

All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication  
Copyright 1993 -- 2005 Holiness Data Ministry

Duplication of this disc (CD or DVD) by any means is forbidden,  
and copies of individual files must be made in accordance with  
the restrictions stated in the B4UCopy.txt file on this disc.

## **VARIOUS TOPICS**

**By Duane V. Maxey**

\* \* \* \* \*

Digital Edition 12/01/05  
By Holiness Data Ministry

\* \* \* \* \*

## **CONTENTS**

- 01 -- Twenty-One Imps At Work In Today's World
- 02 -- Bible Doublets -- Negative And Positive
- 03 -- Equity Cannot Enter -- An Outline
- 04 -- Today's Feral Children -- Gone Hog Wild!
- 05 -- Hard-Hitting Holiness -- And -- Hard-Hearted Holiness
- 06 -- Holiness Forevermore
- 07 -- Labeled Exactly Backwards Today
- 08 -- Something To Quit Before It's Begun!
- 09 -- Sandwiched Between -- Rich & Greedy \ Poor & Needy -- Scoundrels!
- 10 -- Tastings With Eternal Consequences -- On Outline
- 11 -- The Devil Is A Dirty Fighter
- 12 -- The Picture Of Toe-Woe Is Me!
- 13 -- There Was A Sweet Time On Our Sod
- 14 -- Wanted: Brotherly Love, Dead Or Alive!
- 15 -- Your Nose Knows!

\* \* \* \* \*

## **01 -- TWENTY-ONE IMPS AT WORK IN TODAY'S WORLD**

"He said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for WE ARE MANY." (Mark 5:8-9).

Christ cast 7 devils out of Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9), and a legion\* of devils out of the wild man in Gadara. \*(There were as many as 6,200 troops in a legion of Roman soldiers.) And, the one-third of angels who fell from heaven may number into the millions. We are not told

the exact number of angels that originally populated heaven, but it obviously numbered into the multiplied thousands, if not millions.

Jesus said in Matthew 26:53 -- "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (More than 74,400 angels! -- figuring the Roman legion at its highest number -- 6,200.)

Suffice to say, then, there are numbers of thousands of holy angels and many thousands of fallen angels -- sometimes referred to as imps. Below, I shall mention 21 of them that are at work in our world today.

\* \* \*

IMP-ANELING -- THE IMP OF IMPANELING, if you please, is a judgmental spirit. Juries are impaneled to sit in judgment, and oh, how we are living in a time when one political party loves to impanel a Grand Jury to go after someone in their opposition party! Sadly, this same "Imp of Impaneling" has possessed some in the Holiness Movement who love to sit in judgment upon those who oppose their nit-picky views. The imp of impaneling sits in many General, Church Board Meetings these days!

\* \* \*

IM-PARITY -- THE IMP OF IMPARITY is a spirit of imbalance. Imparity means: "Inequality; disparity." The same charge Divinely made against "the house of Israel" in the following verse could be made against many today in the professed Church: -- "O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?" (Ezekiel 18:29). Imparity and imbalance are rampant in the Holiness Movement! -- with the vast majority "gone into the ditch of Liberalism" on the Left and an ever-diminishing minority "gone into the ditch of Legalism" on the right. Blind Liberals lead blinded followers; blind Legalists lead their blinded followers, and Jesus said in Matthew 15:14 -- "Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

\* \* \*

IMP-ASSE -- THE IMP OF IMPASSE is a spirit of horn-locking that brings a paralyzed, deadlock. An impasse is "a situation that is so difficult that no progress can be made; a deadlock." In Washington D.C. today, Congress is deadlocked -- nothing is getting done that really needs to be done while political rivals lock-horns! And, the imp of impasse has also paralyzed many in the professed Church -- they are locking horns and the resulting deadlock is "no progress" in forwarding the Gospel Message!

The story is related of old Bro. Jones. He would get up and repeatedly testify in church services: "I'm not making much progress, but I am established." Over and over again, he would give this same testimony until it really got boring to hear him. Well, one day it rained and rained, and old Bro. Jones took his team and wagon and got a load of logs, or something that was really heavy. As he started home, he went down a road that was saturated with rain water. That road

had turned into a bog, and the wheels of Bro. Jones' wagon sunk in clear down to the wagon bed. He tried and tried, but his horses just couldn't get that wagon unstuck. Wouldn't you know it? The preacher happened by, and after he saw the situation, he said: "Well, Bro. Jones, I see that you are not making much progress, but you are established!"

The same could be said of many Church Bosses who are locking horns with their opponents -- They profess to be "established" in the grace of God, but they are so possessed with the spirit of impasse that they are "making little or no progress" in moving the Gospel forward.

\* \* \*

**IMP-ASSIVENESS -- THE IMP OF IMPASSIVENESS** is the spirit of formal indifference. The word impassive means: -- "Devoid of, or not subject to, emotion, revealing no emotion; expressionless." Those who hate demonstration in the Spirit often sit back in a Church service as stoic and cold as a frog buried in frozen mud! Nothing moves them! They never say "Amen" and they never change their dead-pan expression. They just sit there in a Church service like emotionless manikins. They DO like to say after the service: -- "It isn't how loud you shout, nor how high you jump, but how you walk when you come down that really matters!" And how DO these cold, impassive, professors of religion WALK? Well, they walk out of Church with a ram-rod, arrogant, stiffness that may be good for a mortician to use, but one which ill-befits one professing Christianity! But, you ought to see how they dance around the room, clap their hands, stomp their feet, and do all sorts of contortions at home, or at the office, when the value of their stocks, bonds, and real estate have raised substantially! The imp of impassiveness seems to affect them only at Church!

\* \* \*

**IM-PATIENCE -- THE IMP OF IMPATIENCE** is the spirit of "wait-lessness" -- not peculiar to "outer-space" only, and prevalent in "any space" occupied by many! That which is desired, whether it be a thing or a destination, must be had NOW! And "nobody better delay it!" God told Daniel that at the time of the end: -- "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). God might have also added something else He knew: -- that at the time of the end "SPEED WOULD BE INCREASED" also! Nahum prophesied that "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall jostle one against another in the broad ways: they shall seem like torches, they shall run like the lightnings" (Nahum 2:4). What a picture of modern automotive travel, with its "lit-up" vehicles traveling at "lightning" speeds -- and both jostling and crashing into one another! Both the world and the church are filled with "Mad-Hatters" crying, as it were, "I'm late! I'm late! for a very important date! Hello! Good-bye! Good-bye! Hello! I'm late, I'm late, I'm late! "Road Rage" today often results in one driver killing the other! The imp of impatience has likewise possessed many in the Church who want results at "the snap of a finger" and who will not tolerate any delaying of their plans and demands.

\* \* \*

**IMP-EDIMENT -- THE IMP OF IMPEDIMENT** is the spirit of obstruction. To impede means: "To retard or obstruct the progress of." And here we have the opposite of the spirit of

impatience. It is a spirit that is determined to retard and obstruct progress that should be made immediately. Thus, this spirit is akin to the spirit of impasse. It is the spirit of Sanballat and Tobiah, who opposed the progress being made under the leadership of Nehemiah: -- "But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and mocked the Jews. And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? WILL THEY MAKE AN END IN A DAY? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned? Now Tobiah the Ammonite was by him, and he said, Even that which they build, if a fox go up, he shall even break down their stone wall" (Nehemiah 4:1-3).

It is likewise the spirit against which God's wrath is revealed in Romans 1:18 -- "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold ["hold" is "katecho" = retain, stay, hold back, hinder] the truth in unrighteousness."

There is both a Time to Wait (during which the spirit of impatience will not do so), and a Time to Act (during which the spirit of impediment seeks to impede and delay that action).

\* \* \*

IMP-ENITENCE -- THE SPIRIT OF IMPENITENCE is the spirit of no sorrow for sin! The Psalmist said: -- "I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin" (Psalm 38:18). Today, multiple-murderers brazenly "declare their innocence" not "their iniquity"! -- and, instead of "sorrow for sin" most today are glad they did it! As a matter of fact most plan to do it again, no matter how heinous or vile the deed may be. The "hardness and impenitent heart" mentioned by Paul in Romans 2:5 is being seen even in pre-teenage youngsters these days. In Jeremiah 8:12 we read: -- "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed!" -- and, it might be added, "they were not at all sorry they did it!" It was true when Jeremiah lived -- it is even more true today! The imp of impenitence is everywhere on earth!

\* \* \*

IMP-ERCEPTIVITY -- THE IMP OF IMPERCEPTIVITY is the spirit of dullness. St. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:19 of those "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." The imp of imperceptivity has dulled the spiritual and emotional feelings of millions today. Acts 17:27 says that sinners "should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him," but the imp of imperception renders people unable to feel the movings of God's Spirit and unable to perceive his presence. The imp of imperceptivity seeks even to dull the spiritual perception of God's people, "who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Heb. 5:14). The spiritual dullness of the saints and the callousness of the world is the work of the imp of imperceptivity -- so evident today.

\* \* \*

IMP-ERFECTION -- THE IMP OF IMPERFECTION is the spirit of satisfaction with the sub-standard. It is the imp of imperfection that causes one to prefer quantity to quality -- for

example: more people in the pews than more purity in the pews. The imp of imperfection hates preaching on "Christian Perfection" and seeks to cause professing Christians to hate it also. When one is a purchaser of goods or services, he often desires perfection in what it bought, but may turn right around (as a professor of Christianity) and declare that "Christian Perfection" is an evil doctrine! They want God to buy-into their own careless, and even intentional, imperfection, while at the same time even demanding such from those who sell to them! The arguments put forth by the advocates of "Christian Imperfection" are inspired by the imp of imperfection. This imp declares that since men cannot (in this world) be Absolutely perfect, Angelically perfect, or Adamically perfect -- therefore Christians cannot be perfect in any way at all! Thus, the imp of imperfection hates sound preaching on Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." -- 2 Cor. 13:11 "Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you." -- and 1 John 4:17-18 "Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." The imp of imperfection urges folks to demand perfection of others where it cannot be and to deny the possibility of it being where it can be: -- in the heart, and in love.

\* \* \*

IMP-ERSONATION -- THE IMP OF IMPERSONATION is the spirit of imitation and deception -- one that foists off fakes and impostors as real representatives of God. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). I don't know how long the list would stretch, but if one were to list all of the frauds, fakes, false prophets, and false christs that this imp has foisted off on the word it would be of GREAT LENGTH! The ultimate imp of impersonation will be the antiChrist himself, that greatest of all impostors, "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4). Millions will believe this lie, and "be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess. 2:12).

\* \* \*

IMP-ERTINENCE -- IMP-UDENCE -- THE IMP OF IMPERTINENCE or IMPUDENCE is the spirit audacity and bold forwardness. Impertinent means: "Exceeding the limits of propriety or good manners; improperly forward or bold." Impudence is quite synonymous with impertinence. An example of the latter: -- It is "impertinent of a child to lecture a grown-up." Long ago, Isaiah spoke of the time when "the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable" (Isa. 3:5). That time has definitely arrived! The imp of impertinence and impudence is busier than ever!

\* \* \*

IMP-ETUOSITY -- IMP-ULSIVENESS THE IMP OF IMPETUOSITY or IMPULSIVENESS is the spirit of "spur of the moment" decisions and acts. It is the spirit which

cause a man to begin building a palace without funds sufficient to build cottage. The imp of impetuosity and impulsiveness causes people to jump into a thing with no forethought, planning, or preparation. Hosea 7:11 branded Ephraim as "a silly dove" who fluttered and flew where he ought not. And, the imp of impetuosity prompts people into silly, willy-nilly ventures and deeds that make no sense. It only takes a short while to "live it up" in this way, but it may take a life-time to "pay it off" or "live it down"! Impetuosity has landed many "out of the frying-pan and into the fire" and made fools of those who should have known better! Impulse-buyers (like millions out in the stores on this "In-The-Black-Friday, Day After Thanksgiving, 2005) often suffer from "buyer's remorse" after they get home, examine the goods, and count the cost of how much they paid for bad and over-priced merchandise. The imp of impetuosity and impulsiveness is busy out in the malls and shopping centers today!

\* \* \*

IMP-IETY -- THE IMP OF IMPIETY is the spirit of irreverence and ungodliness. Jesus said to his disciples in Matthew 7:6 -- "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." It is true that the vile sins of the Roman Catholic priesthood have done great harm to the reputation of the true Christian ministry and to true Christians. Cynicism has, to a large extent, replaced the reverence and respect that even worldlings once had for those who were truly pious. Those who ARE pious must "show piety" said the apostle Paul (1 Timothy 5:4). But, true piety is "more than a show" that is put on parade in religious garb while sprinkling so-called "holy water"! If more genuine piety was "shown" the imp of impiety would be less successful than he has been. Today, however, the spirit of irreverence is such that the mere recitation of a verse of Scripture often causes the dogs and swine of impiety to turn on, and rend, those who quote it!

\* \* \*

IMP-INGEMENT -- THE IMP OF IMPINGEMENT is the spirit of trespass. To impinge is to encroach upon, to trespass, to go over the line, beyond where your own rights end and those of another begin. It is the imp of impingement that induces transgression of a known law of God. It is the imp of impingement that prompts the adulterer and adulteress. Impingement is involved in the following verses: -- "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: THAT NO MAN GO BEYOND AND DEFRAUD HIS BROTHER in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified. For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness. He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit. (1 Thess. 4:4-8).

\* \* \*

IMP-LACABILITY -- THE IMP OF IMPLACABILITY is the spirit of those whose anger will not be placated or appeased by anything in any way, but who are unforgiving, relentless, and merciless in their revenge! "implacable, unmerciful" (Romans 1:31). Proverbs 6:34-45 says that "Jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many

gifts." And, it must be admitted that it IS, AND SHOULD BE, more difficult to be placated -- to be appeased -- when one's marital rights have been violated. The trespasser has stolen that which belongs solely to another and wants what money cannot buy: -- contentment with what has occurred. But, to be totally, and always, implacable when your rights either have been encroached upon (or when you think they have been so violated), is wrong. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19). But, one who is possessed by the imp of implacability is bent upon avenging himself, or herself -- and often that results in a killing today.

\* \* \*

IMP-LICITY -- THE IMP OF IMPLICIT is the spirit of suggestion, or suggestiveness -- that which prompts people to tell double-meaning jokes, where filth is implied though not specifically spoken or displayed. That which is implicit is that which is "implied or understood though not directly expressed." Like a flooding sewer, the filth of implicit is overflowing the world -- audibly, and visibly! The Christian has to be careful today in using perfectly wholesome words, lest they be those which filthy-minded people have used to imply something dirty!

\* \* \*

IMP-ROPRIETY -- THE IMP OF IMPROPRIETY is the spirit of careless behavior or speech. Impropriety is defined as: -- "An improper act" or "An improper or unacceptable usage in speech or writing." I think "behavior" should be included in the definition. Certain undue familiarities with those of the opposite sex are very frequently induced by the imp of impropriety, and that impropriety often leads to immorality. The initial improprieties may seem harmless, and the imp of such always insists that they are, but the wise and wary know different! It is better, in this area, to be safe than sorry.

\* \* \*

IMP-UGNING -- IMP-EACHMENT -- THE IMP OF IMPUGNING or IMPEACHMENT is the spirit of accusation. To impugn is "To attack as false or questionable" and to impeach is "To make an accusation against" or "To charge (a public official) with improper conduct in office before a proper tribunal." There ARE times when it is legitimate to impugn and impeach, and in such cases there is no sin in so doing. But the imp of impugning and impeachment today is prompting many to unfairly impugn the character of others and to seek the impeachment of those who have committed no offense! In my view, the ACLU, the so-called A-merican C-ivil L-iberties U-nion, has gone about to impugn Christianity and to impeach all in public office who dare to call themselves Christians and to promote real morality and decency in the land! The imp inspiring them has been very, very successful so far!

\* \* \*

IMP-UISSANCE -- THE IMP OF IMPUISSANCE is the spirit of weakness and lack of power. Impuissance means just that: -- "Lack of power or effectiveness; weakness." True Peace is not merely the absence of conflict. True Peace is the result of victory over all that is evil and wrong, and thus True Peace is obtained and exists only when power over evil has been exerted --

and sometimes this means war! It is sickening to hear the rhetoric of today's misnamed "Peace Doves" who fancy that the appeasement of those attacking our nation is the way to peace. Genuine Peace only, and always, comes through Superior Strength and Prevailing Power. A nation is weak when lacking the ability or will exercise such. A church is weak when lacking, or not exercising, the power of the Holy Spirit. The imp of impuissance has, like Delilah from Samson, robbed many a man, more than one nation, and more than one Church, of that power which is necessary to retain True Peace.

\* \* \*

IMP-UNITY -- THE IMP OF IMPUNITY is the spirit of fearless law-breaking. Impunity is: -- "Exemption from punishment, penalty, or harm." Its Latin source means "without punishment." Who are they trying to kid? who say that Capital Punishment does not prevent more murders! We have, today, millions around the world who are unafraid to commit heinous crimes, including multiple murders! They do so "with impunity" -- "without punishment" mete for the crimes committed! Don't tell ME that teenagers aren't committing more murders and violent crimes of all sorts since the death penalty and long sentences for such crimes have been abolished! They ARE so doing!!! It is the imp of impunity who is prompting pedophiles, rapists, mass murderers, and many other criminals to flaunt the law. They know that they will generally live on in jail at worst, and perhaps go free in a few years!

Further, the imp of impunity also suggests to Christians that THEY can break God's Law with impunity. No REAL Christian believes this! In 1 Corinthians 9:21 St. Paul makes it clear that the Christian's not being under the Law of Moses does not constitute being without ANY LAW at all. Paul says that Christians are "being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ." And, in Matthew 5:17 Jesus warned: -- "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill." Again, Paul writes to the saints in Romans 8:4 that Christ's death was so "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

The imp of impunity suggests both to Criminals and to Professors of Christianity that lawbreaking will bring no harmful consequences. In the end it WILL -- for both!

\* \* \*

IMP-URITY -- THE IMP OF IMPURITY is the spirit of uncleanness. The imp of impurity has been so horribly successful today that we meet with filth virtually anywhere we may dwell on the face of the earth. Regarding those who "walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government," the apostle Peter said: -- "Presumptuous are they, self-willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (2 Peter 2:10). And countless millions wallowing in moral uncleanness DO both "despise government" and "presume" that their filthy living is "A-OK" and without any evil consequences to come. So bold are they in the midst of their moral slime that, at the same time, they are unafraid of "speaking evil of dignities" -- both in heaven and on earth.



True Christian, I know that YOU have not fallen for the lies of this imp, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" (Eph. 5:5 ).

And with all other real Christians you echo the truth of 1 Thessalonians 4:7 -- "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into The City. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie" (Rev. 22:14-15).

And, without The City Foursquare, but within The Lake of Fire, shall be the devil, with all of his imps, and with all of those who believed and followed their evil IMP-RESSIONS.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 02 -- BIBLE DOUBLETS -- NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible is replete with doublets -- some of which we might classify as "Negative" and some of which we might label as "Positive". In those two groupings, I shall present below many of the doublets found in God's Word. Some of those that I place in either of these categories, you may think belong in the opposite one. And, some doublets may strike you as neither strictly Negative nor Positive. Nevertheless, I have sorted them into but these two categories, giving leave to my readers to resort them as they may think best. I have arranged the doublets under each heading roughly in alphabetical order. Also, please note: -- I have not included all of the doublets I found. But, if you do not see a doublet of which you know under the Negative category, you might look for it under the Postive category. Those with a good Bible search function can do further searches to call up all instances of a listed doublet.

PREACHER OR TEACHER -- THERE ARE MANY SERMONS AND LESSONS IN THESE DOUBLETS -- just waiting for your development. If you can use any of them, help yourself!

\* \* \* \* \*

### A -- NEGATIVE DOUBLETS

Job 16:14 -- "He breaketh me with BREACH UPON BREACH, he runneth upon me like a giant."

Matt. 13:21 -- "Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, BY AND BY he is offended.

Luke 21:9 -- "But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not BY AND BY."

2 Chr. 21:15 -- "And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness DAY BY DAY."

Jer. 9:3 -- "And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from EVIL TO EVIL, and they know not me, saith the Lord.

Ezek. 20:35 -- "And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you FACE TO FACE."

Judges 6:22 -- "And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the Lord, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the Lord FACE TO FACE."

Acts 25:16 -- "To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before that he which is accused have the accusers FACE TO FACE, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him."

Rom. 11:6 -- "And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise GRACE IS NO MORE GRACE. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise WORK IS NO MORE WORK."

Prov. 11:21 -- "Though HAND JOIN IN HAND, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

Prov. 16:5 -- "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though HAND JOIN IN HAND, he shall not be unpunished.

Judges 15:16 -- "And Samson said, With the jawbone of an ass, HEAPS UPON HEAPS, with the jaw of an ass have I slain a thousand men."

Luke 10:7 -- "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from HOUSE TO HOUSE."

Isa. 5:8 -- "Woe unto them that join HOUSE TO HOUSE, that lay FIELD TO FIELD, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!

1 Tim. 5:13 -- "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from HOUSE TO HOUSE; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

Psalms 69:26-27 -- "For they persecute him whom thou hast smitten; and they talk to the grief of those whom thou hast wounded. Add INIQUITY UNTO THEIR INIQUITY: and let them not come into thy righteousness."

Ezek. 7:26 -- MISCHIEF SHALL COME UPON MISCHIEF, and RUMOUR SHALL BE UPON RUMOUR; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients.

Hosia 13:2 -- "And now they sin MORE AND MORE, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding.."

Isa. 28:10 -- For precept must be upon precept, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT; LINE UPON LINE, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Isa. 28:13 -- But the word of the Lord was unto them PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT, PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT; LINE UPON LINE, LINE UPON LINE; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Philippians 2:27 -- "For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have SORROW UPON SORROW."

Judges 15:4 -- "And Samson went and caught three hundred foxes, and took firebrands, and turned TAIL TO TAIL, and put a firebrand in the midst between two tails.

Eccl. 1:2 -- VANITY OF VANITIES, saith the Preacher, VANITY OF VANITIES; all is vanity.

["VERILY, VERILY" doublets are so numerous that I shall leave it up to my readers to search and find all of them.]

2 Tim. 3:13 -- "But evil men and seducers shall wax WORSE AND WORSE, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Sam. 21:1 -- "Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, YEAR AFTER YEAR; and David enquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites."

2 Kings 17:4 -- "And the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea: for he had sent messengers to So king of Egypt, and brought no present to the king of Assyria, as he had done YEAR BY YEAR: therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

Heb. 10:1 -- "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered YEAR BY YEAR continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Isa. 29:1-2 -- "Woe TO ARIEL, TO ARIEL, the city where David dwelt! add ye YEAR TO YEAR; let them kill sacrifices. Yet I will distress Ariel, and there shall be heaviness and sorrow: and it shall be unto me as Ariel.

\* \* \* \* \*

## B -- POSITIVE DOUBLETS

1 Cor 12:6 -- "And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh ALL IN ALL."

1 Cor. 15:28 -- "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be ALL IN ALL.

Eph. 1:23 -- "Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth ALL IN ALL."

Psa. 41:13 -- "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. AMEN, AND AMEN."

Psa. 72:19 -- "And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; AMEN, AND AMEN."

Psa. 89:52 -- "Blessed be the Lord for evermore. AMEN, AND AMEN."

Gen. 39:10 -- And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph DAY BY DAY, that he hearkened not unto her.."

1 Chr. 12:22 -- "For at that time DAY BY DAY there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God.

2 Chr 24:11 -- "Now it came to pass, that at what time the chest was brought unto the king's office by the hand of the Levites, and when they saw that there was much money, the king's scribe and the high priest's officer came and emptied the chest, and took it, and carried it to his place again. Thus they did DAY BY DAY, and gathered money in abundance.

2 Chr 30:21 -- "And the children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the feast of unleavened bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the Lord DAY BY DAY, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord.

Luke 11:3 -- "Give us DAY BY DAY our daily bread."

2 Cor. 4:16 -- "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed DAY BY DAY."

Gen. 32:30 -- "And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God FACE TO FACE, and my life is preserved."

Ex. 33:11 -- "And the Lord spake unto Moses FACE TO FACE, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle."

Nu. 14:14 -- "And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou Lord art among this people, that thou Lord art seen FACE TO FACE, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night."

Deut. 5:4 -- "The Lord talked with you FACE TO FACE in the mount out of the midst of the fire,

Deut. 34:10 -- "And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew FACE TO FACE."

1 Cor. 13:12 -- "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then FACE TO FACE: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."

2 John 1:12 -- "Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak FACE TO FACE, that our joy may be full."

3 John 1:14 -- "But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak FACE TO FACE. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name."

John 1:16 -- "And of his fulness have all we received, and GRACE FOR GRACE."

Gen. 7:9 -- "There went in TWO AND TWO unto Noah into the ark, the male and the female, as God had commanded Noah."

Gen. 7:15 -- "And they went in unto Noah into the ark, TWO AND TWO of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life."

1 Chr. 26:17 -- "Eastward were six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and toward Asupim TWO AND TWO."

Mark 6:7 -- "And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by TWO AND TWO; and gave them power over unclean spirits."

Luke 10:1 -- "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them TWO AND TWO before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come."

Isa. 52:8 -- "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see EYE TO EYE, when the Lord shall bring again Zion."

Acts 2:46 -- "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from HOUSE TO HOUSE, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."

Acts 20:20 -- "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from HOUSE TO HOUSE."

["VERILY, VERILY" doublets are so numerous that I shall leave it up to my readers to search and find all of them.]

Ezek. 1:16 -- "The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were A WHEEL IN THE MIDDLE OF A WHEEL.

Jas. 5:12 -- "But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your YEA BE YEA; and your NAY, NAY; lest ye fall into condemnation."

Deut 14:22 -- "Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth YEAR BY YEAR."

Deut 15:20 -- "Thou shalt eat it before the Lord thy God YEAR BY YEAR in the place which the Lord shall choose, thou and thy household."

1 Sam 1:7 -- And as he did so YEAR BY YEAR, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat."

1 Kings 5:11 -- "And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram YEAR BY YEAR."

1 Kings 10:25 -- "And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and garments, and armour, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate YEAR BY YEAR."

2 Chr. 9:24 -- "And they brought every man his present, vessels of silver, and vessels of gold, and raiment, harness, and spices, horses, and mules, a rate YEAR BY YEAR."

Neh. 10:34 -- And we cast the lots among the priests, the Levites, and the people, for the wood offering, to bring it into the house of our God, after the houses of our fathers, at times appointed YEAR BY YEAR, to burn upon the altar of the Lord our God, as it is written in the law."

Neh 10:35 "And to bring the firstfruits of our ground, and the firstfruits of all fruit of all trees, YEAR BY YEAR, unto the house of the Lord."

Ex. 13:10 -- "Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from YEAR TO YEAR."

1 Sam 2:19 -- "Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from YEAR TO YEAR, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice."

1 Sam. 7:16 -- "And he went from YEAR TO YEAR in circuit to Bethel, and Gilgal, and Mizpeh, and judged Israel in all those places."

2 Chr. 24:5 -- "And he gathered together the priests and the Levites, and said to them, Go out unto the cities of Judah, and gather of all Israel money to repair the house of your God from YEAR TO YEAR, and see that ye hasten the matter. Howbeit the Levites hastened it not.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 03 -- EQUITY CANNOT ENTER -- An Outline

"And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and EQUITY CANNOT ENTER" (Isaiah 59:14).

\* \* \*

### INTRODUCTION

This is another bare-bones outline. If you can use it, help yourself. Add your own meat to the bones.

The Hebrew for "equity" in the above verse is "nekoḵhaw" and according to Strong's Concordance it means: -- "straightforwardness, i.e. (figuratively) integrity, or (concretely) a truth:--equity, right (thing), uprightness."

My American Heritage computer dictionary defines our English word "equity" as: -- 1. The state, quality, or ideal of being just, impartial, and fair. 2. Something that is just, impartial, and fair. 3. Law. a. Justice applied in circumstances covered by law yet influenced by principles of ethics and fairness.

Taken in whatever shade of meaning one will, let me present below an acrostic outline, spelling out the word "equity" with the thought being that "equity cannot enter" when six different things exist. EQUITY CANNOT ENTER WHEN:

\* \* \*

### (E)-VIL IS IN CONTROL

A. "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Prov. 29:2).

\* \* \*

### (Q)-UARRELING REPLACES QUIETNESS

A. "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (1 Peter 3:4).

\* \* \*

#### (U)-NBELIEF BLINDS THE MIND

A. "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel" (Matthew 23:24).

B. "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also" (Matt 23:26).

\* \* \*

#### (I)-NTEGRITY IS DISCARDED

A. "Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (Job 2:9).

\* \* \*

#### (T)-RUTH IS FALLEN

A. "And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for TRUTH IS FALLEN in the street, and EQUITY CANNOT ENTER" (Isaiah 59:14).

B. While He Who IS THE TRUTH can never fall; yet in another sense TRUTH FELL and equity could not enter WHEN CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED. At His trial and in His execution, equity could not enter because Truth was Fallen from its rightful place in the minds and hearts of those who dealt deceitfully with Christ.

\* \* \*

#### (Y)-OU SHUT THE DOOR, AND WILL NOT OPEN IT

A. Christ is Truth and Equity Personified. He says:

B. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Rev 3:20).

C. Christ is on the "outside" of the Laodicean Church

D. Christ is on the "outside" of our nation and its courts.

E. Equity knocks, but "cannot enter" until those within open the door.



\* \* \* \* \*

#### 04 -- TODAY'S FERAL CHILDREN -- GONE HOG WILD!

I will explain the meaning of "Feral Children" later in this little article. First, my text:

Ezekiel 16:44 -- "Behold, every one that useth proverbs shall use this proverb against thee, saying, AS IS THE MOTHER, SO IS HER DAUGHTER."

Apparently there really have been some very weird cases where human children have been nurtured, and perhaps even raised by wild animals.

If I recall correctly, during the last trip north that Dot and I made we heard Paul Harvey tell of a boy in China (or somewhere) who had been suckled by a wild hog and raised among her kind. When found, the boy was going on hands and knees, grunting like a wild hog, and doing his best to emulate them.

Another case supposed to be true involved a child who became known as "The Lobo Girl of Devil's River." She is said to have been born to one Mollie Dent in May of 1835. She had gone with her backwoods husband on a trapping trip when birth pangs befell her. Her husband left her to get help, but was struck by lightning and killed. Mollie then apparently died in child-birth, and everyone presumed that both she and her child had been devoured by wolves.

However, in 1845 a boy saw Mollie's daughter among a pack of wolves. Within 12 months of that time a woman saw the girl, again among wolves, devouring with them some freshly killed goats. The Lobo Girl fled the scene, first on all fours and then running upright.

It is said that a hunt was begun, and shortly thereafter the Lobo Girl was captured. Later, the girl escaped, and was seen only once seven years thereafter when she would have been age 17. I cannot vouch for the story, but perhaps it is true.

There are many stories of this sort -- For examples: -- I found on-line the names of a number of children said to have been nurtured and/or raised by dogs, monkeys, wolves, a boy raised by goats, a child raised by apes, children raised by a gazelles, children raised by bears, a child nurtured by ostriches, a girl raised by jackals, a child raised by panthers, a boy raised by leopards, and a boy raised by cows.

I imagine that most of such stories are fictitious, but a few of them may be true, or partly true. I will leave it up to the sensible and sound judgment of my readers to decide about such things for themselves.

Factual, or Fictional, children raised by wild animals have come to be called "Feral Children" -- the word "feral" meaning: -- "Existing in a wild or untamed state."

Again, regardless of whether any of the above cases cited are factual, it IS a fact that Mothers and Fathers make a huge impact upon how a child behaves, and what a child becomes!

Further, whether Paul Harvey's story is true or not, Parental Influence today HAS "GONE HOG-WILD"! And, the training of children today HAS "GONE TO THE DOGS" -- even if there never was a Lobo Girl, or Wolf Boy!

Judging by their animalistic behavior, millions of today's children are "Feral Children" -- offspring who were nurtured by those who themselves acted more like beasts than like civil and decent human beings. We live in a time when people are trying to create God in THEIR image. They fulfill Romans 1:23 perfectly, as those who have "changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." With their false god being a "fourfooted beast" and a "creeping thing" -- they emulate that false god, and nurture children who emulate them, and always take it a notch lower!

It is not only "Monkey-See, Monkey-Do" -- it is also "Boy and Girl See -- Boy and Girl Do"! And, parents are, first and foremost, responsible for the "Feral Children" and "Feral Young People" being turned loose everywhere in our world -- around the globe.

But, if Paul Harvey's story is true, it was not simply one sow that Hog-Boy was emulating -- he was mimicking the whole community of wild-hogs among whom he lived.

Thus it is likewise when a child is nurtured and raised among those who hunt for, and devour, immoral slop. That baby, that child, will develop a hunger for the same, and eat the same slop. Where I first got the following, I am not sure, but it fits here:

"Fenelon imagined a dialogue between Ulysses and Grillus, the man whom Circe had turned into a hog. Ulysses wanted to bring him back to manhood. But Grillus would not consent. He said, 'No, the life of a hog is so much pleasanter.' 'But, said Ulysses, 'do you make no account of eloquence, poetry and music?' 'No, I would rather grunt than be eloquent like you.' 'But,' asked Ulysses further, 'how can you endure this nastiness and stench?' Grillus replied, 'It all depends on the taste. The odor is sweeter to me than that of amber, and the filth than the nectar of the gods.'"

Sadly, what we are seeing in growing numbers today are first, second, third, and fourth generations of "Feral Children" who, when grown to maturity, all too often, fit the description of those described by the apostle Peter, when he wrote: -- "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption."

Degeneration in this generation has just about sunken humanity to the bottom of the pig-swill in the pigsty! Regeneration is the only solution, and the only hope for the animalistic masses in today's society. Jeremiah 13:23 asks: "Can the.. the leopard [change] his spots?" The answer, of course, is NO.

But God CAN! -- For, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). This is the only, but all-powerful regeneration still available for "Today's Feral Children -- Gone Hog-Wild"!

\* \* \* \* \*

05 -- HARD-HITTING HOLINESS -- And -- HARD-HEARTED HOLINESS  
Not Necessarily Synonymous

Written September 6, 2005

"In my wrath I SMOTE THEE, but in my favour have I HAD MERCY ON THEE" (Isa. 60:10).

"Behold therefore the GOODNESS and SEVERITY of God" (Rom. 11:22).

\* \* \*

AFTER I FORWARDED AN EMAIL about the possibility of the Katrina disaster striking New Orleans being a judgment of God upon the homosexual gathering that was impending there, and upon the wide-spread and deeply entrenched immorality of many in that city -- and after I sent following it an email quoting a portion of Isa. 30:18 ("the Lord IS a God of Judgment") -- I RECEIVED A SCALDING EMAIL FROM A PREACHER -- inferring that I was self-righteous for having sent out such statements.

Happily, the man was NOT an HDM Email recipient, and he must have received said email from someone who forwarded it on from me. However, I think there are probably many in the Holiness Movement that equate HARD-HITTING HOLINESS with HARD-HEARTED HOLINESS.

In point of fact, there is no such thing as "Hard-Hearted Holiness" -- the first part and second part of that designation creating an oxymoron.

The problem is that among today's soft, wishy-washy, namby-pamby, professors of Holiness there are many who also THINK THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS "HARD-HITTING HOLINESS"! However, "Hard-Hitting" and "Holiness" linked together in the same term do NOT form an oxymoron -- even though multitudes in the Laodicean Church think so.

GOD HIMSELF (Who is the ultimate embodiment of Holiness) is both GOOD and SEVERE, both ONE WHO SMITES and ONE WHO HAS TENDER MERCY. And, God is often HARD-HITTING, but is never HARD-HEARTED when He hits heady, haughty, highminded, and low-moraled humanity with hard blows of heavy judgment.

Something is wrong with a professed Christian who will not even entertain the possibility that God might have struck New Orleans with a judgmental blow. I can hear millions scream: -- "O No! -- Just look at all of the innocent victims! GOD WOULD NOT DO A THING LIKE THAT!"

When the AIDS epidemic first began to spread around the globe, entertainer Bill Cosby made himself God's spokesman and said, "GOD WOULD NOT DO THAT!" -- declaring

certainly that AIDS was NOT a judgment of God, because such judgment was foreign to God's character. I assert that it was Cosby who was foreign to God's character -- and not the possibility that AIDS is a Divine Judgment! Frankly, I think it most likely that AIDS IS a judgment of God -- one that corresponds quite exactly with God's Word in Romans 1:27 -- "And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."

Interesting, isn't it? how some people say that they KNOW FOR SURE that God would not strike millions of people with judgment for their awful and vile sexual perversions and sins, while at the same time these self-appointed spokesmen for a God they never knew condemn Bible-Believers who merely suggest that SOME CATAclysm MIGHT HAVE BEEN an act of God!

Yes, GOD IS LOVE! Yes, GOD IS MERCIFUL! Yes, GOD IS COMPASSIONATE. Yes, Christ is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Heb. 4:15)! Yes, He pities the plight of every victim of the Katrina disaster -- whether they were, or were not, targets of His judgment. And -- Yes, all Christians should share in Christ's pity and compassion for those now suffering from this disaster, and Christians should also aid those victims in any and every legitimate way God lays it upon their hearts.

However, Lamentations 3:32-33 does NOT say that GOD NEVER CAUSES GRIEF! It says, rather, "THOUGH HE CAUSE GRIEF, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

Like the Holy God Himself, a Holiness Preacher can be "Hard-Hitting" without being "Hard-Hearted" -- even though many today seem to think that these two very different things are always paired.

In Luke 13:4-5, Jesus thus addressed the Judgmental Pharisees: -- "Those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

As in the above case, in many instances it IS wrong to say for sure that God has passed judgment upon some because of their extreme wickedness. And, indeed, such mistaken judgments are often expressed by those who are hard-hearted, and totally void of Christ's compassion.

However, on the other hand, IT IS EQUALLY WRONG FOR ANY TO SAY: -- "I KNOW FOR SURE THAT GOD DID NOT DO THUS AND SO IN JUDGMENT! because He is a God of Love and would never do such a thing!

IT IS THE LOVING JESUS WHO "SHALL BE REVEALED from heaven with his mighty angels, IN FLAMING FIRE TAKING VENGEANCE on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thess. 1:7-8).

But, even before that all-consuming, final outpouring of Christ's Wrath, Revelation 16:10-11 tells us that during the preceding judgments, "... the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain, and blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds."

Wicked men have often -- and shall at the end of time -- curse God for pouring out judgment. And, it seems altogether unfitting to me for professed Christians to criticize those who suggest that God MIGHT HAVE poured out judgment in some instances today. God is Love when He pours out judgment, and Bible-Believing Christians can also have His Love in their hearts when they suggest that God MIGHT HAVE, in a certain instance, poured out judgment.

GOD IS NOT HARD-HEARTED WHEN HE IS HARD-HITTING -- and I feel that it is indicative of a real lack of purity in the hearts of professing Christians today when they insinuate that God would not pour out judgment, and that any who suggests that He may have done so are being hard-hearted, Pharisaical, and like those whom Jesus corrected and rebuked in Luke 13:4-5.

The loving Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah because of Lot and his family, but after God broke off the intercession and poured out fire and brimstone on those cities, Abraham did not accuse God of doing unrighteously -- even when perhaps hundreds of innocent babies and others who were not homosexuals died in that flood of Divine Wrath.

But to listen to the whining accusations of some professed Christians today, Abraham would have been hard-hearted and self-righteous to even suggest that God MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH!

Scold me and scald me for saying so, if you will -- I still think that God MIGHT HAVE DESTROYED NEW ORLEANS in Divine Judgment. I do not say that He did. I say that HE MIGHT HAVE.

If you have a bone to pick with me over that, I suggest that you read the Bible from cover to cover -- especially if you have never done so. Then, if you still deny that God MIGHT HAVE poured out judgment on New Orleans, I will tell you FOR SURE: -- YOU ARE NOT A BIBLE BELIEVER!

Considering that God may have destroyed New Orleans in judgment is NOT, of necessity, a matter of "gloating" over the great suffering of others. It IS a matter of "quoting" the Book, believing it -- and allowing for that possibility!

If I receive another scathing email from someone who has read this, I will briefly scan the first line or two, consider the source, and promptly delete it. On the other hand, my heartfelt thanks is extended to both those who heartily agree with all I have written above and to those who still love me, even if they disagree in part. -- Duane

\* \* \* \* \*

## 06 -- HOLINESS FOREVERMORE

A Poetic Adaptation

By Duane V. Maxey

From "The Raven"

By Edgar Allan Poe

First Published in 1845

Once a sinner weak and weary, pondered in a midnight dreary  
How the path that he was taking, led to Hell for evermore.  
As he pondered such an ending, with no hope his soul attending,  
Suddenly he heard a knocking, knocking at his sad heart's door.  
"Is it Jesus?" then he wondered, "knocking at my sad heart's door?  
Bringing Hope forevermore?"

"As a child, I still remember, years ago, one bleak December,  
As we watched a dying ember, cast it's shadows on our floor,  
Mother wept with godly sorrow, and God saved her on the morrow;  
Gave her surcease from that sorrow, Hope of Life forevermore.  
And her face was Oh, so joyous! Heaven's prospect now in store!  
Life with Christ forevermore!"

Now, so sick, and sad -- uncertain, darkened by my guilty curtain,  
Maybe that same Christ could save ME -- Give ME hope forevermore!  
And so then to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating,  
"Maybe Jesus is entreating, and will enter my heart's door!  
Maybe now He will forgive me; though I'm so guilty, vile, and poor!  
Save my soul forevermore!"

Presently, my hope grew stronger -- hesitating then no longer,  
I then opened to the Savior, His forgiveness to implore.  
While in tears of deep contrition, then I heard the great Physician,  
Tell me, "Son, thou art forgiven; Go in peace, and sin no more!"  
All my darkness then departed; God's pure light was then imparted,  
Leading me to Heaven's door!

Long in darkness I'd stood peering, always wondering and fearing,  
Doubting that the Lord could save me, as dear Mother, long before.  
But the devil's spell was broken when those words of peace were spoken,  
"From the past you are forgiven, Go in peace, and sin no more!"  
Praise to Jesus for salvation! -- Praise His name from shore to shore!  
He's the One that I adore!

Back into the my life now turning, I could feel God's fire a-burning!  
But again, I heard Him knocking -- knocking louder than before!

I then answered Jesus' urging for that second work of purging,  
And His sanctifying power, cast sin out, and shut the door!  
Perfect Love to me was given -- grace I'd never had before!  
Hallelujah! Evermore!

Purged within, the flame burned higher; earth grew dim, and heaven nigher.  
Jesus occupied His temple -- He alone, and nothing more!  
Happy as a bee in clover -- now my cup was running over.  
Flooding forth the joy from Jesus, since two times I op'ed the door.  
Let the saints on earth proclaim it -- as they shall on Heaven's shore:  
"Holiness forevermore!"

\* \* \*

## INTRODUCTION TO "THE RAVEN" BY EDGAR ALLEN POE

After my attempted, brief Adaptation from Edgar Allen Poe's "The Raven" I thought that some might be interested in reading that poem itself. Poe lived but 40 years (1809-1849). Though he was a gifted writer and poet, his life was tragic -- probably eternally so. He suffered from bouts of depression and madness, and attempted suicide in 1848 -- just three years after "The Raven" was first published. In September of 1849 he disappeared for three days after a drink at a birthday party and on his way to visit his new fiance in Richmond. He turned up in a delirious condition in Baltimore gutter and died on October 7, 1849. In the last line of "The Raven" Poe seems to forecast his own damnation:

"And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor  
Shall be lifted -- nevermore!"

"The Raven" is a poem of foreboding and impending doom -- at once arresting one's interest and depressing one's spirit by the tone of its hopelessness. If you have read it you will note that my brief, little adaptation speaks of deliverance from doom and gloom in "Holiness Forevermore." -- For What It's Worth, -- Duane

\* \* \*

## THE RAVEN By Edgar Allan Poe

First Published in 1845

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore,  
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,  
As of someone gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.  
"Tis some visitor," I muttered, "tapping at my chamber door;  
Only this, and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly I remember, it was in the bleak December,  
And each separate dying ember wrought its ghost upon the floor.  
Eagerly I wished the morrow; vainly I had sought to borrow  
From my books surcease of sorrow, sorrow for the lost Lenore.  
For the rare and radiant maiden whom the angels name Lenore,  
Nameless here forevermore.

And the silken sad uncertain rustling of each purple curtain  
Thrilled me -- filled me with fantastic terrors never felt before;  
So that now, to still the beating of my heart, I stood repeating,  
"'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door,  
Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door.  
This it is, and nothing more."

Presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer,  
"Sir," said I, "or madam, truly your forgiveness I implore;  
But the fact is, I was napping, and so gently you came rapping,  
And so faintly you came tapping, tapping at my chamber door,  
That I scarce was sure I heard you." Here I opened wide the door;--  
Darkness there, and nothing more.

Deep into the darkness peering, long I stood there, wondering, fearing  
Doubting, dreaming dreams no mortals ever dared to dream before;  
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token,  
And the only word there spoken was the whispered word, "Lenore";  
This I whispered, and an echo murmured back the word, "Lenore!"  
Merely this, and nothing more.

Back into the chamber turning, all my soul within me burning,  
Soon again I heard a tapping, something louder than before,  
"Surely," said I, "surely, that is something at my window lattice.  
Let me see, then, what thereat is, and this mystery explore.  
Let my heart be still a moment, and this mystery explore.  
"'Tis the wind, and nothing more."

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter,  
In there stepped a stately raven, of the saintly days of yore.  
Not the least obeisance made he; not a minute stopped or stayed he;  
But with mien of lord or lady, perched above my chamber door.  
Perched upon a bust of Pallas, just above my chamber door,  
Perched, and sat, and nothing more.

Then this ebony bird beguiling my sad fancy into smiling,  
By the grave and stern decorum of the countenance it wore,  
"Though thy crest be shorn and shaven thou," I said, "art sure no craven,



Ghastly, grim, and ancient raven, wandering from the nightly shore.  
Tell me what the lordly name is on the Night's Plutonian shore."  
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

Much I marveled this ungainly fowl to hear discourse so plainly,  
Though its answer little meaning, little relevancy bore;  
For we cannot help agreeing that no living human being  
Ever yet was blessed with seeing bird above his chamber door,  
Bird or beast upon the sculptured bust above his chamber door,  
With such name as "Nevermore."

But the raven, sitting lonely on that placid bust, spoke only  
That one word, as if his soul in that one word he did outpour.  
Nothing further then he uttered; not a feather then he fluttered;  
Till I scarcely more than muttered, "Other friends have flown before;  
On the morrow he will leave me, as my hopes have flown before."  
Then the bird said, "Nevermore."

Startled at the stillness broken by reply so aptly spoken,  
"Doubtless," said I, "what it utters is its only stock and store,  
Caught from some unhappy master, whom unmerciful disaster  
Followed fast and followed faster, till his songs one burden bore,--  
Till the dirges of his hope that melancholy burden bore  
Of "Never -- nevermore."

But the raven still beguiling all my sad soul into smiling,  
Straight I wheeled a cushioned seat in front of bird, and bust and door;  
Then, upon the velvet sinking, I betook myself to linking  
Fancy unto fancy, thinking what this ominous bird of yore--  
What this grim, ungainly, ghastly, gaunt and ominous bird of yore  
Meant in croaking "Nevermore."

Thus I sat engaged in guessing, but no syllable expressing  
To the fowl, whose fiery eyes now burned into my bosom's core;  
This and more I sat divining, with my head at ease reclining  
On the cushion's velvet lining that the lamplight gloated o'er,  
But whose velvet violet lining with the lamplight gloating o'er  
She shall press, ah, nevermore!

Then, methought, the air grew denser, perfumed from an unseen censer  
Swung by seraphim whose footfalls tinkled on the tufted floor.  
"Wretch," I cried, "thy God hath lent thee -- by these angels he hath  
Sent thee respite -- respite and nepenthe\* from thy memories of Lenore!  
Quaff, O quaff this kind nepenthe,\* and forget this lost Lenore!"  
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore!"

[\*Nepenthe = "A drug, or something, that induces forgetfulness of sorrow or eases pain.]

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil!--prophet still, if bird or devil!  
Whether tempter sent, or whether tempest tossed thee here ashore,  
Desolate, yet all undaunted, on this desert land enchanted--  
On this home by horror haunted -- tell me truly, I implore:  
Is there -- is there balm in Gilead? -- tell me -- tell me, I implore!"  
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

"Prophet!" said I, "thing of evil--prophet still, if bird or devil!  
By that heaven that bends above us -- by that God we both adore--  
Tell this soul with sorrow laden, if, within the distant Aidenn,\*  
It shall clasp a sainted maiden, whom the angels name Lenore--  
Clasp a rare and radiant maiden, whom the angels name Lenore?  
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

\*Aidenn = "A city in western Turkey, southwest of Smyrna."

"Be that word our sign of parting, bird or fiend!" I shrieked, upstarting--  
"Get thee back into the tempest and the Night's Plutonian shore!  
Leave no black plume as a token of that lie thy soul hath spoken!  
Leave my loneliness unbroken! -- quit the bust above my door!  
Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!"  
Quoth the raven, "Nevermore."

And the raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting  
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door;  
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon's that is dreaming.  
And the lamplight o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor;  
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor  
Shall be lifted -- nevermore!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 07 -- LABELED EXACTLY BACKWARDS TODAY

Isaiah 5:20 -- "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

\* \* \*

Matthew 5:19 speaks of breaking even the least of God's commandments, and teaching men so. John Wesley declared of such teaching: "by any other name, it is, in truth, the way to destruction." No matter what name you put upon evil, it is still evil and brings forth the same, sad consequences.

"A distinguished Methodist minister of the city of Adelaide, Australia, preached on sin, and one of his church officers afterwards came into his study to see him. He said to my friend, the minister, 'Mr. Howard, we don't want you to talk as plainly as you do about sin, because if our boys and girls hear you talking so much about sin they will more easily become sinners. Call it a mistake if you will, but do not speak so plainly about sin.'

"Then my friend took down a small bottle and showed it to the visitor. It was a bottle of strychnine and was marked: 'Poison.' Said he, 'I see what you want me to do. You want me to change the label. Suppose I take off this label of "Poison" and put on some mild label, such as "Essence of Peppermint," don't you see what happens? The milder you make your label the more dangerous you make your poison!'" -- J. Wilbur Chapman

On the opposite side of the ledger, things which are holy and pure, are not changed by labeling them as evil. The father of the saintly Alfred Cookman, George G. Cookman, was once the Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, and in one of his speeches delivered to that audience he said:

"It was in the commencement of the eighteenth century that a handful of Oxford students came to the conclusion that if the Bible were true, real Christianity was a very different thing from the popular religion of the day. To promote the one grand object they laid down rules for reading the Scriptures, conversation, prayer, meditation, fasting, and visiting the sick. Their precision attracted the attention of a wag of a student, who facetiously remarked one day, 'A new sect of Methodists has arisen among us,' and from this satirical remark, a byword, a nickname, arose this famous cognomen, 'METHODIST.' But what's in a name? "A rose would smell as sweet by any other name."

The name "Methodist" was given in derision, but the name did not change its nature, and it exuded a spiritual fragrance in society just the same.

And, there was a time when even the name "Christian" was a stigma in the eyes of the world. In his book, "A Study Of Holiness From The Early Church Fathers" (hdm0503), J. B. Galloway tells of a young woman named Perpetua whose father opposed her identification as a Christian. "While she was being taught the way of the Christians, her father tried to persuade her away from her faith, but she said to him, 'Father, do you see this little vessel lying here to be a pitcher?' And he said, 'I see it to be.' And she answered him, 'Can it be called by any other name but a pitcher?' He said, 'No.' 'Neither can I be called anything else than what I am, a Christian.'"

Let me relate another story from early Christianity:

A great many years ago, a Roman emperor said to a Greek architect: "Build me a coliseum, and when it is done, I will crown you, and I will make your name famous through all the world, if you will only build me a grand coliseum." The work was done. The emperor said: "Now we will crown the architect. We will have a grand celebration." The Coliseum was crowded with a great host. The emperor was there and the Greek architect, who was to be crowned for putting up this building. The moment for honoring the architect arrived.

They brought out some Christians, who were ready to die for the truth, and from the doors underneath hungry lions were let out into the arena. The emperor arose amid the shouting assembly, and said: "The Coliseum is done, and we have come to celebrate it today by the putting to death of Christians at the mouth of these lions, and we have come here to honor the architect who has constructed this wonderful building. The time has come for me to honor him, and we further celebrate his triumph by the slaying of these Christians."

Whereupon, the Greek architect sprang to his feet and shouted: "I ALSO AM A CHRISTIAN!" Then, instead of honoring him, they flung him to the wild beasts, and his body, bleeding and dead, was tumbled into the dust of the amphitheater." -- adapted from Dictionary of Illustrations -- Duane V. Maxey

Early Christians were both courageous and noble in identifying themselves to the world as what they actually were -- and, it is both important and imperative, in God's sight, to call a thing by its right name.

George G. Cookman was, of course, thinking in positive terms when he said to the U.S. Senate: -- "What's in a name? A rose would smell as sweet by any other name."

But while it is true that a label put on a thing does not change its essence, it is also true that the wrong name or label placed upon a thing can be deadly. As vividly shown by Mr. Howard, the minister in Adelaide, Australia, a bottle of "Strychnine" labeled as "Essence of Peppermint" made it even more dangerous!

"What's in a name?" -- sometimes it is a matter of Life Or Death -- or of Heaven or Hell! As recognized by John Wesley, though evil be labeled as good, or "by any other name, it is, in truth, the way to destruction."

Very much aware of this, throughout the centuries Satan has labeled things as the exact opposite of what they really are. He has duped millions into "calling evil good, and good evil" -- into "putting darkness for light, and light for darkness" and into "putting bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Probably as never before in the history of the human race, things are being "Labeled EXACTLY BACKWARDS TODAY" from what they really are. I shall cite only a few such things.

**SEXUAL PROMISCUITY IS CALLED GOOD -- SEXUAL PURITY IS CALLED EVIL** -- Millions of duped degenerates today are indulging their passions in wild abandon, thinking, "How can anything that feels so good be so wrong?" Nevertheless, God's Word declares in Galatians 6:7-8 -- "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Wild and unbridled indulgence in sexual permissiveness and promiscuity today has so degenerated our society that it is dangerous for women and children to walk the streets, even in broad daylight! At the same time, those who are sexually and morally pure are labeled as Pin-Headed Prudes who have no

right to tell people what is right or wrong in this area -- and that those who preach abstinence before marriage are making mental wrecks out of those who should be allowed the so-called "normal" indulgence of their passions!

**HOMOSEXUALITY IS CALLED GOOD AND NORMAL -- OUTLAWING IT IS CALLED EVIL** -- It is both amazing and appalling that something so totally abnormal as homosexuality could be labeled as another form of normal behavior -- but, so it is called today! And how the perverts who practice it could call themselves Bible-Believing Christians is just as astonishing, given the numerous passages in God's Word that condemn this vile behavior -- but, so they do call themselves today!

**KILLING UNBORN BABIES IS CALLED GOOD -- KILLING WOLVES IS CALLED EVIL** -- It is ironic that some of the very ones who justify killing unborn, or partially born babies, are the same ones who are outraged when a rancher kills a wolf that has been slaughtering his cattle! Jesus told human beings, "Ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31), but the values of millions today are so upside-down that they will sue whoever shoots a sparrow with a bee-bee gun and assert loudly that it is "A Woman's Right" to kill her unborn child!

**GAMBLING IS CALLED GOOD -- GIVING TO GOD'S WORK IS CALLED EVIL** -- State Lotteries and Gambling Casinos are looked upon as good sources of income to fund this and that in a state or locality. The winners are paraded before the public as examples of how "You Too" can become suddenly wealthy. Millions give billions into this evil every year, if not every month, in our nation. It all looks and sounds so enticing! But little is ever said of the bankruptcies, suicides, and ruined lives that result from America's increasing addiction to this evil. Meantime, those who tithe and give liberally from their income to the cause of God are considered to be fools of the first magnitude!

**DEMONIC WORSHIP IS CALLED GOOD -- THE WORSHIP OF CHRIST IS CALLED EVIL** -- Our nation has become so demonized and flooded with the worship of "Harry Potter" and his ilk that I recently heard that one school was not allowed to celebrate Halloween, because it might offend some who worship the "spirits" associated with that Heathen Holiday. For my part, I don't think that Christian children "should be" allowed to celebrate Halloween -- because of its evil roots and connection with "familiar spirits" -- but -- for a public school to outlaw Halloween because it might offend those who worship those "familiar spirits" shows just how totally backwards we have things labeled! No doubt some who feel we should not offend Satan worshippers are the same ones who see nothing wrong with offending Christians -- by outlawing God's Word and everything relative to Christ from public places!

And what is the result of having things "LAELED EXACTLY BACKWARDS TODAY"?

"WOE UNTO THEM" says the Almighty God!

Already, the entire world is suffering woes from this labeling of spiritual poison as good medicine and of good medicine as poison. And, "there come.. WOES MORE HEREAFTER" (Rev. 9:12)!

Happily, the Day is coming when Christ shall forever "PUT all enemies under his feet" (1 Cor. 15:25 ), and that will include all of those who "PUT darkness for light, and light for darkness" and "that PUT bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

\* \* \* \* \*

## 08 -- SOMETHING TO QUIT BEFORE IT'S BEGUN!

Proverbs 17:14 -- "The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore LEAVE OFF CONTENTION, BEFORE IT BE MEDDLED WITH."

There are a number of things in life that should be QUIT BEFORE THEY ARE BEGUN. One of them is CONTENTION.

I think I was probably in grade school when I first read or heard the story about "The Boy Who Saved The Netherlands" -- which I found online. You know the story, and I shan't present here but a brief sketch thereof, which may be totally fictional, but I shall use it illustratively:

On a beautiful day in the Autumn, a little boy about 8 years old named Hans Brinker took some cookies to a blind man who lived on the other side of the dike. After staying a little while, Hans started to return to his own house. When he was walking along the canal, he discovered that the Autumn rain had raised the water in the canal, but he thought his father could manage this slight problem. So, he walked on with no big concern. But as he continued on his way home he heard a strange sound, and discovered water was flowing through a small hole in the earthen dike.

Immediately, he knew what that could mean: -- unless the small trickle was stopped, the hole could soon enlarge, breach the entire dam and bring destruction upon those below it! He knew what to do, and casting away some flowers that he had picked and was carrying home he thrust his finger into the hole, stopping-up that tiny "letting out of water" through the dike. But he was all alone. "Please, help me, some one, please," he said, but none heard his plea. Night came on, and he grew cold, lonely, and frightened, but still he plugged the hole with his finger -- and continued to stop the flow all through the night.

The next morning, a vicar was walking along the canal, heard the crying of Hans, approached him and asked: "What are you doing, boy?" "I am sitting here to stop the water that comes through a small hole," Hans said. "Please help me, I can't hold it any longer." Of course the vicar helped him, and many other people also. And, as the story goes, every one in Holland was very, very proud of this little boy.

Just as the "letting out of water" through a tiny hole in an earthen dam can bring about the total rupture of that dam, even so a tiny "letting out of hostile words or expressions" toward

another can result in a total rupture in the friendship or fellowship between two individuals -- or between two groups of people in a church.

It is sad that some Church Leaders today -- particularly some in the Conservative Holiness Movement -- not only fail to put their finger in such tiny holes of division, but instead poke those holes through the dike intentionally and breach fellowship with alacrity and pleasure -- as if such divisions were necessary to preservation of the purity of the Church!

One's personal views on many things ARE NOT NECESSARY -- to either the purity or unity of the Church. Christ never intended that all of his True Followers agree on all things, and he is a very, very unwise leader who insists that all within his organization kow-tow to his notions on every jot and tittle in the Book!!!

There is nothing wrong with Preachers, or Church Leaders, voicing their views strongly, but -- when even a little bit of personal animosity is expressed toward those who disagree with them -- then a hole is poked through the dike of Christian Fellowship and Unity. It may be quite small to begin with, but unless it is quickly stopped-up, it will enlarge, and soon rupture fellowship between individuals and differing groups within a denomination.

"But I strongly believe his views are WRONG!" No problem there. That is your prerogative.

"But I think that HE HIMSELF must be WRONG, because he does not see things as I do, and therefore I am going to ATTACK both HIM, AND HIS VIEWS!"

Do that, and you shall have foolishly poked a hole in the dike of Christian Unity and Fellowship.

"But I think my view on that matter is the ONLY view that is RIGHT!"

Well, perhaps you are correct in that opinion, but let me ask you something:

DOES IT INVOLVE AN ABSOLUTE ESSENTIAL?

"Well I think so!!!!"

BUT DO YOU KNOW SO???

And, those who are bent upon having it their way and getting rid of all who disagree with them will probably even answer this last question with, "YES, I KNOW SO!" when, in fact, they do not know so!!!!

INTOLERANCE of any differing from one's opinion on any and all things is NOT a trait of SPIRITUALITY -- but rather a trait of CARNALITY! And if one cannot refrain from personal attacks upon others with whom he disagrees, it is an obvious sign of "the carnal mind" which "is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

The Holiness Movement is in desperate need of some humble, little Hans Brinkers -- who can not only refrain from needless and heartless attacks upon those who disagree with them on non-essentials, but who will, in their loving endeavor to "keep the unity of the Spirit," put their finger in the tiniest ruptures of their personal fellowship with those who disagree with them on those matters.

If you have leave so to do, attack a man's views, when you feel you must -- but if you do it with personal animosity and hostility toward that man -- **YOU ARE WRONG, EVEN IF YOU ARE RIGHT!**

For years I preached and taught Pre-Trib, Pre-Mil views myself, but my personal study across a number of years led me to much different views on the subject. I do not insist that everyone agree with Duane Maxey's views on eschatology, for it is a non-essential, and I could be wrong. However, I shall not debate the matter with any of my HDM Email recipients. That could well be "the beginning of strife.. as when one letteth out water." I am **QUITE CONTENT** for you to disagree. I am **NOT CONTENT** for any to argue those differences with me.

"But all I want to do is poke holes in your views, and show you where you are wrong!"

OK -- Here's how I will allow you to do it: -- Do your own extensive, intensive study on the subject; write your own book, set up your own internet ministry, and if I so desire, I will ask to be put on your email list, so that I can read **YOUR** views when they are sent out. But let me assure you of something: -- If you lay down the same rules as have I, I will respect them. And, if I find your views so contrary to my own beliefs that I can no longer abide having them sent to me, along with other material, then I will simply, and courteously, send you an email with "Unsubscribe" in the Subject line. I will not attack you personally and label you personally with some denigrating moniker! My speaking out against Pre-Trib, Pre-Mil teaching is subjective -- not personal!

I believe that the correct views on eschatology **DO** enhance one's views on essentials, and I hold strongly to my own views. However, I shall "leave off contention" with any and all of my HDM Email recipients on the subject "before it be meddled with." I will **NOT** respond to such emails. The last person to drop the HDM emails over the matter did so with a "Parting Shot" -- followed later by two more volleys via Email and a fourth volley by U.S. Mail. I neither read nor responded to any of them.

After reading the above, I hope you still love me -- and, I hope you still want the HDM Emails, even if you do delete some without reading them. If not -- No problem, just send me an email with "Unsubscribe" in the Subject line. You may still either Email me or U.S. Mail me requests for updated HDM discs from time to time. We can disagree agreeably!

\* \* \* \* \*

09 -- SANDWICHED BETWEEN -- RICH & GREEDY \ POOR & NEEDY -- SCOUNDRELS!



Written November 23, 2005

This may strike some as overly cynical, but with Thanksgiving Day coming tomorrow, as a middle-class, hard-working, U.S. Taxpayer, you may find yourself as "The Turkey" -- sandwiched between "Rich and Greedy Scoundrels" in Big Business and "Poor and Needy Scoundrels" enjoying Big Government handouts!

God's Will is that a man seek, through honest labor, to have in this world "neither poverty nor riches" (Prov. 30:8). And, His displeasure is pronounced against both those who are unscrupulously "Greedy" and those who are unscrupulously "Needy":

TO THE UNSCRUPULOUSLY GREEDY He says: -- You "are greedy dogs which can never have enough" (Isaiah 56:11). "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter" (James 5:1-5).

TO THE UNSCRUPULOUSLY NEEDY He says: -- "If any w[ill] not work, neither should he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10). "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing" (Prov. 20:4).

However, in modern U.S. society things are very much out of adjustment with God's will. On the one hand, we have Big Business and Big Oil gouging the hardworking U.S. Taxpayers with every dollar they can squeeze from them -- for goods, gasoline, and services; and, on the other hand we have Big Government handouts to welfare bums, purposely unwed mothers, and to illegal aliens.

Republicans get into office via the wealth of Big Business and Big Oil -- and the biggest "tax breaks" often go to the most wealthy and to the Money Moguls. Democrats get into office via the votes of welfare bums, and all others "on the take" -- who are given free medical, dental, hospital, and health-care that many middle-class taxpayers cannot afford.

We have a Republican President who is a "BIGGER SPENDER" than he is "DEFENDER"! -- and who is so bent upon gratifying every demand of the millions of Illegals in our nation that he has, in reality, ignored every pressure put upon him so far to close our borders, round up the illegals and deport them! He has his puppet, Michael Chertoff "talking the talk" but they are not "walking the walk" in this very threatening matter! President Bush is a BIG SPENDER who wants to be known as a BIG DEFENDER of our nation, while he refuses to close our southern borders -- through which it is very possible, if not likely, that Al Qaeda operatives have already entered -- and through which also, Hispanic dope peddlers and gangsters come and go practically at will. On top of all of this is Bush's complicity with the Money Moguls

of the U.S., who want the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas -- partly to increase their vast wealth -- no matter what harm is done to our National Sovereignty thereby!

We have a Democratic minority in the House and Senate whose only agenda is to unseat the President, regain the Whitehouse, and regain the majority in both houses of Congress -- so that they can increase taxes on the Middle Class -- give away more to the "Unscrupulously Needy" -- and perhaps saddle the Middle Class Taxpayer with Socialized Medicine!

Whichever slice of bread it is -- "The Turkey" caught in the middle of the sandwich today is the hardworking, taxpaying, middle-class American! Both unfair Capitalism and unfair Socialism are the moldy, old slices of bread for the sandwich -- and it makes a lunch that, frankly, is hard to digest this Thanksgiving!

Nevertheless, most middle-class Americans now have more -- so much more -- than our forebears had -- and for THAT, we should be THANKFUL -- TO HIM WHO MADE IT SO. "For we brought NOTHING into this world, and it is certain WE CAN CARRY NOTHING OUT. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (1 Timothy 6:7-8).

MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS  
WITH A BLESSED THANKSGIVING, 2005

\* \* \* \* \*

## 10 -- TASTINGS WITH ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES -- On Outline

### I. The Tasting Of Sin

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Genesis 3:6).

A. Adam tasted Sin and brought Death on every man.

\* \* \*

### II. The Tasting Of Death By Christ

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9).

A. Christ tasted death for every man and brought salvation.

\* \* \*

### III. The Tasting Of Salvation

"For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper" (Luke 14:24 ).

A. "Those Men" were bidden to "taste" of the "Supper" of Salvation.

1. They refused and were destroyed.

"And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people A FEAST OF FAT THINGS, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined" (Isaiah 25:6).

B. "Those Men" who do taste the Supper of Salvation find that it is "A FEAST OF FAT THINGS" -- viz., that which more than satisfies, abundantly above all that they could ask or think.

\* \* \*

#### IV. The Tasting Of Full Salvation

"... Those who.. have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost" (Hebrews 6:4).

A. The Supper of Salvation has "a second course" -- entire sanctification, whereby the saved are "made partakers of the [Baptism of the] Holy Ghost."

\* \* \*

#### V. The Tasting Of Gospel Preaching

"For the ear trieth words, as the mouth tasteth meat" (Job 34:3).

A. Those hungry for Truth and hungry for Real Salvation are never satisfied with the "Cotton Candy" preaching of those whose sermons have no real substance.

B. Hear a man preach a few times and your ear can "taste" what he is dishing out -- "Fluff" or "Food" for the soul.

\* \* \*

#### VI. The Tasting Of God's Word

"How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103).

A. While empty "Fluff" is sweet to the ear, God's Word -- strong meat and all -- is sweet to the soul of a Christian. It is not a substanceless, sickening sweetness, but a substantial, quickening sweetness.

\* \* \*

## VII. The Tasting For Yourself

"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).

A. Satan invited Eve to taste for herself the Forbidden Fruit.

B. Christ invites You to taste for yourself the Fruit of Salvation.

C. "The proof of the pudding," they say, "is in the eating." The proof of Salvation is in the tasting thereof. You will KNOW for yourself, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious" (1 Peter 2:3).

\* \* \*

## VIII. The Tasting Of The World To Come

Those who accept the invitation to Christ's Supper of Salvation, "have tasted the good word of God, AND THE POWERS OF THE WORLD TO COME" (Hebrews 6:5).

Beloved Hymnwriter, Fanny Crosby, wrote:

"Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine!  
OH, WHAT A FORETASTE OF GLORY DIVINE!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood!"

2 Corinthians 1:22 says: -- "Who hath also sealed us, and given THE EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT in our hearts."

Weymouth's New Testament renders this: -- "and He has also set His seal upon us, and has PUT HIS SPIRIT INTO OUR HEARTS AS A pledge and FORETASTE OF FUTURE BLESSING."

Salvation, here and now, is only a "Foretaste of Future Blessing" in "the world to come."

And, in Mark 10:29-30, "Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and

brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life."

Think of it! -- While present salvation is abundantly satisfying, compared with what is still to come on the menu, in the world to some -- IT IS ONLY THE "APPETIZER"!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 11 -- THE DEVIL IS A DIRTY FIGHTER

2 Corinthians 2:11 -- "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices."

The clever, but heartless tactics once used by Norman "Kid" McCoy illustrate well how dirty the devil fights. Norman "Kid" McCoy was welterweight boxing champion in 1896. In one of his title matches the contender had the misfortune of being deaf.

Once McCoy discovered his opponent's disability, he wasted no time in taking advantage of it. Near the end of the third round McCoy stepped back a pace and pointed to his adversary's corner, indicating that the bell had rung.

"Oh, thank you so much," said McCoy's opponent. "Very civil of you." But the bell had NOT rung at all, and as soon as his deaf opponent dropped his hands and turned away, McCoy immediately knocked him out!

Like the clever, but deceitful, heartless and unscrupulous McCoy, Satan is quick to "get an advantage" over the Christian any way he can. He is a dirty fighter, bent only upon winning. He has no regard for the "Marquis of Queensberry Rules." He will lie by implication as did McCoy, use a "Sucker Punch" -- "Head-Butt" -- "Low Blow" -- "Rabbit Punch" -- "Elbow" -- or any other tricky and dirty means he can to down and defeat the Christian.

Further, as a Dirty Fighter Satan is out to KILL, not just win. Jesus said he was "a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44).

In this he is well typified by the ruthless Joab. 2 Samuel 20:8-13 records the story of Joab's ploy wherewith he slew Amasa, whom David had appointed to replace him. It is a story that bears a striking similarity to that of Norman "Kid" McCoy, but which displays an even greater disregard for honor and mercy. It is probably the most gory-story in the Book!

8 When they were at the great stone which is in Gibeon, Amasa went before them. And Joab's garment that he had put on was girded unto him, and upon it a girdle with a sword fastened upon his loins in the sheath thereof; and as he went forth it fell out.

9 And Joab said to Amasa, Art thou in health, my brother? And Joab took Amasa by the beard with the right hand to kiss him.

10 But Amasa took no heed to the sword that was in Joab's hand: so he smote him therewith in the fifth rib, and shed out his bowels to the ground, and struck him not again; and he died. So Joab and Abishai his brother pursued after Sheba the son of Bichri.

11 And one of Joab's men stood by him, and said, He that favoureth Joab, and he that is for David, let him go after Joab.

12 And Amasa wallowed in blood in the midst of the highway. And when the man saw that all the people stood still, he removed Amasa out of the highway into the field, and cast a cloth upon him, when he saw that every one that came by him stood still.

13 When he was removed out of the highway, all the people went on after Joab, to pursue after Sheba the son of Bichri.

How utterly deceitful and heartless Joab was! Not only did this murderous knave use the ploy of brotherhood and feigned interest in Amasa's well-being to commit murder -- he left his fallen victim to moan, groan, and wallow in his blood on the highway before he died!!

In like manner, Satan poses as a friend when, in fact, he is a fiend! who slays all who shake his hand! There is only an "r" missing from "friend" in the word "fiend" -- and that "r" could be said to represent "Reality". Remove "reality" from friend and you have, instead, a fiend. Christ is the real, the true, Friend of Man, who laid down His life for us all. Satan is the false friend -- a Fiend, who turns upon and slays all who befriend him. Like Joab, Satan would have people THINK he is concerned about their personal welfare, when, in fact, he is out to kill them eternally.

Happily, God recompensed the heartless Joab with a judgment without mercy, just as he had shown no mercy. The story is found in 1 Kings 1:28-34.

28 Then tidings came to Joab: for Joab had turned after Adonijah, though he turned not after Absalom. And Joab fled unto the tabernacle of the Lord, and caught hold on the horns of the altar.

29 And it was told king Solomon that Joab was fled unto the tabernacle of the Lord; and, behold, he is by the altar. Then Solomon sent Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, saying, Go, fall upon him.

30 And Benaiah came to the tabernacle of the Lord, and said unto him, Thus saith the king, Come forth. And he said, Nay; but I will die here. And Benaiah brought the king word again, saying, Thus said Joab, and thus he answered me.

31 And the king [Solomon] said unto him, Do as he hath said, and fall upon him, and bury him; that thou mayest take away the innocent blood, which Joab shed, from me, and from the house of my father.

32 And the Lord shall return his blood upon his own head, who fell upon two men more righteous and better than he, and slew them with the sword, my father David not knowing thereof, to wit, Abner the son of Ner, captain of the host of Israel, and Amasa the son of Jether, captain of the host of Judah.

33 Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David, and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne, shall there be peace for ever from the Lord.

34 So Benaiah the son of Jehoiada went up, and fell upon him, and slew him: and he was buried in his own house in the wilderness.

Isn't it something how often today's cold-blooded Mass-Murderers are sentenced to LIFE, instead of DEATH, which justice demands?

Mass Murder, Robert Lee Yates, was arrested and tried in Spokane, Washington while we lived there -- and he got off with LIFE, instead of death. He had slain 22 women.

Likewise, Seattle-Tacoma's Green River Killer, who murdered about 3 dozen women, got LIFE instead of DEATH.

Now the other day (August, 1005) Dennis Rader, the fiendish BTK Killer of Wichita, Kansas got LIFE, instead of death, for his numerous, hideous tortures and killings across two or more decades!

like the dastardly Joab, heartless man-slayers will flee for, and beg for, mercy for themselves, instead of justice. But the time is coming when, like Joab, they shall all "have judgment without mercy" who have "showed no mercy" (James 2:13) -- and that includes the Devil. Indeed, he and his imps shall be the first to be cast into the Lake of Fire!

While Time endures, Christians must beware, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). But, Thanks be unto God, the time WILL come with this most Deceitful and Dirtiest Fighter of All shall be eternally slain, and cast down to the lowest depths of the Bottomless Pit!

It has long been my thought that Hell shall become an inverted pyramid -- with the most powerful evil beings now at the top of the pyramid being the weakest beings in Hell! If such IS the case, Satan will be the weakest being in Hell: -- He will be the "Whipping Boy" of all others in that place of eternal recompense. Like everybody's "football" he will be kicked around and suffer torments from all others there. This must be the case, for Jesus Himself said that there would be degrees of punishment -- those guilty of the most sin suffering the most in Hell. Thus, fallen Lucifer will be the greatest sufferer in the Lake of Fire.

I shall conclude this article with a story I recall hearing from H. B. "Doc" Huffman years ago. He told of a mean old fellow who died and was buried in a rocky cemetery. Another old

man, who had been mistreated by the deceased, looked on as they began to cover the coffin. The mound formed by the excavation of the grave was full of rocks, along with what dirt there was.

The wronged witness said to those about to cover the coffin:

"PUT THE ROCKS TO HIM, BOYS -- HE'S BEEN MEAN TO ME!"

If saints should witness the casting of Satan into the Lake of Fire, perhaps everyone of them could shout:

"PUT THE FIRE TO HIM, LORD! -- HE'S BEEN MEAN TO ME!"

And all the people said..... A-----MENNNNNN!!!

\* \* \* \* \*

## 12 -- THE PICTURE OF TOE-WOE IS ME!

Written By Duane V. Maxey About 46 Years Ago, When I was 22

A small appendage is the toe,  
But Oh, the great amount of woe  
Upon humanity bestow  
The accidents to it pertaining,  
With sundry other pungent paining!  
Don't take me wrong, I'm not complaining,  
Among my fellow man remaining,  
Are those with pedal digits straining,  
Tightly packed within a shoe,  
Cramped till rendered black and blue.  
And there be those with knobby corns,  
With ingrown nails, and other morns  
Who suffer low and high degree  
Of pain in all variety  
About this same locality.

But, friend, I want your sympathy!  
For, still it is my strong conviction  
That I EXCELL in this affliction!  
For, always, ever, never failing,  
While 'bout the house, barefoot I'm sailing,  
Toes protruding, each step hailing--  
Suddenly, there comes a crash!  
'Gainst the leg of chair they smash!  
Pain then flashes in "Hi-Fi"--  
From my mouth erupts a CRY,  
Followed by a gasping sigh.



Foot in hand, I moan and shout;  
On one leg I dance about!  
Friend, I want your sympathy!  
The picture of toe-woe is ME!

END OF THIS SILLY LITTLE RHYME

\* \* \* \* \*

13 -- THERE WAS A SWEET TIME ON OUR SOD

Written by Duane V. Maxey

On the morning of September 19, 2005

There was a sweet time I recall, on our sod,  
When no one had heard of a thing called "Jihad"!  
Osama bin Laden had not yet been born,  
And there was no A.C.L.U. here to scorn!

The Pledge was recited that we're "Under God"--  
Our borders were guarded where trespassers trod!  
And murderers then faced the noose or the chair,  
Or never again took a breath of free air!

The Cross was still honored along with God's Book;  
The public still gave them a reverent look!  
At Christmas, sweet carols were sung of Christ's birth;  
'Twas not just a time about money and mirth!

Abortion was murder, with no Roe V. Wade  
To justify killing with needle or blade!  
All those who performed it, once caught, went to jail,  
To spend time in prison, without setting bail!

The children at school were not doped and not shot!  
And students, by God-fearing teachers were taught!  
Their clothes were kept modest -- no nudity then,  
The women were women, the men were all men!

The perverts were shunned and were never called "gay";  
The children were safe when they went out to play!  
And when with a girl a boy started to flirt,  
There wasn't a need for an "Amber Alert"!

No "Green River" killers were stalking the lands,  
No "Beetle" invasions, no Acid Rock Bands!  
The music had melody kind to the ear,

And wasn't so loud the whole world had to hear!

The immigrants here, from wherever the trip,  
Learned English and in time got citizenship!  
They came to enjoy the American dream,  
And never against U.S. laws did they scream!

The Stars and the Stripes of our Red, White and Blue  
Were waved without shame by our patriots, true;  
No whiners were heard anywhere on our soil--  
Crying, "We went to battle for nothing but oil!"

Whatever the threat, 'twas united we stood,  
Defending the free, though it cost us our blood!  
The brave vets were honored when they had returned,  
And never by ingrates and critics were spurned!

But things have all changed, as we've drifted from God--  
We're blighted with problems and cheated with fraud!  
We're hit by Al Qaeda, and hurricanes, too!  
As God is now rendering what has come due!

We've danced without "paying the fiddler" -- long;  
This nation's become now a pleasure-mad throng!  
With gods made of evils in which to cavort!  
And worship is now in the dome of the sport!

"America! -- known as the Land of the Free,  
Repent of thy sins, and return unto Me!"  
This message, the warning -- this message, God's call!  
Now heed and be saved -- or, ignore it and fall!

\* \* \* \* \*

14 -- WANTED: BROTHERLY LOVE, DEAD OR ALIVE!

"Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1).

\* \* \*

## I. Brotherly Love Is What You Want It To Be

Thinking to fool him, a man approached an old sage with a little, live bird hidden in his closed hand. He would ask the wise man whether the bird was alive or dead. If he replied that it was alive, he would squeeze the bird to death and then open his hand, showing that the bird was dead. If the old sage said the bird was dead, he would open his hand and let the living bird fly

away. But, perceiving the questioner's clever scheme, when the question was put: "Is the bird alive or dead?" the wise man replied, "IT IS, WHATEVER YOU WANT IT TO BE."

Thus it is also with "Brotherly Love" -- it is either DEAD or ALIVE -- whatever one wishes it to be. It is never slain in the heart of one who wants it to live, even if his brother wants it dead:

"He drew a circle that left me out,  
A rebel, an heretic, a thing to flout;  
But Love and I had a wit to win.  
We drew a circle that took him in!"

"Rita Snowden tells a story of the war. In France some soldiers with their sergeant brought the body of a dead comrade to a French cemetery to have him buried. The priest told them gently that he was bound to ask if their comrade had been a baptized adherent of the Roman Catholic Church. They said that they did not know. The priest said that he was very sorry but in that case he could not permit burial in his churchyard. So the soldiers took their comrade sadly and buried him just outside the fence. The next day they came back to see that the grave was all right and to their astonishment could not find it. Search as they might they could find no trace of the freshly dug soil. As they were about to leave in bewilderment the priest came up. He told them that his heart had been troubled because of his refusal to allow their dead comrade to be buried in the churchyard; so, early in the morning, he had risen from his bed and with his own hands had moved the fence to include the body of the soldier who had died for France." -- William Barclay

\* \* \*

## II. Brotherly Love Wanted: -- Dead!

Conversely, Brotherly Love never lives in the heart of one who wishes it to die.

According to at least one writer, King James II was a hard-hearted and hateful man who gloried "in the opportunity of crushing another. One of the most affecting pictures in the Royal Academy depicts the king in the act of crushing the poor, defeated Duke of Monmouth. In a room hung with tapestry, the king stands erect, lank, sickly, and contemptuous. The poor duke whose rebellion had roused the hatred of the King thought to move him to pity. His arms were bound behind him with a silken cord and thus secured. He was ushered into the presence of the implacable kinsman whom he had wronged. Then Monmouth threw himself on the ground and crawled to the king's feet. The artist represents him with face on the smooth floor, eyes swollen with weeping and watching, striving to move the king to pity. It was in vain. The king only crushed him with hardness and contempt. No wonder that the historian says strongly: 'To see him and not to spare him was an outrage on humanity and decency.'"

Yes, it is "an outrage on human decency" when Brotherly Love is crushed -- and, it is always "an example of human depravity" since the fall. The Bible is replete with examples of those who "wanted brotherly love DEAD."

A -- CAIN WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. NOT AS CAIN, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (1 John 2:10-12). Cain brazenly asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9), when he knew he was "his brother's slayer"! But, before Cain slew his brother, he had already slain brotherly love in his heart.

B -- ISHMAEL WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- "And the child [Isaac] grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking" (Genesis 21:8-9). When a man mocks his brother, he has already slain brotherly love in his heart. Is it any wonder that Ishmael's offspring have hated and slain the offspring of Isaac down through the centuries, and that it is this hatred that fuels most of the crisis now going on in the middle east!

C -- ESAU WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- "And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob" (Genesis 27:41). It is true that Jacob's deceit had been partly the reason why Esau slew brotherly love in his heart, but "two wrongs don't make a right." It is also true that Esau finally did allow brotherly love to live again in his heart -- something that probably most haters of their brothers never again permit.

D -- JOSEPH'S BRETHREN WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- You know the story of their plot against Joseph, and how finally "they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it" (Genesis 37:24). But "their chickens came home to roost" when Divine Providence elevated Joseph to the Second in Command of all Egypt and cast them as prisoners beneath his feet. Yet Love, and Joseph, had a wit to win, HE drew a circle that took them in"!

E -- ELIAB WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- "And Eliab his [David's] eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle" (1 Samuel 17:28). Eliab's harsh, and mistaken, judgment of David betrayed the fact that brotherly love toward David had been slain, being replaced by the same hateful attitude of many others who quickly, harshly, and mistakenly judge their brethren, without knowing the facts!

F -- ABSALOM WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- Yes, Amnon's perfidy and vile sin against Absalom's sister, Tamar, should have aroused righteous indignation in Absalom's heart -- but not murder! He first slew brotherly love in his heart toward Amnon, and then -- two years later -- the seething hatred that devised the plot to slay Amnon was executed: -- "Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with

wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. 29 And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled" (2 Samuel 13:28-29).

G -- TYRUS (THE KING OF TYRE) WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- "Thus saith the Lord; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and REMEMBERED NOT THE BROTHERLY COVENANT: But I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus, which shall devour the palaces thereof" (Amos 1:9-10).

Adam Clarke says here: -- "This possibly refers to the very friendly league made between Solomon and Hiram, king of Tyre, 1Ki 5:12; but some contend that the brotherly covenant refers to the consanguinity between the Jews and Edomites. The Tyrians, in exercising cruelties upon these, did it, in effect, on the Jews, with whom they were connected by the most intimate ties of kindred; the two people having descended from the two brothers, Jacob and Esau. [Verse 10. I will send a fire on the wall of Tyrus] The destructive fire or siege by Nebuchadnezzar, which lasted thirteen years, and ended in the destruction of this ancient city; see on Ezekiel, Ezekiel 26:7-14, as above. It was finally ruined by Alexander, and is now only a place for a few poor fishermen to spread their nets upon."

There is always a negative price to pay when brotherly love is slain.

H -- THE ELDER BROTHER WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE DEAD: -- You know well the story of the Prodigal Son. It may have been, in part, the hatred of his Elder Brother that caused the Prodigal to make the decision to leave home. The Elder Brother considered himself to be "Mr. Perfect"! -- all while there was not an ounce of brotherly love in his bones! When the rejoicing Father made a feast for his repentant and returned younger son, the Elder Brother "was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him" (Luke 15:28). Unfortunately, there are "Elder Brothers" in today's Holiness Movement and Church of God with attitudes and jealousies, and behaviors, identical to that of their Prototype in Jesus' story!

\* \* \*

### III. Brotherly Love Wanted: -- Alive!

A -- ABRAHAM WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE ALIVE: -- "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren" (Genesis 13:8). You know the story: -- Lot and his herdsmen wanted grazing rights more than brotherly love. So, Abraham gave up the "grazing rights" but God gave him the "gazing rights" to the utter destruction of all that looked so lush and luxuriant to Lot.

B -- PETER WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE ALIVE: -- "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love

one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22). "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Peter 2:17). "Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8).

C -- JOHN WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE ALIVE: -- "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth... If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also" (1 John 3:14-18; 4:20-21). So convinced was John of the necessity of letting brotherly love live that he declared (under Divine Inspiration) that those who have slain brotherly love are spiritually dead themselves! And, he insisted that brotherly love is always "acted out" when it is real.

D -- PAUL WANTED BROTHERLY LOVE ALIVE: -- "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another" (Romans 12:10). "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

E -- GOD WANTS BROTHERLY LOVE ALIVE: - "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:9).

None should doubt for a split-second what God wants, when it comes to the decision of whether one will, or will not, love his brother (or sister) -- regardless of what may provoke the temptation to slay it in one's heart! GOD WANTS BROTHERLY LOVE -- ALIVE!

F -- IS IT TIME TO STOP PICTURING YOUR BROTHER AS YOU DO?: -- The story is told that when "Leonardo da Vinci was painting the 'Last Supper,' he had an intense, bitter argument with a fellow painter. Leonardo was so enraged that he decided to paint the face of his enemy into the face of Judas. That way the hated painter's face would be preserved for ages in the face of the betraying disciple. When Leonardo finished Judas, everyone easily recognized the face of the painter with whom Leonardo quarreled.

"Leonardo continued to work on the painting. But as much as he tried, he could not paint the face of Christ. Something was holding him back. Leonardo decided his hatred toward his fellow painter was the problem. So he worked through his hatred by repainting Judas' face, replacing the image of his fellow painter with another face. Only then was he able to paint Jesus' face and complete the masterpiece."

G -- IS IT TIME TO SHOW BROTHERLY LOVE, EVEN IN DEFEAT? -- "A Union soldier, bitter in his hatred of the Confederacy, lay wounded at Gettysburg. At the close of the

battle General Lee rode by, and the soldier, though faint from exposure and loss of blood, raised his hands, looked Lee in the face, and shouted as loudly as he could, "Hurrah for the Union!" The General heard him, dismounted, and went toward him, and the soldier confesses: 'I thought he meant to kill me. But as he came up, he looked at me with such a sad expression upon his face that all fear left me, and looking right into my eye, he said, "My son, I hope you will soon be well." If I live a thousand years, I shall never forget the expression on General Lee's face. There he was, defeated, retiring from a field that had cost him and his cause almost their last hope, and yet he stopped to say words like those to a wounded soldier of the opposition who had taunted him as he passed by. As soon as the General left me I cried myself to sleep there upon the bloody battleground.'" -- W.S.B.

\* \* \*

#### IV. The Revival Of Brotherly Love Brings Positive Results!

The slaying of brotherly love always brings the Divine Displeasure, and very, very negative consequences: "Because the Philistines" took "vengeance with a despitful heart" filled with "THE OLD HATRED," God said, "I will execute great vengeance upon them with furious rebukes; and they shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall lay my vengeance upon them" (Ezekiel 25:15, 17).

But when "The Old Hatred" is slain, and "The Old Brotherly Love" is revived in one's heart, the Divine Blessing is poured out upon it with very, very positive results.

"In his book 'Open the Door Wide to Happy Living,' T. Huffman Harris told of a young man named Eddie who became tired of life and decided to leap from a bridge into a turbulent river. Jim, a total stranger, saw Eddie being swept downstream and plunged into the water in an effort to save him. Eddie, a good swimmer, noticed the man floundering desperately in the strong current and knew that without his help he would drown. Something stirred within him. With all of his strength, Eddie swam over to the man and rescued him. Saving that stranger, who had attempted to save him, brought new hope and meaning to Eddie's life."

Brotherly Hate often leads to a suicidal despair, but when Brotherly Love is revived -- sometimes in unusual circumstances -- it can bring "new hope and meaning" to one's life!

We can be sure that God wills for "Brotherly Love" to continue -- Alive, and Well! -- but, if it is dead, that "The Old Hatred" be drowned and "Brotherly Love" be revived -- and, He has a way of getting folks into that "stream of Providential Opportunity" where that miraculous revival can occur.

\* \* \* \* \*

15 -- YOUR NOSE KNOWS!

By Duane V. Maxey

One time Pa smelled a pole-cat,

At least that's what he thunk!  
Ma said it was a hog-farm,  
I said it was a skunk!

Hit did not make no diff-ernce,  
The stink was just the same!  
And would not be no better,  
Whatever the right name!

Hit ain't how smart a man is,  
Nor how wise that he grows!  
What matters in such cases--  
Is what has met his nose!

He might not know no English,  
Or how tuh rightly spel--  
He'll wise-up quick as lightnin'  
Whin he whiffs that there smell!

His feet'll start in motion,  
Afore his brain's in gear,  
An' he'll run farther, faster  
Than when he's in great fear!

The moral of this story,  
If there is one to tell:  
Yur brain may fail the test, whin  
Yur nose has larned it well!

End Of This Little Ditty About A Striped Kitty

\* \* \* \* \*

THE END