted. Your awful load of remorse, guilt, and condemnation can be swept away by a touch of the Master's hand. In their place you will find peace, joy, rest, and a clear realization that sin is gone! You can KNOW in your own heart that you have eternal life and you can feel the fact because faith has made the connecting link with Jesus.



Well, I will tell you, dear reader, "The best thing you ever can do is to take of the old robe of sin's uncleanness and put on the new robe of righteousness." MAKE THE CHANGE TOUCH JESUS!

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## Article 2 WORLDLINESS

### Introduction

Jesus said in John 17:14 - ...they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Here Jesus is referring to, ...those whom thou [God] hast given me,...John 17:11. God has given to Jesus through the full-salvation experience a select group of people who no longer retain the citizenship of this world, but are citizens of another world, that is the heavenly. Their names ...are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:27. They have a far-away look in their eyes. This old world is no longer their home, they are just passing through. They are pilgrims and strangers seeking ...a city...whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10.

To be children of God is to be truly different from the world. We do not fit. We are non-conformist. We are out of step. A true transformation has taken place resulting in a people that are alienated from this old world. The children of God are not arrogant about this blessed transformation, but thank God that their citizenship has been transferred from the world to the heavenly.

When a person or group exhibits characteristics of the world we call it worldliness. If worldliness is exhibited, one would deduce that the reason for the exhibition is that the exhibitor is worldly or of the world, and not of the heavenly. The child of God does not exhibit worldliness, but the characteristics of heaven where his citizenship is. To be worldly is to not be Christian. To be worldly is a sure sign of a deeper problem in the soul. Since worldliness is a death-knell to the soul and the church it merits our further discussion.

### Worldliness Defined

Foy Bullock said, "...very few churches understand or bother to define worldliness." Just to mention worldliness in most churches today is taboo, not to mention defining it in clear and definite terms. One dictionary defines a worldling as one who is absorbed by worldly pursuits and pleasures. This is about as far as most preachers will go in this day as far as definitions are concerned, but we must go further than the dictionary definition. We must also define what worldly pursuits and pleasures are according to the divine definitions found in the scriptures.

Worldliness is anything that is in conformity with the world rather than in conformity with the heavenly lifestyle as portrayed in the scriptures. Romans 12:2 reads, "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." What this verse simply means is: do not be poured

into the mold of the world, thus taking on the likeness of the world, but be molded in the heavenly image thereby being the antithesis of worldliness.

A complete defining of all the aspects of worldliness is impossible, but let us touch on just a few areas where worldliness is very apparent today: amusements, conversation, dress, immorality, materialism, sports, etc.

### Worldliness and the Church

"Anything that affects the world any length of time will soon affect the church -- whether it be materialism, worldliness, sports, divorce, music, immorality, or any force which gains the affections of the masses." Foy Bullock. How true this statement is! Worldliness has definitely gotten hold of the church with a bulldog grip and has strangled the very life out of her. There was a time when the church and the world walked far apart on the stormy seas of time. Not so, any longer. The world has come courting and the church has committed spiritual adultery with her hellish Casanova.

Worldliness is so rampant in the church that there are no longer any clear lines of separation. The church has become just as vile, black, and filthy as the world. The church and the world look alike, talk alike, think alike, and indulge alike because they are alike. Today the world is the church and the church is the world. Listen to what Jeremiah says, "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. Yes, the church has gone backwards by going the way of the world; and she, like the world, has everything backwards. Below is how both feel and think:

Light is Darkness and Darkness is Light  
Virtue is a Vice and Vice is a Virtue  
Good is Evil and Evil is Good  
Righteousness is Sin and Sin is Righteousness  
Christ is Belial and Belial is Christ  
White is Black and Black is White  
Purity is Filthiness and Filthiness is Purity  
Right is Wrong and Wrong is Right  
Straight is Crooked and Crooked is Straight  
Truth is a Lie and a Lie is the Truth

Many churches and church-going people of our day are pro-homosexual, pro-abortion, pro-euthanasia, pro-divorce and re-marriage, pro-evolution, pro-movies, pro-sports, and pro-Sabbath desecration. Isaiah 1:4,5,6 gives a very descriptive picture of a church corrupted by worldliness -- Ah sinful nation,[sinful worldly church] a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores:...

What did A. M. Hills say about a worldly church? "The love of the world is the characteristic weakness of the Church of our time. The bulk of its membership is in torpid conformity with the world. It is swayed by the world's ambitions; delighted by the world's pleasures, intoxicated by the world's applause, ruled by world's customs, fashions and laws. They measure themselves by the world's standards, and try to slake the thirst of their soul at the world's fountains of pleasures. God knows it! Angels know it! Devils know it! Unregenerated men know it! And unanimously vote that such mawkish piety is only a detestable cant and hypocrisy."

## Worldliness and Holiness

Holiness and worldliness can not peacefully co-exist. Holiness will despise, shun, and oppose worldliness in every form because it wrecks of the sulphur of hell and is alien to and in opposition with heaven's world with all its fragrant delights. Holiness, by its very nature, is antagonistic to the carnal worldling. The carnal worldling, whether in or out of the church, is ill at ease in the presence of the Christ-like nature of holiness. Since holiness does not mix and mingle with, nor travel on the broad way of worldliness, but on the narrow way, it produces animosity in the worldling's heart often-times. Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. John 3:13.

The modern conservative holiness movement to a large extent has fallen into the web of worldliness and is helplessly and hopelessly entangled. She no longer resists worldliness with the unwavering resolve of the resolute holiness warriors of the past. Worldliness is evident in her Bible colleges, camp meetings, conventions, and churches. If one dares point this out he or she is labeled as mean spirited, a trouble maker, a dissembler of the brethren, or worse. When true holiness goes; worldliness fills the void.

We feel that the holiness movement has arrived at a point in time that worldliness is no longer wicked, shameful, and nauseous; but is attractive and desirable. Holiness pulpits have become silent on the subject of worldliness. Holiness writers very adroitly dance around the issue when pen is put to paper. Missionaries won't broach the subject when doing deputation work lest their finances drop to a mere trickle. Shame, shame that so many of the holiness persuasion are men fearing cowards with a backbone that is similar to a wet noodle. Foy Bullock says, "For a man of the cloth to feel comfortable among compromise and worldliness, is a sure indication of his failure as a true prophet. It is an indication also that the nature of God does not inhabit his heart."

## Worldliness and Its Cure

We need a people that will watch and pray and guard with jealous care her holiness heritage. T. M. Anderson said, "The church cannot cope with the menacing threat of worldliness except the company of believers pray for power to meet the insidious threat." We cannot lay our head in the lap of Delilah (a type of the world) and expect anything but worldiness to flood the church. We must avoid her and all her favorite haunts continually: Disney World, fairs, carnivals, car races, sports arenas, Promise Keepers, etc.

We need a people who will do the following: If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. II Chronicles 7:14.

We need a people who are radically different from the status quo. A people that is radical in everything and neutral in nothing! E. M. Bounds says it succinctly, "The only protection and rescue from worldliness lies in our intense and radical spirituality;..."

We need powerful God-fearing, soul-loving, sin-hating prophets who will not condone the horrendous, worldly lifestyles of the professing church! Missionary John Knight says, "The true prophet of God is one who dares shake to pieces our well constructed life styles and thought patterns, which are built upon the foundations of lukewarm spirituality, made with the bricks of inventive, though diverted, reasoning, and held together by the mud mortar of self justification and habit." And H. A. Baldwin says, "Oh, for sons of thunder who will fearlessly storm the gates of sin and worldliness, and not weakly yield and slobber their apologies when they are opposed and mistreated!"

## Conclusion

This old world is no friend of grace and the person who is the friend and practitioner of worldliness has no grace. To be worldly indicates you serve the god of this world.

One brother who is now in glory used to testify, "I lost the world and the world lost me when Jesus saved me." Fanny Crosby in her great hymn, Give Me Jesus, says, "Take this world, but give me Jesus. All its joys are but a name." Dear reader, are the two above statements your personal testimony? If not, let go of worliness and take hold of the heavenly!

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## Article 3

### COUNTDOWN TO '2000'

#### Introduction

Ready or not here we go! Yes, in just a few short months we will plunge into a new millenium! I feel that many fail to recognize the gravity of what lies just ahead when the year '2000' arrives. Many seem oblivious to our position in time just now. We are in the last year of the last decade of the last century of this millenium. A thousand-year period has just about run its course, and six billion people are standing on the threshold of the next thousand-year period.

I remember in the decade of the '70's I was anticipating the rapture, and never dreamed I would see the decade of the '80's'; but the rapture did not take place, and the decade of the '80's' came and went with no rapture. The decade of the '90's' arrived to my amazement, and I never dreamed that there would be even a remote possibility that I would be around to see the year '2000'; but it looks as if I could well cross the threshold into the next millenium. Jesus could yet come before '2000' But of that day or the hour knoweth no man... Matthew 24:36.

As we approach the next millenium we should ponder seriously the present condition of the world and the church and how the people of God should view and respond to the coming millenium because, ready or not, here we go!

## The State Of The World

As the world rushes headlong to '2000', she is oblivious to her real condition and her final outcome. She has so busied herself with her fantasy of a resurrected Babylon that she little realizes she is standing on the very edge of the fateful abyss.

The world of our day is sports wild, sex crazy, and money mad. She has mounds of money and oodles of time to indulge her most perverted desires to the fullest. She is eating, drinking, dancing, and doping her way to the end of this millenium in a frenetic fashion as she endeavors to slake her inordinate desires with that which does not satisfy.

How is it that the world has arrived at this perilous point in time in such a fearful state?

She has relegated God to the status of non-existent. God is no more because of the evolutionary principle . With evolution the world sees no necessity for a creative force such as God; therefore, in her eyes there is no God. The world has formulated this farcical theory for the express purpose of avoiding her responsibility to God. Now that the world has done away with God, she has done away with His rules, has become a law unto herself, and is doing that which is right in her own eyes.

Look at the results of a society that declares there is no God . We have a society that is bereft of sanctity and sanity. A society that declares there is no right or wrong . The scriptures are now null and void. Mankind is in a malaise and doesn't know which direction to travel, so he blindly stumbles on in a God-rejecting darkness.

The world has let the educational institutions, the news media, the entertainment industry, and liberalistic proponents void her mind, take the sanctity out of human life and the virtue out of morality; and skew the difference between right and wrong; all the while having her mind filled with that which is deprecating, despicable, and destitute of common decency.

Humans are spiritual beings and unless God dwells within them there is a void that must be filled with something. The devil rushes in to fill this void with occultism, new-age philosophy, humanistic reasoning, and perversions of the sacred and holy.

Since the world is in such a pathetic situation, she is caught up in multi-culturalism, unity-in- diversity, affirmative action, political correctness, and other like experiments that only assist her in her plunge into an inextricable quagmire.

The world is presently bogged down in a host of overwhelming problems because she has rejected the overwhelming God. God is able to surmount the insurmountable problems that the world has gotten herself into, but the world continues to reject Him and His scriptural solutions. As '2000' approaches the world faces the Y2K problem, political turmoil, a burgeoning sexually

transmitted disease problem, continuing economic upheaval, and the great unknown that awaits her at the turn of the millenium. Yet, she continues her headlong rush with virtually no thought given to turning to God for help!

The world is planning the greatest New Year's parties of all time at the turn of the millenium, but in the back of her mind there is a growing uneasiness and a gnawing worry about what lies ahead. She asks herself the question, "How will I cope and what will be the result when the clock strikes midnight in the pinnacle year '2000'?" She answers, "I will do just fine because I am in control of my destiny and I have no God to reckon with. I will chart my own course and set my own sails."

### The State Of The Church

As the church rushes headlong to '2000' she is increased with goods and in need of nothing, is at ease in Zion, is lukewarm, and is slumbering and sleeping with little desire to arouse herself from her lethargy, to whet her sword, and to rise to the challenge that this critical hour affords!

The church of this day is a pleasure-seeking, crowd-pleasing, and entertainment-crazed Samson shorn of the seven locks of holiness with no salt and light to offer a sin-sick and sin-darkened world. The church is caught up in partying, playing, and professing as a full fledged endeavor is under way to conform to the world's ways in order to assimilate the world right into her apostate program.

How is it that the church has arrived at such a deplorable state in this most critical hour?

The church has placed God in her museum of antiquities. She says, "We really don't need Him anymore. After all, He doesn't really fit into our program and we can get along quite well without Him. We have our new versions of the Bible, our seminary graduates, our D.D.s', our money, and our programs. All these will do just fine."

The church has been infiltrated, infected, and infatuated by the world and its consorts of Ahab and Jezebel character. She discredits God's Holy Word, disavows her separation from the world as something that turns the world off, disassociates herself from those that would dare to thunder forth the divine decrees of God's Holy Word, and dutifully walks in lock step with the world in direct contradiction to God's Word which says, "Come out from among the world..."

It matters not whether we are an unabashed worldling or church loyalist; if we have not God we have a spiritual void which the devil will see filled with the same hellish, new-world philosophy as the worldling. The only difference is that it will be cloaked in a religious garb.

Anyone who has any degree of honesty and insight must agree that the church is only a decorous shell of her former self. She busies herself with all sorts of social programs such as soup kitchens, ball teams, young singles, lock-ins, and many feel-good programs all flavored with large doses of liberalism, compromise, apostasy, and ecumenism. She endeavors to impact society, but not the soul. She tries to lift society from the irreligious to the religious, but she never lifts the soul to the sublime heights of salvation from sin, Satan, and the world! She tries to effect a

transformation without the necessary transaction. The church has forgotten that she is first and foremost a spiritual institution, not a social provider for the pleasing of the carnal flesh.

The church is bogged down in this hour because she has no faith, fire, freedom, or fervency to go forth as an unstoppable juggernaut of God's redeeming grace! She is guilty of dereliction of duty, the demise of sound doctrine, and the degeneracy of her institutions. She is ashamed to blow the trumpet in Zion and prescribe a sure cure for man's dire need in this dire hour just before the year '2000.' Instead of preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified, she is busy passing out little social first- aid kits to patch up societies ills rather than cure society of sin.

Church, it is high time to awake out of sleep and proclaim a solemn fast, pray, repent, and return to God! The hour is late, the day is exceedingly evil! Will the church do it, or will she plan big New Year's parties just like the world and march into the year '2000' just as unprepared as she is now? Will she march on in her own sin, in need of a cure just as surely as the world needs a cure?

## Conclusion

The world and the church are both in a sad state because they are one and the same! The world is the church and the church is the world. They have subtly merged together and have become a hideous monstrosity trying to extricate society from the fearful things that are coming on the face of the earth; all-the-while rejecting their only real source of help.

On the eve of '2000' the world is riding high in her sins and the church is sinking low in her apostasy! I am realist enough to believe that the world and the church as a whole are locked in a deadly embrace and are beyond hope. The Word of God says, "Evil men shall wax worse and worse deceiving and being deceived."

While I feel that there is no hope for the world and the church, I do feel that there are those who have kept their wedding garments unsullied by the slime of this old world and have remained pure in an impure church age. I feel we need to put forth our most urgent and best efforts in this late hour to keep ourselves pleasing in His sight and salvage never-dying souls from sin's degradation! Let us rise and trim our lamps! Let us be sure we have the oil of the blessed Holy Ghost in our vessels because the countdown is on 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, \_\_. **READY OR NOT HERE WE GO! THE YEAR '2000' IS DEAD AHEAD!**

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## Article 4

### WERE THE DISCIPLES BORN AGAIN BEFORE PENTECOST

#### Introduction

There is a teaching that ever so often surfaces in the holiness movement that is totally absurd. This teaching is that the disciples were not born again until Pentecost. The teaching is unreal, unreasonable, unscriptural, and does not have any real foundational material to use as a

basis for itself. The Bible definitely does not teach anything near this. It is hard to imagine how and why someone would endeavor to teach such and erroneous doctrine, yet it has been and no doubt will be taught again. Satan will see to it that this teaching will continue to be propagated here and there and now and then to confuse holiness folk, especially young converts. It is definitely an attempt by him to defeat clear teaching concerning the beloved doctrine of heart holiness. If there is anything the enemy hates, it is clear cut teaching, preaching, and obtaining of a scriptural experience of heart holiness. If this false teaching will work to confuse, undermine, and hinder; then so be it as far as the devil is concerned.

Fortunately this false teaching has done little damage to the holiness movement on the several occasions that it has had a minimal ascendancy in the certain circles of its advocacy. We must ever be vigilant in combating this teaching lest it gain more than a minimal advocacy group and mushroom into a full-blown movement that could wreak maximum havoc within the greater holiness movement.

The basic purpose of this article is to show the total absence of any scriptural truth to support such teaching, and by so doing, prove that the disciples had a very real experience of the new birth well before the day of Pentecost ever arrived.

## I. God's Ability To Give A Perfect Heart To Old Testament Men

God, in Old Testament times, was interested that men had a real vital relationship with Him, and He wrought in the hearts of men even in those days before Christ had ever been crucified; and before the day of Pentecost had ever come, the work of sanctification. There are several examples of this marvelous work being wrought. Some are as follows:

A. Abraham "And when Abraham was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect." Gen. 17:1

B. Job "There was a man in the land Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright and one that feared God and eschewed evil." Job 1:1

C. Isaiah "And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips: and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged." Isaiah 6:7

God Almighty who was able to do such mighty cleansing in the hearts of men in the Old testament days, was well able to save the disciples under the powerful authoritative ministry of the blessed Son of God, Jesus Christ!

## II. The Disciples Were Definitely Saved Before Pentecost

We can definitely say the disciples were saved before Pentecost because of the many scriptural proofs we have concerning them. We can definitely rest upon the scriptures for they are God's infallible, inspired words. In the following sections we will show scriptural proof of the disciples born again experience.



A. The disciples were called:

1. "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him." Matthew 4:18-22

2. Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." Matthew 10:16

In these scriptures we see that these men followed Jesus. A person that does not take Christ as savior will not follow him.

B. The disciples were chosen:

1. Jesus spent a whole night in prayer before choosing his disciples.

"And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God." Luke 6:12

2. He wanted the will of God to be performed in the selection of the disciples. Not just anyone, particularly not sinners, could be used to spread the gospel.

"And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles; Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew, Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes, And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor." Luke 6:13-16

C. The disciples were commissioned:

Jesus commissioned men that were saved. One does not commission a sinner to get up in the pulpit and preach the gospel. He commissioned those that had been called and chosen. Jesus told his disciples where to go. "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 10:6

D. The disciples were instructed:

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy,

let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city." Matthew 10:7-15

Jesus would not instruct sinners to do such marvelous things as these, for they could not. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3

One cannot even see the kingdom of God much less preach about it and be a part of it unless he is born again.

E. The disciples were members of the kingdom of God:

"And he lifted up his eyes on the disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God." Luke 6:20

One cannot enter the kingdom of God unless he goes the scriptural route. If he does he is a thief and a robber. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." John 10:1

F. The disciples' names were written in heaven.

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:20

This is one of the best truths that they were born again. One definitely does not have his name written in heaven if he does not have a born again experience.

G. The disciples kept God's word.

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word." John 17:6

"But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby we know that we are in him." I John 2:5

Sinners do not keep God's word because they do not love Him. The disciples loved Jesus and therefore kept his word.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14

Conclusion

In concluding this article I would like to make one statement, and pose one question, and comment on both.

A. The statement:

If the disciples were saved at Pentecost, they were not saved before it. To this I would say that the very word "disciple" means follower of Christ; so the very name says they were born again before Pentecost for they were called disciples before Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost they were all in one accord and the Holy Spirit descended upon them. The baptism of the Holy Ghost is for born again persons, not sinners. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." II Corinthians 7:1

B. The question:

If they were saved at Pentecost, when were they sanctified? This is an unanswerable question to show that they were born again before Pentecost. There is no scriptural proof that they were born again at Pentecost, and no proof to show they were ever sanctified afterward. We conclude therefore that the disciples were saved before Pentecost and sanctified at Pentecost.

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Article 5  
TO THOSE WHO CARE

Introduction

There is a great lukewarmness today in regards to the things of God. A Ho-Hum instead of a Gung-Ho attitude pervades the very atmosphere in which, we the conservative holiness folk, revolve. There is little thrill and excitement connected with the church and the work of the Lord. Most folk now view church as a mere social institution geared to the pampering of the parishioner's entertainment, physical, and social needs. Our camp meetings aren't much more than big family reunions.

In spite of the above, there are still those who desire the deep things of God with a real yearning and will not shut up, sit down, and do nothing. They will never be satisfied with anything less than total abandonment to Him and His service. They are consumed with an insatiable appetite for God and all that which pertains unto Him.

Much needs to be done for the Lord! Look out on the vast fields of humanity and see precious souls who will soon be lost due to a lack of enraptured laborers. We as the professed people of God need to somehow become red-hot proponents of the things of God. It is high time, yea, past time for us to rise up and be about our Father's business! Can we expect to have an abundant entrance into heaven if we give anything less than our best, whole-hearted efforts to see souls saved, sanctified, and fitted for eternity? May the great God of heaven ignite us with a new touch of fire until we once again become a real, blazing, sin-killing light in a sin darkened world.

Many folk seem to be bewildered and at a loss as to what can be done to effect real change.

First, there needs to be real repentance and a return unto the Lord. Secondly, there needs to be a purging of the dross of carnality within. Thirdly, there needs to be a renewed loyalty to the things of God. Fourthly, there needs to be a renewal of vision and a renewal of unity among the brethren. Fifthly, there needs to be an all-out assault on Satan's strongholds and an honest quest for the old- paths.

One might ask, "What can we do after the above has truly occurred?" In the remainder of this article I want to cover many tried and proven methods that will help us maintain the fire in our own souls, see others won into the kingdom, and see the church advance in her conquest for God. With this in mind, my address is to Those Who Care enough and really desire to see God once again make the holiness movement the effective force it once was. May God somehow hasten the day!

#### Devotional Life

There needs to be a renewed effort in our private and family devotions. Individually we need to steal away to the secret closet with renewed fervency to God. We need to see a greater carefulness and consistency to maintain a spiritual family devotional time. Scripture memorization, singing, testimony, discussion, confessions, apologies, and prayer should all be a part of a spiritual family devotional time.

#### Study

Our people need to study God's Word and genuine holiness materials. Every home needs a good library of quality resource material which is used for regular study and reference. We need to be well prepared to be useful workers in God's cause when we confront the world and religious adherents with all of their sinful practices and false doctrine.

Every home needs a Bible for each family member. There needs to be at least one good study Bible. A concordance, dictionary, and as many books by holiness authors as can be acquired. An easy way to do this is by way of a computer and the Voice of the Nazarene Digital Holiness Library CD which contains hundreds of books which can be used for all sorts of purposes which we will discuss later.

#### Schools

Whether it be home schools, day schools, or Bible Schools, the holiness movement desperately needs old fashioned schools that are free of the modern trends of fads and fashions-- schools that stick to the true teaching of heart holiness; schools that desire spirituality first and academics second; schools free from the taint of secular humanism, evolutionism, and ecumenism; schools that train young people for God's service at home and abroad.

## Church

The church is first and foremost a spiritual institution pointing men to Christ. It is not a social institution replete with fellowship halls, playgrounds, and Olympic size swimming pools. Church should be a place where prayer, praise, and preaching all find their proper place. It should be a place where men worship God and experience the Shekinah glory. It should be a place where there is holy excitement and the people come with the fire burning on the altars of their souls. It should be a place where the people push, pull, pray, and pay. It should be a place that is a shelter in the time of storm, where love and unity are abounding, and a blessed retreat for the weary pilgrim. It should be a soul saving station and a place where a revival atmosphere abounds. There should be communion services, baptismal services, special prayer meetings, revival meetings, missionary meetings, and a real emphasis on HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD!

## Outreach

Never has the holiness movement needed a revival more than it does now in the area of outreach. The movement as a whole has little desire to get out there and reach souls for Christ, but here are some suggestions for Those Who Care enough to get out there and do something.

Tract distribution: leave them in stores, shopping malls, businesses, hotels, restrooms, truck stops, phone booths, airports, hospitals, rest homes, parks, and playgrounds. Insert them in letters and payment envelopes. Have a tract rack at your church and other places. And, of course, give them to individuals you come in contact with.

Street meetings and tent meetings: parking lots, street corners, public parks, or wherever God will open it up.

Witnessing: Neighbors, doctors, businessmen, relatives, nurses, shut-ins, and co-workers need to hear. Witness to all races, creeds, colors, and religions. One can witness in the malls, stores, flea markets, on-the-job, auctions, and at universities and colleges. (In the U. S. there are over 2,000 colleges and universities with an enrollment of nearly 6,000,000. What a rich opportunity for outreach amongst the precious young people of this land. If anyone would be interested in a list of colleges and universities with locations in your state feel free to contact the writer of this article. Our address is listed in this paper.)

Cottage prayer meetings, nursing home services, jail services, prison services, Bible studies, vacation Bible schools, radio ministry, youth ministries, Christmas caroling, door-to door visitation, are all good outreach ministries; and on and on the list could go.

I will probably be criticized for this, but go to preach, witness, and distribute literature wherever there is a large gathering of people. OUTSIDE THE GATES at sports events, fair grounds, beer joints, abortion clinics, parades, and the list could go on. Let us face it, holiness folk have lost the vision, are so nasty nice, so tame, are so pure and holy, they just can't conceive of going to where the sinner is to reach down to lift him up. They might soil their pure white hands, smell cigarette smoke, see a woman in pants, or worse yet, they might be confronted by the police and put in jail, GOD FORBID! Remember, Jesus was a friend of sinners, not a participant in sin,

and he was criticized and falsely accused by the religious, pharisaical, holier- than-thou, dead-heads of His day; but he went right on seeking the lost. Can we do anything less?

## Publishing

With the advent of new technologies the opportunities to publish the gospel and related materials has never been easier. Let us get the message out by the printed page, audio CD'S, audio cassettes, electronic media, and digital media. The Voice of the Nazarene digital library contains hundreds of holiness books and articles that can easily be used to publish tracts, sermons, Sunday School literature, and so forth. Let us girdle the globe with good, solid, holiness truth.

## Camp Meetings

A great part of the holiness movements heritage has been the camp meeting. Since their beginnings around 1800 they have been a fountain head of strength and power for the people of God. They have been a place where fires are rekindled, the truth is reiterated, and souls climb higher into the wonderful experience of full salvation. Many of our camps today are dying out, losing the glory, letting down the standard, compromising the truth, and caving in to the desires of the attendees rather than standing adamantly for the real needful truths of the hour. Let us get back to the days in our camps when prayers would echo all through the night, the truth would be preached without fear or favor, precious souls would weep their way through to victory, and folk would go back to their churches with a new touch of fire.

## Missions

Great is the need at home and abroad for laborers in the harvest field. If one feels the call to go, arise and go forth. The hour is late. Today is the day of salvation. The World Is The Field - GO! The Word Is The Seed - SOW!

## Conclusion

To Those Who Care, I say, "HALLELUJAH! LET US RISE TO THE CHALLENGE!"

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## Article 6

### WALKING IN THE LIGHT

## Introduction

Psalm 36:9 -- ...in thy light shall we see light... One can deduce from this verse of scripture, that in order to see light one must be in the (His) light. A deduction in this instance is an inference in which the conclusion follows necessarily from the premise. In other words if a person is not seeing light it is self-evident that the person lacks a proper relationship with the One that is light. The same type of deduction can be arrived at in regards to John 10:4-5 -- And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his

voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. If someone is following the voice of strangers it is self-evident that the individual does not have a proper relationship with the shepherd. God can't lead an individual unless he will follow. And so it is, God can't give light unless one is in the light and willing to walk in it. Outside of Him we do not see light.

## God Is Light

I John 1:15 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. God is Spirit in His essential nature, He is Love in His redemptive work of salvation, and He is Light in His self-revelation to man. God is Light; therefore, we walk in His Light. There is absolutely no darkness in Him, so it is self-evident that one cannot encounter darkness while following God, on the contrary, one will encounter only light. In John 1:1-9 we read the following In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. In these verses of scripture we see that Jesus (the Word) is one in the same with God, and in verse nine we see that He is the true Light. Not only is God (Jesus) the Light, but He is the True Light. There is absolutely no falsehood residing in the nature of God. Furthermore, in John 8:12 we read Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. In this verse Jesus very clearly tells us that He is the Light of the world; to follow Him is to not walk in darkness, but rather to have the light of life.

## What Is This Light?

When referring to God as Light in I John 1:15 it means to make manifest or to illumine. God is Light and His desire is to make manifest unto us His will and His ways. He is not desirous that we continue in a state of darkness regarding the things of God. His Light will dispel the darkness of sin and Satan. His Light will enable us to discern the right and the wrong, His will and His ways, His Voice and hireling voices, and the Holy and unclean.

## God Will Lead In Paths Of Light

Looking in Proverbs we find in chapter 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. And in Proverbs 4:18 we read But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. If one will trust in the Lord he shall have directed paths and those paths will be as the shining light. Hallelujah! In the words of the song, 'Stepping in the Light' we read, "How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Saviour, Stepping in the light, Stepping in the light! How beautiful to walk in the steps of the Saviour, Led in paths of light!" Oh, how wonderful it is to let God lead us in His shining paths of light! There is absolutely nothing that compares!

There is no need for us to chart our own course, set our own sails, and place confidence in the flesh when we can sweetly rest in light that will never lead us into darkness and destruction.

As was stated in the introduction, one must be willing to follow the Light. There is only one way for an individual to be 100 percent willing to walk in all the light and that is to be sanctified holy. The old carnal nature must be completely destroyed from one's very being because carnality is an enmity against 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. Carnality will kick against the light, for it is God's method of revealing his law to the heart of man. Carnality does not like the light of God because the light plays in the dark recesses of the carnal heart revealing all the corruption within (cockroaches, spiders, bats, moles, snakes) Carnality is an enemy of the light; therefore, one must have the old man, Romans 6:6, (carnality) crucified in order to walk in all the light God shines in his pathway.

Are We Asking For God's Light?

Jeremiah 6:16-17 -- Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. To ask for the old paths is to be asking for God's Light. For God is Light and God's Light will be found in the old paths, for they are shining paths of light.

The true child of God has an insatiable appetite for the things of God which, of course, are manifested to us by the illuminating brilliance of His light. God has a table full of light for us to partake of. If we genuinely hunger and thirst after Him we are asking for more and more of the light and the last thing we desire to do is to reject the light. We shudder to think of being classified with those who said in Jeremiah, "We will not hearken."

Some People Have Barriers To The Light

Some people have prejudices that stand in their way of fully stepping in the light. A prejudice is a judgment or opinion held in disregard of facts that contradict it. Some people have preconceived ideas. For some individuals a terrible rebellion resides within. I Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft... Rebellion is simply disobedience and to disobey is to rebel against the light of God. Nothing is more despicable than to rebel against God. It places one on the level of a witch and what was the ultimatum for a witch in the Old Testament? Exodus 22:18 Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. Dear reader, if rebellion resides in your heart against the light of God it will bring you to a calamitous end just as surely as witchcraft brought an end to its practitioner. Many have an evil heart of unbelief. To have an evil heart of unbelief is an affront to a loving God who has deigned to manifest himself unto us through the vicarious death of His S (Jesus Christ). John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. In the church world you will find many people who have hardened their hearts to the light. Some have stared at the light of God so long until they have become of a calloused heart, and are stone blind. Hebrews 4:7 To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. The same sun that will melt butter will also



harden clay. God's light can melt, but can also harden. Be careful as to how you respond to God's light.

Often times we hear people say, "I just can't see that" or "That's not the way I see it." Could the reason we hear so many of this type of response to the light be that so many have some of the above named problems in their hearts toward the light? Or could it be that many have become blinded by the god of this world, The Prince of Darkness, Satan himself! II Corinthians 4:4 -- In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. At one time the devil was a bearer of light, but now he is directly opposite and is an angel of darkness. He has blinded men by his incomprehensible darkness until God's light (Jesus Christ) cannot shine unto them. Satan is himself blinded, thus he is the blind leader of the blind. Matthew 15:14 And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch. If Satan continues his blind leading of a person he and the follower will both end up in the ditch (HELL)!

## Conclusion

Are we walking in the Light or are we yet in Darkness? There is no middle ground. We are either walking in the Light of God or in Satan's Darkness. Our soul's eternal destinies hinge on the Light or the Darkness. To follow the LIGHT now will result in glorious LIGHT in eternity. Revelation 21:23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. To follow DARKNESS now will result in ghastly DARKNESS in eternity. Matthew 8:12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. The choice is ours! Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods (DARKNESS) 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 (LIGHT).

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## Article 7

### THE INTERNET

The Liberal Left -- Moderate Middle -- Radical Right -- The End Result

## Introduction

The Internet is one of the hottest topics of the day drawing the attention of every sector of society including every sector of what is known as the Conservative Holiness Movement. There are genuine concerns in the movement in regards to what the Internet is, how it works, its contents, benefits, and dangers. Questions are being raised by the movement as to just what is the appropriate position to take regarding it. Is it a blessing or a curse? Should it be condoned, tolerated, or condemned?

Positions are being taken in the movement and, sooner or later, to be positioned is inevitable, for you see, there is no real neutral ground. One might wish he could hide his head in

the sand and the Internet would cease to be, but let us face it, the Internet is here and will play an ever increasing role in society. What then should be the response of the Conservative Holiness Movement toward Internet usage? To answer this question is not the purpose of this article. Its purpose will be seen in the next paragraph.

This article will be divided into three different parts as is the title. In the first part a fair, non- sensational, informational overview of the Internet will be given. The second part will be a forthright discussion of the pitfalls of the three different holiness movement positions regarding Internet usage. Thirdly, there will be a setting forth of some tragic end results of the Internet debate in the Conservative Holiness Movement.

## I. The Internet

Historically the Internet is not new. It was initially developed in 1973 by American computer scientist Vinton Cerf as part of a project sponsored by the United States Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency directed by American engineer Robert Kahn. The Internet began as a computer network that linked computer networks at several universities and research laboratories in the United States. What is known as the World Wide Web was developed in 1989 by English computer scientist Timothy Berners-Lee for the European Organization for Nuclear Research. In 1996 more than 25 million computers in over 180 countries were interconnected and it is predicted that by the year 2002, 50 million homes will be connected to the Internet in the United States alone.

What is the Internet? It is an interconnection of computer networks that enables connected machines to communicate directly. Today the term refers to a global interconnection of government, education, and business computer networks which is available to schools, libraries, businesses, and homes for the purpose of providing informational, educational, business, and entertainment opportunities.

The Internet works by connecting local networks through special computers known as gateways. Gateway connections are made through various communication paths, including telephone lines, fiber optics, and radio/satellite links. Information to be delivered from one computer is tagged with a computerized address which is used to direct the information from gateway to gateway until it reaches the designated computer.

Internet services allow one to access information on remote computers for the purposes of transferring files, reading text, hearing sound, viewing pictures and video, and exploration of what has come to be called the Information Superhighway or the World Wide Web. The World Wide Web is a collection of files, called web sites or web pages, that include textual, graphic, sound and video information, as well as links to other sites.

Web sites number into the millions and are greatly varied in content, purpose, and function. One can access information on virtually any subject, transact business, purchase products, check on current events and weather, communicate, and seek various forms of entertainment.

By using the Internet one can purchase everything from dolls to cars. One can even shop at Wal-Mart without the normal drive to town. By the year 2003 it is estimated that 100 billion dollars of product purchasing via Internet will be transacted in the United States. Research can be done at thousands of university sites around the world. Access can be gained to medical, scientific, religious, and personal sites. One can read the ancient manuscripts of the past, the writings of John Wesley, and the latest writings of today. Real estate searches, banking, and stock transactions can be done. Between 35 and 40 million Americans now work full or part time at home and much of their work is conducted via Internet, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of non-home businesses that utilize the Internet every day. One can travel around the world with the click of a mouse and the tap of a few keys in a few seconds of time. One can even visit the doctor via the Internet. A more functional and valuable asset to mankind has yet to be invented!

On the other hand, one can purchase and view pornography in the vilest of forms, such as homosexuality and bestiality. One can visit chat rooms where he or she can participate in conversational sex, or visit a virtual reality site to participate in virtual sex. There are approximately 1.5 million sites that are pornographic in nature and at one point in time there were 300 new porn sites being added per day. It is estimated that 4 to 5 million Americans access pornographic sites daily. Children, as well as men and women, are being lured into, caught up in, and addicted to this new medium of sexually explicit material. There are sites on the Internet for gambling, making bombs, and the spewing forth of hate and violence. USA Today states, "There are hundreds of hate packed home pages." Baptists, Methodists, and outright sinners express fear of the Internet. A more dangerous venue has yet to be conceived!

There has been a great deal of misinformation and sensationalism sent forth in regards to the Internet. One doesn't just sit down in front of a computer monitor and all of the wrong come spewing forth, nor does a pedophile or a rapist pop up on your door step the next day. In fact, one will see far more near nudity and be in more danger of a rapist on an ordinary shopping trip to town. The wrong must first be accessed, although to access it is not all that difficult because governmental agencies have done little to curb Internet access or content. However, business and parental control can be exercised by the usage of certain software programs that prevent one's access to questionable sites, or one can subscribe through certain Internet providers which provide services that stop all access to or information from questionable sites making it cleaner than the ordinary newspaper.

Truly, the World Wide Web, with access to it via the Internet, is a technological wonder with implications that are genuinely mind boggling and shocking. The Internet is being touted as the vehicle of change which has opened up the free flow of information, interaction capabilities, and commercial ventures in ways that are revolutionizing every facet of life. Presently the Internet, computer, World Wide Web, telephone system, fiber optics, satellites, radio, video, and television are all being melded together and with the advent of atomic or quantum computer on the horizon one can say, "You ain't seen nothin' yet." How far this technology will take us, God alone knows, and only time will tell!

## II. The Liberal Left, Moderate Middle, and Radical Right

Most within the ranks of the Conservative Holiness Movement are familiar with the above designations and all fall within one of the three, although most would prefer the designation of old-fashioned. It is realized that some would consider themselves to be just slightly left of center or slightly right of center. Some would be radical in some areas and liberal in others, but basically they would fall either left or right. Some would consider themselves to have achieved some sort of aloof neutrality, but they could still fit in one of the three. Whether or not the movement will admit it, it is divided into these three designations and it is in this manner in which individuals in different designations refer to those of other designations. Go to some of the movement's camp meetings and listen to one as he says, "Oh, she's a liberal," or listen to her as she says, "Oh, he's a radical," or listen to them as they say, "Oh, they are right down the middle of the road." No endeavor is being made here to insult or injure anyone by saying all fall within one of the three, but for the sake of simplicity and the avoidance of designations ad infinitum we will stick with just three.

Proceeding further, let us consider the definitions of the three mentioned designations as they are related to the movement. 1. Liberal One who has an open-mindedness toward ideas that tend to challenge traditionalism/conservatism and strict adherence to Biblical/Holiness standards. 2. Moderate One who endeavors to stay within reasonable limits, avoids excesses or extremes, and is temperate or restrained in his Biblical/Holiness/Conservative standards and beliefs. 3. Radical One who is very guarded against any deviation from Biblical/Holiness/Conservative standards and beliefs.

A discussion of general perceptions is now in order. The Liberal perceives himself as being in the forefront of advancing the conservative holiness cause by cutting free from the rigid rules of the past which he perceives to be the great hindrance to advancement. The Liberal perceives the Moderate as someone who is left-leaning and can easily be won over to his way of thinking if the situations are right. The Liberal perceives the Radical as a rigid non-conformist, legalistic troublemaker that closes the gates of Heaven to all but those of his ilk. The Moderate perceives himself to be a magnanimous individual and the cohesive element that holds the movement together. The Moderate perceives the Liberal as a little too loose and the Radical as a little too tight, but both need to be courted to bring about all important unity. The Radical perceives himself as valiant for the truth and the old-paths and to him, compromise is a deadly poison. The Radical perceives the Liberal to be the one who takes the infamous steps that lead to a compromising of dearly beloved holiness truth and standards. The Radical perceives the Moderate as the proverbial fence-straddler who has no backbone and one who is always looking to see who is in the majority on an issue, Liberals or Radicals, then he takes a firm stand, of course on the majority side.

Before continuing further with this article it is very evident that much has been put forth on the subject of Internet usage via the pulpit, articles, conversation, discussion, letters, e-mail, etc. Liberals, Moderates, and Radicals have all held forth with their commendations, condemnations, and uncertainties. Some very timidly and some very vociferously. It is very easy to sound forth with eloquent sermons in alliteration, definitive logic, quotations from revered sages, 20/20 hindsight, prophetic foresight, the lessons of history, and a host of marshaled scriptures which seem to verify the wisdom of one's argument. It was stated in the introduction of this article that its purpose was not to try to decide what the Conservative Holiness Movement's response to Internet

usage should be, but rather to discuss in a forthright manner some pitfalls in regards to the different stances being taken by the Liberals, Moderates, and Radicals. This writer is well aware that this article may not be well received by many from one end of the holiness spectrum to the other. Only an honest and truthful effort is being made to point out some very real, undeniable dangers. No effort is being made to peg someone or to be judgmental or uncharitable. Forthwith to the fray we go with fear and trembling!

NOT ALL, but by-in-large, those that advocate the usage of the Internet are of a more Liberal persuasion. (BE HONEST - THIS IS TRUE) By Internet usage in this context it is not meant the wholesale use of any and all of what can be accessed via Internet. The general consensus in the Conservative Holiness Movement would be that no one should be in favor of the accessing of pornography, hate sites, etc.

In the Liberals defense of Internet usage it has been noted that some rather hurtful statements have been made toward those that take a radical stance against it. Words such as ignorant and uneducated have been used rather freely. While it may be true that some know little about the Internet and interrelated subjects, words such as these are none-the-less divisive wedge words that can be mistaken as to their true intent and end up doing much damage. Much has been said about accessing only the good via the Internet. This and similar arguments are of the very same type that were made years ago by those that were in favor of the television. Just tune to the good or control it. We can reach the lost with the holiness message. The Internet is here to stay, yes, and television and corn whiskey are too, but is it right to use them on this premise? There is a healthy fear instilled in the hearts of many in the movement of being persuaded into things they feel are inappropriate. They do not want to take a first step on what they perceive to be a slippery slope of no return. There should be a charitable feeling toward these individuals and likewise the same fears should tremble in the breast of each holiness proponent, lest a person's perceived liberty lead to his spiritual demise. Hopefully the reader sees pitfalls in the Liberal's defense of the Internet.

Moderates are taking a somewhat different approach (middle of the road) to Internet usage. They say, "It is alright for business, educational research, etc., but it is inappropriate for home, church, or Christian school." (YOU MUST BE 18 OR OLDER ADULTS ONLY ID PLEASE) If Internet usage is only for business, etc., just when do our young people learn to use the Internet? Is it a sin for the home, but righteous for business? Do we wink at sin for some and condemn others? A person can just as easily access pornography at work as at home, maybe easier! If the Internet cannot be kept safe enough for the home it is not safe enough for business. The moderates will forever be dancing on the head of a pin trying to answer opposing questions and arguments such as these and will perpetually be drawing fire from the liberals who will brand them as inconsistent, the radicals who will see them as taking the perilous first steps on the slippery slope of no return, and people of the world who will legitimately question the use of the Internet and not the television.

Radicals are No Grounders! There should be no Internet usage for any reason. One, if not biased, can see where they are coming from. They might give an illustration as follows: Yes, there are some good things on the Internet. Most bad things have some bit of good about them to add acceptance and credibility. Reminds me of the little boy who picked up a mangy, flea-bitten, pitiful

looking dog and brought him home. The mother took one look and said, "you cannot keep him, just look at the wretched thing, he is good for nothing." The little boy replied, "Look mama, he can wag his tail good." I fear the damage being done on the Internet far outweighs the good. What a tool for the Antichrist when he appears. They might say, "A 21 year old woman was seduced by a pervert in an Internet chat room and later raped and killed, but this writers 21 year old sister-in-law (my wife's only sister) was kidnaped from her fathers place of business in a quiet community, raped, and murdered. The easy answer for the radical on that one would be, "Bless God, one places him self in harms way on the Internet." If the radicals condemn the Internet, what about the newspaper with people in scantily clad poses advertising undergarments or the lonely hearts section where in some papers even homosexuals solicit other homosexuals. What about the telephone where one can receive obscene calls or place calls to 900 numbers to hear the most vile explicit pornographic talk. Can radicals condemn the Internet and not condemn the radio with its vile music, fowl language, vulgar talk shows, and every kind of preacher holding forth with their particular brand of false doctrine. What about using electricity on Sunday. Someone is having to work to give us light, just as surely as one would need to work to feed us if we were to go to the restaurant on Sunday. So, you see where some of the radical stands can lead if one remains truly consistent.

### III. The End Result

Inconsiderate Liberalism Little love and consideration for the feelings of those that differ with them on the Internet usage and a "who cares" attitude toward the resultant separation of the brethren. Indecisive Moderation Forever between a rock (accommodation of some Internet usage) and a hard place (no Internet usage for others). Inconsistent Radicalism In condemning the Internet, how much more must be given up to remain consistent.

Broken fellowship, split churches, divided denominations, harsh criticism, evil surmising, arguments, rash judgments, and more in the Conservative Holiness Movement all because of the Internet. Oh, God! Alas! How much more can she stand without sinking all together?

Well, the Internet issue continues to be HASHED OUT and THRASHED OUT, but I feel the continuation of this will only cause detrimental FALL OUT which will only hasten the already ongoing WASH OUT of the beloved holiness movement. Maybe it will be that the Lord will rapture us ALL OUT lest we all fail to HOLD OUT due to the continual BREAK OUT of wedge issues, but that could not be, for to be RAPTURED OUT would only be a COP OUT -- NO DOUBT.

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### Article 8 LYING WORDS

'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me.' We are all familiar with this timeworn saying; however, nothing could be further from the truth! Words are not only capable of hurting, but can be employed in a variety of ways for good or ill not only to the hearer, but to the speaker also.

Words are intriguing little fellows with awesome power, subtle chicanery, endearment, and a host of other characteristics encapsulated within their tiny structure of vowels and consonants. They have been a means since the earliest of time to convey thought and emotion, to instruct and direct, to inflame the passions, and to soothe the soul. They open a window upon the heart and soul of the speaker revealing somewhat of his true character.

There are hundreds of thousands of words in our language, with many new ones being coined each year covering the whole range of thought. There is no way we could have a complete discussion concerning the whole range of words, but there is one particular class of words we do want to discuss --- LYING WORDS.

Revelation 21:8 reads -- ".....and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." With this dire warning from God's Word before us, it behooves us to take a close look at LYING WORDS, for according to this scripture and others, to lie is to burn!

The dictionary defines lying as follows: "A false statement or action, especially one made with intent to deceive; anything that gives or is meant to give a false impression." We see from this definition that not only can one lie with his lips, but a lie can extend itself into deceptive action. A good Biblical example of this is the episode where King David endeavored in II Samuel chapter eleven to make it appear that Uriah was the father of the child Bathsheba was carrying when, in all reality, he was the father. In this endeavor King David failed, but had he succeeded he would have been guilty of perpetrating a lie by action, and since intent was present he was a liar. More about lying in action later.

There are many words that have similar meanings as the word "lying" and carry with them the different subtle shades of meaning and defining aspects of the word. Some of them are: deceive, distort, equivocate, exaggerate, prevaricate, elude, evade, hedge, concoct, fabricate, fib, forswear, perjure, falsify, falsehood, deception, dishonesty, duplicity, fraud, mendacious, ambiguous, hypocrisy, artifice, and vague.

When individuals are given to lying in any form, it indicates that they are of their father the devil. John 8:44 "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." When an individual is given to lying, it destroys his conscience. I Timothy 4:2 "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;." The person that lies heaps upon himself condemnation. Matthew 12:37 -- "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." When men and women are given to lying they destroy their integrity of character. Charles Horton Cooley said, "If we divine a discrepancy between a man's words and his character, the whole impression of him becomes broken and painful; he revolts the imagination by his lack of unity, and even the good in him is hardly accepted." A person said to me on one occasion, "Why don't you trust me?" My reply was, "You must give me reason to trust you." If you want people to trust you and not question your integrity of character, give them good reason; stay out of the lying business!

"O, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!" are the words of, Sir Walter Scott. When a man lies he must propagate other lies in order to cover his tracks, thus causing the cockatrice eggs of lying to hatch forth into monstrous, hideous serpents bent on destruction. To lie always leads one on a downward path.

It is never right to do wrong and it is never right to lie. Some speak of situational ethics in regards to the matter of lying. They say, "The end justifies the means. If an individual is caught in a wrong act or if he is endeavoring to take advantage of someone, it is alright to fib, mislead, or leave a wrong impression if in so doing it will extricate himself from unfavorable consequences or will work in his favor." This conception is wrong, for it does not take in consideration the other fellow. The Bible teaches us not to take undue advantage of others, but rather to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. When one uses lying words he shows his disrespect for himself and for others. No one is truly your friend who will lie to you. Honesty is always the best and only policy!

A lie told has a way of traveling with great rapidity. Dwight L. Moody said, "A lie will get half round the world before the truth gets its boots on!" Once words are uttered they are gone with the wings of the wind. They cannot be retrieved.

It is of absolute importance for our own good, the good of others, and the glory of God to be truthful! One must frame his words right and truthfully, for they are far reaching; even our eternal destinies will be affected by our words.

One has said, "By accuracy of statement, but by misrepresentation of circumstances, one can injure the reputation of another." Let us get our facts straight and then make honest, truthful representations. Let us not leave false impressions with others about others intentionally for any reason. It is easy enough to be misinterpreted as it is, and Oh, how difficult it can be to clear up even the unintentional mis-understandings that are caused by accident much less by intentional lying. Let us be guilty of sound speech - not lying words. In Titus 2:9 we read -- "Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you."

Some people are very practiced at lying. They are very artful in all the imaginative ways they can twist and turn the facts to make a believable story. They know how to add in just enough truth with their falsehoods to persuade people into thinking they are above-board and pure in their intentions. William McIlvanney said, "Good lies need a leavening of truth to make them palatable."

Some of the best liars on earth are backslidden, hypocritical holiness professors. Revelation 3:1 reads, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Many go right on with a profession living and lying but never admitting their great need of deliverance from the demon of lying. Some holiness people are very good at telling just part of the story, and by doing so are truthful up to a point; therefore, they can say, "I told the truth." As Paul Harvey says, "And now you know the rest of the story." Oh, yes, let us hear the rest of the story; then we shall see that lying is involved.



Some folk pretend to be something they are not. Pretending to themselves or others is nothing less than a deceiving lie. Some people are guilty of exaggeration whereby the truth is s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d o-u-t and so distorted with a desire to impress that it becomes a lie. If the fish was five pounds, it was five pounds and not ten. Some people lie about their financial condition. They will say, "I am nearly broke," and will open their nearly empty wallet to make it appear so, but they will not tell you they have thousands in a checking account, thousands more in savings accounts, and many more thousands in stocks, bonds, and real estate. Company executives will lie by saying the company lost money. Here is how they do it. They project they will make one million dollars, but only make eight hundred thousand, therefore they lost two hundred thousand; that is how they will state it, leaving a false impression that they lost money. On and on the list could go!

As was mentioned earlier some folk lie in their actions. The following story is a good example: The farmer's little boy loved to ride the old gray mare. The farmer was away for the day and before leaving he instructed his little boy to do his chores and not to ride the horse, but to leave her in the stall since she had been ailing. This was a real difficulty for the boy, for he had been planning to ride the horse ever since he heard his father would be away for the day, and if he could not let her out, how could he ride her. The little boy was quite an ingenious fellow, so he quickly came up with a plan. He went to the barn and accidentally-on-purpose left the stall door open and, of course, the old gray mare seeing her opportunity quickly left the stall, and as the boy was gathering up the bridle the old mare saw another opportunity, and quickly she darted past the boy and out the entrance of the barn she went. No matter how hard the little boy tried, he could not catch the horse and to his dismay the time of his father's return came. The farmer upon discovering that the horse was loose immediately questioned his little boy. The boy said to his father, "I didn't let the horse out, she just got out when I left the door open." Young children and outright sinners can easily see the falsehood in the little boy's actions.

When some are caught in a lie they begin a series of evasive maneuvers. They endeavor to change the subject, side-step the issue, muddy the waters, or assault some supposed flaw in the other person. Oh, how wretched it must be to live such a life; always having to put on a false front, when one could be true-blue through and through. L. S. Boardman had this to say concerning Job. 6:28 In this passage Job was saying, "As you question me, and cross-question me, and accuse me falsely, you study my eyes, my overt facial muscles, and my poise in general, and you will know if I am not telling the truth. It is tremendously important to keep an open face, with nothing to hide. Poise is difficult to maintain, when being pointedly questioned, and when someone is trying to find an inconsistency in your story. Only a slight blush, or an evasive glance of the eye, or a temporary lapse of memory, make it almost impossible to maintain perfect poise, and a feeling of ease and confidence when one is not telling the truth. There is nothing to be nervous about or evasive when one is being entirely truthful. Any evidence of confusion, or nervousness will usually show up in one's eyes or facial expression if one is trying to make a falsehood appear as the truth. That is the reason Job said to his agitators, "... look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie."

We are all familiar with this one "...and be sure your sin will find you out." Numbers 32:23. One may, by lying, fool some people all the time, he may fool a few part of the time, but he can't fool God any of the time. Your sin of lying will eventually find you out, and when it does, there are unforeseen consequences as the following story so aptly portrays: A peevish old fellow boarded a train, occupied the best seat, and then tried to reserve still another for himself by

placing his luggage upon it. Just before the crowded vehicle started, a teenage boy came running up and jumped aboard. "This car is full," said the man irritably; "That seat next to me is reserved for a friend of mine who has put his bag there." The youth paid no attention but sat down saying, "All right, I'll stay here until he comes." He placed the suitcase upon his knees while the elderly man glared at him in vain. Of course, the "friend" didn't appear, and soon the train began to move. As it glided past the platform, the young fellow tossed the bag through the open window remarking, "Apparently your friend has missed the train. We mustn't let him lose his luggage too!" With a horrified expression on his face the old gentleman began to fume and sputter. The lie had cost him his possessions!

Dear reader, a lie will cost you your never dying soul. It doesn't matter if there are those who would tell us that everyone lies a little now and then. If that be so, then everyone is going to hell! But, not everyone lies, for the Bible tells us in I John 3:9 "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." To lie is to sin, but to be born of God is not to sin; therefore, not to lie, because lying is sin.

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## Article 9 SENSATIONALISM

### Introduction

The recent Y2K episode proved to be a non-event even though it had been sensationalized by some as the catalyst that would vault us into an end-time apocalyptic experience. Most of those that sensationalized Y2K had one thing in common; the desire to make a sale. They wanted to sell videos, tapes, and books. Some had survival guides, freeze-dried food, and solar food cookers for sale. Some, sad to say, were just trying to sell themselves as the preeminent authorities on the subject.

All salesmen know the driving force behind a sale is the profit motive. Simply put; make a sale - make money! There is nothing wrong with that! Everyone is aware that it takes finances to live and operate. If a salesmen has a product or service that is desirable, reasonably priced, and is brought to the attention of the public in a truthful and honest manner, sales will be made.

If we could stop here regarding sales all would be fine, but there are multitudes of unscrupulous persons in the sales industry that go a step further than honest and forthright salesmanship and resort to sensationalism. They pitch their product or service in an advertisement and on the sales floor as being something more than what it really is. They will pitch it as bigger, better, faster, cheaper, more durable, etc. This writer realizes that to be a good salesperson one must be sold on the product or service he is selling which naturally produces enthusiasm, but to go beyond reality by sensationalizing is wrong! We have all heard a sensationalized advertisement that goes something like this; "Hurry in today for the greatest sale of the year, the hottest deals, the lowest prices! You just can't pass this up! Get on in while supplies last! When they are gone they are gone for good, so don't miss out!" I am afraid that to a large extent this is exactly what happened with Y2K. Some saw it as a golden opportunity to make money; therefore, they oversold

it for more than what it really was by resorting to sensationalism which played on the fears of multitudes resulting in sales, sales, sales!

Sensationalism is a near kinsman of lying. To sensationalize is to be dishonest. To sensationalize is to misrepresent the facts. To sensationalize to make a sale, to impress others to feed one's ego, to draw attention to one's self, or to mislead is not in harmony and in keeping with the Word of God. We are enjoined in James 5:12 for our speech to be simple, honest, and straightforward; ...but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay;... No sensationalism for whatever reason is appropriate for the child of God.

Sensationalism didn't make its first appearance with Y2K, nor is it strictly a tool of the secular sales world, but is as old as history and is found in the religious realm of the past and present. We are all well acquainted with the narrative between Saul and Samuel in I Samuel 15:13-14 which reads; And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? Here Saul sensationalized by stating more than the facts when he said, "I have performed the commandment of the LORD." Saul wanted to sell Samuel on more than reality. Saul knew very well what he was doing, and what he was doing was lying! This writer is afraid much of this type of sensationalism is all too real today, even in the beloved Holiness Movement! The movement prides itself as being inclusive of holy and truthful people, but keep in mind that the sensationalism we are dealing with here is nothing less than the distorting of the facts to make something appear to be more than what it really is in order to make a sale which is dishonest, which is lying, and which will land a person to hell. Revelation 21:8 reads, ...and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Let us pose a question. Just how is the Holiness Movement sensationalizing to make a sale? Let us start first with the preachers.

### Preachers

Many preachers are sold on themselves, therefore; they desire to sell themselves rather than Christ, and in order to do so, they resort to sensationalism. They sensationalize their preaching, works, and usefulness. Their sermon illustrations are such as to make themselves appear larger than life. They paint their prayer and devotional life as being on par with or paramount to that of John Wesley's, when in all reality their prayer life is nil and any devotional life is passe. They want people to think they are never-tiring warriors of the cross who put in sixteen hour days laboring super hard for Christ, but they don't tell you that interspersed with their religious activities they are wheeling and dealing in business ventures, playing the stock market, sipping cappuccino with the good old boys down at the local coffee bistro, or indulging in their favorite past-times and hobbies such as CB and Ham radios, auctions, reading the latest novels on the best seller list, etc.

### Evangelists

Many evangelists sensationalize themselves as the ultimate soul-winning machines with scores at the altar. They may have scores at the altar, but by-far-and-away most of them are the same old warm-overs from years gone by. They sensationalize themselves as the sacrificial elite of the movement, but in so doing play on the sympathies of their compassionate, but easily deceived admirers. Many evangelists say, "I never have a vacation," but they travel all over and get to see sites and scenes that the ordinary factory working layman can only dream about. While being entertained on their itineraries, most evangelists are feted as kings with the best food, the best accommodations, and when the meeting is over, the best pay; easily receiving more for a few days than some laymen will receive for a months labor.

## Denominations

Denominational sensationalism is pathetic with all its sectarian bigotry. It is enough to make one sick as they present themselves in the most sensational manner possible and still maintain some degree of humility. Denominations sensationalize their superintendents, preachers, evangelists, churches, camp meetings, schools, and missionaries as the absolute best in the land. They even sensationalize their past and yet unknown future. All that is negative about their group such as splits, compromise, and worldliness is carefully kept in the background, and all that is good is paraded to the forefront with the most convincing flourish possible, even if they push the envelope in so doing. Many of the various groups in the holiness movement are playing the numbers game. Numbers, numbers, numbers is what they want to hear, so they are continually sensationalizing to draw the crowd so they can have a good head count. They have few scruples so it is no big deal with them if by their sensationalism they lead some unsuspecting sheep from one fold into theirs.

## Camp Meetings

Yes, they too are sensationalized. You will hear people say, "God really came," when in reality the people were worked up into an emotional frenzy by oft repeated chorus lines with catchy words and rhythm. You may hear another say, "There were five hundred in attendance," but it would push the boundaries of reality if two hundred were present. "My! Twenty or thirty were at the altar nearly every service," one reports. This could well be true, but after having been to the altar do the individuals get up and live real lives of true conversion that bespeaks of the thoroughness of the altar work, or were they simply pulled to the altar by sentimental tear jerking stories which only touched the tear glands instead of the heart and soul and then hurriedly coached through to an erroneous experience by some doozy of an altar nurse. How dare we compare the camp-meetings of today with those of yesteryear when prayer, praise, preaching, and repentance were the order of the day. Nowadays most camp-meetings could be better characterized as pity parties, pep rallies, and gab fests.

## Bible Schools

Bible Schools could well be the leaders in the area of sensationalism because of their perpetual quest for new students. Bible School after Bible School crisscross the country in vans and buses loaded with their sensational dramatic troupe of young starlets all well coiffured, well coordinated, and well compromised in an all-out effort to draw unsuspecting youth into their

numbers net. They laud and applaud their school as having a wonderfully spiritual atmosphere when it could be better characterized as a party atmosphere. Most Bible Schools these days need a real house cleaning to get rid of their compromising professors with their D. D.'s, and replace them with old-fashioned Bible teachers who stick with the old King James Version instead of all the new perversions. They need to be more concerned about being accredited by God instead of being accredited by some apostate accrediting organization. The Bible Schools need to quit their sensationalizing and start revitalizing. Praise God!

## Missionaries

What a tragedy that missionaries will resort to sensationalism to keep the dollars flowing. They will sensationalize their sacrifices, hardships, and results. Once while in attendance at a missionary service the speaker was bemoaning the fact that the missionary vehicle had over one hundred fifty thousand miles on it and that it demanded much of his valuable time to keep it running properly. I leaned over to my wife and said, "I wonder if he would consider a trade?" My old truck which I used nearly every day for my job had well over two hundred thousand miles on it and I had to work on it too, just like the missionary! What a shame it is that there are those here at home who will sacrifice and do without in order to support a pseudo-sacrificing missionary! There are some missionaries that sleep late, do little, spend three or four months out of every year here in the states begging for money; all the while living quite a comfortable lifestyle, and they will be satisfied with nothing less. Many of our so-called missionaries today have WBS or Whiny Baby Syndrome. All they are good for is to whine, moan, and cry about how rough they have it. They need to come back to the states and work up some callouses on their hands and make an honest days living. This would go a long way in making real missionaries out of them so that they could take a licking and keep on ticking.

## Publishers

Some publishers will sensationalize by stretching their claims of total readership numbers. Some will sensationalize by producing glitzy publications that have great eye appeal, but that is about all. They will only deal with sugar and spice and all that is nice issues, and will completely neglect to print articles that are about the snakes and snails and puppy dog tails issues. Some publishers may sensationalize by printing articles to stir controversy for the purpose a getting attention for attentions sake. This is wrong! Some will print articles that are absolutely ludicrous and are more fiction than truth, all for the purpose of grabbing peoples attention, subscriptions, and dollars. Publishers should only print with pure motives, with great concern over the condition of the church, with a desire to see the people of God edified and alerted to the tragic trends of compromise, and to see the Captain of our salvation exalted.

## Conclusion

There is nothing wrong with selling. There is nothing wrong with endeavoring to sell our holiness churches, preachers, leaders, camp-meetings, missionaries, Bible Schools, and publications if in so doing it will help us sell Christ. Often times, before one can sell a product he must first sell himself as being honest and forthright. So it is with selling Christ. Let us, the Holiness Movement, sell sinners on Christ by true examples of holy living; not by misleading,

dishonest, lying sensationalism. Yes, we want to sell folk on Christ because in doing so we will be able to lay precious sheaves at His feet. If we will sell folk on Christ, then they will truly find someone who is SENSATIONAL and cannot be OVERSOLD!!!

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## Article 10 THE ULTIMATE SIN

### Introduction

What is the ultimate sin? Is it the home-wrecking sin of divorce and remarriage? Is it the murderous sin of abortion? Is it the dark sin of witchcraft? Is it the perverted sin of homosexuality? Is it the despicable sin of lying? Or, is it the unpardonable sin of blasphemy?

If you chose any of the above sins you need to make a different choice for there is a sin which is the progenitor of all of the above sins and any other that could be named. What then is the ultimate sin? We answer, "The ultimate sin is UNBELIEF." In Hebrews 3:12 we read "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." An evil heart filled with carnal self bursts forth with the grand-daddy of all sins, UNBELIEF! The old sinful root of carnality shoots forth the mighty trunk of UNBELIEF from which shoots forth the various branches and fruits of sin. UNBELIEF is the gateway that leads to all the other sins known to man, because to not believe God is to not fear God, and men therefore will plunge onward into all sorts of sin. UNBELIEF is the most heinous, horrendous, and hellish sin we can think of; in short, "THE ULTIMATE SIN" so let us examine it carefully!

### Unbelief -- Cataloged In God's Word

The word unbelief occurs sixteen times in the New Testament: Matthew 13:58, 17:20; Mark 6:6, 9:24, 16:14; Romans 3:3, 4:20, 11:20, 23, 30, 32; I Timothy 1:13; Hebrews 3:12,19, 4:6, 11.

There are also similar words in the Scriptures that are derivatives of or have a similar meaning to unbelief: unbelievers, unbelieving, faithless, doubt, disobedience, etc.

There are dozens of examples of unbelief in action throughout the scriptures.

### Unbelief -- Considered As To Definitions

Webster's New World Dictionary implies merely a lack of belief, as because of insufficient evidence, especially in matters of religion or faith.

Greek meaning Let us note what R. E. Carroll has to say in regards to unbelief as recorded in Hebrews, "Unbelief (apistia) is closely associated with a refusal to be persuaded (apeitheia, apeitheo). Unbelief and disobedience, or refusal to be persuaded are not little things. It was the cause of Israel's failure to enter Canaan and wander in the wilderness for forty years. It

was the cause for the destruction of the inhabitants of Jericho (11:31). It is the reason why people still today fail to press on and get sanctified wholly."

Words with similar meanings to unbelief: cynicism, disbelief, distrust, doubt, incredulity, mistrust, skepticism.

#### Unbelief -- Carnal Production

Because the carnal mind is enmity [enemy] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. Romans 8:7. From the preceding verse one can readily see that carnality is no friend of God; therefore, one can readily conclude that from the carnal mind unbelief would readily spring. As a matter of fact, all sin springs from the carnal mind including the ultimate sin of unbelief.

#### Unbelief -- Contrasted With Faith

Unbelief is diametrically opposite to faith. In Romans 4:20 we find a good scriptural example of the difference between unbelief and faith. He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;. Faith causes one to find a sweet resting place in God, His Word, and His Promises; whereas, unbelief staggers at the same. Faith has ground to stand on; whereas, unbelief hasn't even a leg to stand on. Faith says, "God can," Unbelief says, "Who is God?" Faith understands that which natural reason cannot attain to: Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Unbelief scoffs at that which cannot be explained by natural reason. Natural reason leans on things which can be seen, can be touched, can be verified, in short, that which is tangible.

Samuel Chadwick said this, "Unbelief measures God by man. Faith measures man by God. Unbelief asks if God can. Faith affirms His ability to do."

Truly, unbelief and faith are 180 degrees apart.

#### Unbelief -- Categorized

There are three basic categories that unbelief falls in: 1. Ignorant unbelief -- I Timothy 1:13 - Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I [Paul] did it ignorantly in unbelief. 2. Willful unbelief -- II Peter 3:4-5 - And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of,...[or are in a willful state of unbelief] 3. Deceived unbelief - Deuteronomy 11:16 - Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, [go into unbelief] and serve other gods, and worship them; Ephesians 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

#### Unbelief -- Consequences

Unbelief limits the workings of Divinity: Matthew 13:58 - And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Unbelief limits the workings of Christ's followers: Matthew 17:19-20 - Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief:...

Unbelief caused Christ to marvel: Mark 6:6 - And he marvelled because of their unbelief... Does not God marvel at the plentitude of unbelief despite the multitudinous implications of the veracity of Himself abounding on every hand!

Unbelief brought forth the scolding of the disciples: Mark 6:14 - Afterward he [Christ] appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

Unbelief separates: Romans 11:20 - Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

Unbelief is evil: Hebrews 3:12 - Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

Unbelief results in failure to attain to the spiritual level He desires for His people: Hebrews 3:19 - So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

We will add the following list of consequences of unbelief by Basil Miller:

1. It hardens the heart (Acts 19:9).
2. It disregards God's commandments (Romans 1:21).
3. It robs one of God's blessings (Heb. 3:18).
4. It severs one from God (Romans 11:20).
5. It paves the path to destruction (John 3:36).
6. It causes the feet to stumble (II Peter 2:14,15).
7. It hardens the sensibilities and emotions (Acts 19:9).
8. It leads to envy (Acts 14:2).
9. It dulls faith (John 3:12).
10. Keeps from eternal life (John 3:16).
11. Refuses to accept Christ's testimony (John 10:23,26,37).
12. Will not accept the workings of Christ (John 12:37,39).

Unbelief -- Calls Into Question

Unbelief calls God into question! Unbelief flies in the face of God with incredulity. Unbelief is the root of scepticism in that it calls into question who God is, what He is, and even if He is. Unbelief is a resident sin in the evil unbelieving heart of the fool for we read in Psalm 53:1 -- The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God... In Exodus 5:2 we have another prime example



of unbelief -- And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD,... Is not being guilty of unbelief a clear declaration from one's self that he considers God to be less than what He claims to be?

Unbelief calls God's Word into question! Satan, who is the very epitome of unbelief, says the following in Genesis 3:1 -- Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? Not only does Satan call God's Word into question, but unbelieving humanity does too. Jeremiah 44:6 reads -- As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. To disbelief God's Word is to call into question the final and only authoritative compendium of conduct in existence. One media mogul recently called into question a portion of God's Word by stating, "The Ten Commandments should be called the ten suggestions." Why would one make such a statement? Attribute the statement to an evil heart of unbelief! God's Word is indeed the final authority as to man's conduct in every aspect of life and to disbelieve it is to trash it and trample under foot the road map to heaven and is a sure way to lead in to the blackness of scepticism and hell in the end.

Unbelief will call into question the faith of our fathers, the ancient landmarks, the hedge-makers and gap-fillers, the narrow way, the conscientious, true standards of holiness, and separation from the world.

#### Unbelief -- Concerns Expressed

The following are some views of holiness writers concerning the ultimate sin of unbelief:

- H. E. Baker a Free Methodist said, "O what will damn a man as quick as unbelief?"
- H. A. Baldwin said, "Shun unbelief as you would a viper."
- W. G. Heslop said, "There is no wickedness like the wickedness of unbelief."
- W. T. Purkiser said, "The main root of sin is unbelief which sees in the gift of God's love an unfriendly limitation."
- George W. Ridout said, "Today our Protestantism is menaced by an intellectuality that is not consecrated, hence we are flooded with unbelief."
- William E. Shepard said, "Unbelief is the damning sin of the world."
- Daniel Steele said, "Unbelief touches God at a tender point - I...am a jealous God."
- Daniel Steele says again, "The Spirit of inspiration teaches that the sin of unbelief denies God's moral attribute of truth."

May this writer express a few of his concerns in regards to unbelief:

- "Education is often times a catalyst for unbelief."

-- "To fail to go forward at God's command because of unbelief is a sure-fire way to slide backward into the great bone-bleaching wilderness of apostate religion."

-- "Unbelief stokes the fires of hell!"

-- "Unbelief is obstinate in nature."

-- "Worldliness and unbelief are inseparable."

-- "Unbelief will lead one into the great morass of infidelity."

-- "To give one's self over to unbelief is to self-destruct."

Unbelief -- Conclusion

Why is America and the church world in such a deplorable condition? As we have seen, it is due to the sin of unbelief. When men disbelieve God, they will disobey Him and ultimately degenerate to a point where the most degraded sins imaginable are common place. Worse yet, God, himself will be held in derision and man will set himself up as his own god. Yes, UNBELIEF IS THE ULTIMATE SIN!

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THE END