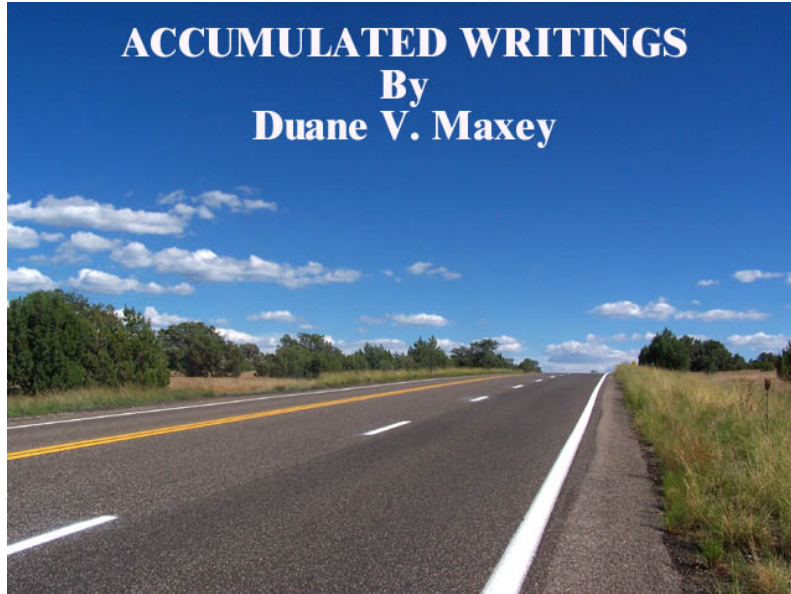


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**ACCUMULATED WRITINGS  
By Duane V. Maxey**



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**Digital Edition 08/22/06  
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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COLLECTION

This file consists of 14 of my writings which were accumulated at various times during the past, dealing with various subjects. Thus, it is a potpourri, and not a collection of writings dealing with one theme. Furthermore, there are poems and one outline mixed in with articles and compilations. The 7th item in the collection consists, in part, with a poem I wrote in memory of my brother, Roger Adney Maxey, who died on December 23, 2005. It is my sincere hope that those who take the time to read all, or part, of these "Accumulated Writings" will find something therein that will be a blessing to them. -- Duane V. Maxey, August 22, 2006, Chandler, Arizona.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 01 -- A PROPHECY THAT DID NOT COME TO PASS

"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, IF THE THING FOLLOW NOT, NOR COME TO PASS, THAT IS THE THING WHICH THE LORD HATH NOT SPOKEN, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

The worst earthquake in Japanese history -- the Great Kanto Earthquake -- struck Japan on September 1, 1923, and destroyed Tokyo, Yokohama, and the surrounding area. About 140,000 people died -- some directly from the quake and others from the fires caused by it.

In his 1937 book, published about 14 years later, apparently author G \_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_ referred to this horrendous earthquake, and rather confers upon himself the status of a prophet when he wrote (CAPS MINE):

"Then it was that for brief moments even THE PROPHET'S MANTLE FELL UPON ME.

"One night, as I was locking my car in the garage I rented from my neighbor, the fierce bulldog kept to guard the place leaped at me the full length of his chain as

he had done every time I came near him. Just as I was preparing to put the padlock on the door that night, an inner voice seemed to tell me -- so clear came the realization-that the next moment the dog would break his chain. For months the dog had been fastened there and never had the chain broken. But, trusting this guidance, I withdrew the padlock, stepped inside the garage, and drew the door shut after me. The same instant the chain broke and the full weight of the dog crashed against the door.

**"LATER IN THE SAME YEAR, TWO STUDENTS ASKED ME WHY I WAS SO SURE THAT WE WERE NOT TO HAVE A WAR WITH JAPAN. I turned to God for guidance and suddenly heard myself saying, 'BECAUSE JAPAN AS A MILITARY NATION WILL BE DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE.' 'How soon?' they asked, and immediately I heard myself saying, 'Within the next six months.'**

**"Five months after that date the earthquake occurred that reduced Japan from a first-class to a third-class fighting nation overnight, destroyed its shipping-yards and its treasury and about one hundred thousand lives."**

**Make of this story what you will. In about February or March of 1923, apparently G\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_ did accurately prophesy that a great earthquake would hit Japan within six months from the time he predicted it -- the Great Kanto Earthquake of September 1, 1923. However, he was WRONG in his prophecy that the U.S. was "NOT TO HAVE WAR WITH JAPAN."**

**Out of the rubble of that horrendous earthquake, Japan arose once again as a proud, "MILITARY NATION" and made war on the U.S. with its sneak attack of December 7, 1941 on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.**

**Here, let me pose the following question:-- If a man is a true prophet of God, are his prophecies correct only in part? or only part of the time?**

**I answer:-- A RESOUNDING "NO"!!!**

**God's True Word COMES TO PASS -- TOTALLY and ALWAYS!**

**He has no true prophets who are right in part and wrong in part, nor any true prophets whose prophecies are accurate part of the time and wrong part of the time.**

**This is not to say that a God-called preacher cannot be partly wrong sometimes in what he says. It is, however, to assert categorically that none who label themselves as "prophets" can be true prophets when their stated predictions are partly right, partly wrong, and but right part of the time and wrong part of the time.**

Recently, Charismatic Leader & Past Politician, Pat Robertson predicted certain calamities to befall the U.S. in the near future. However, when I heard Robertson's prophecy, I noted that he gave himself quite a bit of lee-way, so that there was a better chance that some of his prophecy would be fulfilled, or could be interpreted as having been fulfilled! Away with such "I may hit it lucky" predictions!

When such self-anointed prophets do "hit it lucky" with a prediction, they often arrogate to themselves the status of those whose every prediction thereafter must be taken as the unquestionably inerrant voice of God. But God tells us in His truly inerrant Word:-- "IF THE THING FOLLOW NOT, NOR COME TO PASS, THAT IS THE THING WHICH THE LORD HATH NOT SPOKEN" -- and that means **TOTALLY AND ALWAYS** -- not just on one, two, or even several occasions.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 tells us that "TIME AND CHANCE HAPPENETH TO THEM ALL." The "TIME" could come when ANYONE might make a prediction that by "CHANCE" comes to pass. This does not mean that the person who accurately predicted the occurrence is a prophet -- any more than putting a dollar into a slot machine, on a hunch, and hitting the jackpot proves that the person who did so is a skilled gambler, or one whose "luck" will strike it rich next time. In most cases, such foolish gamblers who hit the jackpot, after that gamble away all they got in that "lucky moment" and go on to lose far more than they won!

Likewise, just because a man or woman predicts something once or twice that occurs with partial or total accuracy, that does not mean that he or she is a genuine prophet of God!

Through the apostle John, God warns His people:-- "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but TRY THE SPIRITS whether they are of God: BECAUSE MANY FALSE PROPHETS ARE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD" (1 John 4:1).

In 1923, it must have looked like G\_\_\_\_ C\_\_\_\_ was truly a prophet of God, but 14 years later the real substantive part of his prophecy failed:-- the U.S. DID "HAVE WAR WITH JAPAN"!

One way of "trying the spirits" is to take the "wait and see" approach. Don't be quick to anoint anyone as a Divine Prophet simply because they may have "hit it lucky" in part, or in whole with one or more predictions. Often, only "TIME WILL TELL" whether a person has truly spoken prophetically under Divine Inspiration, and too often, easily beguiled souls quickly jump to the conclusion that a professed prophet, or prophetess, is God's true, Latter-Day Messenger, because some little thing, or things, predicted came to pass. Furthermore, often many of the followers of such a false prophet, or prophetess, are led into outlandish and even insanely catastrophic extremes, like those of the "Cyanide-Laced, Kool-Aid-Drinking Followers" of the infamous Jim Jones in South America, and like those of the so-called "Branch Davidian" followers of "The Wacko of Waco," David Koresh! Selah.

\* \* \* \* \*

## 02 -- FALSE TEETH STORIES

### INTRODUCTION

This is a compilation of stories and items about False Teeth -- some of which are amusing, some of which are historical, some of which are serious or informative, and all of which I hope the reader will find interesting.

\* \* \*

### CONTENTS

- A -- Strictly Amusing Items About False Teeth
- B -- False Teeth Stories Involving Church Folks
- C -- False Teeth In History
- D -- In The News About False Teeth

\* \* \* \* \*

### A -- AMUSING ITEMS ABOUT FALSE TEETH

I think it may have be a fellow named Pat Butrum who said: "Truer words were never spoken -- through falser teeth!" -- DVM

\* \* \*

And then, there is a fellow named Duane Maxey who came up with the following, corny take on an old cliché: -- "Nothing dentured, nothing gained!" -- DVM

\* \* \*

#### He Loved Her Voice

Maybe you heard about the man who fell in love with an opera singer. He hardly knew her, since his only view of the singer was through binoculars -- from the third balcony. But he was convinced he could live "happily ever after" married to a voice like that. He scarcely noticed she was considerably older than he. Nor did he care that she walked with a limp. Her mezzo soprano voice would take them through whatever might come. After their whirlwind romance and marriage, upon seeing his new bride plop her glass eye into a glass of water, pull off her wig, take off her false eyelashes, remove her artificial leg, yank out her false teeth, and slip off her glasses revealing her hearing-aid -- stunned and horrified by it all, the new

husband's chin dropped to his chest, and he gasped loudly: -- "Sing, Sing, SING, WOMAN! SING!! -- Adapted From 2700-Plus Sermon Illustrations

\* \* \*

### **No, He Wasn't A Dentist!**

Harry is at a banquet and keeps complaining that his false teeth are hurting him. The guy sitting to his left reaches into his pocket and pulls out a set of dentures. He hands them to Harry and says, "Try these."

Harry tries them, and says, "Thanks anyway, but they're too tight." The guy pulls out another set and hands them to Harry. They fit perfectly, so Harry wears them for the entire night. At the end of the banquet, Harry hands them back to the guy and says, "They fit me perfectly. Are you a dentist?"

The guy says, "No, I'm an undertaker." -- From an Online site

\* \* \*

### **Looking For Her False Teeth As The Bombs Fell**

J\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_, [was] a big man in every sense... was the most wonderful Yiddish raconteur. One of his many wartime stories, he swore was true is: He overhead voices in a back entry. A male voice shouted "Becky come quick the [Air-Raid] sirens have gone." "Wait," came the reply "I can't find de false teeth," "Becky vat you think they dropping... pickled meat sandviches!!!!" -- From an Online site

\* \* \*

### **Didn't Think He Was Co-operating**

A man who unfortunately did not know how to swim, accidentally fell into the river. A life-guard jumped into the river to rescue him. The life-guard grabbed hold of his arm and his artificial arm came off. He grabbed hold of his leg and his cork leg came off. He grabbed hold of his hair and his wig came off. Desperately the life-guard grabbed hold of his teeth and his false teeth came out. At the end of all his resources the life-guard shouted, "Sir, if you do not cooperate we'll both drown." -- From an Online site

[Here is a case of demanding co-operation that could not be given! The easiest thing to do when trying to save souls might be to blame your failure on the one you want to help get saved, when in fact it is YOU who need to use a different approach. -- DVM]

\* \* \*

## **Shoulda Kept His Mouth Shut!**

**We have read somewhere of a cattleman who, in the days before banks were numerous, took a roll of bills and went away to buy cattle. On such errands, men were in constant danger of being robbed and murdered. When he did not return at the appointed time his wife became hysterical with anxiety. A man was found murdered and his picture appeared in the papers, whom she mistook for her husband, and later identified him in the morgue where she collapsed. Regaining consciousness, she ordered the undertaker to prepare the remains for burial. She selected an expensive casket and robe in keeping with his known wealth. At the grave, the sobbing wife said she would be bound to see him once more before he was put away. When the casket was opened there was a bandage about the jaws and she asked them to remove it. As they did so, the lower jaw dropped down and a full set of false teeth fell out. Immediately, the woman dried her tears, declared the man was not her husband, as he still had all his teeth and to the astonishment of the undertaker, said she would not be responsible for the funeral expenses. Filled with wrath he threw the casket into the hearse and rushed back to the morgue where he exchanged the expensive casket for a pine box which proved to be too short. As he crowded the remains into the box he muttered, "I don't care if you are crowded. You might have had a respectable funeral if you had kept your mouth shut." -- From hdm0628, Gospel Dynamite by Oscar Hudson**

\* \* \*

## **False Teeth Are Like Stars**

**Question: Why are false teeth like stars? Answer: Because they come out at night! -- Submitted by Claudia, Age 11 -- From an Online site**

\* \* \*

## **The Remark of a Four Year Old Girl**

**While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!" -- From an Online site**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **B -- FALSE TEETH STORIES INVOLVING CHURCH FOLKS**

## Caught 'Em In Mid-Air

A. J. M\_\_\_\_, preacher, evangelist and publisher, was familiar to many in his generation in the Mennonite Church. He was an excellent preacher and a gifted teacher. He often spent weekends giving messages and holding evangelistic meetings. His father had these speaking abilities as well, only more so. Abram M\_\_\_\_, A. J.'s father, was known to get quite enthused about his messages, and he could speak quite loudly and vociferously. A.J. related the following story about his father. At an evening service, during his enthusiastic and energetic preaching, he had to sneeze. Those who knew A. J. or any of his children, know that they have a rather explosive, noisy sneeze. (I think it is genetic.) So was the case with the elder Abram. When he sneezed, his false teeth flew out of his mouth and were headed for the floor directly in front of him. Deft of wit and quick of hand, he caught the false teeth in midair, stuffed them quickly back into his mouth, and continued preaching as though nothing had ever happened. Not even a subdued "Amen" from the amen corner could slow him down. He did comment later regarding what folks would remember about the evening. "Unfortunately," he said, " you will most likely remember the teeth and forget the message." -- From an Online site

\* \* \*

## False Teeth That Preached A Message

"A good lady who for a long time had sought the blessing of sanctification, had the following experience. She said, 'If I could just have an experience like Brother Stephen Merritt's I would be sanctified.' Brother Merritt was one of those happy, hilarious souls who had had the blessing for years. Brother Merritt knew of her desire to obtain an experience like his. One day he came to her home with a little package very neatly tied up and gave it to her with the exhortation, 'Don't open it till tomorrow.' Well, what do you suppose she did? What would you have done? She opened it just as soon as he was out of sight. And what do you suppose it was? It was a set of Brother Merritt's old, cast off false teeth! Can you imagine?

"She was perplexed and vexed. She said, 'Of all things. Brother Merritt has been my ideal. I have even desired a blessing like he has. But he is rude. I don't understand it.' Soon Brother Merritt came by again and she was ready for him and asked what in the world he meant by such rude actions. She said, 'Do you think I could wear your old teeth? Do you think they would fit me?'

"Brother Merritt quietly answered, 'I think they would fit you about like my experience. Good-bye.'

"He passed on. Then she said, 'I see. I will take it the way the Lord wants to give it to me and just the kind of blessing he desires to give.' And she was soon rejoicing in her new-found experience. We must be willing to make a complete and



**eternal consecration and trust the Lord to come in His own way." -- From hdm0165, Effective Illustrations By William Moses Tidwell**

\* \* \*

### **She Kept Her Tobacco And Threw Away Her False Teeth!**

**While I worked at the Bible School shop I was pastor of the mission. The last year I worked at the shop I was their pastor. When I started to work there, Charlie Pole was the pastor. When he left I was put in as pastor. I had from 7:00 to 7:30 every morning to sing and preach. We had some good services while there. I left there and went out into the full time ministry. I remember while pastoring the mission, a woman got mad at me for preaching against tobacco and she had false teeth. She got condemned on wearing her false teeth, went out on the L and N bridge, threw her teeth in the river, and went on gumming her tobacco. Well, I didn't say much to her for I thought if ignorance got any through she might make it. -- From hdm0651, My Life Story As A Mountain Boy Preacher By B. H. Lucas**

\* \* \*

### **Bud Robinson Said:**

**"Wherever you go and find Nazarenes you find a band of the best people on earth and they are simply pitchers of cream, and also sacks of salt and some of them would remind you of bowls of honey."**

**"Already a lady asked me if I had false teeth and I told her that I did not, that there was nothing false about my teeth that they were shop-made and the real thing and no make believe." -- From hdm0525, Bud Robinson, A Brother Beloved By J. B. Chapman**

\* \* \*

### **Sister Griddle**

**Sister Griddle was a devoted member of her church. Was always on time to the second in her seat; had sat in the same place for twenty years or more; heard the Gospel through her left ear all that time; while she posted herself so as to keep one eye on the preacher and the other on the congregation.**

**She generally, as is said, rubbed the fur the wrong way with about three individuals before she settled herself for worship in the corner of her pew. Running her white handkerchief over the tops of the seats she would say to the janitor, "You have not dusted this church in a month." To one of the ushers she would remark, "Why don't you have the inner door oiled. I believe you like to hear it squeak and announce your coming as you walk down the aisle." To the pastor she next**

delivered herself, "Quit using notes of your sermon. Strike out from the shoulder, and you will then hit somebody."

All this was good advice, but like some medicine it would have been taken better if sugar-coated; but unfortunately Sister Griddle seemed to have nothing saccharine in her nature, and dealt exclusively in salt, pepper and vinegar, not to mention Tabasco sauce.

She wanted the Sunday morning service to end at 12 o'clock, no matter where the preacher was, whether the other side of the Deluge, crossing the Red Sea, or up Mt. Sinai and had not come down, or was under the Mediterranean with Jonah and had not come up. In spite of all such situations and predicaments, she desired everything to stop at 12 o'clock. Her dinner hour was 12:30 and heaven and earth might pass away and change, but her midday meal must undergo no postponement or alteration of any kind both now and forever.

If the church clock pointed to one, two, or five minutes past twelve, and still no benediction or doxology from the pulpit, one could see Mrs. Griddle's bonnet ribbons bristle and stand on end, hear her black silk dress crackle and something snap like corset steels. It may have been the click of the good sister's false teeth, but the way she flounced and bounced out of the church one would have thought the building was doomed by a divine judgment, and she was escaping for her life to the mountains by way of the plain, and only had a minute granted her for her flight and present and eternal safety. -- From Hdm0046, People I Have Met By Beverly Carradine

\* \* \*

### Fanaticism And False Teeth

We admit that a fanatical person is always an extremist, but all extremists are not fanatics. The definition of fanaticism is "excessive enthusiasm." -- Webster.

We have met many extremists that were a long ways from "excessive enthusiasm." They were as dead and dry as a door nail. Their work is always to tinker on the outside; as a rule they do not go deeper than to the skin. Their burden is mostly on clothes, sometimes on buildings, color of paint or wall paper. We knew of one that rebuked a preacher for having false teeth, He took them out and lived, ate, and preached for thirty years without teeth, to please the extremist. He did not want to be a stumbling block to anyone. Extremists generally deal in material things, because they are too dead to understand anything about spiritual things; but fanaticism is a thousand miles beyond an extremist.

Extremists are very plenty among the legal and formal churches, while fanaticism is not found there at all. It would not be accepted; it would not fit; hence it is not found there.

Neither fanatics nor extremists are found among the worldly popular churches. They are perfectly free from either of these parties, but both these parties are found among the Holiness churches, The question is asked, "Why is this?" Well, we will explain. The formal churches have not much of the Spirit; with them it is mostly laws, forms, customs, habits, ruts, grooves, channels and works; more after the letter than after the Spirit; hence a good field for the extremist, but no field at all for the fanatic.

The worldly, popular churches have neither forms nor Spirit; everything that fills the house and swells the treasury is allowable, yea acceptable; both the discipline and the Bible are to a large extent a dead letter to them. Now, this would be no field for extremists; folks would laugh them to scorn if they would talk against dress, or fashion, or false teeth to them. No extremist will work among them. Nor is it a field for a fanatic. They would send for the police and the patrol wagon and take him out every time. These churches are too worldly for the extremist and too dead for the fanatic. "Excessive enthusiasm" would not fit either, hence is not found there. -- From Hdm0989, Fanaticism Explained Symptoms, Cause And Cure By A. H. Kauffman

\* \* \*

### False Teeth In The Studebaker

God worked in some unusual ways during the one year that we were at this church in Wenatchee, and I will share them here. The congregation was small, but the building was nice and in a fine location.

I must first tell you about Jake. I met Jake in the wee hours one morning by Deloris' whispered warning that someone was trying to get his key into the front door. Sure enough, upon inspection, some person was carelessly and rather loudly trying to open our door. In response to my question of "What do you want?" a man who was obviously very drunk replied, "Come on, Honey. Let me in. I'm sick". He was so drunk that he couldn't tell a strange male voice from that of his wife's. I told him (through the closed door) that he was not at his house and that he should go on home. To this he replied that he was really sick and to please let him come in and lie down on the floor. I suppose that this sounded like a great plan to his addled mind, but struck mine as an invitation to a stinking mess on our living room furniture and floor.

When I again told him to go on home, he cursed me out and stumbled down the sidewalk -- right towards our unlocked Studebaker sedan. "Oh, no", I thought. "It's not locked!" It may seem strange today for anyone to leave an unlocked car on the street, but it was more usual than unusual back then. For those who quibble over whether our moral conditions are really any worse today than thirty year's ago, I just invite you to ponder this a little.

Sure enough, he tested and discovered that the car was unlocked, but not before hawking loudly and depositing "a large oyster" right on the shiny hood of our Studebaker. He crawled into the passenger side and, as the dome light was illuminating the entire show, began depositing the contents of his stomach. I cannot lie. I truly feel sorry for drunks, but I felt sorrier for our car. As it was summer and the parsonage windows were open, we could both plainly hear him retching and re-decorating the car's interior.

Deloris called the police and when they came, they called him by name. That's when we discovered that he was Jake. They aroused him, placed him in the cruiser and took him somewhere -- I assumed to jail.

By this time dawn was not far away and sleep was out of the question anyway. I dressed and went out to survey the situation. Vomit was all over the front seats, the driver's door and window, the dashboard and floor! Worst was that it was all over the dials of the instrument panel and down into the little grooves of the radio speaker. Jake must have been loaded.

When I think of this, it makes me think of what Jesus said about a lukewarm church. I wonder if we catch the gravity of the spiritual condition of today's lukewarmness? Jesus promised that such a half-hearted, careless attitude that would characterize the last days church would cause Him to "spue you out of My mouth". I have yet to meet a single person who enjoys vomit -- who looks forward to the sight and smell of it. Lukewarmness makes Jesus sick! That is what He says in the Revelation 3:16.

A 1955 Studebaker Commander didn't have floor carpets and I had put vinyl seat covers on the seats, so the best plan seemed to be carefully hosing it out. Yuk! What a mess! There are literally dozens of reasons why I hate alcohol in any form. The infringement into other people's lives is one of them. How sad and selfish drinking is.

In the middle of all of this stinking mess were Jake's false teeth, so I rescued them, cleaned them up and tried to remember the street address that he gave me when we were talking through our closed door the preceding night. Later in the day I went to that address and a fine, well-groomed older lady met me at the door. As it opened, there was Jake on the living room couch sleeping off his drunk. That dear Lady wept openly as I gently handed her Jake's false teeth that I had wrapped in a paper towel. Oh, the heartache and sorrow produced by booze. -- From Hdm1558, He Walks With Me In Overalls By W. L. Boone

\* \* \*

Couldn't Wear Dentures, But Prayed A Moving Prayer

One evening we went to a secret prayer meeting of Hebrew Christians in Haifa. We gathered in a room up on the third or fourth floor of an apartment house. Very few Hebrew Christians worship in churches. There is an assembly in Jerusalem conducted by Hebrew Christians, but it is mainly for tourists. Throughout Israel Hebrew Christians, for the most part, meet in homes or perhaps in caves or wherever they can find places to worship. In this prayer meeting we were singing ever so quietly, praising the Lord ever so quietly, praying ever so quietly. We did not want to stir up the hostility of the neighbors or the mischievous little children playing three floors below. If they heard us singing, they would throw rocks through the windows. Many times before this, the windows had had to be replaced.

There were Jews present from many countries. Most of them had been through Hitler's concentration camp. While we were softly praying -- each of us praying one after the other -- I heard a man behind me praying in German. He was rather lisping, as he had no teeth. The Nazis had pulled all his teeth in a brutal manner, breaking his jaw bone, so that he could not even be fitted for dentures. The best he could do was lisp.

Now he was pleading, "O mineh heilige Geltschmitt . . [O my Heavenly Goldsmith] refine me, melt me down, melt me down until Thy glory can be seen in me."

My heart was touched. I shall never forget it as long as I live. I have made it my daily prayer, "O Heavenly Goldsmith, at any cost, at any price, melt me down until Thy beauty and Thy holiness can be reflected in me." -- From Hdm0950, Israel, O My People By Irene Hanley

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## C -- FALSE TEETH IN HISTORY

### False Teeth Date Back To 700 B.C.

Replacements for decayed or lost teeth have been produced for thousands of years. The Etruscans made skillfully designed false teeth out of ivory and bone, secured by gold bridgework, as early as 700 B.C. unfortunately, this level of sophistication for false teeth was not regained until the 1800s.

During medieval times, the practice of dentistry was largely confined to tooth extraction; replacement was seldom considered. when false teeth were installed, they were hand-carved and tied in place with silk threads & if not enough natural teeth remained, anchoring false ones was difficult. people who wore full sets of dentures had to remove them when they wanted to eat which is rather a weird concept in itself. Upper and lower plates were fitted poorly and were held together

**with steel springs; disconcertingly, the set of teeth could spring suddenly out of the wearer's mouth. Now that must have been a bundle of laughs!**

**Since antiquity, the most common material for false teeth was animal bone or ivory, especially from elephants or hippos (no-one we know obviously). Human teeth were also used, pulled from the dead or sold by poor people from their own mouths. -- From an Online site**

**\* \* \***

### **Involving False Teeth And The Rabbinical Law**

**Women are also forbidden to look in the glass on the Sabbath, because they might discover a white hair and attempt to pull it out, which would be a grievous sin; but men ought not to use lookingglasses even on weekdays, because it was undignified. A woman may walk about her own court, but not in the streets, with false hair. Similarly, a man was forbidden to wear on the Sabbath wooden shoes studded with nails, or only one shoe, as this would involve labour; nor was he to wear phylacteries nor amulets, unless, indeed, they had been made by competent persons (since they might lift them off in order to show the novelty). Similarly, it was forbidden to wear any part of a suit of armour. It was not lawful to scrape shoes, except perhaps with the back of a knife, but they might be touched with oil or water. Nor should sandals be softened with oil, because that would improve them. It was a very serious question, which led to much discussion, what should be done if the tie of a sandal had broken on the Sabbath. A plaster might be worn, provided its object was to prevent the wound from getting worse, not to heal it, for that would have been a work. Ornaments which could not easily be taken off might be worn in one's courtyard. Similarly, a person might go about with wadding in his ear, but not with false teeth nor with a gold plug in the tooth." -- From Hdm1025, Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah, Volume 2, By Alfred Edersheim**

**\* \* \***

### **He Set His Teeth On Fire!**

**It is not a good idea to ask people if they have false teeth. In ancient times, however, it would have been fairly obvious. Between 2,000 and 3,000 years ago, false teeth were made of very odd materials. You might meet people who had teeth made of ivory, bone or even wood. What would this feel like? Very rich people had teeth made from precious materials. When they wanted to eat, they took their teeth out. In the 17th and 18th century rich people could buy false teeth made from the teeth of poor people. Can you imagine selling your own teeth for pocket money? Before you answer that question, remember that there were no anaesthetics in those days. About 150 years ago, false teeth were made of porcelain. They were individual teeth, not complete sets. Various other materials were tried. One that did**

not work well was Celluloid. One man, while smoking at his London club, set his own teeth on fire! -- From an Online site

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### **A 1719 Advertisement For False Teeth**

**Saturday 25 April 1719  
Advertisement**

Artificial Teeth, in the most exact Manner, are so fitted and set in, that they may be taken out and put in again by the persons themselves, and are not to be discerned from the natural; they not only prescribe [sic]the speech, but also secure the teeth next to them from loosening or taking out; but those who have stumps to set them on, may with the greatest security, depend upon it, that they will answer the ends of natural teeth. By Gamaliel Voyce, in Whalebone-Court, at the lower end of Bartholomew-Lane in Lothbury, near the Royal Exchange. N.B. Any persons may have whole sets at the same place. (Applebee's Original Weekly Journal) -- From an Online site

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### **George Washington's False Teeth**

Throughout most of George Washington's life he had problems of continuing deterioration of his teeth. This caused him a lot of pain, and none of the dentists he went to knew what to do besides take them out. Slowly but surely all of Washington's teeth were extracted. In 1772 Dr. Baker of Philadelphia extracted several. Finally, George had to have false teeth made. They were made out of hippopotamus ivory and cow's tooth, carved by hand, and held in his mouth with metal springs. These false teeth were a little large for his mouth, creating a peculiar expression, which is exhibited in many of his portraits. Today, the teeth can be viewed at the University of Maryland's National Museum of Dentistry. -- From an Online site

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### **D -- IN THE NEWS ABOUT FALSE TEETH**

#### **An Elephant In Thailand Fitted With False Teeth**

According a report I found online, veterinarians in Thailand fitted dentures for an eighty-year-old cow-elephant. Lacking teeth and ailing, she had been unable to eat and her health was quickly declining. Her keepers were hoping that the "replacement choppers" would give her "a new lease on life."

[I don't believe I would want the job of taking out her false teeth, cleaning then, and putting them back in her mouth! But, who knows? as intelligent as pachyderms are, maybe she'll learn to do that herself! ;O) -- DVM]

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### **Her Guide-Dog Destroyed Her Dentures**

A \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_, 71, who is totally blind, was shocked when she discovered her guide dog Dillon had taken her dentures! A \_\_\_\_\_, from Manchester, said: "I had been feeling very tired and unwell. I needed to take a rest. Being so tired, unusually I put my teeth under my pillow. When I woke up, I forgot about them but remember that I was on the phone for about an hour when I first heard Dillon chewing on what I thought was his bone.

"He never chewed his bone when he was in his bed, so when I realized the gnawing sound was coming from his bed, I went into my bedroom only to discover my teeth had gone from under the pillow. I was shocked to discover that he had bitten my teeth into bits - he must have been at them for some time because he had completely demolished them. There was no way they were going back in my mouth! He's a very well behaved dog normally but the temptation must have been too much for him - but thanks to the help I received recently from the RNIB it shouldn't be a problem for me to buy a new pair of teeth." -- From an Online site

\* \* \*

### **His Dentures Sent Him To Jail!**

A man accused of breaking into a Mount Pleasant, Indiana home last week took nothing - but left his false teeth. Unfortunately for P \_\_\_\_\_ D. L \_\_\_\_\_, the dentures bore his name, prompting police to arrest him on preliminary charges of burglary and auto theft. Late Wednesday, L \_\_\_\_\_ was being held at the Delaware County jail in lieu of a \$25,000 bond. According to police, late in the evening on Sept. 23, L \_\_\_\_\_ broke into a vacant house near Mount Pleasant that was being remodeled. Investigators suspect that L \_\_\_\_\_ broke in through the front door, tripped on something in the home's garage and lost his dentures, as well as his baseball cap. The next morning, L \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_, who owns the home, found L \_\_\_\_\_'s hat and called police. Initially, neither C \_\_\_\_\_ nor sheriff's deputies found the dentures. But about 4 hours later, after police had left, C \_\_\_\_\_'s aunt found the false teeth on the floor of the garage. "I never paid no attention. I was looking for things that were missing; I wasn't looking for teeth," C \_\_\_\_\_ said later. "I have fell over fences and done everything else in my life and I have never lost my dentures. How he lost his is beyond me." -- From an Online site

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**False Teeth and True Fishermen**  
**October 26, 2003**

**A British tourist was united with his false teeth, two weeks after losing them while swimming. The dentures were recovered by Greek fishermen who brought them up in a net and then actively sought out the owner, asking around the local village to see who might have lost them, finally hearing about a toothless Brit. The fishermen then tracked down a local tour operator, who sent the teeth on to the owner. Let's hear it for the bold, kind Greeks who still ply the seas, rescuing both tourists and their teeth. -- From an Online site**

**\* \* \***

**Grow-Your-Own To Replace False Teeth**

**"Dentures sitting in a glass of water beside the bed could be rendered obsolete by scientists who are confident that people will soon be able to replace lost teeth by growing new ones. Instead of false teeth, a small ball of cells capable of growing into a new tooth will be implanted where the missing one used to be. The procedure needs only a local anaesthetic and the new tooth should be fully formed within a few months of the cells being implanted... The method could be used on far more patients because the ball of cells that grows into a tooth also produces bone that anchors to the jaw..."**

**"The procedure is fairly simple. Doctors take stem cells from the patient. These are unique in their ability to form any of the tissues that make up the body. By carefully nurturing the stem cells in a laboratory, scientists can nudge the cells down a path that will make them grow into a tooth. After a couple of weeks, the ball of cells, known as a bud, is ready to be implanted. Tests reveal what type of tooth - for example, a molar or an incisor - the bud will form. Using a local anaesthetic, the tooth bud is inserted through a small incision into the gum. Within months, the cells will have matured into a fully-formed tooth, fused to the jawbone. As the tooth grows, it releases chemicals that encourage nerves and blood vessels to link up with it. Tests have shown the technique to work in mice, where new teeth took weeks to grow." -- From a British Online site**

**[They ARE indeed doing some marvelous things these days. Still, there is quite a difference between mice and men! It might be interesting to see what comes of this research. -- DVM]**

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**03 -- GENUINE, EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATION**

**Let me begin this little article by stating my definition of genuine, extra-Biblical revelation. By this, I mean all true revelation from God apart from that which**

is recorded in God's Word, the Bible. I propose to elaborate upon such revelation under the following headings:

- I. The Fact and Necessity of Extra-Biblical Revelation
- II. The Necessity of Continued Extra-Biblical Revelation
- III. The Dangers of Extra-Biblical Revelation

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## **I. THE FACT AND NECESSITY OF EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATION**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth (John 1:1, 14).

Before the world was, and before the Bible was, God's Word existed:-- "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89). But after Man was created, it was necessary that God reveal to him what the will of his Creator was. This could not be done through the written Word, or Bible, because it did not exist. Adam and Eve had not one scintilla of writing from which they could read and discern God's will. All of God's revelation to them had to be extra-Biblical. He revealed Himself and His Will to Adam and Eve quite simply and directly:

"They heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day" (Gen. 3:8). We are not told whether or not the pre-incarnate Christ Who created them actually appeared to them visibly, but it is certain that they knew when He was in their presence, and His voice revealed His will to them clearly and precisely. They knew Who He was, and exactly what He commanded them, long before one word was ever written of that which became the Bible.

It impresses me that Man's Fall came, not by violating any written Scriptures, but by disobeying that extra-Biblical, yet precisely stated and known commandment of God: "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). Eve did not have that commandment imprinted in a book when confronted by the serpent, yet it was indelibly imprinted in her mind -- so much so, that she could not forget nor mistake it: "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen. 3:2-3).

Nor were God's extra-Biblical revelations to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph any less explicit and clear. Apart from any written Word, they knew what the Word of the Lord to them was -- personally, and precisely.

All of this revelation was both necessary and clear, but the time came when God ordained that His Word be recorded, and this written "prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (2 Peter 1:21). While extra-Biblically, "the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11), yet God ordained that His commandments be written by Moses, first on tables of stone, and then more specifically and in more detail on parchments which formed the foundation of the entire Old Testament. Likewise, under Divine inspiration, other writers of both Old Testament and New Testament books recorded on parchments that which was eventually codified as our modern Canon of Scriptures, the 66 books contained in our Bible.

But it is important to realize that the completion of that written Divine Inspiration did not mark the end of all genuine, extra-Biblical revelation.

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## II. THE NECESSITY AND MEANS OF CONTINUED EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATION

Jesus made it clear that His disciples were to have an Inward Revealer of God's Will when He told them: "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

The song-writer said: "Beyond the Written Page, I seek Thee, Lord. My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word."

Indeed God both inspired the Bible and those who, under His direction, determined those books which should, or should not, be included in the Canon of Scriptures. But, those 66 Divinely inspired books did not end His revelation to His followers. "Beyond the Written Page," Christ continues to reveal Himself experientially and continually to each of His people. The Bible says, "Ye must be born again" (John 3:7) but it is His Spirit that witnesses to each of the redeemed that it is accomplished. The Bible says, "This is the will of God, even your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:2) but it is the Holy Ghost Who performs this great work of grace in the Christian's heart and let's him or her know that it is done. The Bible says, "Walk in the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16, 25) but it is the Holy Spirit Himself who reveals to the saints that they do so!

It is very clear that God's followers must have genuine, personal revelations "beyond the Written Page" if they are to know that they are indeed His sanctified people, and if they are to know his personal and specific will for their lives.

This extra-Biblical revelation can only be, and is, given by the Holy Ghost, writing God's commandments daily and personally for each saint, "not with ink, but

with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart" (2 Cor. 3:3).

This New Testament, extra-Biblical revelation began on Pentecost when Joel's ancient prophecy was fulfilled: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions" (cf. Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17).

They do greatly err who insist that all Divine Revelation was sealed up and forever closed with the completion and canonization of the 66 books of our Bible. They also err who insist that Jesus' statement in John 6:63, that "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" means that there is no witness other than God's Word to the New Birth and to one's Entire Sanctification. Indeed, in the first part of this same verse Jesus says, "It is the Spirit that quickeneth" -- and nobody is truly Born Again who has not been "quickeneth" -- made alive -- by the Holy Spirit, and when you are made alive spiritually you KNOW it by the witness of the Holy Ghost -- and this is genuine, extra-Biblical revelation!

And Hebrews 10:14-16 declares: "For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. WHEREOF THE HOLY GHOST ALSO IS A WITNESS TO US: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them."

Let all who deny second-blessing holiness deny it if they will, but THE HOLY GHOST is more than a witness to the covenant wherewith God writes His laws in the Christian's heart -- THE HOLY GHOST IS ALSO A WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED! -- and nobody was ever genuinely sanctified without receiving that extra-Biblical revelation!

The reality of the New Birth and Entire Sanctification are hidden to the world - - no matter how much they have read the Bible, but Paul says to the saints that "God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:10), and this is blessed and genuine, extra-Biblical revelation.

Further, in Amos 3:7 we read: "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets." This fact has been proven many, many times, both in Old Testament and New Testament times. "Beyond the Written Page," God reveals things to His people -- personally, and continually -- and this is genuine, extra-Biblical revelation. You can memorize the entire Bible and still know nothing of this type of revelation, if you are not Born Again and filled with God's Spirit.

**It is a fact, dear Child of God, "Your God... is a revealer..." Who "revealeth the deep and secret things..." (Daniel 2:47, 22), and "Beyond the Written Page" He guides you into all Truth by His Spirit.**

**Christ Himself was not minimizing the importance of the Bible when, SEVEN TIMES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, He admonished His professed followers to "Hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). The means of continued extra-Biblical revelation is the Holy Ghost, and it is necessary, "beyond the Written Page," that everyone in every Church "Hear what the Spirit saith unto the Churches" -- and not merely and only learn what God has recorded in his Written Word.**

**"The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever" (Deuteronomy 29:29), and many of those things which are revealed come extra-Biblically through God's Spirit.**

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### **III. THE DANGERS IN EXTRA-BIBLICAL REVELATION**

**"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah 8:20).**

**While in a very real way genuine, extra-Biblical revelation goes "beyond the Written Page," it never contradicts it! -- nor does it ever seek to add to the Bible nor take away from it. Christ solemnly warns in Revelation 22:18-19, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."**

**Genuine, extra-Biblical revelation is always in accordance with the Written Word, and those who receive it do not seek to add to the Bible, or take away from it. Any professed prophet whose prophecy contradicts the Bible is a false prophet. Likewise, any professed prophet who claims that his prophecy is an addition to the Bible is also a false prophet. And, those Theologians who say that we should throw out this and that in the Bible as uninspired also make themselves false prophets.**

**There are inherent dangers involved with virtually anything of great value. Genuine, extra-Biblical revelation is one of those highly valuable things which carries with it both great blessings and grave dangers -- blessings to those who receive it and use it as God intended, curses to those who merely profess to receive it, and who seek to pervert the Word of God by their false revelations!**

**The false prophet of Mormonism, Joseph Smith, is one who sought to add to God's Word, and there have been others like Mary Baker Eddy of the so-called Christian Science sect who have done the same. But you can mark it down:-- Anyone, or any group, that insists that the Bible plus some other book constitutes God's full Word is false! Eternal damnation, not salvation, awaits those who preach and believe such lies!**

**Another danger relative to extra-Biblical revelation lies among those groups who both codify and practically deify their Church Manuals -- so much so that, in practice, they come to believe that neither they nor any others can differ in the slightest from those man-made rules and still make it into heaven. Some such seem to feel that their beloved founder or Manual Author was so inspired in writing those rules that they take them to be as binding as a 67th book of the Bible.**

**Indeed, one is bound to keep the discipline of his or her denomination, so long as membership is held in that group. But, to insist that what is written therein is as binding as the Bible is going too far -- much too far. And, to automatically excommunicate from Christian contact and fellowship all who vary from that man-made code is, in fact, to add to God's Word. All such blind adherents should take another long look at God's command in Romans 14:4 -- "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." God has 66 books in His Word, and your 67th book must never be placed on a par with any of those Divinely inspired writings!**

**Yet another danger inherent in extra-Biblical revelation lies in the conceit that can develop in the mind of one who has indeed received many genuine, extra-Biblical revelations. To the Spirit-filled Christian, it can truly be said: "Ye have an unction from the Holy One.." but there is danger lurking in how that Christian interprets the remainder of 1 John 2:20, "and ye know all things." Read Adam Clarke on this, or other sound interpreters of the Word, and you will not conclude that those who are Spirit-filled literally "KNOW ALL THINGS."**

**Again, to the Spirit-filled Child of God it can truly be said, "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you," but there is grave danger if that Christian misinterprets the following portion of 1 John 2:27, "and ye need not that any man teach you" to mean that they have already "learned it all" and "know it all," so that they need not listen henceforth to any spiritual teacher or preacher!**

**They are "cruisin' for a bruisin'" spiritually who begin to believe that the abundance of extra-Biblical revelations given them has placed them beyond the pale of further instruction from other Christians!**

**God saw that the abundance of revelations given to even the apostle Paul might tempt him to pride. Thus it was that Paul testified:-- "Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a**

thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure" (2 Cor 12:7).

And, since Paul's day, no doubt many a sanctified child of God has had to be humbled by some painful thorn because without that thorn the abundance of genuine, extra-Biblical revelations given to them would otherwise have caused them to become puffed with proud conceit.

Probably one of the saddest sights in God's eyes is a spiritually conceited man or woman who has received many, many genuine, extra-Biblical revelations, but who has allowed those revelations to cause them to become puffed up. Ecclesiastes 4:13 poignantly declares: "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished."

God gave the prophet Micah one of the most profound Messianic prophecies when he wrote:-- "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2).

But the revelations given to Micah did not rob him of his humility. He wrote in the sixth chapter and eighth verse of his prophecy:-- "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

This is good advice to all who have received an abundance of genuine, extra-Biblical revelations.

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#### 04 -- GIVE IT TO HIM!

In his book, "Some Women I Have Known" (hdm2216), John B. Culpepper relates the following story:

"I read an amusing story of an over-indulgent mother, who was traveling with her over-petted, much-spoilt little boy. The nurse occupied the seat in front of the mother, who tried to compose herself for a nap, while the child kept yelling at the nurse, to the discomfiture of the over-taxed passengers. The mother placed the blame on the patient, attentive nurse. 'Let him have whatever he wants,' cried the mother -- 'don't care what it is.' It was the basket of fruit that was passing. The mother settled down again, saying, 'Now, give him what he wants and keep him quiet, so I can rest.' 'Yes'um,' said the nurse. Just then a well-loaded wasp flew in at the door and alighted on the window-glass. The child reached for it. With a quick movement, the girl drew him out of reach, saying, 'Musn't have it, baby; sweet baby.' He yelled, looking over at his mother. She shrieked out, 'Let him have whatever it is.' 'Ma'am, it's \_\_\_\_\_' 'I don't care what it is -- GIVE IT TO HIM.' Just then

he made a lunge and caught the wasp in his tender hand and shut down on it. He cried out so much more terrifically, that the woman opened her eyes and said, 'I tell you to give that child whatever he wants.' 'He's got it, ma'am,' quickly stated the girl. 'Well, why don't he hush, then?' 'Guess it ain't what he thought it was, ma'am.' 'Well, what is it?' 'The wasp, ma'am.'"

We are living now in a generation that is spoiled rotten. For decades, too often on demand, millions have been receiving what they want -- whatever they want -- without regard for the consequences. They have been first spoiled, and then stung by what they received, or shall be stung by it at some later point in life or at the Judgment.

The Bible is replete with examples of how spoiled people got what they wanted and were stung by it. Mother Eve got the forbidden fruit, and was stung. Lot got the well-watered plains of Sodom, and was stung. Esau got the mess of pottage, and was stung. In the wilderness, Israel despised God's manna, and demanded meat instead. Psalm 106:15 says that God "gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul." They were stung! Samson got Delilah, and was stung. Rejecting such as Samuel, Israel cried, "Give us a king to judge us" (1 Sam. 8:6), and they were stung with a backslidden tyrant. When Christ went before Pontius Pilate "the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask [for] Barabbas, and destroy Jesus." And, blind to the awful curse they called down upon their posterity, those who requested Barabbas and rejected Jesus said, "His blood be on us, and on our children."

Movie producer, Mel Gibson, who recently marketed his film, "The Passion of Christ" was arrested the other day during a drunken stupor in which he repeatedly vilified the Jews. His anti-Semitic remarks were totally uncalled for. But, it is not being anti-Semitic to state that those unbelieving, Christ-rejecting Jews who called down that awful curse upon their posterity have brought a "STING" to the Jewish people that has yet to cease -- and, its pain will continue until "the Day of the Lord."

A la the above examples, one of the worst things that a parent can do is give their children anything and everything they want! And, one of the worst things people can do is demand and demand of God a thing that He does not want to give them, until He relents and gives them their desire -- and let's them be STUNG with the consequences.

But let me end this little article with a different sort of story -- about a very different sort of mother than that in Culpepper's illustration -- a story about a Nazarene missionary mother in India who, with her husband, bought a bicycle for their little son, Buddy, and decided to GIVE IT TO HIM before Christmas. The story is related by Edith P. Goodnow in her book, "Hazarded Lives" (hdm0092).

"In many ways Mrs. McKay's totally unexpected death was the greatest shock the India work had ever suffered... None of our Nazarene missionaries there in India



at the time will ever forget the shock of that news. Looking back later the other missionaries remembered presentiments they had passed over lightly at the time. Coming home from the hills in July, four months before the tragedy, the McKays had purchased a small red bicycle for Buddy which was to be carefully hidden away as a Christmas surprise. A few weeks later Miss Stewart happened to be in Basim and looking out the window saw little Buddy just outside busily learning to ride the little red bicycle. His mother exclaimed, 'I just couldn't wait till Christmas to GIVE IT TO HIM. What if something happens to him before Christmas? Then he would never get to enjoy his bicycle. Somehow I just couldn't withhold it from him.'

"At another time they were all talking of heaven and Miss Stewart heard little Buddy say, 'Mummie, I don't ever want to go to heaven and leave you here. Let's go to heaven together. Wouldn't that be nice if we could both go together?' Smilingly his mummie agreed that it would be ideal indeed if they could both go to heaven together.

"At family prayers with the Cooks in Buldana only a few hours before the accident Sister McKay drew this verse from the Promise Box: 'And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away' (Rev. 21:4).

"On November 29, 1935, Mrs. McKay and little John T. (Buddy) were almost instantly killed in an automobile accident. They had gone only about fourteen miles from Chikhli when a front tire blew out, and before Mr. McKay, who was driving the car, could regain control, they crashed head-on into an acacia tree by the roadside. Mrs. McKay and little John T. were thrown from the car by the tremendous impact. Buddy died almost instantly and Mrs. McKay a few minutes later. Mr. McKay was seriously, though not critically injured."

Often, those who are evil do not "know how to give good gifts unto (their) children" (Matt. 7:11), but GOD DOES! "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17). And, those good and perfect gifts never contain a "STING" but instead bring both joy and consolation -- forevermore!

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## 05 -- I WAS BORN OK THE FIRST TIME

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

The title of this article may fool you. It is a compilation made up of 30 Bumper-Sticker Messages along with my comments about them. The title of the article is identical to first Bumper-Sticker Message, but only that first Bumper-Sticker Message was seen on the road -- the remainder were found online. Some of

these messages actually express a bit of sage wisdom and truth. Others set forth utter falsehood and folly. I admit that this is an unique article, but still I dare to hope that the reader will find all of these items to be interesting and my comments about them to be edifying.

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 01**

**"I WAS BORN OK THE FIRST TIME" --** The other day when Dorothea and I were out on a drive, I noticed this Bumper-Sticker Message, and I think I grasped the meaning:-- "I don't need to be born again, because I was born OK the first time." If so, this person's statement exactly reflects the truth in 1 Corinthians 2:14 -- "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Nicodemus marveled when Jesus told him, "Ye must be born again." He was not telling Nicodemus there was anything wrong with his physical birth, but rather, "You weren't born OK the first time, insofar as being fit for God's Kingdom. In order to enter that Kingdom, "You must be born again."

Those who pooh-pooh being born again reflect how pitifully ignorant they are of spiritual facts. Of course there won't be, but if there was such a thing as automobiles driving into the New Jerusalem, I'll guarantee you that none of them would have bumper-stickers on them reading: "I Was Born OK The First Time"! A more likely message would read:-- "By the mercy of God and the grace of Christ, I AM BORN AGAIN!"

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 02**

**"FIVE DAYS A WEEK MY BODY IS A TEMPLE - FOR THE OTHER TWO, IT'S AN AMUSEMENT PARK" --** This Bumper-Sticker Message is both unchaste and untrue. Far from being funny, it is a blasphemous parody on 1 Cor. 6:19 -- "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" The fact is:-- Every day of every week, of every month, of every year you live, your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost -- whether He is permitted reside in it or not. And, all should be aware of the fact that He will either reside in it all the time, or none of the time. Quite conversely to the Bumper-Sticker Message, some think that they can make their body the Temple of the Holy Ghost on Sunday, and do whatever may amuse them the other six days. But, all should be aware of the fact, not only that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, but also of the solemn and fearful fact that "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" (1

**Cor. 3:17). And, that means defiling it during ANY day of ANY week -- throughout one's lifetime.**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 03**

**"IF YOU CAN READ THIS, I CAN SLAM ON MY BRAKES AND SUE YOU!" -- This message does not pooh-pooh the Scriptures, but it does reflect an unChristian attitude that is very prevalent today:-- Do something I don't like, and I'll sue you! Paul wrote to the Corinthians:-- "Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded?" (1 Cor. 6:7). Whether folks are Christians, or not, "there is utterly a fault among" those who are "sue-happy" today, and often law-suits are made on both frivolous and false grounds.**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 04**

**"TAILGATERS DIE YOUNG" -- One cannot follow Christ too closely, but one can follow another Christian too closely! This often happens, and it can be fatal to young Christians and older ones as well. The Apostle Paul's admonition was qualified:-- "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). Perhaps Paul followed closely enough to Christ that one could follow him very, very closely without going astray. However, I dare say that there is always a danger in following most saints too closely. Selah.**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 05**

**"ISN'T IT A BIT UNNERVING THAT DOCTORS CALL WHAT THEY DO PRACTICE?" -- Long ago, I learned that doctors don't know as much as I hoped they did! Indeed they do "bury their mistakes"! At their best, doctors even today really know very little about "what makes us tick." And, probably numbers of them think they know more than they actually do. God does not want us to have our faith in doctors, not even those like "Luke, the beloved physician." Jer. 17:5 says, "Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." Indeed, especially today's doctors of psychiatry and psychology often lead their patients into beliefs, which if followed would cause them to depart from the Lord, or to depart farther from the Lord. Human doctors "practice" -- but only the Great Physician unfailingly heals:-- "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).**

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## **BUMPER-STICKER 06**

**"WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE EXERCISE, I LIE DOWN UNTIL THE FEELING PASSES" -- One might reword this to express why the Laodicean Church is so lethargic:-- "Whenever its members feel inspired to become earnest in their labors for Christ, they lie down until the feeling passes."**

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## **BUMPER-STICKER 07**

**"ANYTHING NOT WORTH DOING IS NOT WORTH DOING WELL" -- Twice St. Paul admonished concerning "well doing":-- "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9); and "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing" (2 Thess. 3:13). The Bumper-Sticker Message is actually true. If a thing is not worth doing, then certainly one should not do it well, nor even do it at all. The fact is, however, wicked people often become very proficient in doing that which is both worthless and wrong. Jeremiah 4:22 speaks of such:-- "For my people is foolish, they have not known me.. they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge." It is "not worth doing" to shoot pool, to knock down pins in a bowling alley, to play cards, nor to indulge in myriad games -- but many are "wise to do" such worthless things while having no knowledge about how to do good! They are proficient experts in doing that which is a complete waste of time, but bungling dunces about how to do anything of real value!**

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## **BUMPER-STICKER 08**

**"DON'T BOTHER ME - I'M LIVING HAPPILY EVER AFTER" -- There is nothing wrong with "living happily ever after" one marries in wedded bliss. There is nothing wrong with "living happily ever after" one becomes a Christian. And, there is nothing wrong with "living happily ever after" one has done many holy and wholesome things. However, to tell people, "Don't Bother Me, because I am doing as I please and indulging myself as I please, forever after," is both wicked and wrong. Hebrews 11:25 makes it clear that the enjoyment of "the pleasures of sin" is but "for a season" -- not for "ever after"! I recall a popular song being sung on the radio when I was a boy. Its lyrics stated:**

**"Enjoy yourself! It's later than you think;  
Enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink.  
The years go by, as quickly as a wink--  
Enjoy yourself! Enjoy yourself!  
It's later than you think!"**

**What totally foolhardy advice! But millions of Senior Citizens are following it! Instead of "redeeming the time" (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5) -- because the few years they have left will soon be gone, and should be employed for that which has eternal value, they are bent upon "Enjoying Themselves, Enjoying Themselves" while yet they can -- and with the mistaken belief that, regardless of such selfish enjoyments, they will also "live happily ever after" in eternity! Such individuals don't want to be "bothered" by Scriptures like:-- "James 5:5 "Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter." and 2 Thessalonians 2:12 "That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." and 1 Timothy 5:6 "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." If "life is a bowl of cherries," then it is also full of "hidden pits"! -- and one of those "pits" is the false notion that we can ignore God's will, live as we wish in all of the pleasure we wish, and still go to heaven!**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 09**

**"I DON'T BELIEVE IN MIRACLES - I RELY ON THEM" -- Well, here is one with which Christians can agree -- at least in part. To rely upon God to perform miracles when He has commanded the Christian to do that which seems to be, or is, impossible is right and good. When the priests of Israel were commanded to step down into the turbulent waters of Jordan, they had to "put feet to their faith" before God performed the miracle of stopping that flow. However, standing upon a promise, or stepping out by faith will not always work -- not when it isn't God's will to perform a miracle in answer to that faith. But, when God has commanded a thing, or when it is clearly His will, then one must do more than "believe" that He can bring it to pass -- one must "rely" upon it, "count upon it" and then, after his or her "feet" or actions have been added to prayers, it will be done!**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 10**

**"I DON'T MIND GOING NOWHERE AS LONG AS IT'S AN INTERESTING PATH" -- Sometimes meandering down some hiking trail is good for the mind and soul -- good medicine for the psyche. But relative to "the way of holiness" there are some interesting side-tracks that should never be taken -- especially when they "get you nowhere" spiritually and waste your time and energy. This is not to say that there are no ancillary subjects relative to "the way of holiness" that can be studied with profit -- even profit that will get the student somewhere spiritually. However, many other interesting side-tracks to the main "way of holiness" warrant very little, or no, detailed thought and study. They will get the student nowhere, and therefore should not be followed -- especially to the Nth degree. To make an intense study about how many angels can perch on the head of a pin may catch the interest of some, but if it does, it should not hold their interest for a minute!**

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### BUMPER-STICKER 11

**"IF YOU CAN SMILE WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND TO BLAME"** -- Too often, this is true. Proverbs 24:17 commands:-- "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth." There are many folks who can smile when things go wrong for their enemies who cannot smile when things go wrong for themselves. He who smiles when his enemy falls may be a professed Christian, but only he who can smile when things go wrong for himself can be a true Christian.

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### BUMPER-STICKER 12

**"IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE NEWS, GO OUT AND MAKE SOME OF YOUR OWN"** -- Good advice. "Bad News Bearers" like to carry bad news instead of making good news. Nuff said.

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### BUMPER-STICKER 13

**"I'M O.K., GOD DOESN'T MAKE JUNK"** -- This message is very similar to the first one in this article. It sets forth the same thought:-- "I was born OK the first time" -- God made me, so I must be OK in his sight. Such fallacious reasoning overlooks the fact that Satan has made a wreck and junk out of what God created. You could paste a similar Bumper-Sticker Message on every wrecked, junk-car in the wrecking yard. Here is a wrecked Chevy with the Bumper-Sticker:-- "I'm OK, General Motors Doesn't Make Junk!" Here is a totaled Ford:-- "I'm OK, Ford Doesn't Make Junk!" Here is a Chrysler:-- "I'm OK, Chrysler Doesn't Make Junk!" Here is a flattened Subaru:-- "I'm OK, Subaru Doesn't Make Junk!" What utter nonsense this Bumper-Sticker Message asserts! But, God's "Good News" is:-- though you are a spiritual wreck now -- totally unfit to enter the Holy City -- you can "be transformed" (Romans 12:2) by the grace of Christ! He can recreate you from an eternal piece of "junk" into a "joyous" and perfect example of His workmanship, fit to enter the Holy City where no "Junk-Heaps" are allowed! As it were, let us walk over to several shiny vehicles of His grace parked in the New Jerusalem and ask them:-- Who and What made you fit for this place? Here they reply:-- "We are His workmanship, created in Christ" (Eph. 2:10). "We were total wrecks! But Jesus fully restored us by his grace! That is how we are fit for His City!"

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 14**

**"ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE" -- The bad thing about them is:-- They never change the subject! Proverbs 27:2 commands:-- "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips." However, many egotists might have to wait until they die before somebody spoke well of them -- at their funeral! I think I read that Winston Churchill said, "A fanatic is one who cannot change his mind and who will not change the subject." Thus, egotists and fanatics are quite synonymous:-- neither will change their minds nor the subject. But, like the Bumper-Sticker Message says, if you feel compelled to say something nice about an egotist, you can say that "they don't talk about other people." ;o)**

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 15**

**"ONE THING ABOUT GOING THE EXTRA MILE... THERE'S NEVER A LOT OF TRAFFIC" -- However, according to Jesus, going the extra mile does involve at least one other person:-- the person who compels you to do so:-- "And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain" (Matthew 5:41). Going the extra mile voluntarily makes folks feel good about themselves, but going the extra mile involuntarily often makes folks feel very negative toward the one who made them do it! Perhaps there are few who, with cheer, go the extra mile even voluntarily, but there are far, far fewer who, with cheer, will go the extra mile involuntarily, being compelled to do so by an overbearing boss, parent, or someone who is actually persecuting and mistreating them! Good-natured people sometimes go the extra mile voluntarily, but it takes a sanctified Christian to go the extra mile involuntarily, yet with cheer and a right spirit. These days, though our freeways are overcrowded, there is little or no traffic on that road!**

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 16**

**"SMILE, IT IMPROVES YOUR FACE VALUE" -- and, probably your internal value as well. Proverbs 27:19 says:-- "As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man." When your face smiles, it touches something in the heart of another and evokes a reflected smile, and often both your smile and the smile of the other who returns it do you both good -- especially when either one, or both of you, are weighed down with trouble and problems. Someone has said:-- "Laugh, and the world laughs with you; cry, and you cry alone." However that is not entirely so. The positive and cheering effects of a smile and a pleasant chuckle are "catching" -- and the negative and discouraging effects of a frown and a sorrowful cry are also "catching"! Let us rewrite the Bumper-Sticker Message to read:-- "In a gloomy world, smile often, it improves your value in every way!"**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 17**

**"SUCCESS COVERS A MULTITUDE OF BLUNDERS" -- It's not the first mile of the Christian race that matters so much as the last. And, it's not the fast, but the finishers who win the prize. I once read a fable about a dog who loved to chase other animals. He bragged about his great running skill and said he could catch anything. Well, it wasn't long until his boastful claims were put to the test by a certain rabbit. With ease the little creature outran his barking pursuer. The other animals, watching with glee, began to laugh. The dog excused himself, however, by saying, "You forget, I was only running for fun. He was running for his life!" That does make a difference! Motivation is the most important factor all the Christian does. Proverbs 24:16 says:-- "A just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again." The following illustration should encourage all who have started, blundered, and fallen repeatedly as Christians. There is hope for even such, "ON THE SEVENTIETH TRY"!**

**In Southwest Asia in the 14th Century, the army of Emperor Tamerlane had been routed and dispersed by a powerful enemy. Tamerlane himself lay hidden in a deserted manger while enemy troops scoured the countryside. As he lay there, desperate and dejected, Tamerlane watched an ant try to carry a grain of corn over a perpendicular wall. The kernel was larger than the ant itself. As the emperor counted, sixty-nine times the ant tried to carry it up the wall. Sixty-nine times he fell back. On the seventieth try he pushed the grain of corn over the top. Tamerlane leaped to his feet with a shout! He, too, would triumph in the end! He did! Inspired by that failing, but persevering ant, he reorganized his forces and put the enemy to flight!**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 18**

**"THE BEST MIRROR IS AN OLD FRIEND" -- Let me alter this one a little to clarify its thought:-- "The best mirror is a faithful friend, who will tell it to you like it is when you are wrong." Proverbs 27:6 states it thus:-- "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." Even old friends are not necessarily faithful friends -- such will not always "mirror" to you what you really are. Indeed, often old friends will hide our flaws from us -- to a fault. A friend, new or old, who shows us our errors is better than an enemy who kisses us in order to bring about our downfall or his gain. Selah.**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 19**



**"YOU ARE NOT WHAT YOU OWN" -- This is very true! Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (Luke 12:15). Wealthy individuals often like to brag:-- "I own" this, that, and the other thing. What a man "owns" may be great while what he actually "is" consists in nothing but a tiny little dwarf, all wrapped up in himself! Psalm 36:2 says, "He flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful." In God's sight, it is "hateful" for a man to flatter himself in his own eyes as being a great man because of what he owns, when his character is actually shrunken and shriveled into a tiny speck of what he could be, and should be! With Christ at the Head, some of the world's greatest men have owned little, or nothing.**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 20**

**"MINDS ARE LIKE PARACHUTES - THEY ONLY FUNCTION WHEN OPEN" -- While it is true that prejudiced and closed-minded people often fail to learn what they should, it is also true that one can be too open-minded. One could, so to speak, jump out of the plane with a parachute that has so many holes in it that, even though it is open, it will not prevent a fatal fall to the earth. Or, one could also perish by trusting a parachute that is too small to impede a fatal fall. Small-minded individuals, un-enlarged by the enlightenment of the Holy Ghost, are often open wide, but their reasoning capacity cannot impede the weighty truths of God's Word from plummeting them downward into damnation! Again, open minds, like parachutes, must have the capacity to land a person safely on the terra firma of Truth. Don't trust a chute that won't open! Also -- Don't trust a chute that is too small! And, nobody's open mind is big enough to land you safely on the New Earth unless it has been illuminated by the Holy Spirit! Many teachers who boast themselves of being open-minded have a teeny-tiny mind spiritually. Don't trust your never-dying soul to them! They will let you down into swift and eternal destruction!!-- "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge" (Proverbs 19:27). Christians should not boast themselves of open-mindedness! Instead, they should concentrate on having a mind that is fixed upon Christ:-- "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee" (Isaiah 26:3). Such a mind may seem like a closed parachute to millions of highminded wordlings, when in fact it is opened wide by the inward illumination of the Spirit and is so enlarged and billowed out that it catches all of the Divine Draft that will land you safely and sweetly in the New Jerusalem!**

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 21**

**"FOR EVERY ACTION, THERE IS AN EQUAL AND OPPOSITE CRITICISM" --**  
Years ago, I coined the following statement:-- "Everything we do will be praised by a few, criticized by some, and ignored by many." If we listen for praise, it is more likely that we will hear criticism, and even more likely that we will hear nothing at all -- our words having been unheard, and our deeds having been ignored by the vast majority around us. Matthew 10:29 teaches us that not one little sparrow falls to the ground without God's notice and permission. Likewise, not one righteous and commendable deed or word of one person on this planet goes unnoticed by the Creator and Rewarder of all. No, good words and deeds won't get one to heaven, but God will reward all who are there for even the smallest words and deeds that were done righteously -- no matter how vehement and opposing the criticism of Satan and his followers may be -- and no matter how much those little words and deeds were ignored by the millions!

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 22**

**"IT'S HARD TO MAKE A COMEBACK WHEN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ANYWHERE" --** I once heard of a child who was asked by a Christian leader what he or she would like to be. The reply was:-- "A Returned Missionary"! The child wanted all of the admiration bestowed upon a Returned Missionary without having the long and arduous task of first BEING A MISSIONARY. But, it is not only "hard" to "make a comeback" from where you have never been -- it is impossible! It's like another observation I have heard:-- "He can't retire, because he's never done anything to retire from"! That saying contains poor grammar, but solid truth. One cannot be a Returned Missionary until first he has been somewhere as a missionary in obedience to the command of Mark 16:15 -- "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Selah.

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### **BUMPER-STICKER 23**

**"SANTA'S ELVES ARE JUST A BUNCH OF SUBORDINATE CLAUSES" --** Of course the whole myth about Santa Claus is really nothing that Christians should indulge. When I was 7 years old, my holiness preacher father refused to wear a Santa Suit for a school Christmas party. I didn't understand it then, but I have understood it for a long while -- and agreed with his stand. That said, let me comment on the Bumper-Sticker Message:-- Unless, as it were, one is willing to first be "A Subordinate Claus" he should never presume to become "The Main Claus"! Someone has rhymed: "Would you lead? -- your wish is hollow, Till at first you learn to follow." One of the big problems is always:-- "Too many chiefs, and not enough Indians!" If there were more "Subordinate Clauses" in the Church, then "CHRIST, THE MAIN CLAUSE OF GOD'S WORD" could be much more successfully preached around the globe!

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 24**

**"DON'T BE SO HUMBLE... YOU'RE NOT THAT GREAT!" -- There is a great deal of difference between trying to "act humble" and "being humble"! Those who attempt to "act humble" may begin a statement by saying something like, "I wouldn't say so myself, but have been told that I am the greatest..." Or -- "I'm really not that good, but some have said that I am the best..." Or -- "I let my actions speak for themselves..." (meaning, of course, "My actions attest to how great I am!"). Another way of merely "acting humble" -- (or "acting humbly" if you insist upon absolutely correct grammar) -- is to begin a statement something like:-- "I have humble roots; my father was a sharecropper, and my mamma did the wash on a scrub-board. We boys wore patched overalls and our sisters wore denim skirts. Sometimes pa and ma couldn't even afford to buy us shoes and we went barefoot..." -- (the inference being:-- "I came from humble roots, but now I have risen to great heights through hard work and..."). To the contrary, when one is really humble, he or she needs no such seemingly self-effacing, but proud prefixes to what is said. We could express a similar truth by restating 1 Corinthians 13:2 thus:-- "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not true humility, I am nothing."**

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 25**

**"BEWARE THE MAN OF ONE BOOK" -- No, and Yes. No, do not beware of the man whose study and affection is fixed upon THE ONE BOOK, THE BIBLE. The following comes from "The Grand Old Book" (hdm2368) by Jarrette E. Aycok:**

**It is said that when Sir Walter Scott lay dying he said to the attendant, "Bring me the Book." "What Book?" asked the attendant. "There is only one Book," said the dying man, "and that is the Bible." Nowhere else can we find such comfort when the mists are gathering round our bed. There is no comfort in infidelity. I call the infidel to my dying bedside and say, "I'm dying, give me something on which I can pillow my head, give me oars to steer my boat, give me something to lean on as I pass over the tide." And the world's greatest infidel leans over my dying cot and says, "Life is a narrow veil betwixt the cold barren peaks of two eternities, we strive in vain to reach the heights, we cry aloud and the only answer is the echo of our own dying voice." Oh, there is no comfort in that, there is nothing there on which I can lean. Bring me the Bible and let me read, "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Let me place my ear to this old book and hear the immortal question of Job as it comes ringing down through the ages, "If a man die shall he**

live again?" Let me listen as the answer comes ringing back from the lips of the Son of God, "Yes! for the day shall come when the dead shall hear his voice and they that sleep in the grave shall come forth." Oh, there is comfort in that, such comfort that I am willing to stake my life on it while living and pillow my head upon it when I breathe my last.

Yes, "beware of the man of one book," to the extent that he will never consult a good Bible Commentary or Concordance. Some good men have gotten the wrong idea after reading 1 John 2:20 "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things." and 1 John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you." In their mistaken ignorance, they begin to think that nobody can teach them anything that they can't learn, or haven't already learned, from the Bible alone. Beware of such an attitude!

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 26**

"AM I AMBIVALENT? WELL, YES AND NO" -- I thought this would be a good place to insert this, following the "No" and "Yes" above. There ARE some questions which require a "Yes" and "No" answer. And, seeing both sides of an issue is not always tantamount to being equivocal -- a fence-riding equivocator. But, when it comes to truths that admit of nothing but a "Yea" or "Nay" then he is less than candid or less than courageous who will hem-haw by saying, "Well, on the one hand, so and so, but on the other hand, such and such." When "Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me," there could be no equivocating, no ambivalence, "And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him" (Exodus 32:26). Those who failed to join him faced the edge of the sword. When Christ Returns, there shall be no opportunity to be equivocal or ambivalent, as "before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left" (Matthew 25:32-33), the former to be gathered into Christ's Kingdom and the latter sent away into everlasting punishment. Away with the nonsense that this is a so-called Judgment of Nations as groups -- it is The General Judgment of All Individuals from all nations throughout all time!

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 27**

"IN JUST TWO DAYS, TOMORROW WILL BE YESTERDAY" -- This is but another way of saying, "Time Flies!" In 1 Cor. 7:29, the Apostle wrote:-- "But this I say, brethren, the time is short." And in Psalm 90:10 we read:-- "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore

years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Someone put it thus:

"When as a child I laughed and wept, time crept.  
When as a youth I dreamed and talked, time walked.  
When I became a full-grown man, time ran.  
And later as I older grew, time flew.  
Soon I shall find while traveling on, time gone."

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 28**

**"IT IS BETTER TO DIE ON YOUR FEET THAN TO LIVE ON YOUR KNEES" --**  
To be a boot-licking sycophant who begs for favors or life upon his knees (rather than being like John the Baptist, who told it like he was though it cost him his head) is to incur the disdain of all who behold you kneeling in such cowardice. However, when it comes to obeisance to God, the fact is that Christians **MUST** "live on their knees," and they "die on their feet" if they don't "live on their knees." However, the Christian's living on his or her knees is altogether different from the fearful bowing and imploring of a cowardly sycophant. It is a kneeling that involves a holy confidence and boldness. The exhortation to the saints in Hebrews 4:16 is:- "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 29**

**"THE ONLY WAY TO GET RID OF TEMPTATION IS TO YIELD TO IT" --** What a totally, totally wrong declaration this is! Every temptation originates with Satan, and God's Word says:-- "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The fact of the matter is:-- Yielding to temptation does not get one rid of it. Quite the opposite! Yielding to temptation will bring it back again, stronger than it was before, and each time one yields to temptation, IT grows stronger and the one who yielded becomes weaker and less able to resist it. What utter, Satanically inspired falsehood is in the message of this bumper-sticker! It is exactly what the devil would have folks believe!

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#### **BUMPER-STICKER 30**

**"BORN FREE - TAXED TO DEATH" --** Nobody really likes taxes -- except those who intend to spend your tax-money! In Matthew 17:24-27, Jesus Himself did not at all seem enthusiastic about paying taxes:-- "24 And when they were come to

Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute? 25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers? 26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. 27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee." No doubt there was corruption on the part of tax-spenders, even in His time.

However much we may dislike taxation, one thing that might brighten the thought of the subject a bit could be:-- The Birth of Christ, The Savior, in Bethlehem -- in fulfillment of prophecy -- involved taxation:

Luke 2:1, 4-7 -- "1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Apparently Joseph had both enough money to rent a room (had there been one available) and to pay their taxes. And, it was the call to pay taxes that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem in fulfillment of Micah 5:2 -- "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Just think of it! God used taxation to fulfill that ancient prophecy! and thereby to bring "life" not "death" to mankind. Remember this next time you feel "taxed to death"!

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## 06 -- IN A RIBALD WORLD

"Speaking things which they ought not" (1 Timothy 5:13).

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## **INTRODUCTION**

I have noted that ever since the widely broadcast, Senate Confirmation Hearings for Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas in September of 1991, public utterances over the radio have become more and more ribald -- viz., more coarse, more lewd, and more vile.

Those hearings on that date marked a dramatic turning point regarding what public speakers have dared to say, and been allowed to say without fear of recrimination! I shall not here be specific. I will only say that during those hearings, a part of the human body was mentioned, the public utterance of which had before been taboo -- especially over the radio. But, once it was mentioned, it opened the floodgates of filthiness over the radio, and increasingly since that day radio announcers and public speakers of all kinds have become more and more daring, lewd, and vile in their speech.

Perhaps as never before, we now live IN A RIBALD WORLD! According to my American Heritage computer dictionary, the word "ribald" means: "Characterized by or indulging in vulgar, lewd humor," and comes from the Old French word "riber -- to be wanton." The apostle James warned that those who "have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton" have "nourished [their] hearts, as in a day of slaughter" (James 5:5). But, oblivious of this, IN A RIBALD WORLD our ears are increasingly grated by coarse, vile, and lewd utterances spewing forth from the mouths of both men and women with devilish glee and unholy abandon!

About 5-6 years ago, after twice hearing such ribaldry on the same radio station in Spokane, Washington, I took it upon myself to contact the Republican U.S. Representative whose committee had oversight of the FCC and such matters. His communication back to me was, in effect: -- One can say whatever they wish now over the public airwaves and violate no law. The only law governing what a radio broadcaster says is "public opinion" -- viz., they can say it as long as there are listeners who will listen to their station while it is said. I was both disappointed and disgusted at this response from the Republican Lawmaker!! But, that's the way it is IN A RIBALD WORLD today!

But, it has been necessary for many in the past to face ribaldry also. In the following, I shall present some examples that I found in the HDM Digital Library --

examples which should encourage and inspire the saints to God to persevere and triumph in spite of all.

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#### **A -- JESUS ENDURED CRUEL RIBALDRY**

In his "Life And Times Of Jesus The Messiah, Volume 2" (hdm1025), Alfred Edersheim described the scourging of Christ before His crucifixion thus:

"Stripped of His clothes, His hands tied and back bent, the Victim would be bound to a column or stake, in front of the Praetorium. The scourging ended, the soldiery would hastily cast upon Him His upper garments, and lead Him back into the Praetorium. Here they called the whole cohort together, and the silent, faint Sufferer became the object of their ribald jesting. From His bleeding Body they tore the clothes, and in mockery arrayed Him in scarlet or purple... Then alternately, in mock proclamation they hailed Him King, or worshipped Him as God, and smote Him or heaped on Him other indignities."

When the declaration that Christ was "The King of the Jews" came to the Jews "in the ribald mockery of this heathen soldiery, it evoked no other or higher thoughts in them; and they had the indescribable baseness of joining in the jeer at Israel's great hope, and of leading the popular chorus in it!"

The writer to the Hebrews scribed: "For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Heb. 12:3).

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#### **B -- THE COLISEUM MARTYRS ENDURED CRUEL RIBALDRY**

In her book "Love Is All" (hdm1507), Evangeline Booth wrote:

The day was far spent; nay, it had passed. Its blood-prints the heavy tramp of all time can never efface. The merciless crowd which had feasted their eyes upon that ghastly and inhuman spectacle had dispersed. The excited and vulgar laughter night's sympathetic silence had hushed, and the tier above tier of empty seats seemed strangely to add to the desolation of the hour. The sky had wrapped itself in its blackest mantle, and apart from the kindly light lent by the stars revealing the mangled forms of the martyrs and the sound of the intermittent roar of the well-feasted beasts, there was nothing to be heard or seen.

A few hours previously Rome's vast amphitheater had been alive with a massive throng. The stone galleries held hundreds of the highest and chiefest men of the city. Rome's fairest and brightest matrons were there -- all her prided beauty



bedecked with jeweled apparel, gathered for the scene; youth with all its would-be, tenderness and innocence, and old age doing everlasting wrong to the honor of gray hairs, were also spectators. The Emperor's Imperial Guards, in readiness to excite Nero's each capricious wish, were onlookers, until right round the immense space no empty place could be found. That great God-contending crowd, with every evil instinct awakened, every evil passion excited, every mind on fire with brazen, lustful gaze, watched for the first sight of the victims.

The murmur of voices grew louder, the ribald song and the coarsest of jests rose higher, composing a clatter, the echo of which must ever and anon fall with the rudest discord upon the ears of the virtuous of every nation. For this coarse combination of sound, if lost, was not to be destroyed in the louder and unanimous applause which greeted the signal that "The Christians are coming!"

Then entered that handful of men and women, for whose destruction the vast throng of onlookers and the savage lions in cages beneath hungrily waited. A little procession -- despised, trampled upon, ridiculed, accused, deemed only fit by reason of their sufferings and agony to provide sport for the Emperor, and that bloodthirsty multitude! But their faces are like unto angels -- pale, yet lit with a radiance which could only be borrowed from the skies.

Some trembled, but none faltered; some wept, but none showed fear; some grasped firmly the hand of a comrade, but none hesitated or turned. Upon the countenance of the weakest could be traced the power of a strong purpose, the strength of undying love, the triumph of an unshaken faith -- truly throwing on to the canvas of time a picture upon which millions will gaze through all eternity.

I fancy I see them come -- mother and daughter, husband and wife, sister and brother, and I see even children there. Some cheeks are tear-stained, some hands are clasped, some forms are worn; some so weak, some so young, some so fair. Some brows have caught the rays of life's setting sun, and their feet tremble in the paths of its late autumn, but they speak words of cheer and courage to a frailer and a younger one. Some pray, "Into Thy hands I commit my spirit," "Thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of Truth," "Jesus, I come, I come." Some sing. They sing even songs of praise! They seem not to see the greedy gaze of diabolical appetite, neither do they meet the blood-shot glare of the beasts, starved to madness. All eyes are lifted. They look up, up, up to the hills from whence cometh their help, and by the hands of blood sacrifice lift up a faith which all the power of earth and Hell have not been able to destroy.

Is it to be wondered that a scene so Divine woke a question in the most prejudiced mind, and gave birth to condemnation in the most lifeless soul?

Could so much of Heaven step through such wreck, and chaos of earth, and not declare its reality?

**Could spotless Purity pass so near Uncleaness, and fail to put it to shame?**

**Could Love so strong meet Spite so cruel, and not reprove it?**

**Could Light from on high touch Darkness so deep, and not reveal it?**

**Would it be possible for Truth to stand face to face with Lie, and not condemn it?**

**They cried: "The Christians to the lions!" -- and lived to prove Death cannot destroy Christianity.**

**Looking back through the vista of years at this picture, one great question fills our hearts: Whence their strength? Whence their courage? and above all -- amid this anguish and contest for their faith -- whence their patience and their peace?**

**Do we not find it springing from that root which sends forth ten thousand times ten thousand blossoms of brightest, choicest character into this desert world of ours -- the root of Love?**

**Planted nineteen centuries ago on Calvary's hill, its upspringing thrusting aside the tomb, destroying the sting of death and bringing healing for the nations -- has not its essence been the motive of every true self-denial offered by the followers of the Crucified, both in the days of the martyrs and our own times?**

**It was love! It was love that endured. Through the long, wakeful nights, in damp prison cells, on the rack of torture, when the frame was weary with want and hunger, as brutal force spent its fury on trembling tenderness, it was love's pulse that beat strong; it was love that went on and would not retreat; it was love that showed a tenacity that confounded the persecutors; it was love which, when all was done to make time drag, lived through it. It was love that parted with everything, and only knew gain. It was love that stood in the fires and was not burned.**

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## **C -- WESLEY AND EARLY METHODISTS LIVED AMIDST RIBALDRY**

**In his book "The Illustrated History Of Methodism" (hdm0976), W. H. Daniels described the conditions faced by John Wesley and the Early Methodists:**

**The Bishop of Chichester, in a letter to a young clergyman, says: "Name me any one of the men famed for learning in this or the last age who have seriously turned themselves to the study of the Scriptures... A happy emendation on a passage in a pagan writer, that a modest man would blush at, will do you more credit and be of more service to you than the most useful employment of your time**

upon the Scriptures, unless you resolve to conceal your sentiment and speak always with the vulgar."

The popular literature of the day, as to its morality, was quite down to the classical standard. Iniquities of speech, hidden from the unlearned, were dragged forth and exhibited in broad English; books and pictures held place on drawing-room tables which would now consign their publishers to prison; and even the mysteries of religion were turned into ribald jests. One of the most popular clergymen of the State Church so far prostituted his literary genius as to write a poetic burlesque on the last judgment, and none of the Church dignitaries called the clerical clown to account for his impiety, because the fashionable world was laughing at his wit.

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#### **D -- JOHN WILLIAM HARRIS PREACHED TO A RIBALD INMATE**

In his book "Tears And Triumphs" (hdm1864) pastor-evangelist John William Harris describes what occurred at a jail service:

It was in one of these Sabbath services in the jail that a young man from the country, who had been locked up the day before for some serious offense, disturbed our services by ribald laughter, stamping on the floor, and making other loud noises. It seemed to amuse him to think a religious service was being held in a jail. He thought that services of this kind were held only in a church building, and these he never attended. But two weeks of incarceration broke this scoffing spirit, so that at the next meeting when the prisoners were asked to meet together and hear the Gospel this young man was the first to respond to the invitation. He listened attentively while a song was being sung and prayer offered for sinners. While I talked to the prisoners the tears coursed down his cheeks, and at the close of the service he requested prayer, saying he desired to get right with God. Several other incidents of like nature occurred while I was engaged in this type of spiritual ministrations, and these helped to pave the way for my future calling.

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#### **E -- DWIGHT L. MOODY MINISTERED TO A RIBALD REPORTER**

The following is taken from "Anecdotes And Illustrations Of D. L. Moody" (hdm2048), by J. B. McClure:

One of the most conspicuous persons at the Brooklyn Rink was a man of over fifty years, a reporter, apparently of a sensational sort. One of my friends entered into conversation with him the second evening, and found him partially intoxicated, ribald, sneering, and an infidel. Inquiring further concerning him, we found that he had been several times in the city jail for drunken brawls, although

originally a man of culture and polish. Time passed, and on our last day at Brooklyn the same man, conspicuous by his commanding figure, sat in a back seat in the Simpson Church. My friend accosted him once more, and this was the answer: "I am waiting to thank Mr. Moody, who, under God, has been the greatest blessing of my life to me. I have given up my engagement [employment], the temptations of which are such as no Christian can face. And I am a Christian -- a new creature; not reformed; you cannot reform a drunkard; I have tried that a hundred times; but I am regenerated, born again by the grace and power of God. I have reported sermons many a time, simply to ridicule them, but never had the least idea what true religion meant till I heard Mr. Moody's address on 'Love and Sympathy' ten days ago, and I would not have believed there could be so much sweetness in a lifetime as has been condensed into those ten days. My children knew the change; my wife knew it; I have set up the family altar, and the appetite for liquor has been so utterly taken away, that I only loathe what I used to love." "Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall," suggested my friend. "No, not while I stand so close to the cross as I do today;" and he opened a small hymn-book, on the fly-leaf of which was written: "I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed."

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#### **F -- J. G. MORRISON SHAMED THOSE WHO WERE RIBALD**

In his book "Interesting Incidents" (hdm0140), Joseph Grant Morrison tells how he rebuked some ribald military officers while he was in the army:

At last we were off; at last we arrived in St. Paul amidst the waving of flags and the shouts of the crowds gathered at the depot and in the streets. Soon we were sworn into Uncle Sam's service, given uniforms and arms, placed in battalion formation with other green companies of troops, and then into regimental form, and set to drilling earnestly each day. My first disagreeable reaction was to find that the chaplain had no real religious experience and did nothing for the men in a salvation way. My next was that the officers' group, those who ate together, and were called "the officers' mess," was ribald, wicked and obscene, The most questionable stories were told publicly, and it seemed to me with special sneering reference to the fact that I was a minister, Finally, after an unusually lurid instance of this, I arose and remarked in a public manner that I had sergeants and corporals in my company who were more gentlemanly than the captains, lieutenants and majors with whom I had been eating. That hereafter they could omit my name from the officers' mess, inasmuch as I preferred to eat with men who did not use questionable language at table. Having said this I bowed and walked out.

Later several of the more serious-minded of the officers apologized to me for the affront and requested me to return, but I preferred to eat with my own men rather than with those who uttered obscenities at table. Finally others followed my example and the mess at last dwindled down to a few of the raw sports who liked what went on there. When we were in camp for any length of time I had an earnest

**group of young fellows who met me several times a week for Bible study and prayer. This was broken up when we moved, but was resumed whenever we had time.**

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## **G -- SILAS TOLD'S MARVELOUS MINISTRY TO THE RIBALD**

**In his book "Makers Of Methodism" (hdm0688), W. H. Withrow tells of the ribald conditions in Early-Methodist-London, and marvelous ministry of Silas Told to the ribald.**

**In 1785... after a jail delivery at Newgate scores of miserable wretches were dragged on hurdles up Tyburn Hill amid the shouts and jeers of a ribald mob, who either mocked the mortal agonies of the culprits or exhorted their favorites to "die game," as the phrase was...**

**One morning, as [Silas] Told and his scholars attended the five o'clock sermon, Mr. Wesley preached from the words, "I was sick and in prison, and ye visited me not." The generous-hearted sailor was conscience stricken at his neglect of what was now revealed as a manifest duty, and was "filled with horror of mind beyond expression." Learning that ten malefactors were lying at Newgate under sentence of death, he committed his school without an hour's delay to the care of an usher, and hastened to the prison.**

**Silas Told had at length found his vocation. For five and thirty years he continued to burrow in the dungeons of London and the neighboring towns -- often literally to burrow, for many of them were underground -- Carrying the light and liberty of the Gospel to their dark cells, and to the still darker hearts of their inmates. The unvarnished story of his experiences abounds in incidents of the most thrilling, and often harrowing, interest.**

**He was often locked up with the felons all night before their execution. He sat beside them as they rode to the gallows in the death cart with the halter on their necks, sharing with them the jibes and jeers, and sometimes the missiles, of the mob who gloated over their misery. He prayed with them and exhorted and comforted them as they stood on the brink of eternity. He begged or purchased their bodies for burial, and often succored their wretched and suffering families. He led many to repentance and the forgiveness of sins.**

**Hardened criminals broke down under his loving exhortations; and turnkeys, sheriffs, and hangmen wept as they listened to his prayers. Friendless and degraded outcasts clung to him for sympathy and counsel, and through the manifestation of human love and pity caught a glimpse of the infinite love and pity of Him who died as a malefactor to save the malefactors.**

Through his influence the felon's cell became to many the gate of heaven. The ribald oaths and obscene riots of the British jails -- then the vilest in Europe, save those of the Inquisition -- often gave place to the singing of Christian hymns and the voice of prayer and praise. At one time Told had a Methodist society of thirty members, and at another of thirty-six members, among the poor debtors of Newgate. Yet was he "very cautious of daubing them with untempered mortar," but sought to bring about their real and permanent conversion.

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## H -- THE SOLDIERS OF CHRIST HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER A RIBALD WORLD

In his book "Beacon Lights Of The Reformation" (hdm2306), William Henry Withrow tells how Christ's saints have triumphed over a ribald world:

Age after age the soldiers of Christ have rallied to the conflict whose highest reward was the guerdon of death. They bound persecution like a wreath about their brow, and rejoiced in the "glorious infamy" of suffering for their Lord. Beside the joys of heaven, they won imperishable fame on earth, and were ennobled by the accolade of martyrdom to the lofty peerage of the skies. Wrapped in their fiery vest and shroud of flame, they yet exulted in their glorious victory. While their eyes filmed with the shadows of death, their spirits were entranced by the vision of the opening heaven; and above the jeers of the ribald mob swept, sweetly o'er their souls the song of the redeemed before the throne. Beyond the shadows of time, and above the sordid things of earth, they soared to the grandeur of the infinite and the eternal.

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## 07 -- IN MEMORY OF ROGER ADNEY MAXEY, MAY 16, 1936 -- DEC. 23, 2005

While doing some of the final work on "'Tis The Night Before Christmas.pps" this morning -- at about 9:40 a.m Mountain Standard Time -- I received a call telling me that Roger had passed away in his sleep. HIS LONG CONFINEMENT WITHIN A SEVERELY RETARDED BODY AND MIND IS FOREVER PAST! PRAISE BE UNTO GOD, HIS CREATOR, WHO SAW FIT TO ALLOW THIS (FOR A SEASON) THAT HE MIGHT RECEIVE HIM INTO EVERLASTING HABITATIONS -- where Roger will be bright, perfect, and happy -- forever!

Roger was my only full brother. My father had 8 children by his first wife, Jesse (Caldwell) Maxey:-- Venita, John, Parker, Beatrice, Ruth, Bruce, Avis, and Gale. In about 1935, my father united in marriage with our mother, Adelaide Dolores Chandler. To this union were born:-- Roger on May 16, 1936, Duane on June 4, 1937, and Pearl Sharon in about 1939.

Roger was preceded in death by his full sister Pearl Sharon, and half half-siblings, Venita, John, Avis, Parker, and Beatrice. He is survived by his full brother, Duane, and half-siblings, Ruth, Bruce, and Gale.

From what I recall hearing mother tell me, they were so poor at the time she bare Roger, she may not have had the proper nourishment to give birth to a healthy baby, and there was a complication in the birth. Regardless of what earthly factors were involved, God saw fit to allow them to occur, and -- I am sure that God used it to bring Roger forever to Himself. I dedicate these lines to his memory:

**IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHER, ROGER**

By Duane V. Maxey

Beyond the veil, the body you have sown  
Shall be replaced with one you have not known:  
It shall be glorious, with a perfect mind,  
As Heaven's peace forevermore you find!

Good-bye, my brother, death has set you free,  
To be with Christ throughout eternity!  
And there you'll grow in knowledge, unimpaired,  
Possessing then what here on earth was spared.

And greater far than possible below,  
Your mind and spirit shall forever grow;  
As I behold your countenance above,  
I'm sure that it will prove that GOD IS LOVE!

Until Then,  
Your Brother, Duane

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**08 -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD -- An Outline by DVM**

This is another bare-bones outline. It is an Acrostic -- together, the 7 points spelling out the word "N-O-T-H-I-N-G" Preacher, if you can use this, free free to do so. I leave it up to you to "put the meat on the bones" -- Duane

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 8:4 -- "..nothing in the world.."

**A -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [N]ONPLUSSES GOD**

Jeremiah 32:27 -- "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"

**B -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [O]VERRULES CHRIST!**

**1 Timothy 6:15 -- "In his times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords."**

**C -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [T]RUMPS TRUTH!**

**2 Corinthians 13:8 -- "For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth."**

**D -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [H]IDES SIN**

**1 Corinthians 4:5 -- "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."**

**E -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [I]MPARTS SALVATION**

**Jonah 2:9 -- "Salvation is of the Lord."**

**Acts 4:12 -- "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

**F -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [N]EVER ENDS**

**1 Peter 4:7 -- "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."**

**G -- NOTHING IN THE WORLD [G]IVES PEACE**

**Numbers 6:26 -- "The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."**

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**09 -- OCRACIES THAT CANNOT SAVE THIS WORLD**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

When I began to write this article this morning, I was surprised to learn how many "Ocracies" there are. Most of those presented herein I had never heard of before today until I did a search for "\*ocracy" in my computer dictionaries. Most of the "Ocracies" presented in this article we can readily recognize as incapable of saving this world. I shall consider two "Ocracies" later, out of their alphabetical order, but let me first present, in a roughly alphabetical order, some of the "Ocracies" that cannot save this world. I am indebted to both my American Heritage and Webster's computer dictionaries for their definitions. Don't worry about how to pronounce all of these "Ocracies" -- I am not sure how to pronounce all of them either.

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## **A -- ARISTOCRACY**

Aristocracy cannot save this world. An Aristocracy is a hereditary ruling class or nobility, a government by a ruling class deemed best qualified to lead. The aristocrats always deem themselves as best qualified to lead! In word only, Communism denigrates both an Aristocracy and the Bourgeois, the social class between the Aristocracy and the Proletariat working class. However, in practice, Communist leaders make themselves the Aristocracy of their nation, and there is no Bourgeois -- all others being the Proletariat, the working class who enrich the coffers of the Communist Aristocracy who lord it over them. There has never been an Aristocracy that did not have one, or many, in its privileged class who did more evil than good. It is very easy to see that Aristocracy cannot save this world -- Communistic, or otherwise.

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## **B -- AUTOCRACY**

Autocracy cannot save this world. An Autocracy is government by a single person having unlimited power, or despotism. In this world, Autocrats auto their opposition to prison and despots despise and dispose of all who question and challenge their wisdom and authority. Among the Communist Aristocrats, one of them has always been an Autocrat -- a despot who disposed of all of his critics in whatever way he chose in order to gain and retain power. Nevertheless, with such there has often been a three-word biography:-- Hero, Nero, Zero! First, hailed as a

**Hero for some supposed great deed, they become a Nero in their ruthlessness, and ended up as a Zero, overthrown by another who takes the same course! In an earlier decade it was said of Russia:-- It is where they name a street after you one day, and chase you down it the next! Again, Communistic or otherwise, there never has been, and never shall be, an Autocracy that will save this world. Many of them, like Hitler and Stalin, have blighted it!**

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## **C -- GERENTOCRACY**

**Gerentocracy cannot save this world. A Gerentocracy is a government based on rule by elders. Ecclesiastes 10:16 does tell us:-- "Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child!" But that same book in the Bible also tells us:-- "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished" (Ecclesiastes 4:13). Government by children is always foolish, but government based upon the age of the rulers is often wrong too. Some elders think they know it all and refuse to budge from their own notions, and some elders become demented and mentally less able to govern than a wise child. No, Gerentocracy cannot save this world!**

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## **D -- GYNEOCRACY**

**Gyneocracy cannot save this world. A Gyneocracy is a government by women. It is true that a government by men often lacks the tender and loving qualities of womanhood. But, alas! a la Jezebel -- there have been a number of heartless and merciless women rulers in this world too! It should be obvious that a Gyneocracy cannot save this world -- especially under the likes of Hillary Rodham Clinton and N.O.W. (The National Organization of Women). May God spare us from their rulership! They may assert that NOW is the time for women to rule, but when women rule who declare that it is their right to murder the unborn, such a government dupes its followers and drowns them in the depths of Divine Damnation! In Luke 17:1-2, Jesus warned:-- "It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him [or her], through whom they come! It were better for him [or her] that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones." No, Gyneocracy cannot save this world -- even by those women who deplore such murderous deeds.**

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## **E -- HIEROCRACY And THEOCRACY**

**Hierocracy and Theocracy cannot save this world. The two are quite synonymous. An Hierocracy is a government by the clergy, or ecclesiastical rule. A**

**Theocracy is government ruled by or subject to religious authority. The Roman Catholic Papacy is an example of how an Hierocracy or Theocracy often blights rather than blesses those over whom it rules. Within both professed Christianity and other religions -- a la the Taliban in Afghanistan and their ilk -- Hierocracy and Theocracy have repeatedly shown that such cannot, will not, save this world. We have Hierocrats and Theocrats even in the Holiness Movement who have a "Rule or Ruin" attitude! With them, too often it is "My way, or the Highway" for those over whom they lord themselves. Their spirit is too much like that of Nebuchudnezzar:-- "Bow, or Burn"! And, as a result they "Wreck" rather than "Rectify" the wrongs in their church organization. Though they read in Ecclesiastes 3:3, that there is "a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up," they seem more bent upon "killing" than upon "healing" and more prone to "break down" than to "build up"! A dunce can "kill" -- a moron can "break down" -- but it takes wisdom, patience, understanding, and charity, to "heal" and to "build up" -- qualities that too often are too much lacking among the Hierocrats and Theocrats in today's Holiness Movement. No Hierocracy or Theocracy can save this world -- even an Hierarchy or Theocracy in the Holiness Movement.**

**\* \* \***

## **F -- ISOCRACY**

**Isocracy cannot save this world. An Isocracy is a system of government in which all persons supposedly have equal political power. "All things being equal," on the surface this sounds like a good idea. However, "all things" and "all people" are not equal in this world. Therefore Isocracy is really impractical. If ALL persons had equal political power, then inexperienced children, mentally deranged adults, imprisoned felons, and many others who cannot, or should not, have political power would "throw a monkey-wrench into the machinery" of government! Sadly, even now we have some who advocate Isocracy relative to imprisoned felons and illegal aliens! No, all persons in a nation should not have equal political power! Simply being in a society and a nation does not mean that one should have an equal vote in its government. The other day, 20,000 Hispanics and their supporters shut down streets in Phoenix for several hours -- protesting the tightening and enforcement of U.S. Immigration Laws! And, many more thousands pulled the same stunt in Los Angeles and other cities across the U.S. They assert that BECAUSE THEY ARE HERE working, they should have the right to stay and "equal political power" in deciding the matter! Away with such insanity! Illegal aliens have no more right to vote in the U.S. than do the legally incompetent, the insane, the children, or the dead! But then, it is not unheard of for the dead to vote in our elections. Enough said. Isocracy cannot save this nation or this world.**

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## **G -- KAKISTOCRACY**

**Kakistocracy cannot save this world. Kakistocracy is government by the least qualified or most unprincipled citizens. Nobody with good sense would think that a Kakistocracy can save this nation or this world. However, sad to say, in too many cases we have the least qualified and the most unprincipled citizens of the U.S. filling political offices from the lowest to the highest institutions of our government! Kakistocracy and Bureaucracy seem to be Siamese twins. Bureaucracy is administration of a government chiefly through bureaus or departments staffed with nonelected officials. When the Kakistocracy of government by the least qualified and most unprincipled takes over, then we get the Bureaucracy of government through bureaus and nonelected officials who are likewise inept, unscrupulous, and intractably entrenched in their places! In short, a Kakistocracy brings Catastrophe -- and not salvation to this nation and to this world.**

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## **H -- KLEPTOCRACY**

**Kleptocracy cannot save this world. Indeed, it is very much another one of the things that is corrupting and decaying world societies. Kleptocracy is a government characterized by rampant greed and corruption -- characteristics of our own government in the U.S. and likewise of most governments around the globe. One of my computer dictionaries defines Kleptomania as an obsessive impulse to steal regardless of economic need. Kleptocrats are political Kleptomaniacs who steal from the public coffers, regardless of any need, and certainly without any excuse. They characterize themselves as possessed of a Robin Hood Righteousness, being those who steal from the rich in order to give to the poor, welfare crowd. Even in this giving to the lazy poor is actually Largess, which is a liberality in bestowing gifts, especially in a lofty or condescending manner. They want the welfare bums to think of them as their benefactors, but in fact they really think of them in condescending ways, and give to them only to get their votes, and thereby get political power and more wealth for themselves! Kleptomaniacal Kleptocrats in political offices in our nation are guilty of rampant greed and corruption in stealing billions of dollars from hardworking, Middle-Class, taxpaying Americans! Kleptocracy may well bring on another Great Depression, but it cannot save this nation or this world.**

**\* \* \***

## **I -- MERITOCRACY**

**Meritocracy cannot save this world. Meritocracy in government is a system by which a group of leaders or officeholders are selected on the basis of individual ability or achievement. The trouble with such a system is that somebody has to decide what constitutes merit and demerit, and often the judgment of which is which is quite totally backwards from what it should be. Blinded, unregenerate men often think that evil is good and good is evil. When this is the case, the government**

**in a Meritocracy will often be headed by those whose demerits far outweigh their merits, while those whose morality, decency, and meritorious achievements in things pure and noble are spurned and turned from any voice in therein. No, Meritocracy cannot save this world.**

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## **J -- MOBOCRACY Or OCHLOCRACY**

**Mobocracy or Ochlocracy cannot save this world. Mobocracy is political control by a mob, or the mass of common people as the source of political control. This is very synonymous with OCHLOCRACY, which is also government by the masses, or mob rule. Mobocracy is also the Siamese twin of Anarchy. When mobs of angry people demonstrate in public and destroy property as well as human life, those mobs should not be allowed to have their way and influence what the government does. Instead, they should be arrested and punished to the limit of the law. 1 Corinthians 14:40 commands of Christians:-- "Let all things be done decently and in order." Disorder should never be allowed to rule, either in the nation or the church. Unfortunately, it often rules throughout the world. Mobocracy = Ochlocracy can help destroy this world, but it cannot save it.**

**\* \* \***

## **K -- PLUTOCRACY**

**Plutocracy cannot save this world. Plutocracy is government by the wealthy, a government or state in which the wealthy rule. We have Plutocrats that are Democrats and Plutocrats that are Republicans. Indeed, in the U.S. today one cannot be elected to high office without lots of money, and we all know that the Plutocrats (whether Democrats or Republicans) are the ones who will be elected. Wealthy Plutocrats among Democrats make much of how they will save the poor, when all they really want is their vote, and they want poor folks on the public dole only to entrench themselves in power and enrich themselves further while in office. Wealthy Plutocrats among the Republicans pretend that they are for free enterprise when, in fact, they are for themselves and for big-business and whatever will make them and their cronies more extremely wealthy than they already are. For example, after last year's Katrina disaster, Plutocratic Republicans declared that Big Oil companies should not be compelled to hold their prices down and should not be forced to absorb their own losses in the Gulf. Instead, said the Plutocratic Republicans, the demand for oil on the market should be allowed to bring huge price-increases at the gas pumps, and the result was that Big Oil made record-setting profits, at the expense of millions who could ill-afford to "pay through the nose" for their needed gasoline! Plutocracy cannot save this world, and Plutocrats in every political party really have no desire to save anything but their increased wealth!**

\* \* \*

## **L -- SLAVOCRACY**

**Slavocracy cannot save this world. Slavocracy is government by a ruling group of slaveholders or advocates of slavery, as in the southern United States before 1865. Thousands of Union soldiers died to overthrow this tyrannical inhumanity in America. As I recall reading, when the first ship-load of African slaves reached our shore, a group of Quakers offered to buy every slave on the ship if the merciless slave-trader would take them back to Africa and set them free. NO SALE! Those captured Africans were sold to greedy and unscrupulous Americans who enslaved them -- and thus began the nefarious trade and inhumane purchase of slaves in the U.S. No, present-day African-Americans should not use the enslavement of their ancestors as an excuse to be on the public dole all of their lives, nor as justification for enrollment in colleges and universities when they do not qualify academically, nor as an excuse for rioting and demanding what they have not earned. Still, it cannot be denied that a grave injustice was done to their forbears, and the freeing of the slaves was worth the high cost paid in the shed-blood of Union soldiers who died to destroy slavery in the U.S. But, instead of an unwarranted pitying of themselves and an unfair impugning of the integrity of all Caucasian Americans, the present generation of freed African Americans should celebrate the overthrow of Slavocracy by the millions of white Americans who died to bring it about, and show their gratitude by taking advantage of their freedom to learn, to earn, and to turn their estate into all that it can be through a genuine effort on their own part. Slavocracy cannot save this world, but neither can indolence, insolence, and laying the blame for one's poverty upon an injustice done to one's ancestors! I know this is stronger medicine than some will take, but it is true -- and I think that every Black American Christian can say Amen to it!**

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## **M -- STRATOCRACY**

**Stratocracy cannot save this world. Stratocracy is government by the armed forces. Numbers of nations in this world have been ruled by Military Dictators -- those who rose to power through a rebellion of the Military under their command and a coup d'etat of the previous government. Bullets, not ballots, brought about their Stratocracy. The philosophy of many such Military Dictators is:-- "Might makes Right." Too often, however, the exercise of their might has brought about greater wrongs than were known under the government they overthrew -- a la Fidel Castro's dictatorship after he and his army overthrew the Batista regime in Cuba. For long decades now, Stratocracy has been part of the philosophy of Communistic governments around the world. Had not the bankrolls of the U.S.S.R. gone broke in their Arms Race with the U.S., the Berlin Wall had never fallen. Now, having learned from what befell the U.S.S.R., the Red Chinese have beguiled the U.S. into helping them build their armed forces by buying our nuclear secrets from a corrupt U.S.**

**Administration, and by getting the U.S. to buy their merchandise manufactured in slave-sweat-shops! It seems to me that such big businesses as Walmart are falling into the trap of enriching our deadly enemies in the Orient by buying their low-priced goods. In so doing, they are helping to enrich the coffers of the Communist Chinese who are still bent upon a Stratocracy that will destroy the United States! Oblivious of all this, or with no concern, greedy big-business in America buys and buys from Communist China and also ignorant of what they do, millions of Americans buy the cheaper merchandise that is helping the Red Chinese Stratocracy create an army equipped with the latest technology with which they intend to destroy our nation. While there has recently been a big uproar over the rejected deal of Dubai World Ports of the United Arab Emirates, little has been said about the Chinese ownership of one or more U.S. Ports and the Chinese ownership of much that threatens our nation. Stratocracy cannot save this world, but it may overthrow our nation unless somebody wakes up before it is too late!**

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## **N -- TECHNOCRACY**

**Technocracy cannot save this world. Technocracy is a government or social system controlled by technicians, especially scientists and technical experts. Rapid and great advances have been made in the last few decades technologically! One such technology, is computer technology, the very means by which HDM creates and publishes our vast, digital Holiness Library -- via email, via online downloading, and via CDs and DVDs. But, though we now have "A Feller richer than Rockefeller" named Bill Gates, that Gates cannot save this world nor open up the Pearly Gates of the New Jerusalem. Used properly, and for holy purposes, today's technology is a real blessing and a help in advancing Holiness Truth. Used improperly, and for unholy purposes, that same technology is spreading filth and smut with lightning speed around the globe. In like manner, a Holiness Missionary can now get on a Jet Airplane and get to the mission field in hours, while at the same time, and on the same plane, another riding on that same jet plane can drink himself drunk, watch filthy movies, and go to the same country for mercenary reasons! It is no sin for the Holiness Missionary to fly on that plane, even though there is much on it that he would not indulge, nor ever dream of indulging. And, it is no sin to use other modern technologies in a holy way, for holy purposes. However, at the end no doubt the anti-Christ will rule the world, to a great extent, through a Technocracy -- not one that will save this world, but one that will bring about its destruction at the Second Advent of Christ.**

**Now, out of all alphabetical order, let me mention two more "Ocracies" that cannot save this world.**

**\* \* \***

## **O -- DEMOCRACY**

**Democracy cannot save this world. Democracy is government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. Supposedly, one of the main characteristics of a Democracy is Majority Rule. And, supposedly, within a Democracy the principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community are recognized. However, contrary to the notions of many such as our President Bush, DEMOCRACY IS NOT THIS WORLD'S SAVIOR, NOR CAN IT BE!**

**Let me point out one of the big reasons why Democracy cannot save this world:-- BECAUSE OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HUMAN HEART. Daniel 12:10 tells us that while "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried," at the same time "THE WICKED SHALL DO WICKEDLY: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."**

**A person DOES wickedly BECAUSE he IS wicked in his heart of hearts. Jeremiah 17:9 declares: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" And, Psalm 58:3 says, "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."**

**One reason Democracy cannot save this world is: -- NO MATTER WHAT "OCRACY" ONE LIVES UNDER, HE WILL DO WICKEDLY IF HE IS WICKED WITHIN.**

**President Bush has said, "I believe that when a people are free to choose, they will choose to be free." This is true. However, when wicked people are free to choose in a Democratic election, they will still make wrong choices -- choices which are selfish and destructive both to others and eventually to themselves.**

**Witness:-- The Election in Palestine in which Hamas, the Jewish-Hating Terrorist organization, won the Democratic election. Though democratically elected, those of this wicked organization will not renounce their intention of destroying Israel! "The wicked shall do wickedly" -- even when elected democratically!**

**Witness again:-- In Afghanistan, they went to the poles in a democratic election and purpled their fingers as proof that they voted. Yet, after hundreds of American deaths and billions of American dollars spent to bring into existence the Afghani democracy, they voted in a government that was going to execute a man for abandoning Islam and becoming a Christian! Again, "the wicked shall do wickedly" -- even though elected democratically!**

**Prediction:-- Though elected democratically, "the wicked shall do wickedly" in Iraq -- and after many billions of U.S. dollars are spent and thousands of U.S. lives are sacrificed, the democracy set up there will be far from what our President has envisioned! If friendly to the U.S., it will not save Iraq from an endless war like that waged by terrorists against Israel, and it is likely that the warring factions in Iraq will continue to gain or hold power more with bullets than with ballots. Furthermore, as in Palestine and Afghanistan, if a fanatic regime in Iraq does**



succeed by ballots rather than bullets, it is likely that such democracy in Iraq will, in the end, be hostile toward righteousness and rectitude and also toward the U.S.

**Witness U.S. History:-- As a great democracy, while liberating millions politically, our nation has tightened the bonds of millions spiritually throughout the world by the spreading of immoral filth! Our Hollywood and our T. V. industries have greatly contributed to vile debauchery around the globe! Yes, God has used America as the base for sending forth many godly missionaries around the world, but at the same time American filth and immorality has far more greatly influenced world society! America is NOT this world's savior -- nor is Democracy. It never has been, and never shall be. I have heard it said, "There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be fixed by what is right with America." I vehemently disagree. There is nothing intrinsic within a democracy to save either itself, or this world!**

If the billions now being spent trying to set up and establish democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq were spent upon searching out and eradicating the filth and rot in our own nation -- immorality which many Moslems hate -- it is likely that a modicum of peace would come more quickly to America. Peanuts hit the nail on the head, when he said, "We have found the enemy, and he is US!" Democracy cannot save this world -- nor can it even better this world, unless it first cleans up its own act, before seeking to overthrow other "Ocracies" that it condemns!

\* \* \*

## **P -- HAGIOCRACY**

Hagiocracy cannot save this world. An Hagiocracy is a government by holy men, such as priests or saints.

"What?" do I hear someone ask, "Do you mean to suggest that the Kingdom of Christ shall not be "a government by holy men and saints"?! Does not Daniel 7:18 declare, 'But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom..'?! Furthermore, did not Jesus say to his apostles in Matthew 19:28, 'Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'? Shall not this be an Holy Hagiocracy that will save this world?"

**My answer: -- NO! IT SHALL NOT.**

"This World" as it now exists shall be destroyed, not saved -- even for a year, to say nothing of one thousand years -- when Christ returns. In 2 Peter 3:10-13, the apostle wrote:-- "10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting

unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

The Bible does not teach of three worlds:-- This world, a supposed Millennial World, and The world which is to come. It teaches only of two worlds:-- This world, and that which is to come, the latter being eternal:

Matthew 12:32 -- "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in THIS WORLD, neither in THE WORLD TO COME."

Mark 10:30 -- 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."

Luke 18:30 -- "Who shall not receive manifold more IN THIS PRESENT TIME, and IN THE WORLD TO COME LIFE EVERLASTING."

Ephesians 1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in THIS WORLD, but also in THAT WHICH IS TO COME."

Christ's only coming Kingdom shall be "In the Regeneration" -- that is in that Eternal World where all things are forever made new. If there was to be an intermediate world, Christ would have told us. He said in John 14:2 -- "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." The place Christ has prepared for His saints is the New, Heavenly Jerusalem, which is a part of the New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Now, let me present the entirety of Daniel 7:18 -- "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and POSSESS THE KINGDOM FOR EVER, EVEN FOR EVER AND EVER."

That Holy Hagiocracy in which Christ's holy saints shall rule with Him is NOT OF, NOR IN, THIS WORLD, nor is it in the unBiblical, Intermediate World asserted by Premillennialists. It shall be in that eternal "WORLD WITHOUT END" mentioned in both Isaiah 45:17 and Ephesians 3:21. Therefore, the saints of God are exhorted in Colossians 3:1-2 -- "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 SET YOUR AFFECTION on things above, NOT ON THINGS ON THE EARTH."

Christian, don't set either your anticipation or your affection upon anything more on this earth after your departure. The fact is THIS WORLD SHALL NOT BE

**SAVED -- not by any of the "Ocracies" mentioned above, not by the deluded Environmentalists -- not by anything or anyone -- including Christ Himself. This world is not going to be PATCHED UP for a thousand years when Jesus Returns -- it is going to be BURNED UP forever with all the works therein! Then, following the Judgment the Eternal New Heavens and New Earth wherein dwelleth righteousness shall be brought forth. This is the coming world that the apostle Peter said the saints look for. "Do we look for another?" (Matthew 11:3). If so, I assert that such "looking for another" world is as futile as looking for "another Jesus.. or another gospel" (2 Co 11:4). It does not exist, and shall not come.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **10 -- THE MESSAGE IN THE WEATHER-VANE**

**A Poem By Duane V. Maxey**

**Once a skeptic paid a visit to a farmer that he knew,  
While around them in the barn-yard, lively, shifting breezes blew,  
And a weather-vane was turning on the barn-roof up above,  
With three words in wrought-iron letters, this brief message: "GOD IS LOVE."**

**And the skeptic read the message as the weather-vane did turn,  
But he failed, the farmer's meaning in the message to discern;  
"That God's Love is fickle, like the breezes -- Is that what you say?"  
Asked the skeptic of the farmer, in the barn-yard there that day.**

**"Not at all!" the farmer answered, "by those words I mean to show:  
GOD IS LOVE, no matter which the way the shifting breezes blow!  
They may blow in all directions, or they may not blow at all,  
But the fact remains that GOD IS LOVE, amidst them, one and all!**

**"When a little boy, our son was blown by winds that took his life;  
As a grieving dad, my heart was sad, along with my dear wife;  
But our Jesus came when we did pray, and eased our aching pain,  
And the epitaph for our dead son is in that weather-vane!"**

**Then, most deeply moved, the skeptic turned and shook the farmer's hand;  
"It would be a better world," he said, "if all throughout our land  
Had a faith like yours, whatever came upon them -- ill, or good;  
It would make us better people -- Yes, I'm sure it really would!"**

**When his visitor thus answered, then the farmer made reply:  
"Friend, the Lord will hear you praying, if unto Him now you cry;  
Let us bow our heads and ask Him to have mercy on your soul;  
He will save you, cleanse, and guide you safe unto the Heavenly goal."**

**Then the melted skeptic bowed, and while the farmer offered prayer,**

As the weather-vane was turning on the roof above them there,  
Heaven's breeze swept down upon them -- unbelief was cast away,  
And the skeptic was converted in the barn-yard there that day!

Ever after, this new convert, when the storms of life beset,  
Called to mem'ry once again the message he could ne'er forget:  
Storms of life and winds of trial are controlled by One above,  
And whichever way the wind blows -- still remember: "GOD IS LOVE"!

So, no matter how the wind blows, and no matter what your care,  
Just remember, Jesus loves you -- He will hear and answer prayer;  
He's the Master of the winds, and all the storms obey His will;  
He can calm the wildest tempest -- He can tell it, "Peace, be still!"

As you walk along with Jesus, and strong winds bring grief or pain,  
Still recall the three-word message in that farmer's weather-vane:  
Storms of life and winds of trial are controlled by One above,  
And whichever way the wind blows -- still remember: "GOD IS LOVE"!

--Composed the morning of December 29, 2005, in (Ahwatukee) Phoenix, Arizona,  
six days after the death of my brother, Roger

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## 11 -- THE ONCE DELIVERED FAITH

"Beloved.. ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was ONCE  
delivered unto the saints" (Jude 1:3).

The meaning and importance of "the faith ONCE delivered" can be better  
seen by examining the Greek word for "ONCE" used in this verse. It is "HAPAX"  
and according to Strong's Concordance it means: "one (or a single) time  
(numerically or conclusively)--once." That is, it means "one time only" as  
contrasted with two or more times.

Let us first look at several other instances where "hapax" is used in the New  
Testament where this precise meaning of the word is clearly seen:

In 2 Corinthians 11:25 the apostle Paul writes: "Thrice <tris> was I beaten  
with rods, once <hapax> was I stoned, thrice <tris> I suffered shipwreck.."  
Obviously, Paul meant precisely that while thrice <tris> he was beaten with rods  
and thrice <tris> he suffered shipwreck, "once <hapax> and only once" was he  
stoned.

In Hebrews 9:7 we read concerning the Jewish High Priest:-- "But into the  
second went the high priest alone once <hapax> every year.." The High Priest did

not go into the Holy of Holies two or more times every year; rather, he went "once and only once" into that Most Holy Place each year.

In Hebrews 10:1-2 we also see the meaning and import of "hapax":-- "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. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once <hapax> purged should have had no more conscience of sins." Here we see clearly that while the purging of Christ is "once and for all," the Jewish Sacrifices had no such power, and had to be repeated over and over again. "Hapax" here obviously means "once and only once -- for all time."

In 1 Peter 3:18 we read:-- "For Christ also hath once <hapax> suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." Here again, we see that "hapax" means that "once and only once" Christ suffered for Man's sin at Calvary -- not twice or more.

Then in my text, Jude 3, we read:-- "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once <hapax> delivered unto the saints."

It should be abundantly clear from the way in which "hapax" is used elsewhere in the New Testament that when Jude wrote of "the faith once delivered unto the saints" he meant the faith which was "once and only once" delivered to them! -- not a faith which was twice or more delivered!

It is not, (as the Mormon false prophet, Joseph Smith, asserted), a faith which was "once delivered" in Palestine and then "once again delivered" on this continent as an additional and supplemental revelation and gospel. Every fundamental, Bible-believing Christian agrees with this truth.

However, there is another plain truth couched within the meaning of "hapax" that I would like to present next, and in doing so I shall present its use in Hebrews 9:26-28:

"26 ... but now once <hapax> in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed unto men once <hapax> to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once <hapax> offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

In verse 26 we see that Christ appeared <hapax>, "once and only once" to put away sin, and His singular appearance for that purpose occurred in the "end" <sunteleia> (full-end) of the world.

In verse 27 it is clear that while many shall die twice -- physically and eternally -- it is Divinely appointed that men die "once and only once" -- physically. It is also clear from verse 28 that while Christ shall indeed appear twice, He was "once and only once" offered to be the Divine Sin-Bearer, and when He shall appear the second time it will be <choris> (completely apart from, completely separated from) a sin offering, sin, and sinners.

At His First Appearance, Christ was "once and only once" so totally associated with Man's sin that the Scriptures say "He was made sin for us" (2 Cor. 5:21). Whereas, when He shall appear the Second Time, it will be <choris> (completely apart from, completely separated from) a sin offering, sin, and sinners! There is a tremendous difference between the nature and purpose of Christ's First Appearance and His Second Appearance!

As the risk of sounding redundant, let me state it a third time:-- "Hapax" -- "once and only once" -- at His First Coming -- Christ appeared to be made sin for us at Calvary. At his Second Coming, He shall appear completely apart from His sin offering, apart from all sin, and apart from all sinners, so that none shall enter His Messianic Kingdom who are not washed from all sin in His blood!

"The faith once <hapax> delivered to the saints," is a glorious faith -- one whereby sinners may now be forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness. BUT IT IS NOT A FAITH THAT SHALL BE DELIVERED TWICE: -- once at His First Appearance, and again at His Second Appearance. Nay, at Christ's Second Coming the once delivered faith shall be turned to sight -- for ALL! "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM" (Rev. 1:7).

Contrary to the teaching of Premillennialists, none will be saved by that sight after Jesus comes again! "The faith once delivered to the saints" shall be climaxed at Christ's Return by the delivery of Judgment upon all of the impenitent -- not by the supposed "once-again delivery of the faith" in an oxymoronic form whereby people (for a thousand years) shall be saved by sight-faith. Such a supposed second delivery of the faith contradicts the very essence of being saved by faith, and not by sight! "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope" (Rom. 8:24) -- and faith that is seen is not faith." Ephesians 2:8 declares: "For by grace are ye saved through faith" -- not "through sight"!

"The faith once delivered to the saints" shall have an eternal, and happy end for the redeemed when "every eye shall see Him"! First Peter 1:8-9 declare:-- "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving THE END OF YOUR FAITH, even the salvation of your souls."

Dear Heart, at Christ's Return, you shall receive "the end of your faith" -- THE IMMEDIATE AND ETERNAL END OF "THE FAITH ONCE DELIVERED TO THE SAINTS." The Returned Christ, "Whose fan is in His hand.. will thoroughly purge his

floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matt. 3:12). This Sunteleia (Full End) of "the faith once delivered to the saints" shall not be stretched out a thousand years, nor take place a thousand years after Christ's Second Coming. It shall promptly occur AT His Second Coming, "For He will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: BECAUSE A SHORT WORK WILL THE LORD MAKE UPON THE EARTH" (Rom. 9:28). Selah.

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## 12 -- TODAY'S LOVE OF DISCORD

"Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; HE SOWETH DISCORD" (Proverbs 6:14).

"A false witness that speaketh lies, and HE THAT SOWETH DISCORD among brethren" (Proverbs 6:19).

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## INTRODUCTION

Satan creates and sows Discord, while God is the Author and Promoter of all true Harmony. The word "harmony" is not found in our King James Version, where instead we find its equivalent with such words as "likeminded," "the same mind," and "bond of perfectness."

For example, the KJV translates Philippians 2:2, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye BE LIKEMINDED, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind," while Montgomery's New Testament translates it, "I entreat you to make my joy overflow BY LIVING IN HARMONY; possessing the same love, and with one soul united in one purpose."

The King James Version translates Romans 12:16, "BE OF THE SAME MIND one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits," while the RSV translates it, "LIVE IN HARMONY with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; never be conceited."

Again, the KJV translates Romans 15:5, "Now the God of patience and consolation GRANT YOU TO BE LIKEMINDED one toward another according to Christ Jesus," and the RSV translates it, "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement GRANT YOU TO LIVE IN SUCH HARMONY with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus."

Finally, the KJV translates Colossians 3:14, "And above all these things put on charity, WHICH IS THE BOND OF PERFECTNESS," while the RSV renders it, "And above all these put on love, WHICH BINDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER IN PERFECT HARMONY."

Perfect Accord, Perfect Harmony originate from God, and they are instilled and installed in the hearts of those who are sanctified wholly. GOD LOVES HARMONY and thus HIS SAINTS ALSO LOVE HARMONY. That is why discord in today's world is so grating upon the nerves and inner nature of those who are truly sanctified.

Satan, obviously, is the degenerate and debased author of all that is discordant -- of all of the discord in today's world. FALLEN LUCIFER LOVES AND CREATES DISCORD, and thus it is that THE MORE HIS FALLEN FOLLOWERS BECOME LIKE HIM, THE MORE THEY LOVE DISCORD! -- and -- THE MORE DISCORD THEY CREATE IN TODAY'S WORLD.

Let me mention just a few of the ways in which there is a widespread LOVE OF DISCORD IN TODAY'S WORLD:

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#### A -- THE LOVE OF AUDIBLE DISCORD IN MUSIC AND SOUNDS

I am now 69 years old. I recall the time when I was a lad that even worldly music had melody and harmony in it -- often very beautiful melody and harmony. There was nothing in it that grated the ear-drums and nerves. It is true that during my boyhood in the 1940s worldly music almost totally lacked any spiritual value and was nostalgic, vain, and sometimes a bit suggestive. However, the songs never contained the awful, acidic, grating discord that is now blasted out in today's so-called music. The sanctified have "no ear" for such horrendous screeching, and both their nerves and nature cringe at its sounds, much like one cringes when chalk is screeched down a blackboard and one cries, "STOP! STOP! I CAN'T STAND THAT SOUND!"



**The loud BOOMS, the incessant BEATS, and the horrible, discordant, screeching sounds of today's Satanically inspired, so-called music are so foreign and hideous to the ears of God's true saints who love Harmony that they find it hard to understand how anyone in their right mind could endure them, let alone enjoy them! Sad to say, however, many of today's young, jet-set, professed-Christian musicians are emulating the beats and acidic sounds of Satanic discord in their so-called Gospel Music! The followers of Satan have developed "a taste" for the acidic screechings of the devil, and proud young professed-Christian musicians have obviously developed "the same taste"!**

**Saint of God, never ever stop cringing at such hideous discords. If your inmost being remains like that of Christ, you will HATE IT! Years ago, I recall hearing a Holiness Pastor's wife say of the music their son was producing, "I don't have that hitch in my git-along." Too bad their son DID! He obviously lacked that love of inner harmony that his father and mother had in their sanctified souls!**

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## **B -- THE LOVE OF VISIBLE DISCORD IN PICTURES AND APPEARANCES**

**I don't recall what year it was in my young life that the so-called, "Modern Art" first began to be accepted as real art -- but I think it was some time after my younger boyhood. For centuries, artists and sculptors became renowned for the beautiful exactness and symmetry in their works of art. The more their paintings and sculptings resembled the real thing, the more the artist's work was loved and revered. Once, when a young sculptor asked Michelangelo what he thought of his sculpted figure, he replied, "It lacks only one thing." Disappointed that the figure he sculpted was thought to be flawed in some way, the young sculptor asked, "What does it lack?" Michelangelo replied, "It only lacks life!" The figure was so exact in reproduction of the human figure that it seemed only to lack life to be real!**

**How different the art of the centuries is from today's, so-called, Modern Art. Now, a Modern Artist could dip the paws of laboratory mice into all sorts of hideously unblended colors and have the mice run back and forth across a painting canvas, and he could actually pawn it off as "art" and sell it to someone who agreed with his warped idea that it was so.**

**Modern paintings often lack both blending in the colors and symmetry. There is nothing in their view that suggests harmony, but rather discord. And, some of the most contorted and wretchedly twisted formations imaginable are set forth in public places as sculptings or artistic creations. When one looks at them, there is no balance, there is no semblance of anything harmonious or beautiful, and often they look more than anything else like the twisted forms of some wrecked vehicle, like some smashed object, or like the creations of someone who is "off in the noggin"!**

Again, many modern young people (and many older ones) seem to think that the more horrible and ugly their appearance, the more beautiful they are. They wear their hair in the most disheveled ways, tattoo their skin, pierce their ears, noses (and you name it) to wear gaudy jewelry, and wear their clothes in the most unfitting and outlandish ways imaginable -- often with pant-legs gathered at the foot and dragging on the ground -- all to fashion themselves in what their warped and discordant minds think is attractive -- when, in fact, it is nearly enough to make a true Christian puke at the sight!

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## **C -- THE LOVE OF MORAL DISCORD**

When I was a lad, morality and decency were considered to be virtues. Harmony and balance in the Home and Community were lauded, not attacked as needless hindrances to our freedom as Americans. Marriage was not only honored, but protected by the Law. When I was a boy, couples living together out of wedlock were sometimes arrested for "Illegal Cohabitation"! Eyebrows were raised and such illicit couples were condemned in the community. And, unmarried girls who were expecting were ushered out of public view, and their pregnancy was considered to be a blight on their reputation. I remember when the son of a well-known man in Payette, Idaho, my home town, was responsible for such a pregnancy. His father had him do what was then considered to be the honorable thing:-- he married the girl, so as to help remove that reproach. Furthermore, I remember when even divorce carried with it a stigma, and was not possible everywhere "at the drop of a hat," -- and, I remember when homosexuals were imprisoned after their vile acts were perpetrated. One such homosexual who held a city office, and who was found guilty of indecent behavior with young boys not only lost his job -- he was also sentenced to the Idaho State Penitentiary.

But in today's world, there is horrible moral discord, in the Home, in Communities, and throughout our Nation, and in most every other nation. It is not uncommon for children to live in the same home with several other siblings, each of whom have a different father, or mother. Often, children have a hard time figuring out "who they are"! Unmarried women bear children with impunity and without shame. Vile and shiftless men sire children and refuse to support them or their mothers. Marriage is being disdained by heterosexuals and corrupted by homosexuals.

In the most horrid, yet palpable ways, it is clear that millions in today's world love moral discord, which is synonymous with the most debauched and debased immorality imaginable. Moral harmony is hard to be found in any Home, Community, County, State, or Nation on earth! Instead the so-called ACLU and their ilk "devise mischief continually" and "SOW DISCORD" MORALLY in numerous ways that are sinking society into the putrid quagmires of hell-bound debauchery.

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## **D -- THE LOVE OF RELIGIOUS DISCORD**

**One of my texts says, "A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth DISCORD AMONG BRETHREN" (Proverbs 6:19). This stands in stark contrast with Psalm 133:1-3 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore."**

**Sadly, the more the followers of Satan in this world have come to love discord, the more professed Christians in the Church have also come to love discord. Discord has been so thoroughly sown among brethren these days that ecclesiastically many of the former "trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord" (Isaiah 61:3), have been felled, sawed into logs, the logs cut into boards, the boards chopped into kindling, the kindling sliced into splinters, and the splinters formed into toothpicks!**

**While "the Lord commanded" His "blessing" upon "the trees of righteousness" that He planted -- (viz., the Church Organizations that he helped plant and grow into mighty Oaks and Redwoods) -- God's blight is now resting upon many of the tiny toothpick organizations that are not "the planting of the Lord," but which are, rather, the result of the love of "discord among the brethren."**

**Too often today, among both liberal and legal Church groups, there are those who are very much ready to follow the first part of Jeremiah 1:10 -- "See, I have this day set thee... to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down," while they quite totally disregard the final commissions:-- "to build, and to plant."**

**These sowers of "discord among the brethren" are very adept at "rooting out" all who disagree with them, at "pulling down" all who are above them, at "destroying" all that offends their dignity, and at "throwing down" all who dare to arise in objection to their policies. But, they know or care nothing about really "building" up the saints in their "most holy faith" (Jude 20) and about solidly "planting" them upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, instead of upon their own, puny ecclesiastical foundation.**

**It is all too apparent that even among those who call themselves Conservative Holiness folks, there are some who "love religious discord" more than they love "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3). Could he write about such things even now, would not the apostle James say, "My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10).**

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## **E -- THE LOVE OF POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL DISCORD**

I looked up the Hebrew word for "discord" in Proverbs 6:14 above. In English, Strong's Concordance spelled the Hebrew word as "madownd".

Now don't take this literally regarding that Hebrew word, but it reminds me of "mad down" -- or "downright mad."

All around the world today, we have Arabs and Muslims who are "downright mad" -- virtually all the time. Ever notice that? No matter what is done or said, the Muslims are "mad about it" -- offended by this, indignant about that, upset about something else! They will not be pacified. They do not really want peace. They want the subjugation of the world to their own false religion.

How totally inaccurate it is for our President, or anyone else, to characterize Islam as "a peaceful, peace-loving religion." From its very inception, Islam made converts at the edge of the sword! It is also inaccurate to say that Muslim Extremists have "hijacked their religion." In fact, they are only putting into practice the very things that Islam has always taught:-- viz., to hate and kill Jews and Christians. While probably many "Jack-Muslims," like "Jack Mormons," have gotten away from the insane butchery of those who don't bow to their false-god, Allah, those who really believe what the Koran teaches and who wipe out those who don't bow to Islam, are the REAL adherents of Islam -- a religion that is far, far from peaceable.

True followers of Islam are bent upon dominating the world politically and governmentally. And, they are more determined to do this than Marxists are to dominate the world with their atheistic Communism.

Around the globe, religious groups and various political groups are sowing discord -- seeking to overthrow law and order and create world-wide chaos, out of which they hope to become "king of the hill."

Near the end, one shall come who is "a law unto himself" -- the "lawless one" who will sit in the rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem, proclaiming himself to be God. All of the political and governmental chaos will be ended (for a little season) while he reigns as "king of the hill" in his anti-Christian world.

But, far from bringing true Harmony, this impostor shall soon bring about the utmost discord and chaos throughout the earth that has ever been known. But, this Man of Sin is he "whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:8)! Do I hear a HALLELUJAH!?

**"Why do the heathen rage" today "and the people imagine a vain thing?" (Psalm 2:1). Because their hearts are filled with that which, like Satan, makes them "love discord" and violence against true Harmony and Righteousness.**

**But, when The True "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6) returns, "the government shall be upon his shoulder," and forever all of the hideous, unholy discord shall be done away, and "the fruit of righteousness" shall be "sown in peace" by Christ to "them that make peace" (James 3:18) in His Eternal, Messianic Reign! "World without end," there shall be pure Holiness and perfect Harmony in the Kingdom of the King of kings! Selah.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

### **13 -- WHEN SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN**

**"Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him" (Luke 17:3-4).**

**"Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door" (James 5:9).**

**I do not refer in this article to supposed, or imagined, wrongs. I speak of actual sins against you. Some may, in anger, vow that the sins against them will never be forgotten, but below let me mention seven times when sins against the most embittered grudge-bearers ARE FORGOTTEN.**

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#### **I. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN YOU ARE ON YOUR DEATH-BED**

**There is nothing like the near-approach of certain death to change the focus of a grudge-bearing individual from sins against himself to his own sins. One's own sins and shortcomings loom large when facing the Judgment and Eternal Destiny, and all of the little wrongs of others against the dying person are often totally forgotten! That debt that was never paid you -- that slur on your character -- that unjust criticism -- even that theft of your goods, or that breaking up of your home -- all pale in comparison with the sins, wrongs, and shortcomings that loom exceedingly large now to the dying man or woman. He or she who once vowed that they would never forget this or that wrong are now so totally concerned with their own failures that every prayer is for mercy upon themselves -- not for judgment upon some now-forgotten wrong by another. The solemn and fearful fact fills the minds of dying individuals that their eternal destiny hinges, not upon some paltry little wrong against themselves, but upon whether their own sins and wrongs against others and against God have been forgiven.**

\* \* \*

## **II. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- UNDER HOLY GHOST CONVICTION**

Those who hit the altar under old-fashioned Holy Ghost conviction may be years and years from death -- but they often feel like they may drop into the Lake of Fire the next moment. And, once again, under such gripping, holy fear they often forget all about the sins committed against them -- so focused are they upon the immediate need of having their own trespasses forgiven. Yes, they may remember a wrong against them, by reason of the fact that they have held a grudge against the perpetrator and must forgive him or her -- but often the mind of one under Holy Ghost conviction is so filled with his or her own unforgiven sins that they literally forget any number of previously remembered wrongs against themselves. Did they say they would never forget that slight of another? Now, it has passed so totally into the background that it is forgotten -- and cannot come to mind as long as the fear of Hell grips them and their mind can focus on nothing else but getting Divine forgiveness.

\* \* \*

## **III. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN YOU ARE IN GREAT PERIL OR PAIN**

If one were hanging by the puny branch of a shrub over a yawning chasm, and the roots were pulling loose, threatening at any second to plunge you into the abyss below, and one who wronged you appeared on the ledge above, offering to extend a rescue rope, all of his or her wrongs and sins against you would be totally forgotten. Your entire focus would be:-- Help me quickly! or I perish! And, were you in great pain from a broken limb, and into the emergency room came a physician who had wronged you, offering to inject you with enough pain-killer to ease your extreme and unbearable pain -- you would forget all about that doctor's wrong, and say, "Yes, please help ease my pain quickly! And, after the one who helped you in such emergencies did so, you would be more inclined to forget a previous wrong. Yes, regardless of what may be the case afterwards, when one is in extreme peril or pain -- wrongs against you are often totally forgotten.

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## **IV. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN YOU ARE IN HEAVEN**

Can you imagine a forgiven murderer, rapist, or brutal robber in heaven rejoicing around the throne with his victim there by his side if both remembered the awful sin!? Surely in heaven neither the perpetrators nor victims of heinous crimes will remember those awful sins. In Isaiah 65:17 we read:-- "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into

mind." If this old earth itself "shall not be remembered, nor come to mind," then surely all of the awful sins committed therein shall also be blotted from the memories of those in Heaven. I know, Christians like to sing the words, "We'll tell the story how we've overcome, and we'll understand it better by and by." And again, "We'll talk it over in the by and by; We'll talk it over, my Lord and I; I'll ask the reason -- He'll tell me why, when we talk it over in the by and by." But in fact, I believe that much of what has transpired in this world will be blotted from the minds of those in Heaven. In this world, even the most saintly Christians are sometimes tormented with the flash-back of some wicked deed in their past -- forgiven, but not forgotten. Such shall not be in Heaven! -- or it would not be Heaven! Furthermore, contrary to the sentimental love which we are all loath to surrender, I believe that perhaps even Husband-Wife and Family bonds of earth will be forgotten in Heaven. If not, some folks who had several spouses might find it quite awkward in Glory! Be that as it may, be assured:-- Sins against you will all be forgotten in Heaven!

\* \* \*

#### **V. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN YOUR MEMORY FAILS**

Those wrongs done you when you were a child -- who that is 70-95 years old remembers all of them now? Oh, how bitter we might have been at the moment when we were children! How vehemently we may have declared:-- "I'll never forget that!" But, time has rolled on, and with it has come the total loss of all memory about those little wrongs that loomed so large when we were children and youths. Yes, perhaps a few of the most striking we remember. I remember leaving my new wristwatch in the restroom at my Junior High School briefly when I was about 13. I took it off to wash my hands and left it on the sink. When I came back several minutes later, it was gone. I have long suspected a certain R\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_ as being the thief who stole it from me. What stung the most about it perhaps was:-- Mother had paid for part of it, and I was paying it off from the \$3 dollars per week earned on my evening paper-route -- but it was not yet completely paid for when stolen! I have never forgotten that! But, many other actual or fancied wrongs of my childhood I have long ago forgotten. And, probably countless thousands, if not millions, of little wrongs done to people when they were children were forgotten in time, when memory failed -- all recall of them having been erased by the years.

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#### **VI. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN PERFECT LOVE BLOTS THEM OUT**

Jesus warned in Matthew 6:15 -- "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." But, as I recall, I once heard a holiness leader say something like this:-- "Yes, I'll forgive you, but I won't forget." To a certain extent, I guess he was just being honest. One CAN forgive a thing, the memory of which still lingers throughout life. However, when one is sanctified

wholly and filled with Perfect Love, there can come a frame of mind that is so purposely and habitually "set to forget" forgiven wrongs that they are soon actually both forgiven and forgotten. No, perhaps even the most saintly will never forget in this life the most traumatic and painful sins against them, but at least many of the petty and less hurtful wrongs are quickly swallowed up in the forgetfulness of love made perfect within.

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## VII. SINS AGAINST YOU ARE FORGOTTEN -- WHEN GOD HAS FORGIVEN THEM

I conclude with this fact:-- Whether the grudge-bearer ever forgives and forgets a wrong against them in this life, when GOD forgives the one who has sinned against us, then HE NEVER AGAIN REMEMBERS that sin. One thing God cannot do:-- remember the sins He has forgiven -- even the sins of the one who has grievously sinned against you, or me! When one's wrongdoers have been forgiven of God and when they humbly ask forgiveness of the one wronged, then God expects that wronged one to both forgive and seek to forget that wrong -- as forever forget it he or she shall if they make it into heaven.

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## 14 -- ZEAL NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE

Romans 10:2 -- "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."

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## INTRODUCTION

"Zeal not according to knowledge" is very common, but it is both dangerous and destructive! It is only when zeal is accompanied with, and moderated by, knowledge that it is used of God. In 1 Peter 3:7 the apostle says, "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as



unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

Both zeal and passion must be governed by knowledge. I have heard it said regarding passion, that it is like fire. Fire, when it is kept in the stove, can be used to warm the house and cook the meals, but when it escapes the confinement of the stove, it can burn the house down! Passion, within the proper bounds of holy matrimony, is ordained of God and serves the good of all, but passion outside of its pure and proper confinement within the bounds of true marriage (consisting, by the way, only of a man and a woman bound together as husband and wife) is like wild-fire, very destructive, and a threat to all that is in its path.

Likewise, zeal:-- governed by the restraints and moderation of knowledge, it can be, and often is, used of God for the good of all; but without those restraints, and sans that moderation, zeal can be, and often has been, very destructive, and counterproductive to the very ends and things it seeks to promote.

Let us next consider four of the various forms of "Zeal Not According To Knowledge." If you read this article, please do not omit Point 04, for it is one of the most pathetic forms of such zeal.

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## **A -- THE ZEAL OF ANTI-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS**

(1) **JUDAISM:** -- Please do not take this wrongly, it is not stated with anti-Semitic prejudice, but simply as a fact: **JUDAISM** in its ignorance of Christ **IS AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN RELIGION**. Israel in the flesh are not the people of God since the Era of the Gospel began. Only those who are "in Christ Jesus" as "a new creature, and as many as walk according to this rule" constitute "the Israel of God" now (Galatians 6:15-16). Those religions which blindly oppose the advancement of Christianity, including Judaism, are all Anti-Christian Religions, and those of any Anti-Christian Religion cannot possibly be the people of God -- all arguments to the contrary notwithstanding. Many unregenerate, Orthodox Jews today probably do mistakenly believe that they are the people of God, but they are not.

Saul of Tarsus was one of those very Orthodox Jews, and as such he was very much Anti-Christian. In Philippians 3:6, the apostle Paul spoke of his "Zeal Not According To Knowledge" as a Pharisee when he was ignorant of Christ:-- "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless."

In his unconverted state, the zeal of Saul of Tarsus was ungoverned and unmoderated by the knowledge of Christ. Therefore, his zeal was like a wild-fire, uncontained within the stove of spiritual enlightenment, and very destructive to the very thing he desired to promote! -- the salvation of Israel. Like many other Jewish

teachers of his time, he thought that Israel's salvation was to be "this earthly" -- a mundane salvation that could only be brought about by strict adherence to the jots and tittles of the Law, and the numerous traditions of the Fathers.

In that wild-fiery Zeal Not According To Knowledge, "Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem." The knowledge which ever-after governed and moderated his zeal was soon to be found on the road to Damascus, but before it did, the zeal of Saul of Tarsus was very much like that of King Saul.

When Jonathan, King Saul's noble son, "but tasted a little honey with the end of the rod" (1 Samuel 14:43), in his blind zeal Saul was ready to slay Jonathan for having violated his legalistic oath! Had not some in Saul's army negated his "Zeal Not According To Knowledge," he would have slain Jonathan:-- "And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the Lord liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not" (1 Samuel 14:45). Unfortunately, unlike Saul of Tarsus, King Saul's zeal was never according to knowledge after that, but continued like wild-fire until it destroyed all the good he had previously done and finally himself as well.

(2) AGNOSTICISM:-- One of my computer dictionaries defines Agnosticism thus: "1. The doctrine that certainty about first principles or absolute truth is unattainable and that only perceptual phenomena are objects of exact knowledge. 2. The belief that there can be no proof either that God exists or that God does not exist." Put "in a nutshell," Agnosticism is the belief that we can only "know for sure" that which we can perceive with our physical senses, and therefore we cannot "know for sure" whether God exists, or does not exist.

Make no mistake about it:-- AGNOSTICISM IS AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN RELIGION! The very word "religion" carries within it the idea of being "bound" by a belief. My computer dictionary says that the word in Middle English was "religioun, from Old French religion, from Latin religi, perhaps from religare, to tie fast." And let me tell you something:-- Millions today are "bound" and "tied fast" to the blind ideas of Agnosticism! They don't think we can know anything for sure! To them, even morals are relative! Concerning decency and indecency, they think that there are no absolutes! And, since they think we can only "know for sure" how all things began by using our physical senses, they spend millions of dollars venturing into outer space to learn how it all began -- when Genesis 1:1 has already told us: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Again, since they refuse "to know anything" by what God has declared in His Word, they keep looking for "The Missing Link" between animals and men, and declare that everything probably evolved by chance, without any "Intelligent Design"!

**Sadly, while the false Religion of Agnosticism declares that we can't know anything for sure, THEY DO THINK THEY KNOW FOR SURE THAT THE BIBLE IS A MYTH AND CHRIST WAS A MERE MAN! -- and the ACLU and all other Agnostic Ilk go about in a blind, wild-fire "Zeal Not According To Knowledge" to destroy every trace of God's Word and of Christ and Christianity from our government and our nation. Their Anti-Christian zeal is every bit as destructive and ignorant as that of Saul of Tarsus before his conversion!**

**(3) ISLAM AND THEIR ILK:-- When earthly Israel became hot in its opposition to Christianity, that misguided zeal brought about the destruction of the nation in 70 A.D. Foreseeing that sad occurrence, Jesus, "when He was come near, He beheld the city [of Jerusalem], and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes" (Luke 19:42 ). They had "a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge," which sought to destroy Christianity, but instead destroyed themselves!**

**Likewise, millions in this nation are adhering to the false Religion of Agnosticism, whose zeal is bent upon destroying Christianity -- and as a result GOD HAS TURNED LOOSE ON US THE ZEAL OF ISLAMIC TERRORISTS, who -- unless America repents -- may well be among those who destroy the United States! As a nation, WE HAVE REJECTED THE BIBLE, AND IN PUNISHMENT GOD HAS PLAGUED US WITH THE ATTACKS OF THOSE WHO BELIEVE THEIR OWN FALSE BOOK, THE KORAN! Yes, Islamic Extremists have "a zeal not according to knowledge" -- but I predict that God may well use that "wild-fire" to burn down our national house, unless Americans forsake the false Religion of Agnosticism with its rejection of the Bible and Christianity, and turn back to God before it is too late!**

**Call me a doomsayer if you will, thrice my Bible says of the sinful nation:-- Jeremiah 5:9 --"Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Jeremiah 5:29 -- "Shall I not visit for these things? saith the Lord: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" Jeremiah 9:9 -- "Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the Lord: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" And Psalm 9:17 solemnly declares:-- "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and ALL THE NATIONS that forget God."**

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## **B -- THE ZEAL OF DEGENERATE DENOMINATIONALISM**

**In Jeremiah 2:21 we read: "I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?"**

**Of course, God knew the answer:-- Sin. There is nothing that "regeneration" does for a Church group that "degeneration" cannot undo as the result of sin in their midst. When the leaders and the majority of a denomination are "regenerate" and sanctified wholly, they are God's familiar and pleasant vine. When, through sin from the top down, a denomination is filled with "degenerates" and "unregenerates" -- then that denomination has become "a strange vine" to Christ. NOTICE:-- IT IS STILL A VINE! -- there are clusters growing out from branches -- THE ORGANIZATION IS INTACT! -- AND THE VINE IS GROWING, OFTEN MUCH LARGER THAN IT WAS WHEN IT WAS A GENUINE PART OF THE TRUE VINE, CHRIST!**

**When a Church or Denomination is severed from Christ -- it may actually grow numerically while shrinking spiritually. The organization is still there, and the clusters may be larger, and even appear to be more luxuriant. Herein lies the great deception to a Degenerate Denomination. Like the Pharisees in their zeal, members of a Degenerate Denomination often "compass sea and land to make one proselyte," but "when he is made," he is "twofold more the child of hell than" themselves -- having a lot of head-religion without one ounce of real salvation.**

**One need look no further than the Mormons to see that "zeal not according to knowledge" can bring in millions of converts into a denomination without one ounce of true salvation or religion. Many are less prone to realize that "zeal not according to knowledge" within a backslidden denomination can produce the same results:-- great additions to the membership, which in reality are nothing more than professing Christians who are "children of hell."**

**Sadly, this has been the fate of more than one Christian denomination which grew well as a regenerate, and pleasant vine of Christ, but which sadly grew even more after it became "the degenerate plant of a strange vine."**

**I have mentioned how "zeal not according to knowledge" has been likened to a fire escaped from the stove, but in this case the metaphor does not apply in every sense. A visible, destructive fire is easy to see and thus easier to flee. But the zeal of Degenerate Denominationalism does not appear to be a threatening fire. Instead, it often seems to be a cool and pleasant breeze, coming after their group has escaped the "Hell-Fire and Brimstone" preaching of its revered, but ignorant founders of bygone days. And, those who feel freed from such red-hot preaching "mount up with wings as the eagles" to go out and enlarge their supposedly-liberated membership to the hilt!**

**Numbers in the pew mean more than Numbers in the Bible, and Education means more than Regeneration. Even though God doesn't need a Doctor, they do! Like ancient Israel hankering to be like the world around them, their demand is:-- "Now make us a king [Doctors of Divinity].. like all the nations" (1 Samuel 8:5).**

**After the demise of Francis Asbury, this was the demand of many worldly Methodists and, sad to say, some who were even sanctified:-- We need educated**

preachers! We must have Doctors of Divinity so that the world will no longer snicker at us! And, God granted Methodism its demand -- but look where it is today! To the greatest extent, it has entirely forgotten that "base things.. and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are" (1 Corinthians 1:28).

As with other denominations that have since fallen into the same trap, a certain "zeal not according to knowledge" continued to cause Methodism to burgeon and grow -- long after, for the most part, it became a Degenerate Denomination! I say this not to condemn any particular individuals within such groups. I merely state what I perceive and believe to be the facts.

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## C -- THE ZEAL OF LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANS

Let me here differentiate between the legalism of the Pharisees, like that of the unconverted Saul of Tarsus, from that of genuinely born-again, sanctified, Children of God. They twain have many similarities, but there is one great difference:-- The Pharisees had no real inward enlightenment from the Holy Spirit, while some genuine Christians with legalistic notions DO have real spiritual enlightenment from Christ. It is easy to see the legalism of the Pharisees, but the legalism of born-again, sanctified Christians is much more subtle, and much less easy to perceive -- especially by those who are possessed of it.

Let me endeavor to set forth to you how Christian Legalism often comes to exist.

In 1 John 2:19 the apostle John differentiates between professed Christians and those who were really born again, saying:-- "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." Then, in 1 John 2:20, he goes on to say to the truly born again [caps mine]:-- "But YE HAVE AN UNCTION from the Holy One, and YE KNOW ALL THINGS." And, once again in 1 John 2:27, the apostle states the same thing a bit differently [caps mine]:-- "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and YE NEED NOT THAT ANY MAN TEACH YOU: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

Here is how spiritual legalism is born:

(1) When one is truly born again, HE KNOWS IT! HE DOES NOT NEED SOMEONE TO TEACH HIM THAT IT IS SO.

**(2) But, after one is born again, and knows, that he knows, that he knows, he is saved! -- unless he is careful, he will begin to think that he literally "KNOWS ALL THINGS"! Yes, that is an exaggeration, but the truth is:-- After some folks are born again and sanctified wholly, THEY DO BEGIN TO BELIEVE THAT THEY KNOW MORE THAN THEY ACTUALLY DO. Some such often proclaim, "The Lord told me" this, or that, or the other thing. And, perhaps unconsciously, spiritually they become "wiser in their own conceit than seven men that can render a reason" (Proverbs 26:16).**

**If I ever did doubt that sanctified people can be overwise with such conceit, I no longer doubt it. Time and experience have taught me that genuinely sanctified people can indeed be possessed of this sad condition. They are born again, they are sanctified wholly, but they think they know more than they actually do know! Such individuals should, but probably do not, pay much attention to Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 8:2 -- "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."**

**Now, to the worst part about such Christian Legalism:-- It is possessed of a vehement "zeal not according to knowledge"! Such Christians begin to think that they not only know what is right and required of themselves, but that they know also what is right and required of virtually all others. Every jot and tittle they feel compelled to live up to themselves, they also seek to force upon as many others in their denomination as they can! -- either with raised eyebrows and voiced criticisms, or by printed articles and manuals!**

**In 1 Corinthians 10:29-30, the apostle Paul asks two pertinent questions:-- "Why is my liberty judged of another man's conscience?" and "If I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks?"**

**The answer to both of those questions often is:-- Because of the "zeal not according to knowledge" exercised by Legalistic Christians! The time has already come when many such a Legalistic Christian is putting his fellow-Christians "out of the synagogues" while thinking that "he doeth God service" (John 16:2). This zeal is a Wild-Fire of Fanaticism that has escaped from the confines of both Divine Love and Brotherly Love -- and, at this very time, it has wrought great destruction in the Church of God, and continues to burn out of control!**

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## **D -- THE ZEAL OF INEXPERIENCED CHRISTIAN YOUTH**

**When considering all of the forms of "zeal not according to knowledge," perhaps the least culpable is that of which I now write. When one is born again and sanctified wholly as a youth, his or her heart is on-fire for God and the soul is all ablaze for Christ, His will, His work, and His Truth! Such verses as 2 Kings 10:16 have a great appeal:-- "And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord. So**

they made him ride in his chariot." No matter that a little force is spoken of here in "MAKING" the one bidden "ride in his chariot." After all, the young Christian Zealot thinks, my chariot is on "the way of holiness," the right way, and the Lord does say, "Go out into the highways and hedges, and COMPEL THEM to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23).

Often older leaders and preachers will use zealous terms when preaching to young crowds -- words which the inexperienced will take too literally. Through their literal obedience to God's Word, the young Christians have gotten saved and sanctified under the ministry of older preachers and leaders, and now they are ready to take literally and to the "Nth Degree" nearly every word that falls from the lips of those preaching to them -- even though it does not, in fact, square with reality.

I know of one holiness preacher who excused his exaggerations in the pulpit thus:-- Like the train engine has to "go beyond" the station in order to get the passengers in the passenger cars "up to the station" where they can get on, even so I have to exaggerate to get folks to where they can get sanctified. This preacher did not put it quite so bluntly, but that was the essence of his excuse for "going beyond" in his preaching.

Some good advice for young Christians when listening to revered, older preachers is this set forth by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:6:-- "And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us NOT TO THINK OF MEN ABOVE THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."

Young Christian, never think of what a revered, older preacher says "ABOVE THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN!" No Christian is too young to question and check the truth of what an older preacher or leader says. Young Christians should be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11 who, though "they received the word with all readiness of mind," went afterwards "and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Though young Christians may have much inward, spiritual knowledge, they still have little knowledge experientially in life itself -- and their spiritually "thriving" and "striving" attitude can easily become a spiritually "driving" attitude -- one in which they are too quick to condemn others by what they see, too quick to point those things out, instead of wisely being "slow to speak" (James 1:19).

You know you're saved. You know you're sanctified. You know you love Jesus and He loves you. You know what you have learned in Sunday School, in Church, and perhaps in a Bible College. But, Ah, young child of God, there are still many things about which "you know nothing yet as you ought to know them" (1 Corinthians 8:2).

**Believe it! -- There are many things you cannot know spiritually and practically until you have been down the road more than two or three decades! You already know that one's IDOLS MUST BE DESTROYED. What you may desperately need to learn yet is that often one's IDEALS MUST BE DESTROYED! Ideally, some things seem to be so, when practically they are not. I do not refer to Christian Perfection. I refer to the many youthful misconceptions about what Christian Perfection really is, and about how it is manifest and lived out in the real world -- down "where the rubber meets the road."**

**One of my long-remembered regrets as a young Christian pastor is how I corrected a dear old couple early-on in my first pastorate. They had come one night to put groceries in my refrigerator, and as they left they bid me good-bye as "Preacher Boy". I had been taught that such a manner of addressing me as pastor was unacceptable. So, I thanked them for the groceries, but told them that I was not "Preacher Boy," but "Rev. Maxey" or "Brother Maxey".**

**It was not long before I might have been glad to have them call me "Preacher Boy" just to have them around. Within several months, God called them both Home, and I was left with some other older folks in the church who did not want me as their pastor, and who showed me none of that warm Christian love that Bro. & Sis. \_\_\_\_\_ had shown me that night when they said good-bye to their "Preacher Boy"! Idols had fallen, but here was an Ideal that also needed to fall!**

**Later, when I was in my early 30s, a precious holiness preacher came by the parsonage where I was pastoring. I had been with him in a service and noticed his loving, joyful spirit. Since he had a little trailer-house with him, I invited him, with his wife and young daughter, to hook-up behind the church building and hold us a week-end meeting. He agreed to do it, and they spent the night there. I had been honestly trying to preach against some worldliness in my church, and to my great chagrin, when the preacher and his daughter came into the parsonage the next morning, I noticed that the girl was not wearing what I had been taught, and had come to believe, was a modest-length skirt or dress, but she was only about 13 years old. I am ashamed to tell you what I did:-- I told the preacher why, and canceled the meeting! They no doubt went on their way, heartbroken! With shame, I confess that my heart smote me for so doing -- but in fact I was merely trying to hold to the rigid standards I had been taught, and I had accepted and preached.**

**Perhaps I should not have been so quick to engage the man for the little meeting, but my smitten-heart told me that it would have been best to go ahead with that meeting, regardless of my qualms. The man's daughter was barely into her teens, if there at all. I held to the Law, but violated the Law of Love! If you don't think I did, I'm sorry, I DO. I never saw that man again, but if I knew he was living today and how to get in touch with him, I would apologize and ask his forgiveness.**

**In closing, let me confess another regret. Also when I was in my early 30s, my mother remarried, and afterward I noticed some things that came into her life that I**



had been taught were never to be countenanced in the sanctified life. Utterly distraught, one day I called mother on the phone and "hammered down" on her about those things. I felt that her new husband was leading her in the wrong direction and that she had yielded to him instead of minding God. And, some time later, when I was living much nearer, I privately confronted mother about such things.

I now believe that it would have been much better for me to have taken those things to the Lord in prayer for mother, while keeping mum and letting her know how much and how dearly I loved her. Then, one night in 1981 the shocking news came to me that she was gone! I cannot say that I ever saw her, or heard her, manifest a wrong spirit after her reclamation and sanctification. I can say that I now wish I could tell her how much I love her, and I wish I could ask her forgiveness for whatever I said that was my own manifestation of "a zeal not according to knowledge."

It is an old, hackneyed truism, I know -- but I am going to end with it anyway:-  
- "TOO SOON WE GROW OLD, AND TOO LATE WE GROW SMART!"

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**THE END**