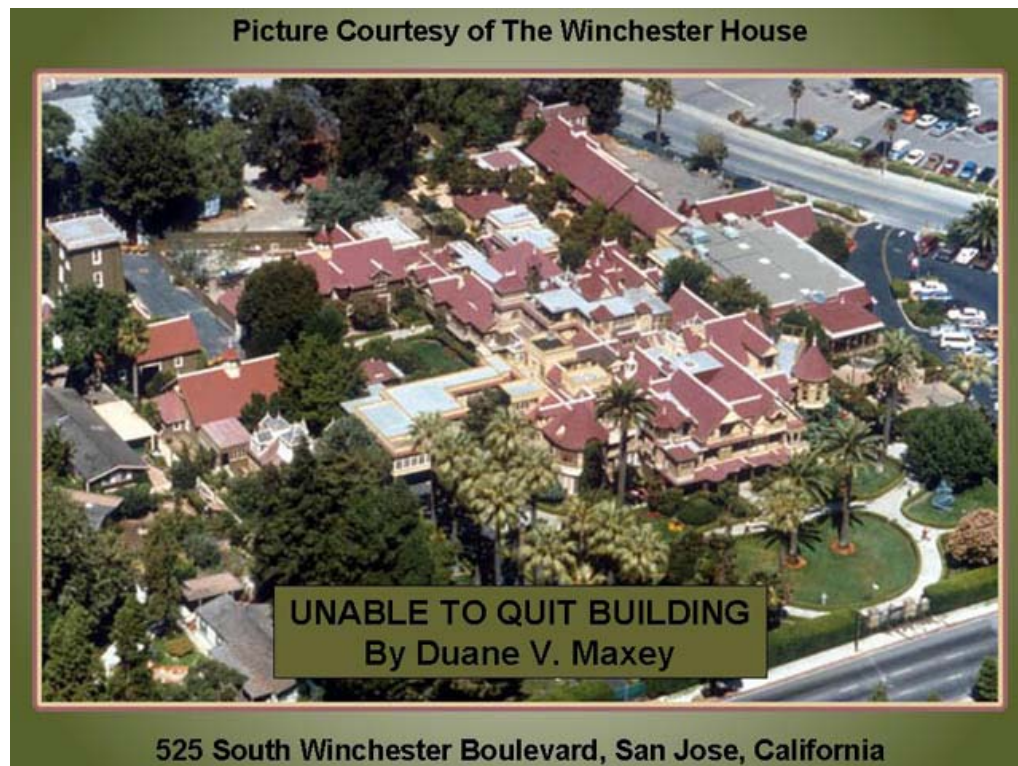


**All Rights Reserved By HDM For This Digital Publication
Copyright 1993 -- 2006 Holiness Data Ministry**

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

**UNABLE TO QUIT BUILDING
And Other Articles
By Duane V. Maxey**



* * * * *

**Digital Edition 12/05/06
By Holiness Data Ministry**

* * * * *

CONTENTS

- 01 -- Unable To Quit Building**
- 02 -- By Him All Things Consist**
- 03 -- Characteristics Of Babylon The Great**
- 04 -- Does Christ Have Poormouthing Ambassadors?**
- 05 -- Did Matthias Replace Judas? Or Was It Paul?**

- 06 -- He Came In On A Wing And A Prayer
- 07 -- Triggering The Avalanche Of Avarice
- 08 -- The Villain From Vermont
- 09 -- Lincoln's Updated Address In 2006
- 10 -- I Have Learned By Experience
- 11 -- The Emporium Empire -- Its Formation And Fate
- 12 -- The Fate Of Those Who Are Determined To Be Rich
- 13 -- The Sovereignty Of Christ Shall Stand
- 14 -- What Superman Don't Need

* * * * *

01 -- UNABLE TO QUIT BUILDING

A few nights ago, I dreamed of a structure to which addition after addition had been added, and when I arose in the morning, I had a variation of the following Scripture on my mind: -- "This man began to build, and was not able to FINISH" (Luke 14:30). The variation in my mind was: "This man began to build, and was not able to QUIT." He was addicted to building.

Jesus Himself spoke of such a man in Luke 12:18 -- "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater."

Like his Creator, Man is a builder -- and, while this can be a blessed and noble characteristic, when a person builds for selfish and unholy reasons, and when building has become an addiction, it is a curse.

Shortly after the builder of Luke 12:18 purposed to continue building, God pronounced his impending departure from earth, but had he lived he probably would have continued building, building, building, for years thereafter. A less drastic doom fell upon Nebuchadnezzar after he said: "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Dan. 4:30). He too was addicted to building. Bible students know his humiliating fate.

The sinful addiction to building dates way, way back, and probably manifested itself soon after the Fall. The would-be builders of Babel said, "Let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven.." And God saw that once they began building they would never cease: "This they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them." So, in mercy, He "scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city" (Genesis 11:4, 6, 8).

When Shallum, the son of Josiah, purposed a grandiose building project, God said unto him through the prophet Jeremiah: "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's

service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion" (Jer. 22:13-14).

Backslidden Israel was addicted to building, and through the prophet Amos, God told them: "Ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them" (Amos 5:11).

Through the prophet Zephaniah, we can see that coupled with spiritual complacency just before the Day of the Lord, men shall be building, building, building: "And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The Lord will not do good, neither will he do evil. Therefore their goods shall become a booty, and their houses a desolation: they shall also build houses, but not inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, but not drink the wine thereof. The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly" (Zeph. 1:12-14).

Jesus re-echoed the fact that men will be addicted to building, right up until the Day of His Second Coming: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed" (Luke 17:28-30).

Until the very day Sodom was destroyed, they bought, sold, tore down the old and built new structures. Thus it shall be when Jesus Returns. Of course, much building is necessary, but the Bible paints a picture of unnecessary and unholy building, building, building! AN ADDICTION TO BUILDING... by those who have "BEGUN TO BUILD, AND CANNOT QUIT!

Dorothea told me about one of the most pathetic examples of addiction to building -- that of Sarah Winchester, heiress of the Winchester Rifle fortune. It could truly be said of her: "This woman began to build, and was NOT ABLE TO QUIT! Her house is located at 525 South Winchester Boulevard, San Jose, California, not far from where Dorothea grew up. If you are reading the PDF version of this file, then a arial picture of the Winchester House is embedded in the file. If you are reading the TXT version of the file, you will find the picture in the Graphics Folder of the DVD listed thus: Unable To Quit Building -- hdm2632.jpg.

What wrinkle it was in her brain that caused Sarah Winchester to begin and never quit building on The Winchester House, I don't know. She began her unending building project in 1884 and was still continuing it at the time of her death in September of 1922 -- 38 continuous years of building. According to Dorothea, she could not rest content unless the sounds of building continued.

The Victorian Mansion (or Monstrosity) was designed by Sarah Winchester and is filled with oddities -- so bizarre that the house has come to be known as the "Winchester Mystery House." One such oddity is a staircase leading up to nothing but the ceiling. Another staircase simply takes you up to nothing and circles back down.

Here are a few more facts about the house: It cost \$5,500,000.00 dollars! -- and that, back when a million dollars was a lot more than it is today. There are 160 rooms, about 40 of which are bedrooms, about 5-6 kitchens, and two ballrooms, plus one that was under construction. There are 467 doors. There are 1,257 windows containing about 10,000 panes of glass. There are about 53 skylights. There are 47 fireplaces. Originally the house stood 7 stories high (prior to the 1906 earthquake, now 4 stories). There are 40 staircases with a total of 367 steps. There are 2 basements. The house sat originally on about 162 acres (now, just 4 acres).

Sarah Winchester obviously built by compulsion. She sketched out the plans, but there were no master blueprints, for the mistress of the house built by whims. It is stated that some of her building sketches she drew on paper and others even on tablecloths.

Her mindless and endless building not only cost millions of dollars, but also needlessly occupied the lives of various carpenters and craftsmen, and wasted 38 years of her own life -- ending only when she died.

What a tragic example of beginning to build, and being UNABLE TO QUIT! And yet, even some good and godly men and women have become too engrossed in building that which shall all burn up when Christ Returns.

Probably not realizing that the earthly temple he was about to build in Jerusalem was NOT THE ETERNAL TEMPLE for God and His People, king Solomon said in 2 Chronicles 2:9 -- "the house which I am about to build shall be wonderful great." David had wanted to build it. Solomon built it, and then never seemed to get over his addiction to building, building, building.

"But Christ" became the "high priest of.. A GREATER AND MORE PERFECT TABERNACLE, not made with hands, that is to say, NOT OF THIS BUILDING" that Solomon built, nor of that building restored by Herod" (Heb. 9:11).

God's building is his Church, and Christ is going to reign in structures that HE built for Men -- not in puny, earthly buildings that Men have thought to build for Him. When shall even those in the Church learn, and believe, this?

To those who are addicted to building on this earth, Christ's admonition can be seen in Proverbs 24:27 -- "Prepare thy work without [outside of this world], and

make it fit for thyself in the field [in heaven]; and afterwards build thine house [on this earth, if you must]."

The song writer expressed what should be the attitude of every Christian Pilgrim -- an attitude in which the building of earthly structures has no undue attraction nor any addiction:

**Let others build a home below,
I feel like traveling on;
Which flames devour, and floods o'erflow,
I feel like traveling on.**

**My Heav'nly Home is bright and fair,
I feel like traveling on;
No pain, nor death can enter there,
I feel like traveling on.**

**It's glittering towers the sun outshine,
I feel like traveling on.
That Heavenly Mansion shall be mine,
I feel like traveling on.**

**Yes, I feel like traveling on,
I feel like traveling on;
The Lord has been so good to me!
I feel like traveling on.**

*** * * * ***

02 -- BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST

" For BY HIM WERE ALL THINGS CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST" (Colossians 1:16-17).

**"He is before all things, and IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER"
(Colossians 1:17 -- Revised Standard Version)**

**"He is before all things, and IN HIM ALL THINGS ARE HELD TOGETHER"
(Colossians 1:17 -- World English Bible)**

It is CHRIST WHO CREATED all things, and it is CHRIST WHO HOLDS TOGETHER all things -- viz., all things "consist" by Christ, Who is the "Power" by which they are held together.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that it is Christ Who is "upholding all things by the word of His power." Every particle in the material creation "consists" -- is upheld, is held together by Christ -- down to the tiniest known particles. Physicists tell us that particles of matter smaller than Atoms are Protons and Neutrons -- and now they have discovered particles smaller than Protons and Neutrons called Quarks and Leptons. Furthermore, Particle Physicists now suspect that there are even smaller "supersymmetric-particles" in the sub-atomic composition of matter.

No matter, for all matter -- from its largest to its most infinitesimally minute parts -- is under the momentary control of Christ! He is the one who made matter, and He is the one who holds it together. At any moment, He can change its consistency, alter its behavior, let it fly apart, or speak it into non-existence. This latter, He shall do at His Second Coming. Unbelieving, evolutionary scientists think that the universe began with a Big Bang. They have it all backwards: it shall depart with a Big Bang -- "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" (2 Peter 3:10).

It is because all things consist under His momentary control, that "in the fourth watch of the night" the disciples saw Jesus "walking on the sea" (Matt. 14:25) toward them. It is because Christ controlled both the matter of the waves and the matter of Peter's body that Peter "walked on the water, to go to Jesus" (Matt. 14:29). And, it is because Christ controlled these same particles of matter that they behaved as usual and allowed Peter to sink when fear overcame his faith.

Momentarily, all of the matter involved in this event consisted, was held together, and obeyed Christ's command. In fact, what our finite minds can only conceive of as a miracle was but a demonstration of Christ's total control over all matter. Unlike human creators, who sometimes, to their horror and chagrin, create that which they cannot control, Christ created all things and all things consist under His command. The ARE and DO exactly what He tells them to BE and DO.

It is because are things consist in momentary obedience to Christ that He was able to perform every miracle He performed on earth.

When "there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (Matt. 8:2), Jesus displayed his power over matter and "put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matt. 8:2-3). Not one Lepton in that Leprosy disobeyed, and was changed into healthy flesh!

Every Quark of matter obeyed Christ when He touched Peter's mother-in-law "and the fever left her, and she arose and ministered unto them" (Cf. Matt. 8:14-15). There is no quirk or quark afflicting the human body that Christ cannot remove!

After the woman with the 12-year issue of blood touched the hem of His garment, "Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that VIRTUE is gone out of me" (Luke 8:46). The Greek for "virtue" here is "dunamis" -- POWER! Once again, Christ's power over every particle of matter in the universe was displayed! There was no naturally inherent power in the hem of Christ's garment, but Christ put it there, and the woman's desperate faith unleashed it -- and she was healed by the dynamic POWER OF THE CHRIST, WHO CONTROLS ALL MATTER! Do I hear someone saying, "HALLELUJAH"!?

When the Atoms, Protons, Neutrons, Quarks and Leptons in the withered hand of a man in the synagogue were confronted by their Master, Jesus told the man: "Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other" (Mark 3:5). When the man himself obeyed Christ, those teeny-tiny particles of matter in his withered hand obeyed Christ likewise, and they were instantly changed into that which gave the man a normal, healthy hand!

"It came to pass, as He went into the house of one of the chief Pharisees to eat bread on the sabbath day, that they watched him. And, behold, there was a certain man before him which had the dropsy" (Luke 14:1-2). The Greek for "dropsy" here is "hudropikos" and Adam Clarke says, "in this disorder the face of the patient is often very much bloated." What was once called "dropsy" might be better described today as "Edema" -- a swelling caused by water collecting in portions of the body. But neither the proper definition of the man's ailment nor the means of curing it posed a problem to Christ. He took the sufferer "and healed him, and let him go" (Mark 14:4). If I may be pardoned for the expression, Christ "Drop-Kicked" that "Dropsy" into non-existence -- because "by Him all things consist"!

When Jesus "came unto the sea of Galilee" they brought unto Him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech" and they besought Christ to heal him. Jesus "took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain" (Mark 7:31-35). Just why Jesus performed the method he did in this case, we know not, but -- in obedience to their Master, those particles of matter involved in this man's abnormal condition were instantly transformed into normalcy! There was no quirk or quark in that man's ears or tongue that continued to consist in such a state as to make him deaf and dumb.

"As He went out of Jericho" one day, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." After all distractions were quieted, "Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way" (Mark 10:46-

47; 51-52). The leptons neath the lids of Bartimaeus' eyes instantly obeyed their Master and the particles pertaining to his sight began to see!

Again, when Jesus "came into his own city" they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy.. Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house. But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men" (Matt. 9:1-2; 7-8). The Greek word for "palsy" here is "paralutikos" -- paralysis. But the particles of paralysis were instantly changed by their Creator and Master from their quirks into the quarks of normalcy! Hallelujah!

Under the Almighty Power of Christ, the fevered arose and served, the chronically ill were healed, the paralyzed used their limbs, the lame walked, the blind saw, the deaf heard, and the dead arose -- as Christ broke up and funeral procession and called forth Lazarus from the tomb! (Luke 7:12-16; John 11:1-44)

Every miracle Jesus performed demonstrated his power over matter. But, we should not overlook the fact that "ALL THINGS CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him" (Col. 1:16-17) -- and that includes the angels!

Every created spiritual being and spiritual thing was created by Christ. Though that which constitutes spiritual bodies and things is different from matter in our universe, all created spiritual beings and things consist by Christ. Thus, all of the angels who ever dwelt in Heaven consist by Him, and that includes Lucifer and his followers who were cast therefrom.

At Christ's word, the existence of all things created by Him could be snuffed out into annihilation. Poof! -- and they would never be again! But He teaches us in His Word that THIS SHALL NOT BE. At His Return, He shall command that all things be changed into the eternal consistency and existence that He has purposed: "As a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed" (Heb. 1:12).

All accountable, finally-disobedient beings -- the fallen angels -- and unsaved human beings, shall be separated from Him into a painful, but undying, state forever -- in the Lake of Fire.

All accountable beings who have obeyed Him unto salvation (the holy angels and saved human beings), shall be separated with Him into an eternally blissful and undying state -- in the New Jerusalem.

All inanimate matter shall be transformed "in heaven" into "a better and an enduring substance" (Heb. 10:34) -- into that eternal substance "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt" (Matt. 6:20), and where aging and decay shall never occur.

And, I believe that at Christ's Return all unaccountable beings (both human and animal) shall be glorified also. In Romans 8:21 we read: "The creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God." It will be in the Eternal "Regeneration" that by Him, all redeemed things which now "consist" in a state of corruption shall be changed into a glorious, new consistency forever! There will be no quirks in the quarks there! and no leprosy in the leptons of the New Heavens and New Earth!

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 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.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Rev. 21:1-7).

What a Day, GLORIOUS DAY, that will be!

*** * * * ***

03 -- CHARACTERISTICS OF BABYLON THE GREAT

CONTENTS

A Very Brief Introduction

A -- Universal Oneness

B -- Universal Commerce, Wealth, Prosperity, And Luxury

C -- Universal Dictatorship And Persecution Of God's Saints

D -- Universal Deception

- E -- Universal Indulgence In Evil**
- F -- Universal Softness And Homosexual Daintiness**
- G -- Universal Haughtiness And Pride**
- H -- Universal And Eternal Destruction**

In Conclusion

* * * * *

A VERY BRIEF INTRODUCTION

First, let me state that this is NOT a political article; it deals with Scriptural and spiritual truths. Biblical statements about Ancient Babylon and Prophetic Babylon the Great paint a very clear picture of that Final, Human Government that shall be overthrown by Christ at His Second Coming. Let us note some of the "Characteristics of Babylon the Great."

* * * * *

A -- UNIVERSAL ONENESS

"And THE WHOLE EARTH WAS OF ONE language, and of one speech... And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad UPON THE FACE OF THE WHOLE EARTH" (Genesis 11:1, 4).

A spirit of Universal Oneness "upon the face of the whole earth" was that which possessed the first, would-be builders of Babylon. This same spirit of "World-Wide-Oneness" has now taken possession of many around the world. It is the spirit of anti-Christ, putting it into the minds of men in key places of power that WE MUST HAVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE. We must all "talk the same language" and "be on the same page" about world-wide needs if we are to preserve the planet and our place in it.

WE MUST BE UNITED AROUND THE GLOBE, NOT SCATTERED into individual nations with individual sovereignties. Yes, dear hearts, just at the spirit of Universal Oneness possessed the original, would-be builders of Babylon, even so it is now working, mostly behind the scenes, but very, very actively. If you are not aware of this, you had better wake up! Plans are even now being discussed in Globalist Think-Tanks, and initiated in secret. The "ONE-WORLD" MOVE IS ON! Wake up, sleeping saint! -- or the World-Wide Take-Over will happen before you Roll-Over and get out of bed!

* * *

B -- UNIVERSAL COMMERCE, WEALTH, PROSPERITY, AND LUXURY

The following portions of Revelation 18 make it clear that these characteristics shall be found in the Final World Government.

Rev. 18:3 For all nations.. and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies... 12 The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, 13 And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots.. 15 The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her.. 16 .. that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! 19 ...that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness!.. 22 And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters.. 23 .. and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride.. for thy merchants were the great men of the earth.."

One of the prominent ideas that the spirit of anti-Christ has placed in the heads of many Globalists today is:-- World-Wide Commerce and Prosperity will bring world-wide peace. Therefore, Money-Moguls are working behind the scenes in undemocratic ways to promote such Universal Commerce and Prosperity. However, what many of these deluded men are overlooking is this: -- When they create a One-World Economy by their own unilateral efforts -- without the vote of the people -- **THEY WILL CONTROL BOTH THAT WORLD ECONOMY AND THE WORLD ITSELF -- AND THEY WILL NOT RELINQUISH CONTROL!** Those who may now think of themselves as world benefactors will become **WORLD DICTATORS!** And that brings me to my next point.

* * *

C -- UNIVERSAL DICTATORSHIP AND PERSECUTION OF GOD'S SAINTS

Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon was a Universal Dictatorship:

"There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Dan 3:12).

You know what happened to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego when they would not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's Image. They were cast into the fiery furnace (cf. Daniel 3:3-27). Their salvation was not FROM the fire, but THROUGH the fire -- a type of the Church going THROUGH the reign of Babylon the Great and its fiery persecution, not being delivered FROM it, but OUT OF it.

Let none suppose that there shall not be Christian martyrs of the Church during the coming reign of the Man of Sin in Babylon the Great. There will be many!

The Image of Nebuchadnezzar prefigured the Image of anti-Christ:

"And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed" (Rev. 13:15).

"And upon her forehead was a name written, Mystery, Babylon The Great, The Mother Of Harlots And Abominations Of The Earth. And I saw the woman DRUNKEN WITH THE BLOOD OF THE SAINTS, AND WITH THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS OF JESUS.." (Rev. 17:5-6).

"And in her was found THE BLOOD OF PROPHETS, AND OF SAINTS, and of all that were slain upon the earth" (Rev. 18:24).

Be not deceived! When John the Revelator spoke of "the prayers of SAINTS" in Revelation 5:8 and 8:4, he was referring to "SAINTS" in the CHURCH. And, when he speaks of "SAINTS" in the above verses he also refers to SAINTS IN THE CHURCH, NOT the mythical "Tribulation Saints" supposedly left behind after the Church has been raptured. NAY! The SAINTS OF THE CHURCH shall pass THROUGH the fiery furnace of the Great Tribulation -- and the faithful shall be delivered OUT OF it -- not without dying physically like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego -- but without dying spiritually.

God is not going to waft off to heaven on the magic carpet of a supposed Pre-Trib Rapture, the soft, namby-pamby professors of Christianity in the Laodicean Church. Christ's counsel to the 7th Church is: "I counsel thee to buy of me gold TRIED IN THE FIRE, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev 3:18).

Like the 3 Hebrew Children, the 7th Church will be "tried IN fire" -- not "raptured up and AWAY FROM the fire. Those who are true, though they perish physically, will come out of that fire without the smell of smoke on their spiritual garments! Those who bow to the Image of the Beast and take his mark instead of daring to die in his fire will suffer eternal damnation when Christ Returns in Judgment.

The following true account vividly illustrates this:

"A blacksmith in King Edward the sixth's time, called Richard Denon, was a zealous professor of religion, and by his Christian instructions was the happy instrument of converting a young man to the faith. Afterwards, in the reign of Queen Mary, this young man was cast into prison for his religion, who, remembering his

old friend to whom he always carried a reverent respect for the good that he had received by him, sent to know whether he was not imprisoned also. Finding that he was not, he desired to speak with him; and when he came, asked his advice whether he thought it comfortable for him to remain in prison, and whether he would encourage him to burn at a stake for his religion.

"The smith answered that his cause was good, and he might with comfort suffer for it; 'BUT, FOR MY PART,' said he, "I CANNOT BURN." He could not burn for his religion, but BY GOD'S JUDGMENT, HE WAS BURNED FOR HIS APOSTASY. Shortly after this, his shop and house caught fire, and while he endeavored to save his goods, he himself was burned." -- Burton

Just before His Return and the Rapture of the Saints, the Church shall be "tried IN the fire" prescribed by Christ. It is THIS fiery trial which shall "separate the men from the boys," and the "professors from the possessors" of real Salvation. Let those who suppose differently beware!

* * *

D -- UNIVERSAL DECEPTION

"And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for BY THY SORCERIES WERE ALL NATIONS DECEIVED" (Rev. 18:23).

The Man of Sin's reign in Babylon the Great shall be "with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish" (2 Thess. 2:9-10). So strong shall the "lying wonders" be "that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

Millions will actually believe that anti-Christ is the TRUE CHRIST! But the true "elect" shall be saved "through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." Many saints will die, but they will not be deceived. Conversely, "strong delusion" shall cause millions to "believe a lie" and "be damned" while having "pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thess. 2:11-13) during the years of that Final, Babylon the Great. And this brings me to my next point.

* * *

E -- UNIVERSAL INDULGENCE IN EVIL

Another of the prominent characteristics of Babylon the Great shall be the profligate indulgence of all sorts of evil.

"Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Saints will be restrained in shackles, but sinners will be free to indulge their evil passions, unhindered by any moral restraints.

Rev. 14:8 says that Babylon the Great "made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication."

Rev. 17:5 calls this final, World-Order "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

Rev 18:2 says: "Babylon the great is.. become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

Rev. 18:9 tells of those "who have committed fornication and lived deliciously" in that vile Babylon.

During the wicked reign of the Man of Sin, SIN will be rampant as never before, around the globe. "The voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters" (Rev. 18:22) shall be heard in a World-Wide revelry in debauchery! "Every unclean and hateful bird" will be feasting on spiritually putrid and stinking, Carnal Carrion -- as the most delicious dainties they have ever tasted! And, that brings me to my next point.

*** * ***

F -- UNIVERSAL SOFTNESS AND HOMOSEXUAL DAINTINESS

As we approach the end, Jesus said that it would be "as it was in the days of Lot" (Luke 17:28). This tells us that Homosexuality shall be rampant, along with an effeminate daintiness.

In Isaiah 47:1 we read: "Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called TENDER AND DELICATE."

This same prominence of effeminate daintiness can be seen in Revelation 18:14 -- "And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were DAINY AND GOODLY are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all."

God HATES HOMOSEXUALITY! Yes, he loves homosexual sinners, but he HATES their deeds, and they cannot be saved IN that filthy behavior -- only FROM it.

Proverbs 23:6 warns: "Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats." Many today ARE partaking of the dainty and effeminate, but utterly filthy practices of homosexuals -- and during the reign of

Babylon the Great, homosexuals and lesbians will be completely unrestrained. They will "beat down the doors" of resistance to their vile lusts without the restraint of Law. It is altogether possible, if not probable, that the Man of Sin will be the Ultimate Homosexual: "Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women" (Dan. 11:37).

When Agag "came unto him delicately" (1 Sam. 15:32), the holy prophet Samuel slew him! The tables will be turned during this awful reign. When homosexuals come delicately to their targeted victims, those who resist them will be slain. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13) for utterly refusing their filthy overtures in those days!

In Revelation 18:4 we read of God calling his pure saints to faithfulness at this time: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Fire and brimstone buried Sodom and Gomorrah directly after Lot escaped, and "fiery indignation" shall destroy Babylon the Great right after the pure and holy saints are raptured out of that world-city when Christ Returns at the end of the Great Tribulation.

* * *

G -- UNIVERSAL HAUGHTINESS AND PRIDE

The Biblical picture of Babylon the Great is one of immense pride:

"Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency.." (Isaiah 13:19).

Nebuchadnezzar said, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?" (Dan. 4:30).

"What city is like unto this great city!" (Rev. 18:18).

But the ultimate Immensity of Fallen Man's Pride, shall be overthrown by the INFINITE INTENSITY OF GOD'S WRATH, because Proverbs 16:18 shall be fulfilled: -- "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." And that brings me to my final point.

* * *

H -- UNIVERSAL AND ETERNAL DESTRUCTION

The Bible picture of Babylon the Great is that of a city facing Universal and Eternal Destruction.

"Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah" (Isaiah 13:19).

Jeremiah 50:35-39 -- "A sword is upon the Chaldeans, saith the Lord, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise men. 36 A sword is upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword is upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed. 37 A sword is upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that are in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword is upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed. 38 A drought is upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it is the land of graven images, and they are mad upon their idols. 39 Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell there, and the owls shall dwell therein: and IT SHALL BE NO MORE INHABITED FOR EVER!"

Jeremiah 51:37 -- "And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwellingplace for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, WITHOUT AN INHABITANT."

Was ancient Babylon rebuilt to be destroyed again? Yes. Shall the One-World Government of Babylon the Great be built? Yes. But never doubt it -- God's Word of the utter and ETERNAL DESTRUCTION of that Babylon SHALL BE FULFILLED!

So universal and eternal shall its destruction be at Christ's return that "it shall be no more inhabited FOR EVER!"

In Hell, the damned "merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over" the destroyed Babylon the Great, "for no man buyeth their merchandise any more" (Rev. 18:11)! In the Lake of Fire "the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters" of Babylon the Great "shall be heard no more at all" (Rev. 18:22) -- FOREVER!

Years ago I heard an evangelist tell a story much like the following: A man and his wife took their little boy to a circus-type parade. In his father's arms, with delight, the little child licked on ice-cream, ate cotton-candy, and gazed in wide-eyed wonder -- as the bands marched and played, as the floats passed by, as the elephants trudged past, and as the clowns performed -- until finally, the last band, the last float, the last elephant, and the last clown passed them by. Then, as these all disappeared in the distance, the little boy cried out: "MORE, DADDY! MORE!" But the father had to tell him, "There is no more, son. There IS no more!"

After its final "hurrah" and proud parade, "The fashion of this world passeth away" (1 Cor. 7:31). And, the entire Babylon the Great of this "world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever" (1 John 2:17).

* * *

IN CONCLUSION

Happily, after the fall of Babylon the Great at Christ's Return, there shall also BE NO MORE of some things for His saints. Throughout Eternity in Heaven, the saints of God "shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more" (Rev. 7:16), "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) -- never to return, FOREVER!

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into The City" -- NEW JERUSALEM. (Rev. 22:14). In complete contrast with Babylon the Great, THIS HOLY CITY shall stand and shine eternally, WORLD WITHOUT END!

* * * * *

04 -- DOES CHRIST HAVE POORMOUTHING AMBASSADORS?

"Hath not God chosen the.. rich in faith?" (James 2:5).

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20).

Before the reader gives up on this article, by all means, please read my closing illustration. It will bless your soul, even if you are tempted to think that the rest of the article blisters your hide -- which latter, I do not intend to do.

This little piece is not intended to discourage or offend any of Christ's ambassadors who are truly poor. It IS intended to point out a tendency which I believe ill-behooves all of Christ's ambassadors -- THE HABIT OF POORMOUTHING.

Among those to whom this article may be passed along, there are two groups who are likely to feel a twinge of uneasiness when reading this: -- those who really are hard-pinched and who would often like to give more but cannot; and, those who are in the habit of trying to get all they can for as little as possible.

"Poormouth" is defined by my American Heritage computer dictionary thus: "To claim poverty as an excuse or a defense: [So-and-so] always poormouths when asked to donate to charity.. An exaggerated assertion of poverty."

When they approached Joshua and conquering Israel, the Gibeonites "did work wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; and old

shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy" (Joshua 9:3-5).

Some may think me hard-hearted in so saying, but the fact is: too often today, poormouthing, professed ambassadors of Christ also try to make themselves look like what they really are not -- i.e., unable to give anything for what they want.

One of the worst things one of Christ's genuine ambassadors can fall into is the habit of "poormouthing"! -- so that whenever asking for something that is proffered on an offering basis, first and foremost are set forth the reasons and explanations "why I can't give much"!

Poormouthing is really just another way of driving a "sharp-bargain" -- like that expressed in Proverbs 20:14 -- "It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth." The only difference is the line: "I can't give much! I can't give much!" but when he receives it he boasts within himself of how he was able to get such a valuable item for practically nothing! And his justification for doing so is often the thought: -- "I am just a poor, wayfaring pilgrim, sacrificing so greatly to serve God, and I deserved to get this for the pittance I gave."

Yes, I know that some REALLY DO say "I can't give much" because they REALLY ARE embarrassed that they can't send more. However, I feel it is best for one of Christ's Ambassadors, who is "rich in faith" to "accentuate the positive, and eliminate the negative" when making such communications. If you REALLY CAN'T afford to offer much, GOD KNOWS THAT. In such cases, it is probably better to simply say, "I will do the best I can," without the prefix: "I can't give much."

I know that, I FOR ONE, prefer to be approached in this more positive way -- by anyone, whether it is someone who is wanting to buy what I am selling, or someone wanting what we are distributing on the offering basis.

Bro. Maxey, about whom are you speaking? Answer: -- About nobody who receives this email directly from me. This is an expression of my view on the matter. Not an accusation of any receiving this email from me.

But I do think it is a matter that every genuine Ambassador of Christ should give serious consideration. **WHAT IS THE IMAGE CHRIST'S AMBASSADOR SHOULD SEEK TO SET FORTH?** -- That of one with a "Poor, Poor, Pitiful Me" attitude about himself? Or that of one who is an **HONORED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOD WHO OWNS ALL THINGS**, and of **ONE WHO IS "RICH" IN FAITH?**

When God's ministers represent themselves as those to be pitied because of their poverty, is **THIS** the way Christ wants them seen by the world? I trow not.

I like the image projected by the old German saint, written of in "Pioneer Life in The West, The Autobiography Of James Bradley Finley" (hdm0683). It is a story from very early Methodism in this nation -- back when the German immigrants still spoke English with a heavy accent:

"An incident occurred on one of my excursions in the wilderness part of my circuit, which I will relate. I was traveling along a solitary path through the woods, and all at once I came upon an old man of the most grotesque appearance, trudging along at a slow rate, half bent, with an ax and two broomsticks on his shoulder. As I approached him I said, 'Well, grandfather, how do you do?'

He was a German, and replied, 'It ish wall.' ('It is well.')

"'You have too much of a load to carry.'

"'Yes, but I can go not often.'

"'Where do you live, old friend?'

"'Shust dare,' pointing to a small cabin on the hillside.

"'You seem to be poor, as well as old.'

"'O yes, in dis world I has noting. But in de oder world I has a kingdom.'

"'Do you know any thing about that kingdom?'

"'O yes.'

"'Do you love God?'

"'Yes, mid all my heart, and God love me.'

"'How long a time have you been loving God?'

"'Dis fifty years.'

"'Do you belong to any church?'

"'O yes, I bese a Metodist.'

"'Where did you join the Methodists?'

"'I jine de Metodist in Maryland, under dat grate man of Got, Strawbridge, on Pipe Creek, and my vife too; and Got has been my father and my friend ever since; and I bless Got I will soon get home to see him in de himels.'

"By this time I felt my heart burn within me; and, having arrived at the Bethel, I stopped, and went in. His wife, who was also quite aged, was sitting by her wheel, spinning tow. I told them I was a Methodist preacher, and was more than happy to meet with them. There was but one little chair in the cabin; but, though destitute of furniture, every thing I saw looked neat and clean. I inquired into their history, and learned that they once owned property in Maryland; but they sold it, and came out west, for the purpose of benefiting their son. They bought a tract of land containing fifty acres, and improved it so they could live comfortably. In the meantime their son grew up, and became restless and uneasy; wished to leave home, and make his fortune elsewhere. To quiet him the old people made him a title to the farm, and took his obligations to maintain them as long as they lived. In a short time, however, the unnatural son sold the land, took the money, and left for the west; since which time they have never heard of him. Being obliged to leave their home, they went into the woods, built their little cabin on Congress land, and obtained a livelihood by making brooms and baskets. They had an old Bible, well-worn, and a hymn-book, which bore similar marks of use. Here, in this cabin alone, they held their meetings; classmeeting on the Sabbath, and prayermeetings morning, noon, and night. They had rich enjoyment. They talked about religion, as if they had been the inhabitants of the heavenly Canaan.

"We sang and prayed together; and such a meeting I had not enjoyed for years. I realized, in my very heart, that I would not have exchanged their lonely little cabin for the most sumptuous palace on earth, without God. It was distressing to look at their apparel, and yet their faces were radiant in the midst of their rags. I took down my saddle-bags, and gave the old servant of God all the wardrobe I had with me, and then, with many blessings, bade these happy saints adieu."

*** * * * ***

05 -- DID MATTHIAS REPLACE JUDAS? OR WAS IT PAUL?

"Jesus answered them, HAVE NOT I CHOSEN YOU TWELVE, and one of you is a devil?" (John 6:70).

*** * ***

A -- INTRODUCTION

None dispute the fact that Christ originally chose twelve apostles, one of them being Judas, who betrayed Him and fell from that position. But, there has been a difference of opinion about whether Christ chose Matthias or Paul to replace Judas.

In considering this subject, let us first look at the passage which describes the choosing of Matthias -- Acts 1:15-26:

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon MATTHIAS; and he WAS NUMBERED WITH THE ELEVEN APOSTLES.

* * *

B -- AFTER PENTECOST, BEFORE PAUL, 12 APOSTLES MENTIONED

It is true that the choosing of Matthias was Pre-Pentecostal, but this does not automatically mean that it was not a Divinely guided choice. It is also true that while in Luke 24:8-9; 32-33 only "the Eleven" are mentioned, **ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST, LONG BEFORE PAUL'S CONVERSION, THE FACT OF TWELVE APOSTLES IS NOTED:**

Acts 2:14-15 -- "But PETER, STANDING UP WITH THE ELEVEN, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day."

Peter, standing up with 11 other apostles amounts to 12 apostles. Therefore, Matthias was filled with the Holy Ghost on Pentecost and was, after Pentecost, seen as legitimately filling the place of Judas. Were the Spirit-Filled 120 in the Upper Room **WRONG** in thus considering Matthias to be the 12th apostle? One would

think that having the enlightenment of the Holy Ghost that they were RIGHT in considering Matthias to be the legitimate replacement of Judas.

But again even later, 12 apostles are seen in Acts 6:1-2 -- "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. THEN THE TWELVE CALLED THE MULTITUDE of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables."

* * *

C -- PAUL DID NOT ACKNOWLEDGE 12 APOSTLES OTHER THAN HIMSELF

One writer argued that in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5 St. Paul himself acknowledged the existence of 12 apostles, himself not being one of them, but this argument is palpably wrong:

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures; and that He was SEEN BY CEPHAS, THEN BY THE TWELVE" -- 1 Corinthians 15:3-5.

In his commentary, Adam Clarke says regarding the correct reading of 1 Corinthians 15:5 -- "Instead of TWELVE, ELEVEN, is the reading.. in the margin, some of the Slavonic, Armenian, Vulgate, Itala, and several of the fathers; and this reading is supported by Mark 16:14."

In 1 Corinthians 15:5, Paul obviously refers to a time PRIOR TO THE CHOOSING OF MATTHIAS. Therefore, ELEVEN, and not TWELVE, must be the correct translation in that verse.

In John 20:24 we read: "But THOMAS, ONE OF THE TWELVE, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came." Here again, prior to the choosing of Matthias, we read of twelve apostles, but obviously there were only 11 at that time.

In Mark 16:14 we see only 11 apostles mentioned prior to the selection of Matthias: -- "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen."

While it is not valid to argue that St. Paul himself acknowledged 12 apostles other than himself, again, the fact that AFTER PENTECOST the existence of 12 apostles is twice mentioned (in Acts 2:14-15 and Acts 6:1-2) DOES LEND CREDENCE to the thought that Matthias, not Paul, was the replacement of Judas.

* * *

D -- PAUL'S APOSTLESHIP WAS TO THE GENTILES

It would appear that the 12 apostles (including Matthias) considered their apostleship as to the Jews, and the apostleship of Paul to be to the Heathen Gentiles:

"And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision" (Galatians 2:9).

And, it is also clear that Paul considered his apostleship as to the Gentiles:

"Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost" (Acts 15:15-16).

"Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity" (1 Timothy 2:7).

"Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles" (2 Timothy 1:11).

* * *

E -- PAUL'S DIVINELY ORDAINED APOSTLESHIP WAS NOT RECOGNIZED BY ALL

It is also true that some of the Judaizers denied that Paul was a genuine apostle, and Paul keenly felt that disdainful attitude toward him:

"Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord? IF I BE NOT AN APOSTLE UNTO OTHERS, YET DOUBTLESS I AM TO YOU: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 9:1-2).

Paul DID consider himself to be unworthy of being called an apostle: -- "For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God" (1 Corinthians 15:9). But repeatedly he states that he was a God-Chosen apostle. In support of this fact see also Romans 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 12:12; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; and Titus 1:1.

* * *

F -- DID PAUL CONSIDERED HIMSELF TO BE JUDAS' REPLACEMENT?

Did Paul consider himself to be the replacement of Judas? Some might take the following verse as evidence of that: "Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;" (Galatians 1:1). But, this verse does NOT really validate such a conclusion.

* * *

G -- WHO IS RIGHT? WHO WILL SIT ON THE 12TH THRONE?

Who is right? I don't know; and it really doesn't matter whether you think that Paul, and not Matthias, replaced Judas, or vice versa.

In Matthew 19:28 we read of how Jesus said to the 12 (before Judas fell from his apostleship): "Verily I say unto you, That 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."

In Luke 22:28-30 we read of the same promise to the 12 (spoken before Judas fell from his apostleship): "Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations.

And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Very clearly, Jesus knew that Judas would not inherit one of those 12 thrones. Will Matthias take his place. Very possibly so. But, if that is the case, shall there be a 13th throne for the apostle Paul? I doubt that, for 12, not 13, is the Biblical number that speaks of Divinely Ordained Government -- and this is seen in both the Old and New Testament.

Here, I forbear. If you would like to respond about this subject, feel free to do so. It really doesn't matter, but if there is more I may learn about this I would like to do so. Thanks to my uncle, Bill Bliss of Payette, Idaho, for arousing my study herewith presented. -- Duane V. Maxey, Chandler, Arizona, September 16, 2006.

* * * * *

06 -- HE CAME IN ON A WING AND A PRAYER

When I was a boy, one of the Patriotic Songs of World War II was "Coming In On a Wing and a Prayer" -- the lyrics to which were written by Harold Adamson. The

song tells of how a very badly damaged U.S. airplane came back from its battle mission:

One of our planes was missing, two hours over-due.
One of our planes was missing, with all its gallant crew.
The radio sets were humming, they waited for a word;
Then a voice broke through the humming and this is what they heard:

Chorus

"Comin' in on a wing and a prayer--
Comin' in on a wing and a prayer--
Though there's one motor gone, we can still carry on,
Com-in' in on a wing and a prayer.

"What a show -- what a fight!
Yes, we really hit our target for tonight!
How we sing as we limp through the air--
Look below, there's our field over there!

"With our full crew aboard and our trust in the Lord,
We're comin' in on a wing and a prayer!"

I was reminded of this song as I read the following comments and illustration by Hugh C. Benner in his book, "Rendezvous With Abundance" -- the [bracketed word mine -- DVM]:

"We must remember constantly that the church is but the resultant of all its members, and only that can be accomplished which is brought to pass by individual devotion and effort. Individuals by the tens of thousands must come to feel a deep responsibility for the failure or success of the church. They must share in the burden of Christ for a lost world until they are to a great extent identified with those in spiritual peril around them.

"It is a thrilling experience to see this principle in operation, even in the purely human realm. I saw this one afternoon as I was flying home to Kansas City from an engagement in Texas. I was to change planes in Tulsa, but as we neared the airfield there, we abandoned our approach and proceeded in a wide arc away from the field. On returning we again swung away from the landing strip and remained on a circular course at about three thousand feet. Then the stewardess informed us of the difficulty. Flying about in the vicinity of the airfield were three or four small, yellow, single-motored planes of the Oklahoma National Guard, and one of the young pilots was in trouble. His rudder controls had become disconnected, and while he could control the plane in flight, he would face extreme danger in landing. Without control over the sidewise motion of the tail, unless both landing wheels touched the runway at the same instant, the plane might lose a wing in crashing against the runway, the plane might overturn suddenly, and in either case

the threat of fire and explosion was imminent, with a fiery death probable for the pilot. After a time we were permitted to land and as we taxied to the ramp we could see the emergency vehicles standing by near the runway.

"By this time a large crowd had gathered to watch this dramatic situation unfold. The control tower was connected with the loud-speakers so that we could hear the instructions of the dispatcher to the endangered pilot as he attempted to 'talk him down.' With the field cleared, the pilot in the little yellow plane would drop down toward a landing -- lower, lower, lower -- until he was a scant three feet from the runway. But then his heart would fail him. He could not bring himself to face the peril of that first contact, and applying the power, he would struggle to gain altitude again, barely clearing the hangars as he flew up into the rays of the setting sun. Time after time that scene was repeated. The tension in the watching crowd grew, and I felt my full share of it. I had a son who one day soon might be in a similar situation as he engaged in military service, and as I watched that little plane, while I did not know the boy in it, I felt as if I had some responsibility for him. I do not know that it helped, but I breathed a prayer for him, and I have an idea others there did the same.

"But the fuel supply was running low and time was running out. The emergency equipment moved to another runway. This time there was a kind of desperate purpose in the way he was 'setting her down.' This was 'it.' Lower, lower, lower came the little plane. The crowd seemed to cease breathing. Still he settled toward the hard surface of the runway -- three feet, two feet, one foot -- and he touched! Not quite simultaneously the tires gripped the concrete -- one wing tip slammed hard and bounded the frail craft onto the other wing tip in a split second. Another second and the plane had slued around in an almost complete circle. But it came to rest upright and all in one piece. The emergency crews were there immediately to guard against fire and to check on the pilot.

"The instant that little plane had stopped and it was apparent that the danger had passed, that crowd began to cheer and whistle and applaud and shout. Yes, I was doing my share. One would have thought we brought him down -- and maybe we did help. But while he was a stranger to us all, we rejoiced 'like a camp meeting crowd' that he was on terra firma, safe and sound.

"Minutes later I was on my plane, winging my way home. But as we gained altitude I felt there was in that experience a lesson for the church. If a group could become so concerned about an unknown lad in a disabled plane, how much more should [Christians] everywhere share a deep concern and burden for those who are lost in sin and are moving toward eternal night!

"May God help us to see the perils which confront us and deliver us from them all. May He give us that vision, that sense of utter dependence on Him, that understanding of primary values, and that burden and passion for the lost, that will

enable us to emulate the Church of Pentecost and meet the full implications of God's will for us as a people."

* * * * *

07 -- TRIGGERING THE AVALANCHE OF AVARICE

During the United Nations session of September\October, 1960, Russian dictator Nikita Krushchev beat his shoe on the podium and declared to the United States, "WE'LL BURY YOU!"

It didn't happen. But something else IS threatening to "bury us" as a nation -- viz., "THE AVALANCHE OF AVARICE" -- and this may occur much, much sooner than millions of Americans ever imagined. Indeed, the majority of blithe and pleasure-mad Americans have no idea that they are now skiing on the slopes that will trigger the nation-burying "Avalanche of Avarice."

God has a way destroying the wicked by bringing down upon them that which they love and seek most.

E. Foster relates the following story:

"Heliogabalus, the Roman emperor, being jealous of the power of the senate, invited the senators to a great feast. When they were overcome with wine, Heliogabalus left the hall. The doors were fastened without; yet the carousal continued. The emperor shouted to them from a glass door in the ceiling that, as they were ever aspiring after fresh laurels, they should now be satisfied. Wreaths and flowers began to rain upon them. The senators cried, "Enough! Enough!" but the rain continued. Terror seized them. They flew to the doors; but they were immovable. Escape was impossible. The relentless storm continued till all were buried and suffocated beneath the murderous sea of flowers."

We now live in a nation and world filled with people who hate God but love money, prosperity, and wealth -- so that they can go where they please, buy what they please, and do what they please. Even now, our nation is skiing the slippery slopes of the Mountain of Avarice, or Greed. Little, scarcely noticed down-shoots, like those which sometimes precede an avalanche, have begun to appear, but those bent upon gaining more wealth, more trade with other nations, more prosperity -- more of everything that will make them wealthy -- are paying no heed to those down-shoots. If seen at all, they are thought to be nothing about which to worry. Let's just ski on, they think, and have "a gay old time"!

But James 5:1 predicts the impending "Avalanche of Avarice": -- "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you!"

When looking upon wealth-crazed, greedy America -- romping on the slopes of the Mountain of Avarice, and planning to open up vast corridors of Trans-National Trade, God could well say to us: -- "By thy great wisdom and by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas." (Ezek. 28:5-8).

I would not presume to literally put words in God's mouth, but may I paraphrase the above passage as it relates to the U.S.? -- "O, America! You have opened up great corridors of traffic and trade! You have, by them, increased your wealth and become inflated with pride. Therefore, God shall bring strange nations down upon you! You shall be buried by them and die among the slain in the midst of the seas!"

Dear Hearts, I believe our nation is being blind-sided -- and many concerned Christians are also being blind-sided. It is NOT going to be Gay Rights, it is NOT going to be Abortionists, it is NOT going to be Liberal Judges, it is NOT going to be Terrorists, who destroy this nation! IT IS GOING TO BE GREED THAT BURIES AMERICA -- IN "THE AVALANCHE OF AVARICE"!!!

Ironic, isn't it? while everyone is so greatly concerned about those other evils and threats, nearly nobody is seeing what is our most imminent danger! -- AVARICE, OR GREED!

Little down-shoots of the impending "Avalanche of Avarice" are seen by a few, but as a nation, "WE SEE NOT OUR SIGNS: there is no more any prophet: neither is there among us any that knoweth how long" (Psalm 74:9).

It is the Globalist Money-Mongers who are just about to "TRIGGER THE AVALANCHE OF AVARICE" down upon our nation. As a society, we want Gold more than we want God. We want Treasure more than we want Truth. We want Money more than we want Mercy. We want Prosperity more than we want Prohibition of evil. We want Wealth more than we want Wellsprings of Righteousness.

Like the Roman Emperor Heliogabalus, God is about to rain down upon this nation what it wants! -- but in so doing, we shall be buried in that "Avalanche of Avarice"! Our lust for wealth will bring the loss of our freedom, and the loss of our national existence! and America shall "die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas" unless great repentance and great revival prevents it -- SOON!

Proverbs 28:22 warns: -- "He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him." And this is true "whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only" (Job 34:29).

Twice, Christ warned: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13). The Greek for "mammon" is "mammonas" which, according to Strong's Concordance is a word "of Chaldee origin (confidence, i.e. wealth, personified); mammonas, i.e. avarice (deified):--mammon."

Christian, if you want to behold the sin which most imminently threatens our nation, look at the MOUNTAIN OF MAMMON (AVARICE). Down-shoots are falling, signs are appearing. "The Avalanche of Avarice" is impending. Will it bury us nationally before ever there are enough of those who "see the signs" and warn America to flee from this "wrath to come"? Will it be prevented? or will it be triggered? Soon, we may have the answer to those questions. -- Duane V. Maxey, Chandler, Arizona, (My Heaven-Gone Mother's Birthday), October 20, 2006.

* * * * *

08 -- THE VILLAIN FROM VERMONT

To millions around the globe now, he is revered as a hero, a great prophet of God, but to those who know the facts, this man is a villain, a knave, a scoundrel, a miscreant, a liar, a deceiver, and one of the worst false prophets to ever pawn himself off as a prophet of God. In evil deception of millions, he may be second now only to the false prophet, Mohammed -- even though millions of his deluded and deceived followers align themselves politically with Conservative Christians as patriotic U.S. Citizens and vote Republican!

Of whom do I write? -- the false prophet Joseph Smith Jr. Though for most of the last 200 years, his followers have painted a beautiful and rosy picture about this man and his utterly false prophecies, behind this veneer is his true and ugly history and the true facts about his blasphemous prophecies! Above are three pictures: the one on the left as Joseph Smith Jr. is pictured by the LDS sect; the one in the middle as he is pictured by the RLDS (Reorganized LDS) sect; and the one on the right showing how he really looked. The two pictures to the left of the real one are typical of how the LDS and RLDS sects WANT Smith to be viewed -- as a handsome and honest servant of God. He was far, far from that!

Joseph Smith Jr. was born on the town line between Sharon and Royalton, Vermont on December 23, 1805 (nearly 201 years ago today, November 2, 2006). He was murdered by an angry mob at the Carthage, Illinois jail on June 27, 1844.

At the site of Smith's birthplace, is this beautiful monument, dedicated on December 23, 1905, 100 years after Joseph Smith Jr.'s birth. It is made of polished granite, 54 feet in height, the polished shaft rising 38½ feet above its base, in

memory of Smith's age when he was murdered at about 38½ years of age. The monument is typical of what Mormons have done with their whole religion -- embellished all with a beautiful outward appearance, hiding the hideous truth beneath it all. Standing on 360 acres, this monument at Sharon\Royalton, Vermont is very beautifully landscaped and from among the surrounding trees the Mormon Tabernacle Choir can be heard singing. The memorial shaft is said to be the largest polished granite shaft in the world. The whole scene is very much like ALL LDS meeting places -- very well built, polished, and very attractive.

But Jesus warned of those "which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness." THIS is a fact of which all should beware regarding the false teachings of Joseph Smith and Mormonism.

I had thought to place in this file a picture of Smith's Memorial, but failed to find out whether it is under copyright or not. So, I have omitted it, but, take my word for it, that memorial is breathtakingly beautiful! Before his fall, Lucifer was heaven's most beautiful angel -- and, even in his fallen state he knows how to "turn on the charm"! Nowhere is that charm any more apparent than in the embellished edifices and representations of Mormonism.

It is, of course, the Bible itself that refutes the teaching of Joseph Smith Jr. However, a reading of his TRUE HISTORY can also reinforce how false his so-called revelations were.

Years ago, I borrowed the book "No Man Knows My History" by Fawn Brodie. Just recently, I bought a copy of the book and have gone through it again. Dorothea is even now finishing her own reading from the book. It is perhaps the most revealing biography of Joseph Smith ever written. As an ex-Mormon who was brought up and raised one, Brodie "took up the gauntlet" from a speech that Smith had given in Nauvoo, Illinois on April 7, 1844 wherein he threw out the remark: "You don't know me; you never knew my heart. NO MAN KNOWS MY HISTORY!"

In her 494-page biography of Smith, Brodie goes into great detail about virtually everything relative to JOSEPH SMITH'S TRUE HISTORY. Her revelatory book is not at all unkind to him. Indeed, it seemed to me that the writer had a lingering fondness for the man and did not write from the perspective of a born-again Christian, but from the perspective of one whose intellectual honesty forbade her from believing any longer in Joseph Smith, or Mormonism.

She traces Smith's past from his early New England ancestors in the 1600's and follows his tawdry tale from its beginning in Sharon, Vermont to New York, to Kirtland, Ohio, to Independence, Missouri, to Nauvoo, Illinois, and to his murder by an angry mob at the Carthage, Illinois Jail.

Smith's so-called revelation and adoption of Polygamy in Nauvoo was one of the main causes of his murder. Brodie lists 48 Plural Wives of this sensuous false

prophet. His preaching and practice of this sexual sin cause many in Illinois to become incensed. The "straw that broke the camel's back" however was his ordered destruction of an opposition printing press in his unHoly City of Nauvoo. This gave those who were already boiling mad at his dictatorial and sensuous rule an excuse to do him in.

Smith's murder at the hand of that angry mob were wrong -- both in the fact that they took the law into their own hands and in that their angry epithets and killing were NOT of God.

With a profane curse calling upon God to damn him, an angry mobster shouted, "Old Joe, we've got you now!" Then, speaking to any that might hinder, one of the mob shouted: "Clear the way! and let us see Old Joe, the prophet of God. He's seen the last of Nauvoo. We'll use him up and kill all the _____ Mormons!"

Having been shot in the back while inside the Carthage jail, Smith attempted to escape from the second-story room in the jail-house, but only hung there. "Shoot him! _____! Shoot him! Shoot the _____ rascal!"

Realizing his doom had come, Smith cried out, "Oh Lord, my God!"

He twisted on the window ledge and plunged to the ground, landing on his right shoulder and back, and then turned over on face. One of the mob dragged him, still alive to a well-curb and sat him up. Smith opened his eyes. The order was given again to shoot him. The bullets struck him; Smith cringed a bit, and fell forward on his face."

Thus ended the life of Joseph Smith Jr. on June 27, 1844.

Directly after his death, those who perpetrated this awful crime seemed to be awestruck by the spectacle. Mormons would have us believe that they were smitten of God for their deed. My reply to this is: If Joseph Smith's murderers were indeed smitten of God for their deed, it was NOT because they had killed a prophet of God, but because they had taken the law into their own hands and without mercy, decency or dignified decorum put to death another human being while uttering awful profanities from hearts that were as black as that of Smith himself.

Neither would I give the slightest credence to the thought that Joseph Smith's cry on the window-ledge, "Oh Lord, my God!" proves that the Lord really was his God. One cannot read of his awful murder without feeling pity for the man, but that does not mean we should believe what Mormons teach about this deed: viz., that Joseph Smith's murder was a reenactment of the Crucifixion of Christ, Smith sealing his testimony with his blood.

However, contrary to the wishes of those who murdered Joseph Smith Jr., his murder was NOT the means of stamping out Mormonism. Rather, his followers

rallied around his false teachings after his murder, as if he was indeed a martyr of the truth. Then, led by Brigham Young, another Vermonter who had joined Smith years earlier, Mormonism marched west and the story of its establishment in Utah began. Fawn Brodie ends the Epilog of her book by saying, "Joseph Smith's true monument is not a granite shaft in Vermont, but a great, intermountain empire in the West."

The falsehoods of this false prophet live on. Millions have come into his fold, without, of course, really coming into Christ's fold. They call themselves "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints," when, in fact, they are neither "The Church of Jesus Christ" not "Latter-Day Saints."

Perhaps if Joseph Smith's murderers had left him in the hands of the Law, this false prophet's sect would have died out with his legal conviction. Everywhere he went, his dictatorial regime and teachings stirred up discord and discontent. Eventually, if left to the U.S. Law, Smith might have been legally executed and his falsehoods forgotten. His murder is one more solemn reminder that "the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God" (James 1:20).

Nevertheless, woe be unto all who believe his false book of Mormon and his other written prophecies, no matter how embellished the stories, pictures, and grounds of Mormonism! A deadly poison swallowed from an emaculate, silver spoon with a pearl in the handle is just as fatal as that same poison swallowed from a cheap and dirty spoon just taken from a bowl of slop! -- and even more likely to kill when that poison is pawned off as a cure for the one taking it!

Twice, the Scriptures warn: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12); "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25).

With its beautiful and polished presentations, Mormonism is one of those ways that can "seem right" to those who want nothing more than a nice, attractive religion -- BUT BEWARE, IT IS ONE OF "THE WAYS OF DEATH"!

* * * * *

09 -- LINCOLN'S UPDATED ADDRESS IN 2006

Being devoted to the preservation of the U.S., were Abraham Lincoln to deliver an address today similar to his Gettysburg Address -- an address concerning our present crisis, I can imagine him wording it thus:

* * *

LINCOLN'S UPDATED ADDRESS

Eleven score and 10 years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged with a great Illegal Invasion from Mexico along with Secret Moves in High Places toward a North American Union, testing whether this nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, shall continue to endure. We are not met on a great battlefield of this war, for it is a secret war of which most Americans are blithely unaware. We have not come anywhere to dedicate a battlefield of this war as a final resting place for those who are secretly plotting to destroy us. They live on, and continue their perfidy behind our backs. It is altogether unfitting and improper that they should do this -- but do it they are, and, unless stopped, do it they shall until the Sovereignty of the U.S. is gone and this nation has become part of the new North American Union.

But, in an even larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow there deeds, for they are treasonous and betray our Constitution, our Freedom, and our National Existence! The brave men, living and dead, who have struggled to preserve our nation in the past, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract -- but detract these betraying Globalists shall, until nothing remains of this nation or our cherished political freedom. The world will little note, nor long remember what I am saying here, but in years to come it shall never forget what the Globalists who betrayed our National Sovereignty did here. It is for us, the living and loyal U.S. citizens, therefore, to be dedicated here and now to defeating the unfinished work which these Globalists have thus far so ignobly advanced. It is imperative for us to be here dedicated to the great task of defeating Globalism remaining before us -- that from those honored dead, who gave their lives for our freedom, we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here and now highly resolve that those dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the PEOPLE (not the ACLU and Special-Interest Groups), by the PEOPLE (not the Politicians), for the PEOPLE (not for Big Business and Globalists), shall not perish from the earth."

The reader is invited to compare this take-off on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address to his actual words below:

*** * ***

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

* * * * *

10 -- I HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE

"I have learned by experience" (Genesis 30:27).

At about 69 and one-half years of age, I HAVE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE THAT MANY THINGS CAN ONLY BE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE. They cannot be learned in school under some teacher or professor. They cannot be learned from a book -- even the Bible. They cannot be learned from observation -- of things and others. They cannot be learned from meditation. They cannot be learned from calculation. They cannot be learned from logical cogitation. THEY CAN ONLY BE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE. YOU MUST PERSONALLY EXPERIENCE THEM.

* * *

I HAVE LEARNED BY SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

First, and foremost, among those things which must be "learned by experience" are spiritual realities regarding God, Christ, and Salvation.

"I have learned by experience" that Christs lives and salvation is real. Were I to deny that I have learned this, I would be lying. Were many to assert that they have learned this, they would be lying. When I was a 19-year-old lad, Jesus spoke to me -- so definitely that I knew it then, and still know it today, as He said, "Son, your sins are forgiven, and you are my child." When I was a young 22-year-old man, the mighty Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire fell on me. "Oh, I never shall forget how

the fire fell, when the Lord sanctified me!" I would be stating a falsehood, if I were to say that I do not know that this second, definite work of grace is real. Were some to say that they know, that they know, that they know, the Holy Ghost has fallen upon them in sanctifying power, they would not be stating the truth. But, these things, "I have learned by experience" -- and they can ONLY BE LEARNED BY EXPERIENCE.

Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3:10-11 -- "Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness."

The reason why highminded scholars and many so-called "Doctors of Divinity" do not know these things is: THEY CANNOT BE LEARNED ANY OTHER WAY THAN "BY EXPERIENCE" -- clear-cut, sky-blue, beyond all doubt, spiritual experience. "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."

You cannot "learn your way into salvation" by sitting under the feet of some Professor Gamaliel. You cannot learn the reality of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost out of a book. You cannot know that God lives by observing the stars, or by observing anything. In Luke 17:20-21, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation.. for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21). Until a man experiences the new birth, he cannot "see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3), but once you have experienced that reality you DO see it.

Saul of Tarsus lost all doubt about the Living Reality of Christ and His God-Head on the Damascus Road. What he had not learned at the feet of Gamaliel during perhaps some years, he learned in moments when the blazing splendor of Christ, above the brightness of the sun, knocked him off of his high-horse, humbled him into the dust, and dramatically regenerated his hitherto blinded mind. No wonder, he later testified: "I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ" (Gal. 1:12). Powerful, God-Sent, Holy Ghost Experience taught him! -- both about Salvation, and later about Entire Sanctification: "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?... For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 7:24; 8:2-4).

Those who have learned from books that God does not exist, that Christ was a mere man, that Salvation is a mental aberration, and that Entire Sanctification cannot be experienced in this life -- are sadly, and completely mistaken. "I have learned by experience" that these things are SO, all of their highminded ignorance to the contrary notwithstanding!

Scholastic learning, book learning, observation, meditation, calculation, and cogitation have made millions "know for sure" what IS NOT SO! To all such, God's Word says in 1 Cor. 8:2 -- "If any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." And in 1 Cor. 3:18 the instruction is: -- "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

One of the greatest problems with the world today is folks who "know nothing yet" by God-Sent experience, "as they ought to know" -- and who refuse to "become fools" in their own estimation of themselves (which in fact they are), so that they may "become wise" unto salvation.

Yes, Christians should become educated. But the Divine Commandment in Proverbs 19:27 is: -- "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge." A mental dunce who knows "by experience" the reality of Salvation and Entire Sanctification, actually KNOWS MORE than does Dr. Icicle, who just graduated from yon Seminary, whose religion is all in his swelled head with none in his shriveled heart, and who insists that these experiences are nothing more than emotionalism.

When it comes to soul-saving, spiritual realities, God's Word declares to the born-again, Spirit-baptized Christian: -- "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" (1 John 2:27).

* * *

I HAVE LEARNED BY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Job 32:7 declares: -- "Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom."

It is an immense error for those who are spiritually ignorant to disallow Divine realities they have never experienced. IT IS ANOTHER HUGE MISTAKE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS TO THINK THAT THEY KNOW, FROM SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES, ALL THAT THEY NEED TO KNOW.

1 John 2:27 must be interpreted correctly. When that verse says: "you know all things" and that "ye need not that any man teach you" -- IT MUST NOT BE TAKEN TOO ALL-INCLUSIVELY. One can "know all things" about the fact that Christ lives and about the fact that there really IS a second work of grace, but -- Come On Now! -- IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT YOU LITERALLY KNOW EVERYTHING! When that verse says that "ye need not that any man teach you" -- it does not mean "ye need not that any man teach you ANYTHING!" But, too often, young Christian zealots, burning with the reality of Christ within, THINK THEY KNOW MORE THAN

THEY REALLY DO! -- and, they often go out into the Harvest Field and make numerous blunders -- rooting out tares in order to purge them from the wheat, driving away needy souls with unwise remarks and sermons, preaching ideals that even the angel Gabriel would disallow, and pushing the flock with merciless zeal, reprimanding the weak, and chiding those who lag behind instead of challenging them by a sweet example.

"Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom" -- and, they Do speak, and Do teach wisdom. As the days go by, they speak to us about what really is best, versus what we learned in Bible School; we "learn by experience" what could not be learned at an altar, nor in the red-hottest, holiest Bible School on earth. As year is added upon year, upon year, and decade is added upon decade, "we learn by experience" some things that we just thought we knew at earlier times.

For example, now that I have endured two decades of suffering certain maladies, at age 69 I can see that when I was a young preacher in my thirties, I was too pushy with the older, ailing folks. I have learned by experience that "when your get up and go" has "got up and gone" there REALLY ARE some things an older person cannot do that a zealous thirty-three year old preacher might think he, or she, should and must do.

Days have spoken to me, and years have taught me wisdom concerning some ideals that are impossible to achieve in the flesh, and unmerciful to press upon others. I have learned by experience that sanctified men and women still have a ton of humanity on board, and sometimes they do not exhibit all that I once thought they must, in order to pass muster. I have even learned by experience that sanctified men can get "at logger-heads" with one another -- and each be so convinced that the other is wrong that they part company -- a la Paul and Barnabas about young John Mark going with them to the work. (cf. Acts 15:38-40)

Oh, so many times! I have learned by experience in life that I CAN BE WRONG IN MY JUDGMENT OF THINGS!

As a young Bible salesman one day I saw a man that I judged to be an alcoholic walking along the roadway. I decided to pick him up as I drove from Payette, Idaho to Nyssa, Oregon. I soon learned that he had no place to stay. I had just vacated a rented room several days early, and moved into a new room. I offered him the old room for those several remaining days. He accepted, and I took him back to Payette to the room. I helped him get a job at a local plant, and I let him eat some meals on my cafe meal-ticket. On top of all this, I took him up to my new room and gave him several shirts out of my closet.

Then, a short time later, I saw him on the street -- wearing what looked like my favorite shirt. I had stepped out of my new room while he was there, and I thought to myself: He's a thief! While I was out of my room, he helped himself also

to my favorite shirt! To check it out, I drove him with me over to my new room, and looked into my closet. The shirt was gone!

I accosted him with: "I want my shirt back."

"It's not your shirt," he replied, "but I'll give it to you."

I insisted that it WAS my shirt, and after I drove him back to my old room he went up, changed out of it, and brought the shirt down to me.

After I parted company with the man, I drove over to the restaurant and told them to give him no more meals on my meal-ticket; he was a thief and had stolen my shirt.

Then, as I departed the cafe and stepped off the curb to go get into my car, I caught a glimpse of what I was wearing under my jacket. You guessed it. My favorite shirt! -- exactly the same color and style as the one I demanded from the alcoholic.

I had to "eat crow" -- return his shirt, make an apology, and confess my error.

I wish I could say that is the only time I have misjudged someone -- but, more times than I care to remember I have learned by painful and embarrassing experience that "to err is human"! Thank God, "to forgive is Divine."

If not the first part of the following old saying, then at least the last part thereof is frequently so: -- "Too soon we grow old, and TOO LATE WE GROW SMART."

Young person... If Jesus tarries and you live to be 69-70 years of age, or older, you too will look back and say, "I have learned by years of experience" much of what could only be "learned in the school of hard-knocks" down across the decades. Selah.

* * * * *

11 -- THE EMPORIUM EMPIRE -- ITS FORMATION AND FATE

"For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the MERCHANTS [EMPOROS] of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.. And the MERCHANTS [EMPOROS] of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more.. The MERCHANTS [EMPOROS] of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing.. And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all

in thee: for thy MERCHANTS [EMPOROS] were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived" (Revelation 18:3, 11, 15, 23).

The fact that the global government of Anti-Christ will be an "Emporium Empire" is clearly seen in the above Scripture. The Greek word for "merchants" is "emporos" -- from which we have our word "emporium" -- defined by my computer dictionary as: "1. A place where various goods are bought and sold; a marketplace. 2. A large retail store or place of business."

Indeed, ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT CHARACTERISTICS of that "Babylon the Great" IS COMMERCE. It will be a Global Financial Consortium -- A ONE-WORLD EMPORIUM of buying and selling in which "no man" can "buy or sell" without having "the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:17).

We can see this "Emporium Empire" at work in Luke 17:28-30, where Jesus said, "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, THEY BOUGHT, THEY SOLD, THEY PLANTED, THEY BUILDED; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

In the only instance recorded in the New Testament where Jesus manifested anger, we read of how He "said unto them that sold doves" [within the Temple compound], "Take these things hence; make not my Father's House an house of MERCHANDISE [EMPORION]" (John 2:16).

Were we to put Jesus' above remark in today's English, we could render it: "DON'T MAKE MY FATHER'S HOUSE AN EMPORIUM!"

In describing the Jews' rejection of Himself and His Kingdom, Jesus said, "They made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his MERCHANDISE [EMPORIA]" (Matthew 22:5) -- The rejecter, if you please, went "to his emporium."

One of the tragic consequences of the Jews' rejection of Christ has been that instead of becoming a NATION OF MISSIONARIES, for God and Salvation, they have become a NATION OF MERCHANTS, after Gold and Silver. And, many of them are even today helping create the "Emporium Empire".

But, the unbelieving Jews are only part of the crowd in these last days that is bidding: "Cast in thy lot among us; LET US ALL HAVE ONE PURSE.. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof" (Proverbs 1:14, 19).

One translation of Matthew 22:5 reads: "But they made light of it, and went, one to his own land, and another to his COMMERCE" (DBY).

As never before and around the globe, those in high places are secretly, and sometimes openly, moving to create great Regional Financial Emporiums:

To those in EUROPE it has been said, "LET US ALL HAVE ONE PURSE"! -- let us have one currency, and free trade among us all. And, behold, we have the European Union.

To those in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, it has been said, "LET US ALL HAVE ONE PURSE"! -- and behind the scenes the Canadian Leaders, the Bush Administration, and Mexican collaborators, are working to create the North American Union. And, just yesterday, I read of a move on to create the South American Union.

Doubt it not! Around the globe, efforts are being made to create Regional Economic Alliances.

WHAT IS THE STATED AIM? -- "COMMERCE" -- a way to mutually profit one another with our "ONE PURSE" -- our one currency, with all barriers broken down among us, so that we may travel and trade freely among ourselves and mutually prosper. The SPP, which was quite secretly created by President Bush, then Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, and then Mexican Presidente Vincente Fox, is the "Security and PROSPERITY Partnership of North America."

WHAT IS THE REAL AIM? -- "CONFEDERATION" -- OF THE WORLD UNDER ONE GOVERNMENT!

Globalists (aka Internationalists) are pushing for ONE-WORLD-ISM -- a one-world consortium that will not only allow free trade among all nations, but which will also include and establish: a one-world government that will rule all peoples with a universal law, a global effort to "save the world" from environmental destruction, a global monitoring and controlling of diseases and pandemics, and many other highly touted and promised benefits from such a world-wide government.

But the "TRICK CARD" they are now playing is that of "COMMERCE". We MUST, they say, have these Regional Trade Unions -- in Europe, in North America, in South America, and elsewhere -- in order to prosper, and in order to help raise those in these regions who are impoverished into their fair-share of the wealth!

I believe that is because our President has been duped into buying this idea that he is espousing NAFTA, CAFTA, FTAA, NACC, and SPP -- and who knows what else? -- as beneficial to the U.S.

The Bush family comprises only a tiny few among many active globalists today, but they have, and still do, occupy high places of influence in our nation and

the world -- and quite obviously they are both advocating and pushing the Globalist Agenda.

It all sounds SO BENEFICIAL! But creating the North American Union will destroy our National Sovereignty, and it smacks of the philosophy of Communism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

Apparently our President thinks that America owes it to Mexico to let them have a share in our wealth. The fact is, while the Bush family will not be hurt by such thinking and doing, it WILL HURT HARD-WORKING U.S. TAXPAYERS, and the net gain for all will be much less than zero! No, of course not all Globalists are Communists, but the two philosophies have much too much in common!

Neither Capitalism, nor Global Commercialism, is the savior of the world. But, as we approach the end, "THE COMMERCE CARD" is going to be played as the means of duping governments and their peoples into forsaking their sovereignties and their freedoms in order that ALL MAY PROSPER -- AS IF PROSPERITY IS OUR SAVIOR!

Shall THE EMPORIUM EMPIRE of AntiChrist prosper? Yes, briefly it shall. We read in Daniel 11:36 -- "And THE KING SHALL DO ACCORDING TO HIS WILL; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, AND SHALL PROSPER till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done."

Christ's Kingdom is an EMPOWERED EMPIRE, not an "Emporium Empire". It is not founded upon a supposed "almighty dollar" but upon the actual "Almighty God" in the August Person of the King of kings, Jesus Christ! -- "For THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS not in word, but IN POWER" (1 Cor. 4:20).

The elitist Globalists, who are working to create the One-World Government that shall be finally headed by the Anti-Christ, ignore the Empowered Kingdom of Christ, much like Goliath disdained little David. But, they and their Global Government, shall fall as surely and as quickly as that boastful giant!

At the Return of Christ, Babylon the Great, the Emporium Empire, shall be suddenly destroyed:

"Standing afar off for the fear of her torment," the creators and lovers of the "Emporium Empire" will cry out, "Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come" (Rev. 18:10).

Astonishment, fear, and awe shall replace their confidence in their prosperity, "For in one hour so great riches [shall] come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, [shall stand] afar off" (Rev. 18:17).

"And they [shall] cast dust on their heads, and [cry], weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate!" (Rev. 18:19).

"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:21).

In that Awesome Day of the Lord when the Emporium Empire is destroyed, "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch" (Prov. 11:28) -- even forevermore, in the Empowered Empire of Christ.

* * * * *

12 -- THE FATE OF THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE RICH

If you do not care to read all that precedes it, you may want to at least skip to item 10 and read the fate of various lottery winners.

* * *

CONTENTS

A -- The Scripture Lesson

B -- The Fate Of Lot

C -- The Fate Of Sodom

D -- The Fate Of Ephraim

E -- The Fate Of Balaam

F -- The Fate Of Gehazi, Elisha's Greedy Servant

G -- The Fate Of The Rich Farmer

H -- Multiple Warnings In The Bible To Those Who Desire Riches

I -- The Fate Of Those Who Fall For "Get Rich Quick" Schemes

J -- The Fate Of Various Lottery Winners

* * *

A -- THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 Timothy 6:8-9

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. (KJV)

Adam Clarke says concerning the clause, "But they that will be rich" -- "The words are emphatic, and refer to PERSONS WHO ARE DETERMINED TO GET RICHES; who make this their object and aim in life; who live to get money; who get all they can, save all they can, and keep all they get.."

In accordance with this, the WEB translation renders verse 9: " BUT THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE RICH fall into a temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful lusts, such as drown men in ruin and destruction."

Then KJV renders 1 Timothy 6:10, "For THE LOVE OF MONEY IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

I like Montgomery's New Testament rendering of the verse better: "For THE LOVE OF MONEY IS A SOURCE OF ALL KINDS OF EVIL; and in their eager desire to be rich some have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves with many sorrows."

Paul's admonition in 1 Timothy 6:7-10 is that Christians should be content with "food and raiment" -- i.e., the necessities of life -- and not be mercenary, with a determination to obtain and amass wealth beyond those necessities -- for, "the love of money is a source of all kinds of evil" which lead people astray and finally "drown men in destruction and perdition."

THE FATE OF THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO BE RICH can be seen in the pages of Scripture and in the records of history.

*** * ***

B -- THE FATE OF LOT

"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the Lord destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they [Lot and Abraham] separated themselves the one from the other" (Genesis 13:10-11).

No doubt it was avarice that prompted Lot's choice -- a determination to be rich. You know his fate. He lost all he had, including his wife and part of his family, and barely escaped the fire and brimstone that destroyed the land he had coveted. It had been a better fate for both Lot and his entire family if he had been content with life's necessities, not quarreled with Abraham over grazing rights, and stayed close to his godly uncle.

*** * ***

C -- THE FATE OF SODOM

Lot was not the only one in Sodom who was determined to be rich. We read in Ezekiel 16:49 -- "Behold, this was the iniquity of.. Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy." The people of Sodom were wealthy, greedy, and not mindful of the needy. Their idleness made possible by their wealth led to sexual debauchery and perversion, which, in turn, led to their destruction. The condition of wealthy Sodom just before that perverted town met its awful fate is very close to the condition of our nation now.

Such is the God-ordained fate of those who are determined to be rich, "whether it be done against a nation, or against a man only" (Job 34:29), and every time we see, "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches" (Psalm 52:7), we can be certain that his fate is a sad one.

* * *

D -- THE FATE OF EPHRAIM

In Hosea 12:7-8 we read: "He is a merchant, the balances of deceit are in his hand: he loveth to oppress. And Ephraim said, Yet I am become rich, I have found me out substance: in all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me that were sin."

Commenting on these verses, Adam Clarke says of Ephraim: "They boasted in their riches, notwithstanding the unjust manner in which they were acquired." The Ephraimites declared that they had done nothing wrong in how they became wealthy, when, in fact, they had dealt deceitfully in business. Concerning Ephraim's declaration: "In all my labours they shall find none iniquity in me," Adam Clarke writes: "This is frequently the language of merchants, tradesmen, &c. None are so full of professions of equity and justice, while all the time they are endeavouring to overreach, both in buying and selling. 'Sir, I cannot afford it at that price.' 'It is not mine for that money.' 'I assure you that it cost me more than you offer.' 'I am sorry I cannot take your money; but if I did, I should lose by the article,' &c., &c., &c. I have heard such language over and over, when I knew every word was false."

In Hosea 12:9 God pronounced the following fate upon Ephraim, who had determined to be rich, while sacrificing the truth to gain wealth: "I that am the Lord thy God from the land of Egypt will yet make thee to dwell in tabernacles, as in the days of the solemn feast." Here, God said he would reduce Ephraim to poverty once again. Adam Clarke comments thus: "I who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, will again make thee to dwell in tabernacles. This appears to be a threatening. I will reduce you to as miserable a state in the land of your captivity, as you often were through your transgressions in the wilderness."

* * *

E -- THE FATE OF BALAAM

"Balaam the son of Bosor.. loved the wages of unrighteousness" (2 Peter 2:15). You know the story of how Balaam would not pronounce an outright curse on Israel, but in order to get the wealth promised him by Balak he "taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication" (Rev. 2:14). You know his fate. During Israel's campaign to conquer Canaan under Joshua, "Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them."

* * *

F -- THE FATE OF GEHAZI, ELISHA'S GREEDY SERVANT

You will recall the story of how "Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow" (2 Kings 5:21-27). In his determination to be rich, Gehazi lied, both to Naaman and to Elisha -- and in so doing inherited Naaman's leprosy.

* * *

G -- THE FATE OF THE RICH FARMER

The story of the Rich Farmer is recorded in Luke 12:16-21 -- "And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul

shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

* * *

H -- MULTIPLE WARNINGS IN THE BIBLE TO THOSE WHO DESIRE RICHES

The Bible is literally loaded with warnings about the fate of those who are determined to become rich:

"Therefore the abundance they have gotten, and that which they have laid up, shall they carry away to the brook of the willows" (Isaiah 15:7).

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent" (Prov. 28:20).

"He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him" (Prov. 28:22).

"The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep" (Eccl. 5:12).

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (Matt. 19:23-24).

"But woe unto you that are rich! for ye have received your consolation. 25 Woe unto you that are full! for ye shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now! for ye shall mourn and weep" (Luke 6:24).

"For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways" (James 1:11).

"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you" (James 5:1).

The idea that riches will bring security and satisfaction is an illusion: "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven" (Prov. 23:5).

* * *

I -- THE FATE OF THOSE WHO FALL FOR "GET RICH QUICK" SCHEMES

In spite of all these warnings, why is it that some Christians seem to be addicted to "Get Rich Quick Schemes"? The airwaves and other advertising media are awash with ads run by those who purport that their business scheme will quickly bring you in much money with little or no investment. All you need to do is give them X-amount of your money and they will set you up and show you how to do it! And, even some hard-pinched Holiness folks will buy into these set-ups, over and over again! When will they ever learn that it is indeed "A Set-Up"? and if it sounds too good to be true, IT REALLY IS... TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! While the genuine Christian who is struggling financially does not buy into these schemes to get rich, they are a trap to all -- and particularly those who "are determined to be rich."

Among those "who are determined to be rich" are those who gamble and buy lottery tickets, but the fact is that hitting the jackpot or winning the lottery is often the worst thing that could happen to the gambler.

*** * ***

J -- THE FATE OF VARIOUS LOTTERY WINNERS

The following accounts were obtained from an online site. I have done a bit of rewording without changing the facts, and I have appended my own comments. Also, I have purposely blanked out the entire names of the various lottery winners.

On April 28, 1997, lottery millionaire ____ was bludgeoned to death in a Lewiston, Maine motel room. Those who become suddenly wealthy also suddenly inherit the covetousness of many who want that money and who will kill to get it!

On May 22, 1999, after winning 31 million dollars in the Texas state lottery 23 months earlier, ____ committed suicide. His wealth had not made him a happy man!

On December 19, 2001, British lottery millionaire ____ was found dead on his couch, having apparently whiskey-drunk himself to death. Lethal things still kill you, even when you are rich! and often those who "win" great wealth "lose" control of their good sense, and do things that bring about their demise.

On July 11, 2002, British lottery winner ____ died at work, shortly after telling a coworker that he had drunk cyanide -- another example of how sudden, great wealth "pierced a man through with great sorrow."

On April 21, 2003, \$25 million lottery winner ____ was stabbed six times by his son and another man at a Bar & Grill outside Rochester, N.Y. Great wealth did not buy ____ security.

On June 29, 2003, Lottery millionaire ____ was arrested in Collinsville, Virginia for attempting to run over a sheriff's deputy. When he was arrested, ____

was driving naked on the wrong side of U.S. Route 58 with his headlights off. The vanity of great wealth often brings the insanity of great folly along with it!

On August 5, 2003, after lottery millionaire ____ passed out in a West Virginia strip bar, a burglar stole his briefcase containing \$545,000 in negotiable bonds. The money was located in a trash dumpster the next morning. He will be fortunate if his soul does not end up in the dumpster of damnation -- never to be retrieved! And

On January 6, 2004, after getting banned from a Bar and Grill in St. Albans, West Virginia, this same lottery winner reportedly threatened to have the manager and his family killed. All murderers (in heart and otherwise, unless repentant and forgiven) shall have their place in the Lake of Fire! On January 20, 2004, this same lottery winner reported that somebody broke into his SUV in Scott Depot, West Virginia and stole a bag containing \$100,000 cash. On January 25, 2004, this lottery winner was arrested for drunk driving in Nitro, West Virginia. Police allege the millionaire blew a .190 blood alcohol on the breathalyzer. Unless I err, this lottery winner announced to the world that his life-style was not going to change much and that he was going to give some of his lottery winnings to his church. Obviously, his life was changed -- for the worse! and, no matter how much he may have given his church, he became five-fold more a child of hell after receiving his huge winnings!

On September 13, 2003, the London Telegraph reported that 16-year-old British lottery millionaire ____ had lost her boyfriend, fought with her father, been mugged, and been accused of stealing someone's man. She said: "Some days I don't even want to leave my house because people just scream abuse at me. Two months ago I thought I was the luckiest teenager in Britain. But today I can say I have never felt so miserable."

On September 15, 2003, in his Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey home, lottery millionaire ____ repeatedly stabbed his wife and her mother with a kitchen knife, killing his mother-in-law. His sudden wealth had not delivered him from the murder within his heart.

On October 17, 2003, it was reported that British lottery millionaire ____ had completely alienated his neighbors in Swaffham, Norfolk by periodically staging loud, impromptu demolition derbies on his property. His sudden wealth had not made him either a courteous neighbor or a constructive person.

On November 18, a court issued a bench warrant for lottery millionaire ____, charged with defrauding the government for three years' worth of unemployment claims. It would appear that he may have used ill-gotten gains to buy his winning lottery ticket, but I doubt that his sudden wealth made him an honest man!

On June 26, 2004, at his Colorado home, state lottery millionaire ____ allegedly shot ____ in the head with a .22 caliber pistol. ____ survived and the lottery winner was charged with attempted murder. Again, money in he hands does not remove murder from the heart!

On July 20, 2004, in Minnesota lottery millionaire ____ reportedly crashed her SUV into a truck on the way home from a bar, killing passenger ____ and paralyzing ____ from the waist down. Far from great riches bringing great sobriety, often great wealth brings drunkenness, death, and damage to all around.

On August 7, 2004, incarcerated serial rapist ____ won \$12.9 million in the British lottery. His winnings may buy him a lawyer to get out of prison, but his sudden wealth will not bring about a sudden change in his heart. Only the grace of Christ can bring about that sudden change.

On August 13, 2004, a nonprofit group filed suit against New Hampshire lottery millionaire ____ for failure to deliver on an alleged \$70,000 annual donation pledge. When lottery winners are suddenly rich it is easy for them to make pledges. It is harder to follow through later, with thousands around them who want a cut of their pie! The fate of those who are suddenly rich is often law-suits by those who want some of their wealth!

On August 24, 2004, a bird refuge in ____ filed suit against New Hampshire lottery millionaire ____ and former husband for failure to deliver on an alleged \$100,000 annual donation pledge. Same sort of story and fate.

In September of 2004, lottery millionaire ____ was arrested for having allegedly violated the terms of her bail and for possessing 0.7 grams of methamphetamine. Great wealth neither made this person honest or sensible.

On October 10, 2004, Seattle police officers shot California lottery millionaire ____ to death in a parking lot near Qwest Field. Officers claim that ____ refused to drop his pistol, but ____'s brother claimed the cops gave him no instructions to do so. Sudden riches did not preserve his life!

On October 2, 2005, having spent his \$10 million prize in just seven years, Winnipeg lottery winner ____ hung himself. During this seven-year spending spree, ____ was involved in a high-speed chase in the year 2000 and a sexual assault arrest in 2002.

On October 28, 2005, million dollar jackpot winner ____ was arrested after Oregon police discover that she had purchased the winning ticket with a credit card stolen from her dead mother-in-law. She stole to win. And, virtually all who play the lottery steal to win -- steal from themselves, steal from their spouses and children, and steal from society as a whole. The big lotteries of today often boast of how they benefit society. It is a lie! Gambling steals from everyone! and makes thieves of those who rake in the profits also!

On January 15, 2006, bankrupt ex-lottery millionaire ____ died of respiratory failure in Seneca, Pennsylvania. He had won \$16.2 million in the Pennsylvania

lottery on February 24, 1988. In a 1993 interview, he said: "Everybody dreams of winning money, but nobody realizes the nightmares that come out of the woodwork, or the problems."

No more needs to be said here. Let all who are wise **BEWARE!** Those who are determined to be rich "fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." How wise the request of Proverbs 30:8 -- "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me."

* * * * *

13 -- THE SOVEREIGNTY OF CHRIST SHALL STAND -- By Duane V. Maxey

The sovereignties of man shall fall
Beneath the universal sprawl
Of globalistic greed and might;
One Rule o'er all shall stand in sight.

That One-World Government alone,
Beneath the devil-man's dread throne,
Shall rule in universal dark
And cause the lost to take his mark.

Around the globe none buy or sell
Except they take that mark of hell
Upon the forehead or the hand,
Throughout the earth in every land.

E'en now we see this plot unfold,
Though plans about it are untold;
All boundaries they shall erase
Till sovereign nations have no place.

Deluded men who seek this rule
Pursue it as a costly jewel;
Not knowing that it's Satan's light
That leads the world to darkest night!

They think that Universal Peace
Can only come as men release
Their claim to every line and border
To bring in One-World Law and order!

While nations vote on lesser things,
There is no warning-bell that rings

To tell them what in secret's done
Behind their backs beneath the sun.

The Money-Lords, all after gold,
Their nation's sovereignty have sold!
Too late! the citizens shall see,
Their loss of land and liberty!

Big Trading Unions take control
From East to West and Pole to Pole!
The Man of Sin unites them all,
Beneath his fierce and iron pall!

Some Christians fancy they'll be gone
When this dread rule has come upon
All others who are left behind,
No refuge left on earth to find.

They think they'll rise up in the air
Without a thought about this care,
And feast with Jesus and His pack--
Then, when it's over, they'll be back!

But, if I read my Bible right,
The Church shall share in this dread plight--
Arising not to mount up higher
Until the saints pass through the fire.

"I counsel thee to buy of Me,"
The Lord has writ for all to see,
"Gold that's tried within the fire,"
That gold, it takes to mount up higher.

The Seventh Church that had no need
Shall then for grace from Heaven plead!
And those who're true will never bow,
Nor take that mark on hand or brow.

Before the last vial strikes the globe,
Each saint, triumphant in white robe,
Shall rise in joyous adulation,
Escaping God's Great Indignation.

You think I'm wrong about these things?
That saints shall earlier take wings?
Well, we'll not argue, 'tis not good!

'Twill end like Jesus said it would!

**That Man of Sin shall fall at last;
All Evil government be past,
When Jesus comes as King of kings
And puts an end to these dread things.**

**One Sovereignty shall never fail--
'Tis ruled by Christ, Who shall prevail;
O'er every kingdom of the world
His banner bright shall be unfurled!**

**With sin then banished by His Sword,
All Ho-li-ness unto the Lord,
The bells shall ring and never cease!
With endless joy and endless peace!**

**The Sovereignty of Christ shall stand
Forever, with His Happy Band.
As saints and angels all rejoice,
And PRAISE HIS NAME WITH ONE GLAD VOICE!**

*** * * * ***

14 -- WHAT SUPERMAN DON'T NEED

The story has been told of how boxer Cassius Clay (aka Mohammed Ali) once boarded an airplane with his entourage. All of them fastened their seat-belts as ordered before take-off, except Clay, who brushed the seat-belt aside, saying, "Superman don't need no seat-belt!"

The Flight Attendant, insisting that Clay comply, replied: "Superman don't need no airplane either!" So -- if the self-described "Superman" was going to fly that day, he WAS going to fasten his seat-belt as ordered on that plane!

Since Jesus came of age as a Man, He, has been THE ONE AND ONLY, REAL SUPERMAN! -- and, indeed, He doesn't need a plane to fly. Also, He does not need men like Clay, who boasted himself to be "the greatest" -- nor does he need men in movies who portray a fictional Superman -- one of which (Christopher Reeves) fell off of a horse several years ago, became a quadriplegic, and finally died. It was sad that this man, who portrayed a fictional Superman who could defy the law of gravity and fly anywhere at will, did fly through the air -- but not in defiance of the law of gravity -- and crashed to the ground, paralyzing himself from the neck down. I confess that, tragic as it was, I have thought this tragedy might have been God's way of showing the world that there is REALLY ONLY ONE SUPERMAN! -- Who is from Heaven, and not from the fictional planet, Krypton!

Finally, regarding the above, I do not say the following to pass judgment, but merely state an observation: Recently, within the short span of a few months, Reeves, his wife, and actor Glenn Ford (who played the fictional Superman's father), -- all three -- have left this planet to meet the Real Superman at the Judgment. And, one day soon, the self-proclaimed "Greatest" (Cassius Clay, aka Mohammed Ali) had better "fasten his seat-belt" for he too will "fly away" to meet his Maker -- Who is NOT the fictional Allah, but Christ Jesus!

At the end of Time, another impostor shall pawn himself off as "Superman" -- the anti-Christ -- but, like all others who proudly and falsely claim super-powers that belong only to THE GOD-MAN, CHRIST JESUS, he too shall fall, instead of flying into eternal glory!

It's bad grammar, but true: THE REAL SUPERMAN DON'T NEED NONE OF THESE! -- and on the Day of the Lord the whole world shall know that JESUS ALONE IS "THE BLESSED AND ONLY POTENTATE, THE KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (1 Timothy 6:15). Selah.

*** * * * ***

THE END