



HELP!

**We've Fallen and
We Can't Get Up**

W. MICHAEL McCORMACK

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We've Fallen and We Can't Get Up!

An Apologetics House Call

W. MICHAEL MCCORMACK

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For more information on this topic, see:
Killing the Bible, by W. Michael McCormack
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CONTENTS

FORWARD

CHAPTER 1	THE HUMAN CONDITION	1
CHAPTER 2	THE FALLEN	19
CHAPTER 3	RELIGIOUS QUAGMIRE, PART ONE	24
CHAPTER 4	RELIGIOUS QUAGMIRE, PART TWO	38
CHAPTER 5	CHRISTIANITY'S CALUMNY	45
CHAPTER 6	THE PROTESTANT EFFECT	56
CHAPTER 7	WHERE ARE WE?	64



APPENDIX 1	ALLAH AND PRAYER	76
APPENDIX 2	TAQIYYA POISON	77
APPENDIX 3	CIVILIZATION JIHAD	83

FORWARD

This small book contains some huge ideas. We begin with the reality of who we are within a universe designed by God. This first undertaking is for the purpose of defending the faith against atheists and agnostics. The second chapter relates to those work-based religions and their difference from true Christianity as the Bible reveals it. Subsequent chapters contrast and compare the world's religions to true Christianity in a brief overview. The final chapter gives us our mandate as Christians in a fallen world. Many readers will not make it to this chapter because they will be offended by the first chapters. Even some true Christians will be dismayed at the tone and direction the chapters take in defending the Bible against various faiths.

However, this book cannot be honest if it ignores the biblically mandated 'positive rebuke' of the religions of man; especially those who pretend to speak for God and Jesus Christ but do not do their works. The Bible tells us;

“Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.” (Ephesians 5:11, NIV). The inflection in the original Greek language gives special intensity to the antithesis, meaning, ‘It is a duty and high obligation to reprimand them; not simply a negative separation, but positive rebuke by solemn and formal reproof.’

In the Bible, the book of Ephesians commands Christians not to fellowship with and, indeed, to positively criticize deeds of darkness. The major organized religions of the world have promoted and committed deeds of darkness, as we will see. Some are clearly acting as enemies of God and his people.

Of one thing we can be sure, where there is truth there will be those false prophets who find a way of adding to, distorting or falsifying its core. In fact, many religionists and cult leaders have a philosophical method for doing this. They take a partial truth, such as a verse of the Bible used as a proof-text, and blend it with an untruth so that the mix has the appearance of good interpretation, but is in fact, systematically false. So, we find major religions and cults that stray from the truth and the teachings of Jesus Christ by adding other requirements beyond grace, or by claiming their founder's new revelation and, by these, exercise inordinate control over followers. And as with all the major and minor religions, one can follow the money given to God, but sent to the leader's address. God will not be mocked and truth will stand in history when dissenters and false prophets have gone the way of all flesh.

In the great melting pot of the United States, many Christians think that the stew is not complete unless it also includes all the religions of those immigrant masses that now make up the populace of America. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Citizens have a right to their beliefs under the laws of the land and all citizens are equal under the law and are to be treated so. However, the facts of our history will show that the United States of America was planned by God, planted by practicing Christians and has the bold destiny of telling a lost world about the work of redemption through Jesus Christ. We must loudly dissent from the view that “all religious roads lead to

God and are good” and believe instead in our Lord’s words, “I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes unto the father, except through me.” (John 14:6, NIV). Christians must advocate that His claim in the New Testament is absolute and takes precedence over all others.

Jesus pointed out that false prophets would come. The biblical perspective, where false teachers and false teachings are concerned, is that we are to have compassion for and to love those who have fallen victim to religions. But, we are to oppose religious hierarchies with all our arguments; the primary objective being the winning of the soul of the humble, if possible. Even the late, great agnostic, Robert Ingersoll, realized the fact of the boldness attached to Christianity. He said, “If this religion is true, then there is only one Savior, only one narrow path to life. Christianity cannot live in peace with any other religion.” Our stance is that Christianity can only live in peace as we are allowed the freedom to speak and teach about Jesus Christ as the eternal hope of the world. We are willing to die for our right to live and witness as Christians but, unlike some other major religions, we are not willing to kill for it except in defense of God’s innocent. This is a big difference!

To oppose and criticize is neither unethical, bigoted or unchristian. To oppose false religions is to follow proper Christian conduct. The criticism of another’s beliefs does not necessarily mean that we have personal antagonism toward those who entertain them. Honest debate over controversial issues has been the foundation of free speech that built this country called America. Each Christian is encouraged by the Holy Spirit to be an ambassador for the Savior in 2nd Corinthians 5:20. The early Christians considered themselves to be evangelists for the gospel or “good news” of Christ’s advent, teaching and sacrifice. They fearlessly obeyed Christ’s injunction to, in the Greek, “*evangelizomai*,” to “preach” the news that light had come into the world and God had ordained salvation for all men who would accept him and his resurrection.

Today, Christianity in America is largely ineffective in witnessing because many have not taken their scriptural responsibility to heart. Paul encouraged the Philippian Christians to “shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life,” (Phillipians 2:15-16). This they could not do without calling to attention the contrast of the true faith to the darkness that surrounded them and by being willing to stand for their faith against all odds.

The purpose of this book is to point out the differences between the truth of Jesus Christ and false religions. We must contend for the faith and test everything by searching the scriptures within the Old and New Testaments. Without this, the church becomes a helpless gaggle of believers with little knowledge of true doctrine and church history. These pages do not tell the whole story, but are meant as a good start or overview of where we are and should be as Christian witnesses. We examine other faiths and let them speak for themselves through their doctrines and the history of their actions. The light that shines on them shows their true colors. It is our sincere desire that this book will aid in the reader’s education and encouragement.

TOLERANCE

Today, tolerance is the guide-word of the liberal. They want tolerance for their views, but designate those who oppose their worldview as intolerant. The wrench in the works is that tolerance has a definition. According to the on-line dictionary, dictionary.com, this is it:

Tolerance - *noun*

1. a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward those whose opinions, beliefs, practices, racial or ethnic origins, etc., differ from one's own; freedom from bigotry.
2. a fair, objective, and permissive attitude toward opinions, beliefs, and practices that differ from one's own

By definition, there must first be a disagreement between parties before tolerance can even be considered. After the disagreement, those who are tolerant, offer a permissive attitude to those with whom they disagree. By that measure, Christians are tolerant of other's beliefs within a discussion that allows their continuing disagreement. (What would be the need of tolerance if we agreed in the first place?) But tolerance does not mean that we remain silent in view of the facts as we believe them. Such silence would be detrimental to non-Christians if we truly believe that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. We love others too much to refuse to offer a hand up and out of bondage to false eternal bliss. So, we speak out and let other religions speak out, too. It is our firm belief that Christianity will hold up to scrutiny.

A great deal has been said and written about the human condition and our man-made religions. It has been hard for some to put into a nutshell that the average person can relate to. This small book is an attempt at doing just that. Here we go! It is not too late to make a difference in your world by knowing the truth... "and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

In Christ,

W. Michael McCormack, 2015

“Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this?
In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.”
Job 12: 9-10 KJV

C H A P T E R O N E

THE HUMAN CONDITION

There is the belief by some that we are constantly progressing on our own through our individual and societal power to change; hence the term “Progressives.” These “believers” need no god but society’s elite and enlightened. The “lemming” followers of this worldview are, more often than not, those bitten by the prestige serpent who insist that the progressives must be right because they are rich and famous, powerful and pugnacious. All the traits the lemmings have dreamed of being, but never have become. One of their worldview watch-phrases is “you can be anything you want to be.” Or, “if you can dream it you can become it.” They victimize their children with this lie and perpetuate it in story and song. (Often, these same progressives wouldn’t dare plague their children with the myth of Santa Claus.) Progressives think they are gaining great ground in the war against being an ape, while carnage is wrought by a generation who believes everything is relative and without God. As their children grow up realizing that, indeed, they cannot really be anything they want to be and their promised dreams are dashed against other more powerful dreamers who are pursuing their promised dreams, they become bitter and untrusting. We have only one question for Progressives. “How’s that working out for you?”

Let’s let a best-selling author, Simon Sinek, give us an example of how it’s working out:

“In our pursuit to advance, we have, without intending to, built a world that is making it harder and harder for us to cooperate. The symptoms of this cruel irony are easy to feel in the developed world. Feelings of isolation and high stress have fueled industries that are profiting from our search for happiness. Self-help books, courses and any number of pharmaceuticals make up multibillion-dollar industries designed to help us find that elusive happiness, or at the very least to reduce our stress. In only a few decades, the self-help business alone has grown to \$11 billion. The biggest thing the self-help industry seems to have helped is itself. Our search for happiness and connection has also led us to seek professional advice. In the 1950s, few of us went to weekly sessions with a therapist. Today in the U.S., according to the Hoover Institute, there are 77,000 clinical psychologists, 192,000 clinical social workers, 105,000 mental health counselors, 50,000 marriage and family therapists, 17,000 nurse psychotherapists, and 30,000 life coaches. The only reason the field continues to grow is because of

increasing demand. The more we try to make ourselves feel better, the worse we seem to feel.

Baby Boomers are killing themselves in greater numbers than ever before. According to a 2013 study by the Centers for Disease Control, suicide rates among Baby Boomers rose nearly 30% percent during the past decade, making suicide one of the leading causes of death in that age group, behind only cancer and heart disease...In 1960, the number of notable school shootings, was one. In the 1980s there were 27. The 1990s saw 58 school shootings, and from 2000 until 2012 there were 102 school shootings. This may seem crazy, but that's an increase of more than 10,000 percent in just over fifty years.”¹

Add to this list the facts of war and third world, government induced famine in the 20th Century, compiling statistics of the deaths of more people than any other century in the history of mankind. One can see the sure and steady progress since the world has shirked the oppressive ways of Christian belief, right?

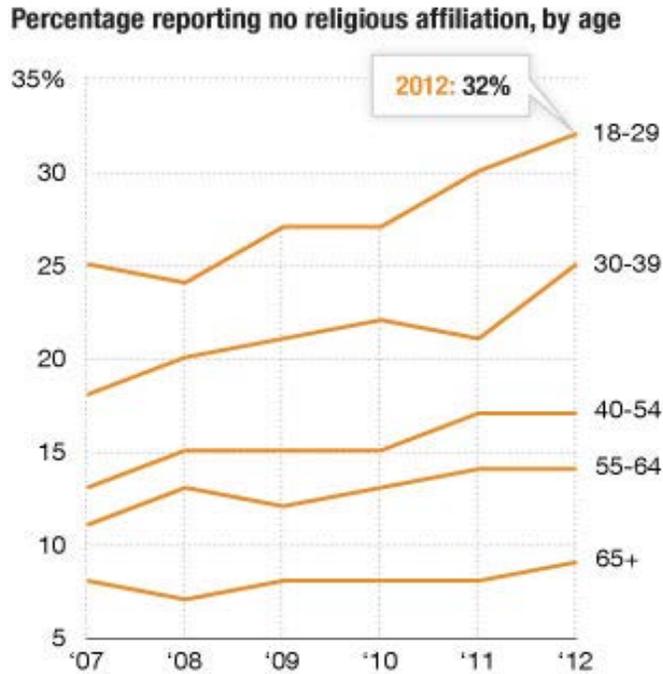
I hope the reader can understand that I am not denigrating the need for good counseling. The quote above gives simply the facts of the number of professional consultants needed in the U.S. because people feel in need of them. However, it is an indicator that our problems have not “progressed” out of existence as much as the secular humanist elite would have wished. When the curtain is pulled back, the honest observer realizes that our human condition is not relegated to the back roads of America but is thoroughly ensconced in progressive and elitist cities of the left as well.

WORK-BASED RELIGIONS

A second group of lemming-lurers are those who take the view that we best progress as we “work” toward God and bring “offerings” of ourselves to Him for his inspection and approval. This worldview is designed to allow us (mankind) to come before God with our heads held proudly high. These “religious beliefs” are spiritually killing us because they allow us to deny the reality that is all around us. They argue that we are coming toward God through these means, when they are actually taking us farther from Him. It is more heinous than progressivism because it preaches, guilts, and actively evangelizes toward the religious lie. It's insidious. Many who have previously been victims of the religious establishment have voted with their feet, walking away from religion.

Recently, a moniker of the “nones” has been given to about 20% of the American population. (Nones are those who profess no religion.) The “nones” are on the rise. Until the year 1972, this category was less than 5%; a rise of 15% within one generation. Other studies by Pew Research show that one-third of Americans under age 30 have no religious affiliation. This group of nones is mostly comprised of atheists and agnostics, but some say that they are spiritual and pray every day. However, they are not looking for an organized religion. Many are looking for answers religious and secular society cannot provide.

Unfortunately, many have stopped looking for the true answer and are simply living as best as they can from day to day. The materialistic world of Hollywood, Park Avenue and the military-industrial complex, have taken center stage.



Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Credit: Matt Stiles/NPR

National Public Radio has been abuzz with the topic in the last few years:

“Young people today are not only more religiously unaffiliated than their elders; they are also more religiously unaffiliated than previous generations of young people ever have been as far back as we can tell,” Smith tells NPR *Morning Edition* co-host David Greene. “This really is something new.” But why? According to Harvard professor Robert Putnam, who writes about religion, this young generation has been distancing itself from community institutions and from institutions in general.

“They’re the same people who are also not joining the Elks Club or the Rotary Club,” Putnam tells Greene. “I don’t mean to be casting that as a critique of them, but this same younger generation is much less involved in many of the main institutions of our society than previous younger generations were.”

The trend, Putnam says, is borne out of rebellion of sorts. “It begins to jump at around 1990,” he says. “These were the kids who were coming of age in the America of the culture wars, in the America in which religion publicly became associated with a particular brand of politics, and so I think the single most important reason for the rise of the unknowns is that

combination of the younger people moving to the left on social issues and the most visible religious leaders moving to the right on that same issue.”²

We are forced to realize that the human condition has not changed or progressed. Yes, the sciences, industrial manufacturing and the information revolution have brought us to an easier physical existence, but socially, psychologically and emotionally, our existence is the same generation after generation. We are trapped in our worldly condition until we agree with God that we need a Savior and that living successful lives depends on following his modeling in the Bible.

TRUTH

And so, we introduce the biblical doctrine of Mankind’s Total Depravity and salvation only through the grace of God. If you got a twinge of emotional pain just now as you read the words “Mankind’s Total Depravity” that is exactly what we are talking about. Our “fallen” spirits hate the fact that we might be “depraved.” It’s like a slap in the face. Our pride won’t have that kind of talk from anyone! But, if we will humble ourselves and listen to God, he will gently tell us that recognizing our “depravity” is the only way that we could ever come to him and that journeying through the truth of “depravity” allows us to become part of his Holy Spirit.

Let’s allow a moment for explanation. God is autonomous. He makes his own decisions freely and willfully. He, in his great, mysterious sovereignty decided to make creatures with the free will to come to him and want to be with him; want to love him. However, in order for that not to be a farce, he created us with a free will too; in his image. We have a free will to reject him or accept him. Why did he do it this way? We can’t know this, else we would be God, and it doesn’t really matter. What matters is that, even from the very beginning, from the “foundations of the world” he also made a way for us to be with him through the process of redemption. Depravity is not a bottomless pit, wherein we fall forever. Depravity means that our spirits, made in the image of God, cannot “un-ring the bell” by ourselves and fellowship wholly with him because we, mankind, chose to be on our own. Ever since Adam and Eve fell, we humans constantly feel as though, somehow, there is a way to stand ourselves up from our fallen condition, but, hard as we try, we just can’t do it,- we’re deprived of the ability to do it because of where we are and who we now are. This booklet is about that human condition of depravity and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

THE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN PREMISE

Christians believe that God made the universe. It is a UNiverse, all one. We believe that the universe was made by God for the world, the world for man, and man for God. Let me say that again with a little different emphasis. The universe was made to serve the world, the world to serve man, and man was made to serve God. This is the Bible’s worldview. Some would say that it is naïve to hold such a belief today. Yet, it is surprising how much of what we know that can be smoothly, reasonably, and excitingly

woven into such a worldview. Indeed, for the true Christian, Jesus could not have come and been the object of our redemption if Adam and Eve had not been born into a world exactly like this. The central theme of the Bible is redemption of mankind. The central story in the Bible is the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. The crucifixion of Jesus was not an isolated event, but an apex event. It had to be appropriately witnessed within a legal code, within a society prophetically prepared, and into an empire with a common language, culture and setting. The world had to be created just as it was for redemption to occur two-thousand years ago.

As we begin our explanation of the Bible-based history of the world, the reader may, at first, think that this is a book about science, however, as we get further into the discussion, we will find that it is all too human,- and relevant to our situation today. Here's an example of what we mean by relevance:

Generation "Y" or the Millennials, is defined as people born between 1978 and 1989. Many of these are in college or beginning in jobs today. When a research group recently gave them a broad list of "God-qualities" to choose from, most of the students selected the words; mysterious, indescribable and unknowable. Other popular choices were; everywhere, nowhere, transcendent, nothing, and metaphoric. Most of the students surveyed described themselves as free-thinkers and agnostics. The Millennials, as a group, knows not God while living within His most favored nation, formed and fashioned by His own hand. (The reader is encouraged to refer to the author's book, [Killing the Bible](#), for a complete historical treatise on this.)

Even in some conservative, southern colleges there is a distinct void of biblical truth being communicated to our young adults. During the last few years, (2009-2011) Louisiana College, a Christian college, administered a Belief Assessment of Spiritual Essentials (BASE) exam to incoming freshmen in order to determine how well they understood the doctrines of the Christian faith. The questions were not intricate and the answers not complex, from a theological point of view. Here were some of the discoveries:

- 78 percent believe that all people are basically good and have no need of a savior.
- 65 percent cannot identify a simple definition of new birth in a multiple choice question. They think being born again means reincarnation.
- 54 percent think that faith in Jesus is unnecessary for salvation. In their view, as long as a person believes in a god and has fallen in love with him, her or it, he is right with God.
- 42 percent believe that people go to heaven because of their personal morality rather than because of Jesus' sacrificial death.
- 32 percent do not know that Christianity affirms the Deity of Jesus Christ.
- 25 percent do not know that Christianity claims that Jesus literally rose from the dead.

All of this despite the fact that 90 percent of the college's incoming class claim to be Christians and nearly 60 percent of them grew up attending Louisiana Baptist churches.³

Based upon current national surveys from the Barna Group; 11 percent of religious Americans believe that God is "a state of higher consciousness that a person may reach," 8 percent define God as "the total realization of personal, human potential," and 3 percent believe that each person is God. That's 22 percent OF PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES RELIGIOUS. Moreover, the actual percentages of non-Christians are thought to be even higher than the poll records; actually more than one-third to as much as one-half. There are many members of supposedly mainline religious groups who also embrace a unitarian vision of God; God is one, but Jesus isn't God.

How could America, a nation built on Christian principles get to this point? How could our latest generation not know and believe in our biblical heritage and what is the "true-truth." We believe it is because both the progressive movement and the religious movements have failed to bring the truth. This has broken trust with up to half of all Americans. But there is a remedy and a trust-builder available. Let's start at the very beginning of any discussion about us humans, the truth of God. A very good place to start.

CAN GOD EXIST

How likely is it that a planet such as ours is a random product of a "Big Bang" without a Creative Designer behind such an effort?

In answer to this, I am going to do something that I rarely do in my books. I am going to quote a rather lengthy, scientific explanation, but one well said by Dr. Gerald Schroeder in his book God According To God. Dr. Schroeder calculates the likelihood of our planet being specially created. Below are the factors, by percentages that science tells us must be available for the earth as we know it to exist at all. If the reader can get through the list of science-speak, there will be a well-made point at the end:

1. The frequency of isolated spiral galaxies is about one galaxy in ten, or 0.1.
2. The fraction of stars in the galaxy located in a region of low local density of stars, that is, between the spiral arms and far from the galactic center, 0.001.
3. The fraction of stars in the galaxy located in a region of high local density of metals, 0.01.
4. The fraction of stars with a mass similar to the sun's mass, 0.05.
5. The formation of a stellar system around the remnants of a second or third generation supernova within a few billion years of the most recent supernova, 0.1.

6. The fraction of planets that are metal-rich planets, 0.5.
7. The fraction of planets that have low carbon content, 0.3.
8. The fraction of planets that have low water (relative to asteroid composition) content, 0.3.
9. The fraction of planets that have a molten iron-rich core, 0.2.
10. The fraction of planets with mass (gravity) able to hold an oxygen-rich but not hydrogen-rich atmosphere, 0.2.
11. The fraction of planets with continent-forming plate tectonics, 0.1.
12. The fraction of planets with a nearly circular orbit, 0.5.
13. The fraction of planets approximately 150 million kilometers from a sun-like star, 0.1.
14. The fraction of planetary systems with huge outer planets, 0.01.
15. The fraction of planetary systems with no huge inner planets, 0.1.
16. The fraction of planets with a period of planetary rotation on the order of days, 0.5.
17. The fraction of planets with a moderate tilt to the planet's axis of rotation, 0.2.
18. The fraction of planets with a large moon, 0.05

Multiplying these admittedly gross, but nonetheless conservative estimates, which are based on the conditions observed within our life-supporting galaxy and solar system and on our life-nurturing earth, the likelihood of finding anywhere in the entire universe a stellar system with a planet able to support complex intelligent life is one chance in 10 to the eighteenth power. The estimated number of stars in the entire visible universe is on the order of 10 to the twenty-second power. This indicates that in the entire universe there may be approximately 10,000 earthlike planets circling a sun-like star. These 10,000 potentially earthlike planets would be distributed among the 10 to the eleventh power or 100,000,000,000 galaxies in the entire visible universe. That comes out to be one earthlike planet for each ten million galaxies.

Of course this estimate relates only to the possibility of finding conditions that would nurture life once it started. We learn nothing here concerning the properties required for the inception of life. Considering the uniqueness of our home in space, chances are that we are alone in our galaxy and possibly alone in the universe. One fact is certain. We live on a very special planet that circles our star in a very special way, in a universe that has all the markings of being the product of design.”⁴

THE DESIGNER

Based on these calculations, no other planets that we can ever hope to discover during our lifetimes has the special qualities of earth. The formation of this proven (to our experience) unique planet by a “Great Designer” has to be a point of consideration by any thinking individual.

The Progressives at NASA are more than willing to spend billions of tax dollars perpetuating the belief that we may find life within our solar system or Milky Way Galaxy. According to science, this is a pipe-dream at least and, in reality, a sinister and inordinate tax on Americans by “depraved,” government salaried pseudo-scientists. Why do I comment so negatively? Let me give just one of many examples of this sort of pipe-dream mentality.

THE REALITY OF LIGHT YEARS

Recently, there was a story on one of the major news stations, propounded by NASA, that scientists had discovered a new planet. The description was of a planet similar to the earth in diameter that rotated around a sun-like star. Here was the laughable moment. The commentator said, “And, this new planet is only 39 light years from earth.”

Thirty-nine Light Years! Really. Well, that’s just right around the corner isn’t it? For those unschooled in the physics of Light Years here are a few scientific explanatory facts. Please forgive the “science-speak” but definitions are crucially important.

According to special relativity, the energy of an object with rest mass m and speed v is given by γmc^2 , where γ is the Lorentz Factor. When v is zero, γ is equal to one, giving rise to the famous $E = mc^2$ formula for mass–energy equivalence. The γ factor approaches infinity as v approaches c , and it would take an infinite amount of energy to accelerate an object having mass to the speed of light. The speed of light is the upper limit for the speed of objects with positive rest mass, and individual photons cannot travel faster than the speed of light.

What this means within the realm of physics is that, as far as we can contemplate, people and rockets cannot ever travel faster than the speed of light. So, how fast is the speed of light? It is 186,000 miles per second or 11,160,000 miles per minute or, at most, (in the vacuum of space) 671,000,000 miles per hour. To give some perspective, light travels from the moon to the earth in 1.3 seconds. In round figures, a light year is nearly 6 trillion miles. Proxima Centauri, the closest star to Earth after the Sun, is around 4.2 light-years away. Currently, our space rockets travel at approximately the speed of 17,000 miles per hour to reach space but, conceivably, they can travel at about 36,000 miles per hour in space. We will need to improve our MPH rate by over 18,600 times in order to reach light speed. In other words, it is also impossible for a rocket with people in it to reach light speed by any means that we can currently imagine. At our max speed, we might travel 31 billion miles in 100 years. But, we’ve already established that light travels 6 trillion miles in a year. And, for a rocket with

men inside to travel 39 light years?...my calculator broke! However, it is safe to say that men in such a rocket would have been dead for thousands of years before reaching this “new planet.” If the rocket should have reached this planet after thousands of years, the planet might not be there because, calculating by the speed of light, we are “seeing” light from the planet as it was hundreds of years ago, not now! Finally, if men could get there, they would never get back and their transmissions would be travelling less than the, you guessed it, speed of light. So, we would not know it for hundreds of years, so would they still be alive and what difference would it make? And we, who saw the rocket launch, would have been dead by a thousand years. See how silly the thought of us reaching another earthlike planet is?

How thrilling to think that, if the words of the Bible are true, God who created it all, has planned for us to be able to travel with him eternally in the heavens and know no bounds within his plan of creating the new heaven and the new earth, with transport that defies current realities. However, separate from him, it is a worldly pipe-dream.

In the Book of Hebrews, the Apostle Paul tells us;

“By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.” Hebrews 11:3

Scripture makes it plain that the universe was created from the voice of God.

WHAT ABOUT EVOLUTION?

The same factual reasoning, concluding with the fact of our world’s most probable singularity in the universe, is even more necessarily true of the earth’s biosphere and the complex world of plants and animals on the planet. Organic evolution has been unsuccessful in outlining any mechanism competent to produce the “missing link” crucial to its theory. The best it can do is to give us the geologic column and “mutation” explanation. Evolutionists tell us that mutations over millions of years prove the probability of the theory. A mutation is defined as a definite change in genetic structure. Mutations have been recorded as not only quite rare, but found primarily harmful to the gene pool of the affected animal. Nevertheless, Dr. Francisco J. Ayala (an evolutionist) tells us:

“Mutation provides the raw materials of evolution.” And,

“It is probably fair to estimate the frequency of a majority of mutations in higher organisms between one in ten thousand, and one in a million, per gene per generation.”

This means that evolutionists believe (have faith) that, of the rare and mostly harmful mutations which have occurred throughout time, all the species on earth, across the board, have magnificently overcome the harmful effects, making mutations helpful and progressive over millions of years.

This theory of “slow progression” becomes obvious as only a wild theory when one

realizes that the stability of all species has remained the same during all of recorded and geologic history. Since mutations are rare events, mostly observed as harmful to the species and take place in higher organisms over millions of years, it is impossible to prove that Darwinian Trans-specific Evolution takes place. How convenient! Evolutionists ask us to believe that their theory is fact because it can't be disproved, but they laugh at creationists when we ask them to do the exact same thing. And Creationists are considered by them to be unreasonable and unscientific in asking for actual scientific evidence that evolution is taking or has taken place and we are seen as kooks for considering the fact of a Creative Designer for all species. Well, we ask, who's the kook?

The various geologic ages, about 5 billion years each, with their associated fossil records are commonly known as the geologic column. Within this system, life is theorized to have evolved from non-life about 3 billion years ago. (Another time period so far back as to not be able to be proven scientifically.) Even allowing this premise, the fossil record cannot prove evolution.

The fact that one species followed another in a geologic period is hardly proof that one evolved from another. Open-minded geologists have conclusively found clear-cut gaps and inconsistencies between the assemblages of fossil rock. If there has been uniformity and consistency, as evolution pre-supposes, there should be no such gaps. Also, if evolution is a universal and natural process of transformation, we should see forms of life in one age that are completely different from those in another. However, what we do see is that animals and plants which exist in the present are easily identified as living together in the fossil record very far back in supposed "geologic time."

A couple of years after Charles Darwin published *The Origin of Species*, he wrote the now famous letter to American biologist Asa Gray, wherein he doubted his own theory. He said, "The eye to this day, gives me a cold shudder. It is an organ of perfection." Darwin could see that the eye of every human being could not have formed through random chance mutations.

One of the greatest problems facing evolutionists is explaining how random mutation produced the eyeball and its functionality. Here's why. None of the hundreds of thousands of evolutionary mutations could survive until the completed system of sight was in place. Even Darwin lost sleep considering how this could work within his theory. He should have been honest and written to all the unlearned lemmings beginning to follow him, that the other conclusion could have been that God instantly created the fully developed human eye.

PUGNACIOUS PROGRESSIVES

Despite the fact that there have been over 150 years where tens of thousands of professionals and dedicated amateurs have scoured the earth for proof, there has never been any true evidence of even one missing link of evolution. Oh, they point to supposed skeletal remains that may fill one tiny portion of the gap, but none have proven valid.

However, the progressive elite are ever vigilant in their insistence that double-talk makes sense. Let's see one example from James Redfield and Michael Murphy from their 2002 book, God and the Evolving Universe, The Next Step in Personal Evolution. After quoting many statements from Theory of Evolution scholars whose chorus sings that evolution can be seen in the super-slow, gradually evident fossil record so completely that scientists see it as a fact, they state thus:

“The meandering course of evolution from the Big Bang to living species to the appearance of humankind has created the inorganic, biological, and human worlds, which can be seen to comprise three evolutionary stages or domains. In this progression, evolution itself has evolved, first when matter gave rise to life, and second, when life produced Homo sapiens. The evolutionary theorists Theodosius Dobzhansky and Francisco Ayala have called these two watershed events instances of “evolutionary transcendence” because in each of them there arose a new order of existence. “Inorganic evolution went beyond the bounds of its previous physical and chemical patternings when it gave rise to life,” Ayala said. “In the same sense, biological evolution transcended itself when it gave rise to man.” The appearance of life and the emergence of humankind marked the beginnings of new evolutionary eras. They were made possible, though, by countless changes that preceded them... We believe humankind is also evolving by minor and major steps toward another epochal change. To our way of thinking, the evidence suggests that a new evolutionary domain is tentatively forming in the human race. This emerging domain, like the emergence of life from inorganic matter and humankind from animal species, has been made possible by countless advances large and small, from the birth of spiritual awareness among our ancient ancestors to recent scientific discoveries about our still mostly untapped capacities for extraordinary life. But given human ignorance, free will, and perversity, this advance is not guaranteed.”⁵

Allow me to translate and summarize what we believe this statement is saying. These so-called experts insist that evolution remains within the geologic column time-table of millions of years (so as to justify the apparent gaps in evolutionary transition, the missing links), but also allow for “evolutionary transcendence” where, inexplicably, between inorganic sludge and life, a miracle happened to bring life out of it. Then, millions of years later, it happened again and animal life transcended evolution to produce mankind. Convenient, but certainly not science. Finally, there is the postulation that we are now on the brink of another miracle of transcendence wherein mankind will become super-ordinary, becoming a better moral agent than ever in history. But the caveat quickly follows that we might not make this leap of evolution because we are ignorant, have free will and are perverse. Well, that's not evolution at all, is it?

Later in their book, Redfield and Murphy embark on a study of what they call Luminous Embodiment wherein they call to mind Christian theologians from Origin

to the Apostle Paul to Thomas Aquinas, in order to establish the fact of human glorification. They use the sayings about glorification that are in the Bible and Christian writings to say that God may have made it possible for humans to become glorified through spiritual transcendence. The question for Progressives should be, “Does God exist or doesn’t he? Either Darwinian Evolution is true or creation is true. It cannot be both.

Progressives should be recorded so that they can hear the gibberish coming out of their own mouths. When it makes their point, the geological epoch and fossil record is true by assuming millions of years of gradual progress. When “gaps” in their theory occur, they invent a “transcendence” above normal evolution to justify their thoughts without a shred of evidence. How convenient. Then they have the audacity to say that humanity is about to “transcend” into untapped capacities but there is no guarantee because humans are so ignorant and perverse. They seem to make the case that we can choose to evolve by will. Is this a joke? If it is, the joke is on the Progressives.

WHAT DOES THE PRACTICING CHRISTIAN KNOW

Some say that we must keep the primary things primary and let the secondary things become un-emphasized. They say the “The Gospels are primary and that Creation is a secondary theological issue. At least for Jesus, nothing could be further from the truth.

Jesus said,

“Don’t assume that I came to destroy the Law of the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For I assure you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass from the Law until all things are accomplished.”

Matthew 5:17

“But from the beginning of Creation God made them male and female.”

Mark 10:6

“As the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be. For in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah boarded the ark. They didn’t know until the flood came and swept them all away.”

Matthew 24:37

“-From the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the alter and the sanctuary.”

Luke 11:51

“But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one stroke of a letter of the Law to drop out.”

Luke 16:17

“And he told them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you- that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

Luke 24:44

“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me. But if you don't believe his writings, how will you believe my words?”

John 5:46

Not only does Jesus confirm the historical account of Genesis, but the actual words confirm it. In the writings of the Old Testament, the Hebrew word “**yom**” can mean a literal 24 hour day as in I Samuel 31:8, or it can be a year or a thousand years, according to what the writer was trying to get across and whether the writing was Law, Prophecy or Poetry. In the collection of Hebrew writings, most of the time the word refers to a literal 24 hour day. The way to tell the difference is in the context of what is being said and by the pictorial qualifiers which precede or follow the word.

From Genesis 1

AND THE	EVENING AND THE MORNING	WERE THE FIRST DAY. (yom)
	EVENING AND THE MORNING	DAY.
	EVENING AND THE MORNING	DAY.
	EVENING AND THE MORNING	DAY.
	EVENING AND THE MORNING	DAY.
	EVENING AND THE MORNING	DAY.

Why did Moses, through the Holy Spirit, add these qualifiers?

Because there would be those who would doubt whether the Hebrew really meant a 24 hour day and He wanted there to be no doubt. We could spend a very long time denoting proof texts in the Bible for Creationism, but we must move on with some very scholarly works noted as references.

In his ground-breaking work, Many Infallible Proofs, Dr. Henry Morris states;

“Not only does the Word of God teach that the earth was specially designed for man, but the earth itself, with its uniquely suitable environment, proclaims the same thing.” (p. 233) Many Infallible Proofs remains one of the best books to read in answer to the many questions non-believers ask about science and the Bible.

Also, the book The Lie, and another book, Evolution and Creation, Remarkable Evidence of God's Design, by Ken Ham and Grant R. Jeffery respectively are great references for the defrocking of evolution and the coronation of Creation Theory. Finally, Rose Publishing has several

excellent short, fold-out pamphlets for quick and easy reading about the subject. They may be found at www.rose-publishing.com.

It is the responsibility of every Christian to refuse to “roll over and play dead” when the conversation ensues as to the credibility of an intelligent design and an Intelligent Designer and the incredible “faith” it takes to believe in a spontaneous and independent “big bang” and subsequent evolution.

God and Man

Christians believe that everything, including man (mankind) was created by God, the Intelligent Designer. However, practicing biblical Christians also believe that man is not now how God originally made him. Man is a fallen creature. Man, far from having ascended from something inferior to an ape, has descended from the elevated and honorable position in which God first placed him. Man has fallen and he can't get up,- on his own. This doctrine has been called the Doctrine of Total Depravity.

Dr. Donald Bloesch, author of the book Essentials of Evangelical Theology, explains this Doctrine of Total Depravity as best as we have ever heard it done:

“In the perspective of biblical faith total depravity can be thought of as having four meanings, all of which are valid. First, it refers to the corruption at the very center of man's being, the heart, but this does not mean that man's humanity has ceased to exist. Second, it signifies the infection in every part of man's being, though this is not to infer that this infection is evenly distributed or that nothing good remains in man. Third, it denotes the total inability of sinful man to please God or come to him unless moved by grace, though this does not imply that man is not free in other areas of his life. Fourth, it includes the idea of the universal corruption of the human race, despite the fact that some peoples and cultures manifest this corruption much less than others.”⁶

So many teachers and preachers of religions today tout the fact that we, humans, are noble creatures who have evolved into our nobility. They believe that we are entirely victims of, or beneficiaries of “our up-bringing and experiences.” They hold to the faith that if we simply help others who have been victimized by their nurturing and their environment, those victims will progress to becoming noble and giving, nurturing individuals; wonderful citizens for the rest of their lives. This is the very “faith” that insists on the redistribution of wealth which actually teaches that the “authorities” choose a block of people and deem them “nurture-poor,” and chose another block of people and deem them “nurture-rich” and, by government fiat, reverse their fortunes little-by-little until the two are equal. They believe in a “social justice” that will bring harmony to earth through human engineering. This is the age-old tenant that, if there is a God, the grace of God assists mankind in bringing in the kingdom of God. It is a classic cart before the horse mind-set; a man-centered theology which salves our

collective conscience as fallen creatures. This is one of the fallacious tenants of the church called Roman Catholic.

While there is some evidence that helping to bring the less fortunate into a state of more fortunes puts them on a footing where they can excel in life, there are thousands of examples of “mankind” from the entire spectrum of our populations and the entire record of our histories wherein that is not only not true but that the effort actually does great harm. The reason it fails, though tried time and time again, is answered in the Doctrine of the Total Depravity of Man.

Theologian Charles Hodge revealed our human condition from a biblical standpoint:

“Every man (and woman) should bow down before God under the humiliation consciousness that he is a member of an apostate race; the son of a rebellious parent; born estranged from God, and exposed to His displeasure.”⁷

Let us contend that the other major religious bodies of the world, namely Judaism, Catholic Christianity and Islam believe in the validity of this theological statement. However, they err when they attach to it a works-based religion of their own making which develops it away from a total depravity theology and into a “human-friendly” (prideful) systematic theology.

For instance, Catholicism teaches that human nature was only wounded during the fall of mankind and is susceptible to healing through works toward God. This is the essence of the Islamic Faith, as well. (In this case, Islam is a “next-stage” human-centered perversion of Catholic Doctrine.) As Catholic orthodoxy developed, the religious leadership of that church re-engineered their theology to say that “original righteousness” is lost in the fall, but a “natural justice” remains in mankind.

This brings the conclusion that, “if man has a natural justice within him, he can use that nobility to convince God that he is worthy of God’s love.” In the Catholic faith, this is done through the many acts of following the precepts of the Roman Church and in Islam it is done through following the precepts of the Quran (Koran) and the Imams. Both are non-biblical and place mankind in a position to think he can bargain with God through good deeds and be a factor, himself, in rising out of depravity.

In the biblical Christian church, our view is that the essential nature of man is good, since it is created by God in the image of God, but his existential nature, his being in the world, is corrupted completely. It is the difference between what we call ‘intrinsic worth’ and ‘inherent goodness’. Intrinsic worth means that we all have value and are worthy of respect, but inherent goodness means that we will automatically choose the moral good because it is in our nature to do so. If we simply remember what has happened in our own lifetimes, we will plainly see that mankind is not inherently good on his own. Even in America, where our laws and society were based on Christianity, we have much degradation of the human spirit.

The reason that we have so many laws and regulations, and so many lawyers to interpret them, is because mankind is so creative in coming up with ways to skirt the law in our own interest. Why make a law or regulation if it is not needed because

someone cheated in the past? Because of our existential nature of depravity, we all have to watch each other and protect ourselves by laws with the threat of “I’ll call my lawyer.”

Mankind’s humanity remains. Just as an eye is still in its socket after a poisonous insect destroys its sight, but the eye can’t currently function. Mankind, as the reflection of the “being of God,” is defaced today and unable to work toward Him, but is not destroyed. We are ineffective. This is an important distinction. It causes our moral work to be seen differently, either we see ourselves as a humbled personage, totally empowered by God through Jesus Christ by the grace of God alone or a prideful mankind working his way to God through religious practice which spirals downward hopelessly through inquisitions and jihad to make sure that “face is saved” by worthy God-workers endeavoring to be acceptable to heaven and life eternal.

The Bible tells us that, while the core of sin is unbelief, its chief manifestation is pride and sensuality. Look at these evidences through history within Catholicism and Islam. Though their words say one thing, their “manifestation of pride and sensuality” is undeniable. They seek to control God to their own ends. This was one of the primary movers of Martin Luther’s split with the established Roman Catholic Church of his time. Luther said that, “man is free in the realm of things below him but not toward God or in the kingdom of God.” He meant that man can make decisions which are good and proper about living right on this earth, if he wants to, but, he cannot come before God by himself; no matter the good works he does. That is exactly the Bible’s view.

The Bible’s view is that mankind’s surrender and obedience to Christ are to be NOT from his natural free will but due to the new freedom birthed in him by the grace of God through the movement of the Holy Spirit sent by Christ upon his ascension to the right hand of God in heaven. (John 3:19-20, Romans 2:5, Romans 7:14-23, Romans 8:7) And, this movement can best be realized through the conviction brought on by the reading and contemplation of the Bible. To continue to use our eyesight analogy, the New Testament teaches us that in the person of Jesus Christ, through the work of the Holy Spirit, we Christians have a surgeon who repairs the poisoned eye to, once again, receive its spiritual sight; and this time, even better than before the poisonous fall; 20/15, better than 20/20.

In the Genesis story of Adam and Eve, mankind is moved to prideful self-assertion which causes their fall. The saga in the first three chapters of Genesis concerns not only a first fall and first man but a universal fall of man. Adam and Eve are not private persons, but the head of the human race. Human nature sins in the Genesis narrative, and not simply the first man. We (mankind) also suffer the penalty of spiritual death through our own sin. (Genesis 3:17-19)

Bondage to sin (continued rebellion through selfish pride) means captivity to an allowed anti-god power, the prince of darkness. This prince, called Satan, is inferior to God but superior to man on earth by God’s allowance, and man can only gain freedom from this spiritual force of wickedness through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior from sin. The good news is that Christians have eternal life because we are connected to

Christ through faith. He is the representative head of the new humanity, and his righteousness is counted as our righteousness because of our connection with Him. (Romans 6:5)

In contrast to this, the Roman Catholic Church basically sees our condition as worthy humans, inherently good, living in a “B-minus world” where all persons are able to work their “studies, prayers and confessions” into an “A” before God. The Islamic world believes the same thing except that Muslims only are in the “B minus” category, and so-called “infidels” (all the rest of us who are not Muslims) are in the “F” category, unworthy of life toward God unless they accept Islam. And the jihadists take it to the base level of eradicating us Christian infidels in order to honor Allah and produce an “A” report card in heaven. This collects for them the 72 beautiful and willing damsels of paradise.

Bible-believing Christians, confident in the biblical revelation of original sin and total depravity, say that this is an “F world” (Fallen), universally corrupted by sin and under the wrath of God, however, under the grace of God through the belief in Christ Jesus, Christians hold an “A” status within a fallen world. Being “A” students is not an end, but a place to begin to see; to realize that only God is good and that we must, because of our “grade status” not in order to get it, do works that help others as Christ helped them.

BIG DIFFERENCE!

Bringing Depravity Up-to-Date

In the beginning, God created mankind in His image to be His representatives and children on earth. He entrusted humans with a special task; that we serve as God’s representatives. We were, and are, to reflect the nature of God. The Bible tells us that all persons are in the “image of God” yet the New Testament writers apply the concept of the divine image particularly to Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:15, etc.) Christ Jesus is seen as the clear representation of the character and glory of God. By extension, those who are united to Christ share in his role as the “imago dei,” the true image of God.

In the beginning of the human race, we were innocent, not perfect. Innocents, with no provocation, cannot choose to be a part of God. Innocents have no choice to make. So, God gave us a choice situation by introducing Satan. Making the choice to move from a created-child of God would have brought the true imago dei, however, each action of our first parents, Adam and Eve after the fall, was definitive of how their descendants would subsequently conduct themselves. They chose to be as God instead. That choice was impossible for created beings in a state of innocence-come-rebellion. The depravity began.

Afterwards, when they discovered they were naked, that is, had lost the covering of their original purity and glory in the image of God, they tried to cover up the truth of their situation. Then, they tried to hide from the One they now feared. The very

thought of a face-to-face meeting with their Sovereign made them quake in their fig leaves. (That is one reason why the Bible is so neglected today; because in it God is heard speaking and we inherently know we are spiritually naked.)

All of Adam and Eve's "seed," from then on, have attempted, from the earliest toddler age, to conceal our real character and hide our sins. We are more afraid of being detected in sin than committing it and more concerned about appearing well before our friends and the authorities than about obtaining the right relationship with God. Our chief objective as we get older is to quiet our guilty consciences and to stand well with our neighbors. Hence, we put on the fig-leaves of religion.

Arthur W. Pink, the esteemed British theologian of the mid-twentieth century, said it this way. When asked about the reality of our human situation and when we can be said to be truly called to salvation by the Holy Spirit, he wrote;

"When a sinner is truly awakened, humbled and broken before God, he realizes that he deserves to be damned for his vile rebellion against God, and freely acknowledges that he is what he is voluntarily and not by compulsion.

He realizes that he has had no love for God, nor any desire to love Him. He admits that he is an enemy to Him in his very heart, and voluntarily so; that all his fair pretenses, promises, prayers, and religious performances were mere hypocrisy, arising only from self-love, guilty fears and mercenary hopes.

He feels himself to be without excuse and owns that eternal judgment is his just due. When truly convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit, the sinner is driven out of all his false refuges and owns that his inability is a criminal one, that he is guilty.

Since man is totally depraved it necessarily follows that if ever he is able to be saved, it can be only by divine grace and power. Grace is a truth which is peculiar to divine revelation. It is a concept to which the unaided powers of the human mind can never stretch. Proof of that is found in the fact that where the Bible has not gone, it (grace), is quite unknown. But grace is not only taught in God's Word; it is given great prominence there. Holy Writ declares that salvation is by grace, it is perfected by grace. Divine grace is bestowed on those who have no merits, and from whom no recompense is demanded. More than that, it is given to those who are full of demerit and blame... Unless men are saved by grace they cannot be saved at all. It is equally true that the salvation of sinners must be by divine power. Here is the frightful climax of The Fall:

Man is suicidal- he has destroyed himself.

He is homicidal- his evil influence destroys his fellowmen.

He is guilty of deicide- he wishes he could annihilate the very being of God. But the sinner does not regard himself as being so vile. He does not consider himself to be the implacable and inveterate enemy of God. He

has a far better opinion of himself than that. Consequently, if he hears or reads anything like this, he is filled with objections: “I do not believe I am such a dreadful creature as to hate God. I do not feel such enmity in my heart. I am not conscious that I harbor any ill will against Him. Who should know better than myself?... He loves and respects his friends, he is fond of their company, he is anxious to please them and promote their good. Is this his attitude toward God? If he is honest with himself, he knows it is not. He has no respect for His authority, no concern for His glory, no desire for fellowship with Him. He gives God none of his time, despises His Word, breaks His commandments, rejects His Son. He has been opposed to God all his life.”⁸

So, we, mankind, **have fallen and we can't get up** except through the grace of God in the belief on His Son Jesus Christ, the perfect bridge God made for us to travel over to reach imago dei, as children of God. The Bible specifically states that on the cross, Jesus bore all the guilt of all our sins, including past, present and future ones. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, God crossed out all our debt against us in His account books and closed the “sin account.” Because of this, God asks us to do nothing to earn forgiveness – no striving to measure up, no self-punishment, no prolonged remorse, no deeds of repentance. Grace through faith in Jesus Christ as God's Son has taken care of that.

In the Bible's book of Colossians, the Apostle Paul warns believers, “See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.” (Colossians 2:8) Paul was right in thinking that the great truth of Christianity under a sovereign Christ would protect us from traditions that do not cherish His supremacy. And, he was right to warn the church.

The next chapter shows us the ultimate practical proof of our vain attempt to find salvation otherwise and how this is shown in our world today.

“We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. We are not theoretical sinners or honorary sinners or vicarious sinners. We are sinners indeed and in deed.” – R.C. Sproul

CHAPTER TWO

THE FALLEN

THE FUNDAMENTAL EVIDENCE OF THE NATURE OF THOSE WHO ARE FALLEN.

Fallen man reveals in his actions three things as primary movers in life. He (and she) is: ambitious, selfish, and greedy.

Fallen mankind seeks expediency in order to grasp what we feel is important to us. We seek the path of least resistance and we see this as smart. We strive to continually get the things we want the fastest and easiest way possible, with little concern for the long-term consequences of our behavior.

Now where have we heard this before??? Hmmm. How about the story of Adam and Eve? They were all these things as they utilized their free will in their relationship with God. And, when given no limits of money and time, mankind has no limits as to what he will do for these prime movers.

Let's look at the modern example of the Iraqi tyrant, Saddam Hussein. While his people starved and died for lack of food and medicine year upon year, Saddam Hussein built at least twenty-nine enormous palaces costing hundreds of millions of dollars and still wanted more.

Wealthy business people, athletes, and movie stars often buy garages full of cars, multiple households and estates, homes in exotic locations, and every type of possession. And, no amount is ever enough.

The esteemed professor of sociology, Abraham Maslow, gave us his seven levels of human need and motivation. In a hierarchy, from most basic, they are:

1. Safety
2. Security
3. Comfort
4. Leisure
5. Esteem (Love)
6. Respect
7. Self-Actualization (fulfillment as a “fully functional person”)

Psychologist Carl Rogers referred to persons who reached the height of human fulfillment as the FFP, the Fully Functioning Person, and suggested in his writings that this was the height of personal development to which a human could aspire.

This brings us to a question. What is the fastest way to gain self-actualization from our basic safety needs to our ultimate fulfillment?

The answer is – by acquiring power. It is by acquiring power that assures complete safety, security, comfort, leisure, esteem, and respect that we find fulfillment in our world.

This is readily seen in the realm of personal relationships. The “Adams” of the world today do much of what we do to please the women who have the greatest influence over us, just as did the original Adam when he took the first bite of the forbidden fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One of the basic satisfactions of being a successful male is to be a good provider. And, we fight our way up the corporate ladder to “power-up.”

The “Eves” of the world today are drawn to men who achieve great levels of status and achievement. Women, because they feel more vulnerable than men, are much more concerned about the basic needs of safety and security. Solid, hard-working men who provide well for their families are most attractive to women in general. When a person develops the ability to achieve measurable financial results, he enjoys the safety, security, comfort, leisure, love, respect, and fulfillment that go with that achievement. Women know this and seek out a man who either has it or whom they feel they can mold into one who will get it.

Politicians of all stripes know these basic facts about “fallen man.” Once they obtain office, they immediately become determined to hold onto their positions until those positions reach an apex and become springboards for greater power. The longer they stay in their positions, the less employable they are in the private sector. This makes them desperate to hold the power of their offices. They do this by making sure that in their campaign speeches they offer their constituencies more; safety, security, comfort, leisure, love, respect and fulfillment. Which allows their constituency to hope to realize their ambitions, selfishness, and greed through the power of their representatives.

History is rife with people who have gained power by engaging in expedient (selfish) behaviors which hurt others to get something for little or nothing, justify their actions; then lose their moral bearings. It happens in all societies, all sorts of families and all individuals when they can afford to do it without feeling the pain of immediate adverse consequences or punishment. The fact is that Christians have the answer to why this has a tendency to happen to all people all of the time. It is the Law or Doctrine of Total Depravity.

A very wise man once explained that our fallen human nature is like water, it will flow downhill in and through any crack or hole that it can find. Our fallen nature will instinctively drive us to strive to get the things we want the fastest and easiest way possible, with little concern for the consequences. Since people are universally this way, the only way to create and maintain peace, harmony and cooperation is to cut off all avenues to achievement except those of peaceful cooperation and healthy competition aimed at serving and satisfying other people in some way. This is the role of civil laws and enlightened public policy. And, we all know that the powerful and those hopeful of power are experts at finding loopholes in the law in order to aid their expediency in

holding power. This is the reason for “legal-speak.” Legal-speak is a mind-numbing collection of run-on sentences developed by lawyers wherein each phrase in the small print was injected because someone found a way around the law as originally written, so they had to reinforce it to cover the loophole.

Edmund Burke once wrote, “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Fallen man will always be waiting and watching for an opportunity to do selfish activities. The desire to fulfill ourselves by being ambitious, selfish and greedy, in order to gain safety, security, comfort, leisure, esteem, respect and fulfillment is our most powerful driver in life.

This fallen urge to do what is easy or expedient rather than what is hard is obvious everywhere in all societies. Once people have safety and security, they immediately turn to the pursuit of comfort and leisure. Once they have satiated on as much comfort and leisure as they can afford, they seek esteem (love) and respect.

Dr. Emerson Eggerichs wrote a book several years ago that has become all the rage within marriage enrichment circles. It is titled, Love and Respect. The good doctor’s thesis is that women mostly need love and men mostly need respect. If the wife will endeavor to respect her husband and the husband will endeavor to love his wife, their relationship will blossom like a well-watered flower. Dr. Eggerichs states, “Every wife we’ve met wants her husband to appreciate how much she loves him, and she yearns to feel more love from him. What we try to share is that the best way to love a husband is to show him respect in ways that are meaningful to him. Such respect lets him feel his wife’s love for him and ignites in him feelings of love for his wife.”⁹

While Dr. Eggerichs is right concerning this husband/wife relationship and need, he short-changes the fact that ALL men and women feel these tendencies. It is only that women feel the need for love from men more than men feel the need of love from women and men feel the need of respect from women more than women feel the need of respect from men. It is a question of degree by gender. However, this proves that fallen man and woman each want love and respect, but they want it given to them worse than they want to give it. Thus the need for the book and the marriage retreats.

This tendency toward selfishness is not only proven in personal relationships but in the workplace. According to Robert Half International fully 50 percent of the average American worker’s time is wasted, spent on idle conversations with co-workers, personal business, phone calls, and extended coffee breaks and lunches. Of the approximately sixteen hours left during the work week, much of it is spent on working inefficiently on low-value activities. It seems that employees want respect from their employers more than they respect their employers. Hmmm, seems selfish doesn’t it?

Suffice it to say that fallen mankind’s reason for every action is expediency. Expediency is all about scavenging for ambition, selfishness and greediness; and this brings on the primary consequences of our actions, (which are always thought to be positive ones or the person would not act it out in the first place). Just as Adam and Eve would have never eaten the forbidden fruit, if they had known the real consequences from the eating. As we focus on short-term gratification and act expediently, we fail in getting more of what we feel we need in the way of, you guessed it; safety, security, comfort,

leisure, love, respect and fulfillment. This, in turn drives us to become more, ambitious, selfish and greedy. This spurs more short-term thinking and actions because now we feel that we have wasted time and must hurry and fulfill our ambitions. Around and around, spiraling-down we go.

A perfect example of this is labor union activity. Labor unions were once needed organizations, because, in a fallen world, employers and shareholders were more interested in monetary gain so they could obtain safety, security, comfort, leisure, love, respect and fulfillment, at the expense of others. However, once the labor movement, seeking its own safety, security, comfort, leisure, love, respect and fulfillment and aided by corrupt and ambitious, selfish and greedy politicians, got the upper hand, they crippled themselves.

Look at the history. Labor unions of the last 40 years struck, bargained and blackmailed for higher than market wages and benefits. This made them uncompetitive with non-union labor of foreign suppliers. They permanently crippled their companies and industries in the long run, throwing many of their members out of work permanently. Short term gain, long term pain.

Our current American healthcare system is also the victim of the entitlement mindset brought on by greed, ambition and selfishness. The behavior of the members of our healthcare community is based on the current system of incentives. The incentives have been entitlement incentives. Patients believe they are entitled to state of the art healthcare regardless of their unhealthy lifestyles. Physicians believe they are entitled to clinical autonomy and historic levels of compensation regardless of the outcomes of their patients. Hospitals believe they are entitled to be reimbursed at the highest rates in the world regardless of their inefficiencies or the results they produce. And, suppliers believe they are entitled to high margins regardless of the relative value they provide to the system.

This culture of entitlement has driven per capita healthcare spending in the U.S. to twice what peer countries spend on healthcare. (Davis, Schoen, and Stremikis, 2010) There is great fear in the “community” of the greedy, selfish and ambitious to reform the healthcare system from the entitlement mindset to one of value and accountability. And, when the federal government steps in things only get worse; as has been proven historically time and time again. Currently we have the Affordable Care Act, which only compounds the problems it promises to eradicate. Why? Because the entitled outcasts, from without, overwhelm the system and the privileged healthcare elite, from within, refuse to be brought down while the government bureaucrats, in-between, carve up the system.

Another current example of short-term thinking in our fallen world is when government increases expenditures, expands programs, adds entitlements, boosts budgets, and hires more staff at inflated salaries, at the long-term cost of huge government deficits that will have to be repaid by our children and grandchildren. (By the way, did you know that a gathering of birds is a flock, a gathering of deer is a herd and a gathering of baboons is called a congress? Really. Look it up.)

The legendary rock group, The Eagles, came out with a song a few years ago that expresses the frustration with a society that always has its hand out in a country that has so much. The last line of the first verse remarks about those who constantly whine about life and seek to take advantage of being “victimized” by others. It goes,

“I’d like to take your “inner child” and kick its little a_ _ .”

What we need today are less people who are out for themselves, less ambitious, selfish and greedy persons, and less politicians and more statesmen. We also need everyday people who will stand up and say;

“I will give God full responsibility for my happiness, my success, and my life. I will not blame others for my problems. My gratitude for all I have been blessed with will show in my actions and attitudes.”

This is sorely needed, but, overall, mankind, apart from true Christian values based on belief in the foundational Doctrine of Total Depravity, always seeks to do what is easy in the short term at the long-term price of making their situation worse. We selfishly seek to expedite our hard life situations- to our own defeat. We can’t seem to help it.

Those of us who are adult-adults and not child-adults must band together, face reality and get the message across to our fellow citizens to grow up. This is the message. It is a fallen world because mankind is a fallen race. We need God’s help and we need to, BY GRACE, have faith in Christ Jesus in order to happily live in the 21st Century fallen world, and – we need to reject entitlement and act responsibly through accountability. Nothing else will do.

As we continue to observe our theoretical and theological leaders, there may be a more insidious group than progressive and obvious pretenders to God’s throne. Religionists are best at trying to take their bosses job and no better proof of our total depravity is found than in man’s religious pursuits.

LET’S TALK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT RELIGION

I am going to state a religious fact that may surprise some. Here it is:

The one true God, Jehovah, desires for all other gods (pretenders to His throne) to be allowed to be held-up to scrutiny.

When the people of God, Jehovah, our Lord Jesus Christ, while in the clear daylight of freedom and at the high altitude of true-truth, look out from the mountainsides, the enemy is in plain sight. The evil one seeks to take us into the crevasses of religions so we cannot see reality and truth. He uses pseudo-godliness in Secular Humanism, Judaism, Muhammadism (Islam), Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, - all religions. He uses Communism, Totalitarianism, Socialism and all the other “-isms” for his glory and his power and his eventually victorious kingdom.

So, God Jehovah, throughout history, says, “Go ahead, make my day. Hold up your gods to my light and let’s see who rules the earth and whose heirs will STAND on the

earth in the last day.” This is why all men, but Christians, will fight behind the veil of religion to their gods, against true freedom in any nation. And, why they will fight to defeat America and the American ideal of freedom under law. It holds them up to scrutiny,- and they cannot stand.

God allows them all. He does not aid them, but he allows them. We are God’s true heirs, the Church of Jesus Christ. We must allow them, too. They are part of the plan. But we will hold them up to the light of true-truth. When this is done, many women and men will see and reject, the false. This is our quest and our command from the true Eternal Father exposed in the Bible. Not to hurt or demean. That, they do well on their own; but to “lift the veil” and reveal. And so, we begin.

“It matters not to me what you believe, just remember that whatever you believe will take you somewhere. Make sure that you are prepared for the journey.”

–Benjamin Disraeli

CHAPTER THREE

RELIGIOUS QUAGMIRE, PART ONE

THE DICHOTOMY OF TRUTH

One of the best known religious’ writers of our day, Max Lucado, wrote a book called He Still Moves Stones. Here is wisdom from above through the author’s pen:

“All the world’s religions can be placed in one of two camps: legalism or grace. Humankind does it or God does it. (Either) salvation is a wage based on deeds done—or salvation as a gift based on Christ’s death.

A legalist believes the supreme force behind salvation is you. If you look right, speak right, and belong to the right segment of the right group, you will be saved. The brunt of responsibility doesn’t lie within God; it lies within you.

The result? The outside sparkles. The talk is good and the step is true. But look closely. Listen carefully. Something is missing. What is it? Joy. What’s there? Fear. (That you won’t do enough.) Arrogance. (That you have done enough.) Failure. (That you have made a mistake.)... (but) Spiritual life is not a human endeavor.”

Religions are all about realizing that we have fallen and we can’t get up – to heaven. Mankind inherently knows that we are a fallen race, alienated from God and we can’t get up- to heaven, without doing something. According to the latest information, 88 percent of the world’s people believe in a god and in an afterlife. The less we know and believe about the Doctrine of Total Depravity, the more we continue to “fall” into the trap of works-based religions promising the way to heaven. The Bible says that we cannot work our way to God and time spent trying is not only a futile struggle but a deadly influence on others who seek him and will not find him in any other solution than through grace and belief in His Son Jesus Christ.

Religion is complicated. It is not easy to reduce any religion to one document, much less a few pages each. However, the following review will be sufficient to reveal to us mankind’s stubborn and elaborately crafty attempt at denying his depravity while working toward wholeness and community with God. One thing we do know. Religions cannot be more about rules than relationships. If they are, they defeat their own purpose. Many speak of guidelines and laws with the perspective of sacrifice to God. However, mercy considers the other person whereas sacrifice can be, and often

is, just for ourselves. This is why God in the Bible says, “I desire mercy not sacrifice.” And this Old Testament saying was repeated by Jesus in Matthew 12:7. Let’s keep this in mind as we review the world’s religions.

SECULAR HUMANIST WESTERN CULTURE

Secular Humanism is the religion of many of our American elite. They think they do not have any religion. However, when one truly looks at those who worship at this alter, there is no doubt that it is a powerful and binding belief system.

What is a secular humanist? Let’s take a look at their own definition:

“Secular humanists reject supernatural and authoritarian beliefs. They affirm that we must take responsibility for our own lives and the communities and world in which we live. Secular humanism emphasizes reason and scientific inquiry, individual freedom and responsibility, human values and compassion, and the need for tolerance and cooperation.

The Council for Secular Humanism promotes rational, human-based viewpoints on important social and ethical issues. In particular, it tackles issues where traditional religion obstructs the right to self-determination, for example, freedom of choice in sexual relationships, reproduction, and voluntary euthanasia. The Council also promotes critical thinking about supernatural and paranormal claims. Secular humanism has provided an impetus for humans to solve their problems with intelligence and perseverance, to conquer geographic and social frontiers, and to extend the range of human exploration and adventure. Regrettably, we are, today, faced with a variety of anti-secularist trends: the reappearance of dogmatic authoritarian religions; fundamentalist, literalist, and doctrinaire Christianity.”

THE WILD WEST AND SH

America is the place where people have often traveled to be “free” and individual. The allure is partly the felt need to get out from under the inhibiting rules of community. Both those moving here and those born here have an individualist bent which makes them uncomfortable within any organization that threatens to actually organize them into categories and thereby seek any control of, accountability for, and, yes, perhaps, abuse of their lives.

However, they seek “rational, human-based viewpoints on important social and ethical issues.” As we have exhaustingly pointed out, human-based (human-centered) viewpoints are inherently self-defeating because our Race is fallen and we live in a fallen world where our best judgments are flawed without the presence of the Holy Spirit to counsel us.

The extended premise is that they are in a constant quest to “provide an impetus for humans to solve their problems with intelligence and perseverance.” This is truly a

religion where we have millions of Don Quixotes charging away at windmills while the religionists stand by and scoff that they need a bigger lance. The Secular Humanist, undaunted by reality, cries out for more “communal control” on everyone who doesn’t believe like them and think that this eventual control will bring on the paradise they seek; the “kumbaya” moment of universal oneness of mankind in a re-born world. Nonsense. But here is where we struggle.

WHAT MINDSET ARE WE CONFRONTING?

The current culture of America is both liberal and fast-paced. Liberality makes us think and act like Ancient Greeks. The Greek concept of knowledge meant acquiring propositional truth. They related to their world through information gained and stored. Greeks thinkers gain and store, then choose relationship from a position of power and trust in that concrete knowledge. (In contrast, the Hebrews saw knowledge as having to do with relationships bound under a living, but orderly, God and experiences as family together in order to gain and store.) The American secular “mind” is Greek or democratic in that it wants only the loosest ropes tied to relationships so it can follow its own desires. Therefore, many families we see are in the category of “carnal.” They may be carnal secularists or carnal Christians. In any event, they are culturally slaved to their own desires rather than God’s desires for their lives.

Individuals and families in our urban and suburban areas are always moving at a fast pace. This allows us to feel alive and productive. It also allows us to fall into the trap of the devil. For his kingdom causes, he uses 1) the mindset of liberalism combined with 2) materialistic wants and 3) lots of activities to participate in, as the trifecta of slavery to his way of life. It results in a life of ambition, selfishness and greed in order to gain safety, security, comfort, leisure, esteem, respect and fulfillment.

Of course the question for Secular Humanists is the same as the question for all other religions.

“How’s that working out for you?”

An honest answer to this question will reveal that it is not and cannot.

THE “EASTERN RELIGIONS”

The so-called eastern religions have two main belief systems, Hinduism and Buddhism, with their various off-shoots. These systems are in many ways opposites. Hinduism believes in many gods; pantheism. Buddhism believes that everything is a god, so that it really expounds and worships no gods,- except man.

Hinduism

Hinduism is a religion that is mostly practiced in eastern India and the islands of the Indian Ocean. This religion judges people purely on their performance. Hindus believe in what they call Karma- the idea that people will receive exactly what they have coming to them. All of the good and bad deeds a person does are returned to the

person in exactly the same measure when he or she dies. The good and bad measures are determined by Hindu Law.

Reincarnation is strictly believed. Hindus believe that when they die they are reincarnated into another person or an animal. (That is why they won't kill animals that roam free in their cities and towns. They might be killing their relatives.) The next lifetime within another person or an animal depends entirely on how the person worked within the Hindu Law (the Bhagavad-Gita) during their previous lifetime. This is called their "dharma" their fate because of how they have paid attention to their karma.

Upon death, if someone did everything right, i.e., meditated on the Lord Krishna, exercised Yoga, worshipped their household idols regularly, they will go into a higher class person or animal when they die. If not, they will go into a lower class person or a lower class animal when they die. There are many classes of animal and four classes of people in the religious system. People with "no class" (which is where we get the saying) are called "untouchables." These are believed to be the people who have reincarnated into the lowest caste or class and it is bad karma to touch them or have anything to do with them except use and abuse them,- because they are bad and to help them would only encourage them to be worse and go into a lower animal. See? It helps them to abuse them.

The so-called upper classes are priests, nobles and peasants. Priests are number one and have worked themselves closest to god. They are said to be in a state of Krishna consciousness, for which all Hindus strive. All nobles, peasants and even untouchables are supposed to bring offerings to the temples and give them to the priests in order to receive some of their "good karma" and increase their chances to reincarnate into a higher class when they die. Priests are encouraged to "be the perfection of karma" so that when they die, they will be enlightened into a person that the Hindu supreme god, Brahman (Vishnu or Krishna), will invite into heaven. This breaks the cycle of reincarnation and allows the person "saved" to rest.

The words of the Hindu bible tell all good devotees that they should concentrate their minds on Krishna, the blueish boy with a beautiful face, lotus-shaped eyes, and peacock feathers in his hair (so much for giving up all sensual life) and to think of themselves as a fragment of their lord. They are to think of him as the sun and themselves as particles of light from the sun. Of course, the meditation is best under the instruction of the paid yogi and by serving and sacrificing according to the instruction of the Hindu priest. The scriptures tell seekers; "Of course, the best course is to work from the very beginning in Krishna consciousness under the guidance of a bona fide spiritual master."

Among other instructions, there are these:

"Anyone who is acting in Krishna consciousness under the direction of the Supersoul or the Supreme Personality of the Godhead, even though killing, does not kill. Nor is he affected by the reaction of such killing."

"He who is acting in Krishna consciousness under the direction of the

Supersoul situated within the heart is naturally not bound by any activity. Those in complete Krishna consciousness are not ultimately responsible for their actions.”

“Although animal killing in a sacrifice is recommended in the Vedic literature, the animal is not considered to be killed. The sacrifice is to give new life to the animal. Sometimes the animal is promoted immediately to the human form of life.”

“God’s mercy is shown to the asuras if they are fortunate enough to be killed by him.” (Asuras are those people who are considered demonic (me and you) because they rebel against the rules of Hinduism.)

“The demoniac (a non-striver for Karma) person believes in the strength of his personal work, not in the law of Karma. Anyone who comes into competition with such a demoniac man is his enemy.”

“Now, in the Manu-samhita (regulations of scripture) it is clearly stated that woman should not be given freedom. This does not mean that women are to be kept as slaves, but they are like children. The demons have now neglected such injunctions, and they think that women should be given as much freedom as men.”

All these quotes are taken from the book Bhagavad-Gita compiled by A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada, the founder of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness and once the world’s foremost Vedic scholar. The Bhagavad-Gita is renowned as the jewel of India’s spiritual wisdom and the base of the Hindu system of religion.

It’s a great system, if you’re a priest. You get all the offerings brought to appease the gods and everyone else wants to be you. Wonder who came up with that system? Could it have been the priests? And, according to the “priests” certain people are less than others,- by fault of birth. Here is an example of the cruelty at the heart of the religion.

Hundreds of Indian Girls Named ‘Unwanted’ Choose New Names

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October 22, 2011: Girls hold certificates stating their new official names during a renaming ceremony in Satara, India.

MUMBAI, India – More than 200 Indian girls whose names mean “unwanted” in Hindi have chosen new names for a fresh start in life.

A central Indian district held a renaming ceremony Saturday that it hopes will give the girls new dignity and help fight widespread gender discrimination that gives India a skewed gender ratio, with far more boys than girls.

The 285 girls -- wearing their best outfits with barrettes, braids and bows in their hair -- lined up to receive certificates with their new names along with small flower bouquets from Satara district officials in Maharashtra state.

In shedding names like “Nakusa” or “Nakushi,” which mean “unwanted” in Hindi, some girls chose to name themselves after Bollywood stars such as “Aishwarya” or Hindu goddesses like “Savitri.” Some just wanted traditional names with happier meanings, such as “Vaishali,” which means “prosperous, beautiful and good.”

“Now in school, my classmates and friends will be calling me this new name, and that makes me very happy,” said a 15-year-old girl who had been named Nakusa by a grandfather disappointed by her birth. She chose the new name “Ashmita,” which means “very tough” or “rock hard” in Hindi.

The plight of girls in India came to a focus after this year’s census showed the nation’s sex ratio had dropped over the past decade from 927 girls for every 1,000 boys under the age of 6, to 914.

Maharashtra state’s ratio is well below that, with just 883 girls for every 1,000 boys -- down from 913 a decade ago. In the district of Satara, it is even lower, at 881.

Such ratios are the result of abortions of female fetuses, or just sheer neglect leading to a higher death rate among girls. The problem is so serious in India that hospitals are legally banned from revealing the gender of an unborn fetus in order to prevent sex-selective abortions, though evidence suggests the information gets out.

Part of the reason Indians favor sons is the enormous expense of marrying off girls. Families often go into debt arranging marriages and paying for elaborate dowries. A boy, on the other hand, will one day bring home a bride and dowry. Hindu custom also dictates that only sons can light their parents’ funeral pyres.

Over the years, and again now, efforts have been made to fight the discrimination.

“Nakusa is a very negative name as far as female discrimination is concerned,” said Satara district health officer Dr. Bhagwan Pawar, who came up with the idea for the renaming ceremony.

Other incentives, announced by federal or state governments every few years, include free meals and free education to encourage people to take care of their girls, and even cash bonuses for families with girls who graduate from high school.

Activists say the name “unwanted,” which is widely given to girls across India, gives them the feeling they are worthless and a burden.

“When the child thinks about it, you know, ‘My mom, my dad, and all my relatives and society call me unwanted,’ she will feel very bad and depressed,” said Sudha Kankaria of the organization Save the Girl Child. But giving these girls new names is only the beginning, she said.

Another sad example of Hindu perversion is told in the book Killing the Bible. In that book, I recount this:

“In 1999, loyal Hindus burned Christian Missionary Graham Stains and his two young sons to death by surrounding their Jeep, dousing it with kerosene, and lighting it. Stains had been working with leprosy victims for thirty-four years. He wanted to give them hope within a society that shunned them. Apparently this was an insult and he was killed. Why? Because the avatars of Indian epics, under Krishna, command that the status quo, or dharma, must be preserved.”

Graham had committed an unpardonable Hindu sin. He upset the dharma and maddened the Hindu gods by trying to uplift, in the name of Christ, the outcasts that Hindus believe must be kept in their place to keep the dharma. If these people can become something apart from the results of the system of reincarnation, the whole religious system falls and the wealthy and priests have no slaves of the lower castes to use and abuse in order to keep their lives going forward in ambition, selfishness and greed in order to gain safety, security, comfort, leisure, esteem, respect and fulfillment.

(I won't keep repeating this last statement for each of the man-made religions within this treatise. Please just keep in mind that they all result in the same thing, with all the accompanying religious atrocities against mankind.)

Buddhism

Buddhism is a works-based religion practiced mostly in China's mountain areas and the rural areas of the East that says that everything and everybody is God. (Which really means that nobody and nothing is God.) The overriding Buddhist principle or law is that we should always do our best to avoid harming others. That's why there aren't very many Buddhist terrorists. The largest sect of Buddhism is Zen Buddhism, which is a mixture of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. Following their religious laws increases Zen or happiness in the world. There are three basic precepts to following the law of Zen;

1. Avoid all evil thoughts and actions,
2. Attain good thoughts and do right actions,
3. Develop “wisdom” so that all humanity is benefitted.

Sounds great doesn't it?

Buddhism does not strictly teach that an individual person continues to exist after

death. It believes that we are all a part of an endless cycle and we continue on as part of cosmic life (or an energy form). Many atheists and agnostics in the West find Buddhism attractive because it provides an opportunity for supposed spiritual depth without following up with obedience to authority required by belief in a deity.

Buddhism has its roots in Hinduism. Siddhartha Gautama (Budda) was born in 563 BC to a king in India. The young prince was raised in the Hindu tradition and studied the sacred texts of Hinduism. Guatama had a lot of time on his hands and studied all the problems within the palace. He was disgusted at the hypocrisy he saw, even within his own family. He was honest in seeing that Hinduism didn't work and caused suffering. According to Buddhist tradition, he took a trip outside of the cloistered palace and saw all the suffering of normal people which was a result of the actions of other "good Hindu" people and was disgusted there also.

Because he was so disgusted at the selfishness and abuse he saw in others, the prince left his wife and infant son, his riches and his kingship to join a group of monks and solve the problem of suffering in the kingdom. Get it? He was so disgusted at the abuse he saw in others that he became the same thing, abusive. After meditating under a tree throughout a season, Gautama realized that suffering comes from people's minds and actions. Because of this "enlightenment" he became known as the Budda or Awakened One. (Brilliant! Expedience trying to eradicate expedience, eh?)

Budda spent the next season developing the Four Noble Truths to help guide people through suffering. Following these "Buddhist truths" allows people to overcome suffering and reach a state of bliss;

1. Realize there is suffering in life,
2. Realize the cause for this suffering is your own cravings,
3. Realize that suffering is overcome by letting go of the cravings,
4. Let go of cravings by following the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path is a system of "self-ology" as opposed to a theology. The eight things to follow are:

1. Right views
2. Right aspirations
3. Right speech
4. Right behavior
5. Right livelihood
6. Right effort
7. Right thoughts
8. Right contemplation

Now, there is an element of truth to this, as there is in all religions. It is true that our own selfish cravings can be our undoing, however, the devil is in the details. What is the definition of “right” in the eightfold path? Who decides?

Guess who gets to make money and fame from teaching the “right ways of the Eightfold Path?” The monks as priests of the religion, thank you very much. Right is what they have written through the last twenty centuries as the right things. The latest, greatest monks will tell you their theory of right for the “right” offerings at the temples or the “right” price for their books. These “rights” are really their “laws” of how to live life in denial that you are a fallen creature. Here’s how it’s done.

Meditation is a staple of Buddhism. It is believed that this practice helps them break through concepts and thoughts that prevent them from understanding and embracing their deeper nature. Because they do not embrace mankind’s fallen nature and that our depravity-separation from God is the reason for suffering, they have to constantly try to find the answer.

Buddhists use short, unanswerable questions or baffling stories called “Koans” to assist them with meditation. A famous Koan is; “What is the sound of one hand clapping?” It is felt that meditating on a Koan is a way of understanding the mind of the master monks who were and are at the top of enlightenment. The master monks teach that the Buddhist’s only goal is to become as self-aware as possible. (As Buddhists focus on their self-awareness they focus on self. It’s like a dog chasing its tail,- never ending and exhausting. Talk about suffering!)

Most Buddhists believe that the individual life does not continue on after death. They believe that we die and continue on in cosmic energy of some sort. And, really, when you look at it, they are right in a way. When good Buddhists die they are so full of themselves that they continue in that “cosmic energy of self” and are doomed to chase their tails forever alone without God. It’s called Hell in the Bible.

Now, let’s look at the modern off-shoots of the Eastern Religions.

New Age Religions

New Age Religion is a movement that is known by Christians as “The Buffet Religion.” This “help-yourself” religiosity is just that; you choose which spiritual menu item you like to practice and stick to it until you’re full of it.

New Age is really Old Age. Most of the menu items are from the beliefs of Hinduism and Buddhism. Only this modern “enlightenment” menu is a pick-and-choose from the eastern religions by Westerners who seek answers to their spiritual hunger. The belief system centers around three main beliefs;

1. Monism,
2. Pantheism,
3. Mysticism.

Wonder of wonders; the new age priests have come up with Eight Beliefs for New Agers to follow:

1. Everything we see, touch and sense is god and everything in the universe is god.
2. All of us humans are god.
3. There is no such thing as sin. Since we are divine, we just need to figure out how to convince ourselves how to get rid of our guilt feelings about how we act.
4. Since there is no sin, we don't need forgiveness, we need enlightenment to realize our divinity.
5. We gain our divine insight by learning about and possibly connecting with dead spirits of the divine ones who have gone on before us into another state of energy.
6. You and I will keep coming back to life in some form, animal, human or energy, until we reach perfection.
7. Jesus is coming back from wherever he went and it will be a Christ-consciousness delivered to all humanity.
8. There are many sources of truth. All the leaders of all the religions of the world worship the same god but with different names. We can learn significant truths from all of them,- and all of us.

WOW! We didn't see that coming did we? The buffet religion picks and chooses from Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

And, once again, guess who gets to make a good living out of how to follow the eight precepts of the faith; convincing us how to make ourselves more divine, reach enlightenment, attain Christ-consciousness and know the best truths of all the world's religions? You guessed it, the priests of the New Age congregation nearest you. They stand behind the buffet line, like servers at your local cafeteria and they ring you out when your plate is full. They are open 24/7/365 to fill you up with yourself. Enjoy, if you can find a table to sit down. There are so many who crowd the buffet.

Unitarian Universalists are a good example of a New Age religion. They are faux-evangelical, Eastern buffet, religious practitioners. They also have all the foundational earmarks of a Cult, which is what we discuss next.

The Cults

There are many cults. The term cult comes from the Latin "cultus," meaning "worship." It originally meant a system of worship distinguishable from others. It quickly came to mean an aberrant form of worship identified in some way with a "parent" belief system. So, for example, the "mystery cults" of Greece and Rome centered on the worship of one or two of the pantheon of Greek and Roman gods and goddesses. Instead of worshipping the entire pantheon, these mystery cults felt that their focused-

on god was the best god to help them and theirs. It was a selection of a god or two from the “standard” of worshipping all of the pantheon.

So, the Christian Church has usually defined the term cult as a belief system opposed to accepted Christian standards. In this sense, a cult is a religious group that identifies itself with Christianity and yet fails one or more doctrinal tests.

For instance, Jehovah’s Witnesses call themselves Christians, and yet deny the doctrine of the Trinity and the deity and resurrection of Christ, among other doctrinal bias’; including a works-based system. Mormons identify themselves as members of “The Church of Jesus Christ,” but affirm the elevation of man to godhood and deny salvation by grace alone, as well as other doctrines contrary to biblical teachings.

Esteemed biblical theologian, Dr. Walter Martin, defines cults this way:

“A cult is a group of people gathered around a specific person’s misinterpretation of the Bible.”

Most Christian cult-watchers contrast the cult’s beliefs with essential biblical doctrine concerning five basic areas true Christians are known for:

1. God (belief in one true God, the Trinity (Tri-unity of God), God’s infinite and eternal nature and attributes, etc.);
2. Jesus Christ (Second Person of the Trinity, virgin born, died on the cross for us, resurrection, second coming, etc.);
3. Man (created in God’s image but fallen, morally responsible, destined either for spiritual eternal life or eternal punishment, etc.);
4. Sin and salvation (all people are sinful and separated from God, salvation is by grace alone through faith, the atonement, etc.); and
5. Scripture (the Bible, Old and New Testaments, is God’s infallible & sufficient Word and the revelation from God by which we understand, worship, and serve God. “Sufficient” means no added works or documents).

A cult, then, is a religious group that identifies itself with Christianity, or at least claims compatibility with Christianity, and yet which denies or adds to one or more of these core biblical doctrines. Many cults have the distinction of believing that the Bible’s truths are superseded by the current revelations of the cult leader. This may result in followers surrendering their thinking and decision-making abilities to the cult leader.

Cults are, by nature, are works-based religions. One must work toward the perfection that the leader or leaders have outlined in their personal-become-corporate manifestos of what it means to be a good cult follower.

Let’s guess who gets to have money and fame from leading and teaching the loyal followers of the cult. How about the cult leader or leaders? Naturally.

For the purposes of definition, let's address the two most followed American cults; Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses. We have probably all seen representations of them in our lives; the spectrum of influence reaches from the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in their magnificent surroundings to teams of journeymen going door to door endeavoring to convert people to their religion.

Mormonism

Mormonism was founded by a man named Joseph Smith Jr., in the year 1830. Joseph was raised a Christian, but in his young adulthood was disillusioned by the fight between denominations. He came to the conclusion that they were all wrong. He calculated in his own head that if they all followed the Bible and they were all wrong, there must be more that had not been revealed in the Bible. And, as all cult leaders do, he took the Bible standard and decided to make his own interpretation based on what he thought should be right.

Smith decided to publish his interpretations of scripture in a book called The Book of Mormon. By Mormons, it is considered to be the word of God for our times and more accurate for modern man than the Bible. Some basic tenants of Mormonism are;

1. God is a human being who became a god.
2. Christ is also a human being who became a god.
3. Any Mormon can become a god.
4. There are many gods.
5. Males must practice polygamy in the afterlife to reach the highest level of heaven (and by process of "rehearsal", must practice polygamy here on earth).
6. Salvation is by faith, plus works, plus Mormon-accepted baptism.
7. Baptism of a dead person, by Mormons, procures eternal life for them.

Mormons also have a book of doctrines and covenants which are works-based dogma that good Mormons must follow. These have been collected by their leadership over the last 100 years in order to justify their beliefs and provide cohesion in their followers. One such work is called The Pearl of Great Price.

Jehovah's Witnesses

The Jehovah's Witnesses cult was begun by a man named Charles Taze Russell in the year 1894. We may have heard of his publications under the title of the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, or simple The Watchtower. The beginnings of the organization are right out of a soap opera, with all the intrigues of the same. However, let's take a look at the basic beliefs espoused by this cult.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that;

1. There is only God and not a Godhead or Trinity.

2. Jesus Christ was not God in human flesh but a created being which was really the Archangel Michael in human form.
3. Salvation is based on works of obedience to the Watchtower dogma, baptism, continued learning under the doctrine of the Watchtower Society and recruiting others to the faith of Jehovah's Witnesses.
4. The bodily resurrection of Jesus is denied (He ascended in Spirit only).
5. Christ really "returned" in 1914, when Russell had prophesied that he would, but now he rules from heaven. (A great many JW's left the faith when 1915 came and they did not "see Jesus." So, Russell just said that he did return, but only the "elect" saw him and then Jesus went to rule in heaven. Convenient.)
6. There is no hell, only the deletion of the wicked.

A basic belief of the Society, and that from which it gets its name, is based on ignorance of the 144,000 number mentioned in the Book of Revelation. Charles Taze Russell preached that only 144,000 Witnesses will be ultimately chosen by God to be special leaders in heaven. The rest will live on a renewed earth. This worked well back in 1894 when Russell had only a handful of followers. The number of 144,000 Witnesses was a tremendous number during that day in America. However, there is now a fight between members of the "church of Witnesses" to climb to the top of the "ladder of works" so they may get ahead of the other one million Jehovah's Witnesses and get into that number. Of course the best leaders, preachers and recruiters are most likely to be numbered within the 144,000.

For those who are inquisitive and need an apologetic for the 144,000 number in Revelation, the author's book Apo Kalupsis has a detailed explanation. For purposes here, let's clarify that the mention in Revelation, chapter seven is descriptive of newly converted, Jewish believers in Jesus Christ who will have traveled to Jerusalem during the Tribulation years. It was never meant by the Holy Spirit to be an actual, but a symbolic number. There may be over a million who make the journey. This will be after the Rapture of the Christians from earth. These new believers of Jewish heritage will form the core of those who are "sealed" or protected in Jerusalem during the Apocalypse in order to become the core of a new earthly society when Jesus reigns on the earth during the Millennium or the 1,000 year reign. This is clearly stated in Revelation.

The two majority cults of Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses cannot, by their own measure, be equated with Christianity. They are "cultus" forms of worship which deviated purposely from the Bible and wrote their own versions of scripture out of selfishness, confusion and ignorance during the tumultuous times of the age of American Pioneerism. Today, they feed on separation and dogma written by their founders and by today's leadership succession, which must add lie and myth upon the foundational interpretations of nineteenth century pseudo-Christians who went their own way while indulging in personal ambition, selfishness and greed in order to gain... (you get the point.)

“You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you; love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV)

—Jesus Christ

CHAPTER FOUR

RELIGIOUS QUAGMIRE, PART TWO

JUDAISM

Jews believe that the God expressed in “The Book,” the Old Testament of the Bible, is the one true God. However, the way they interpret the teachings of the holy book is within a system of all-embracing human universalism and deep commitment to the community of Jews worldwide. There is no requirement for faith in Christ to receive salvation. The Jewish religion is a religion of works. They believe that strictly following the ancient Jewish texts, their Torah and the teachings of the Jewish Rabbis for the last two-thousand years, is the way to salvation.

Most Jews expect that God will send a Messiah to save the Jewish people from the Satan-inspired people who want to exterminate them. They do not believe that Jesus was that Messiah, and are still waiting. According to their beliefs, the Messiah will:

1. Be a great freedom fighter and drive other nations from harming Israel.
2. He will shatter the power of all other ruling nations.
3. The Messiah will bring justice to the land and establish a merciful kingdom.
4. He will rule with wisdom and all of the Jewish people will experience justice and safety in this world.
5. The Messiah will come from a remote area of Israel and bring prosperity.

The core of the Jewish faith lies in heritage and law. They believe in following the customs and rites of the history of their faith as found in the Torah and in the interpretations of their leaders during many centuries. So-called Good or Practicing Jews must follow the commandments found in the Torah and do the right things that their rabbis have sanctioned; the “legal interpretation” of the sacred scripture. They believe that they are the only chosen people of the only true God, but that those who convert to Judaism can be incorporated into the Israelite people and be saved by God.

Because many of the Torah commandments and teachings cannot be followed, i.e., the sacrificial laws of the temple since the temple was destroyed in the first century, Jews focus on the “Chain of Tradition.” This is explained in the writing of their scholars from the first century;

“Moses received the Torah on Sinai, and handed it down to Joshua; Joshua to the elders; the elders to the prophets; and the prophets handed it down to the men of the Great Synagogue. They said three things:

1. Be deliberate in judgment,
2. Raise up many disciples,
3. Make a fence around the Torah.” (Pirke Avot 1:1)

The goal of the rabbis was, and is, to make the Torah the guide in every act of life. They make a fence around the Torah by adding new laws and customs which help preserve them. These same men say that obedience to the laws is based on the knowledge of them. So, they train and certify, or ordain, Rabbinic teachers in how to instruct all the Jewish people to strictly follow the laws in order to be accepted into the community of Jews and to be saved by God.

One of the greatest of the Rabbis in Jewish history was Hillel. He had a saying,

“The more flesh, the more worms; the more treasure, the more care; but the more Torah, the more life; the more schooling, the more wisdom; the more counsel, the more understanding; the more charity, the more peace.

He who acquires a good name, acquires it only for this world; but he who acquires for himself words of Torah, acquires for himself the life of the world to come.”

(Pirke Avot, 1:12-14)

Judaism teaches that the traditions of the faith must be regularly practiced in order for God to save them. “These traditions are summed up in the concept of Torah- not merely certain books and laws, but all teachings handed down to us by all our great teachers, past and present. Torah is a complete guide to living, given by God, through the inspired words of lawmakers, prophets, scribes, sages and rabbis.”

Once again, there is an element of truth here. But it is not the whole truth,- and there are rabbinic “depravities,” fears, isolationism and Judaic customs which help expedite their own victimization because they cause Jews to be hated by other depraved and expedient men.

Guess who get to have fame and fortune by generating all these new and old teachings to new and old Jews and converts; today’s scribes, sages and rabbis.

The Jewish tradition can be summed up in a watch-phrase that sort of goes like this;

“Work, work, work to live according to all our laws, do what we say, and you will be God’s chosen disciples and be brought into the world-to-come when you die.”

Of course, those of the Jewish Faith do not believe that Jesus was the Christ, or the Messiah. They would just as soon forget that he was even a great Jewish teacher because of the follow-up questions which are raised about him.

The Apostle Paul had some of his greatest challenges while preaching to the Jews. They were helplessly stuck in the past and on earthly things. In the Book of Hebrews (yes, most scholars now admit that the book was written by Paul) he asks the Jews

to put away the “good things” of Judaism for the “better things” of Christianity. He compared Judaism to an earthly sanctuary and Christianity to a heavenly sanctuary for men’s souls.

Today’s Jews may find that practicing their faith is like sitting down to a fine meal, selecting delicious morsels, chewing and tasting; then spitting the food out of their mouths and selecting another morsel. It tastes good, but no real nourishment comes from it. This is because the entirety of their Holy Scriptures points to God’s Son Jesus Christ in the flesh and they have missed the grace that their law finds fulfillment within. Many, today, are waking up to the culmination of their beautiful faith and have become Messianic Jews who believe in Jesus.

One of the greatest proofs that Jews should believe in Jesus is the fact of America. By all accounts, America should never have become the bastion of religious liberty that shelters Jews and the Jewish faith. (There are more Jews in America than there are in Israel.) God caused America to become the leader of the free world for the purpose of his plan for the salvation of the peoples of every nation. One of the express purposes of God was to have the U.S.A. shelter the Jewish people and bring about the rejuvenation of their homeland, so that the Messiah would have a people and a place for his second coming. Where would the Jews and Israel be without America and her Bible-believing Church?

ISLAM

Islam is a religion of Laws and obedience. The Muslim holy book is the “Quran” or Koran. The Koran is a collection of the sayings of Mohammed, which have become law for Muslims and Muslim countries. Muslims originated in the Middle-east, but now live all over the world by design of their leaders, the powerful Imams. The Koran and the writings of 7th and 8th century Imams, or teachers, are the basis of following the religion of Islam and gaining (working one’s way to) heaven.

Islam is based on what is called the Five Pillars; the five essential duties in worship of Allah. Muslims believe that in order to go to Paradise or heaven, they must regularly perform certain religious duties. Additionally, they must be perceived by their religious leaders to do these acts and rites in an attitude of total submission. (The local Imams decide who is in proper submission and, so, hold a ‘Sword of Damocles’ of sorts over all Muslim followers. They report to the regional Imams and their police force for punishment of any infractions. Nice work if you can get it.)

The Five Pillars of Islamic Law are:

1. There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet. The Koran says,

“Muhammad is not the father of any man among you, but he is the messenger of Allah and the Seal of the prophets.” (Koran 33:40)

By way of a quick explanation of the history of Allah, let’s begin by quoting the Chronicle of Nabonidus, which was written history during the time of Cyrus, King of the Persians, it states;

“Against the will of the gods he (Nabonidus) performed an unholy action, he thought out something worthless: he had made the image of a deity which nobody had ever seen in this country, he introduced it into the temple, he placed it on a pedestal; he called it by the name of Moon. It is adorned with a necklace of lapis lazuli, crowned with a tiara, its appearance is that of the eclipsed moon, the gesture of its hand is that of the god Lugal, its head of hair reaches to the pedestal, and in front of it are placed the Storm Dragon and the Wild Bull.”

Nabonidus was the warrior son of Nebuchadnezzar, the biblical King of Babylon. Nabonidus was on a military campaign to conquer Arabia at the time of his father's death. He was obsessed with the Arabian wild spirit and their culture. The Chronicle of Nabonidus explains that he and his Arabian advisors came back to Babylon and tried to convert every citizen by force to the combo god Moon, who was the product of the god-couple from Arabia called Sin and Allat. This was rejected by the people of Babylon and Nabonidus fled, rejected, back to the desert leaving his son, Belshazzar, in Babylon as regent. We read about him in the Book of Daniel, chapter five.

Upon Nabonidus' death, his generals took over and became the ancestors of the Arabian sheiks who ruled the land on the edge of the Fertile Crescent. During the centuries to follow, the priests of the Temple of Sin and Allat worked to keep the faith alive. However, the goddess, Allat, was most loved by the people. She was seen as the “go-between” that petitioned for the people to Sin, her husband. Works offerings brought to the Temple of Allat, supported the priesthood and the ruling general's families for hundreds of years.

In about AD 600, seizing upon this devotion to Allat, Mohammed eventually entered Medina and claimed that the one true god was really Allah, the spirit of Allat contained in the male personage of the one true god. All the people began to worship the new combo male/female, all-inclusive god, Allah. And he (it) is worshipped by the victimized middle-easterners through the sword of iniquity to this very day in the twenty-first century.

Mohammed billed himself as the FINAL prophet. His was the last word from god and what he wrote in the Koran has precedence over all other sacred texts or documents. He conveniently created a new name for the highest god and claimed for himself the status of the last prophet, so no one else could ever “one-up” him. Anyone who disagreed found himself on the wrong end of a sword. Crafty fellow.

2. Muslims must pray five times a day facing Mecca (hometown of Mohammed). This is the beginning of their prayer:

“In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Praise be to Allah, Lord of the worlds, Owner of the day of judgment. Thee alone we worship; Thee alone we ask for help. Show us the straight path, the path of those whom Thou hast favored; not the path of those who earn Thine anger nor of those who go astray.” (Koran 1:1-7)

3. Almsgiving at the mosque on a regular basis is ordered by all Muslim leadership.

The Koran says:

“The alms are only for the poor and needy, and those who collect them, and those whose hearts are to be reconciled, and to free the captives and the debtors, and for the cause of Allah, and for the wayfarers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise.” (Koran 9:60)

In other words, the alms or works-offerings the believers bring can be used for anything the leadership of the religion wants to use them.

4. Fasting must be observed on a regular basis in order to ward off evil and especially during the holy month of Ramadan.

And, of course, the Imams encourage special offerings consisting of the money that one would have spent on food during this time of fasting.

5. Pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in a person's lifetime, and preferably every year during Ramadan, is also a must of a good Muslim. The Islamic Sages say that; “By this annual assembly, Islam is bound together in a visible rite of unity.”

Mohammed boldly claimed for years that he had ascended into the seventh heaven, and there before “the effulgent majesty of the Almighty” he was informed that he was being sent with the sword to compel all the people in the world to cast away their other religions and accept the Koran and Allah.

The Koran says: “A night spent in arms (fighting) is more precious in the sight of God than months of fasting and prayer. Whosoever dies in battle, his sins are forgiven. In the Day of Judgment, his wounds shall be resplendent as vermilion, and odoriferous as musk. In the Muslim's paradise, seventy-two damsels of sparkling beauty shall minister to the most humble of the faithful.” (i.e., those who die in battle) These heavenly beauties were named, houris. This is where our English slang gets the word “whore.”

The favorite tool of the “night arms” was the *din* knife. This knife is a short sword that is curved. It is used for close combat, the blade against the neck of an infidel caught by surprise in the night. The French word for “*din* knife” is “*boucan*,” from which we get the word “Buccaneer,” for a pirate.

Islamic pirates would shout in the night, making a “*din* of iniquity” as they surprised their victims and hacked them to death with their knives. What did they shout? ‘**Allah u Akbar**,’ ‘God is the Greatest,’ *meaning* that nothing can supersede God or be better than Him. But, which god are they shouting about? The God of life or the god of death? He is the god of the *din*; the treacherous, secretive, slit the throat by surprise god, Allah. His most ardent followers continue to use this method today as they employ sharp box-cutters as their “*din* swords,” burst into airplane cockpits and slit the throats of civilian pilots while shouting praise to the god of death, Allah.

An interesting aside is that the first recording of the name “Osama” is from the last military campaign Mohammed ordered. He wanted to stamp out the last tribes near Persia who had not fallen to his armies. On his death bed, he placed the only son of

his devoted bond-slave (who had already gone to paradise in battle) as the commander of his army. The other seasoned generals questioned this and Mohammed reminded them that the boy deserved it even though young and untested. On the morning that the army was to ride off to battle, Mohammed became deathly ill. The youth, Osama, halted the army, went to Mohammed's tent and stuck his lance into the ground at the entrance and tied his horse to it. This was a custom of each sheik. When his camp was pitched, he would place his war lance at the entrance and tie his horse to it. Osama was either signaling that he would stay with his master during his illness or he was making his play for Mohammed's place at his death. This is the last we ever hear of Osama. It is never recorded that he went to war at the head of an army. (Perhaps he learned the true way of Mohammed and stayed in the "rear with the gear" and the girls as the real warriors took the field to kill for booty and die for damsels in Paradise. We certainly know that the modern-day Osama bin Laden fought for a while and then retired to his tent "in the rear with the gear and the gals" while his dupes killed themselves for Allah and he watched pornographic videos in Pakistan.)

The following are the eight precepts of Mohammedism given in the Koran. (Turkish Tyranny, p. 181, Gibbon). Odd, how there always seem to be eight. In biblical numerology, four is the number of the earth and double that is eight. It is the number for the ultimate the "earth" can provide:

1. "They are surely **infidels** who say, "Verily God is Christ the son of Mary." (They deserve the punishment of God.) (ch. 5) Jesus son of Mary, was no more than God's apostle...so believe in God and his apostles and do not say 'Three.' Forbear and it shall be better for you. God is but one God. God forbid that he should have a son! (Ch. 4, 171)
2. "O believers take not the Jews or Christians for friends." (ch. 5, p. 125)
3. "War is enjoined by you against the infidels" (ch. 2, p. 76)
4. "Fight against them until there be no temptation to idolatry and the religion be (of their) Gods." (ch. 2, p. 7)
5. "Fight against the friends of Satan." (ch. 4)
6. "Kill the Idolaters wherever ye shall find them." (ch. 9)
7. "Wherever you encounter the unbelievers strike off their heads, until you have made a great slaughter among them." (ch. 4, p. 390)
8. "Ye are forbidden to take a wife or free women who are married, except thosewomen whom ye possess as slaves."

Even more than this, subsequent Islam has DOUBLE EIGHT, with eight more precepts for Muslims.

It is Allah's will that:

1. any "hypocrite" who does not follow Islam has cursed himself and has already brought death to himself.

2. Any other faith is not successful and is a failure in the sight of God.
3. Concentration on the Quran's teaching daily in prayer is connection with god and will bring the follower salvation.
4. Any words that are not from the Quran are not beneficial and should not be listened to.
5. Donations should be given on a regular basis (for the poor) and given to the Imams for distribution. [follow the money]
6. Any sexual relations outside of the ones involving sex with many wives and a man's slave-girls is forbidden.
7. Fornicators and homosexuals should be killed.
8. Any follower of Islam is to bring ablutions, or offerings of himself or herself to worship. [follow the money]

Once again we find that Islam, like all the other religions we have discussed, is a religion of works by which the faithful attain heaven with their god. Of course, the author places himself in jeopardy by writing these words. In Muslim countries, I would be placed in jail, beheaded or stoned to death for writing this book. The Imams can't afford for the history and truth herein to be believed by the masses. Their evil mafia-like stranglehold over "the believers" would be threatened. In America, so far, I can write and publish these truths in freedom.

Of all the quotes and information in this book, this one is probably the most informative and important to Americans today. The threat of the Islamic State is real, but its followers have and will try to put us off their trail. The active terrorists abroad are truly problematic, however the real threat is our willingness to trust those who deceive us daily in our own country. Read with trembling and trepidation a portion of writing from a journalist during the year that President Barak Obama took office and set up housekeeping in Washington D.C. (The entire article is in Appendix 2 of this work.)

Understanding Taqiyya —Islamic Principle of Lying for the Sake of Allah, 30 April, 2007

"The study of taqiyya is crucial to an understanding of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism. Its use ranges from the issuing of false terrorist threats, operational and strategic disinformation issued by Al Qaeda in the form of 'intelligence chatter' for the purpose of throwing national defense groups into confusion. Terrorists in captivity resort to taqiyya during interrogation. It is most frequently used by Muslim 'spokesmen' whilst intentionally making misleading public statements concerning Islam and terrorism.

The Arabs have a story which exemplifies subtle, semantic dissimulation (taqiyya) perfectly. Legend has it that Mohammed's nephew, son-in-law and future Caliph, Ali, was sitting on a stool outside his dwelling when

one of his allies ran red-faced and gasping into the village and hid in Ali's home. Perceiving that the man was being pursued, Ali promptly got up and sat on another nearby stool. A few minutes later, a group of angry pursuers ran into the encampment and asked Ali if he had seen the man they were pursuing. Ali responded with the statement "AS LONG AS I HAVE BEEN SITTING ON THIS STOOL I HAVE SEEN NO ONE."

This story demonstrates why nothing an Islamist says can be taken at face value. Every statement and utterance needs to be thoroughly analyzed, or "unpacked."

Let no one fool you about Islam being only a religion. Sure, it has a god, and a here-after, and 72 virgins. But in its essence, Islam is a political ideology. It is a system that lays down detailed rules for society and the life of every person. Islam wants to dictate every aspect of life. Islam means 'submission.' Islam is not compatible with freedom and democracy, because what it strives for is sharia law- the code of law derived from the Koran and from the teachings and example of Mohammed. If you want to compare Islam to anything, compare it to communism or national-socialism, these are all totalitarian ideologies.

For more information about Islam and its teachings see Appendix and www.killingthebible.com

“Authority has its foundation in sanctification.”
—Watchman Nee

CHAPTER FIVE

CHRISTIANITY’S CALUMNY

CATHOLICISM

Roman Catholicism is supposed to be a Christian faith. Indeed, it began that way. However, during the fourth and fifth centuries, religious leadership that was power-hungry invaded the Church of Jesus Christ and created a works-based religion with a priestly hierarchy just like all the other non-Christian religions. There are many faithful Christians who practice within the Catholic Church. But they have been, and are being, victimized by the Roman Hierarchy of that church in the exact same way and for the exact same reasons as all the other religious leaders in all the other religions, except for true, biblical Christianity.

What are these practices? Of course there is not enough space within one booklet to enumerate them all.

During his 7 Woes to the religious leaders of Israel, Jesus said to his disciples,

“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi’; for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘Father’, for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called ‘Teacher’, for you have one Teacher, the Christ.”

Matthew 23:8-10

Roman Church History

The Roman Church began to create a hierarchy immediately after becoming a legal religion of the Roman Empire in AD 323 after over 200 years of persecution by the government. The men who were accepted by Roman Emperor Constantine soon began to try and concentrate their power over society and over civil government.

By way of a quick history concerning the Roman Church and its origins, let’s look at the following. This information is taken from the author’s book, Killing the Bible.

Pope Damasus, the 1st came to power in Rome during the years AD 366 to 383. At the height of his power in AD 375, he made a treaty with the Emperor Valentinian of Italy and established the papacy in Vatican City. The deal that was struck between them was that while Pope Damasus and his successors ruled the Christian flock, they would support the rulers of Rome and secure their power; in effect, they promised that God would be on their side. The leadership of the church that God had begun and Paul had wept tears over, had been officially taken over by the ‘wolves’. (This

deal-making has been done again and again by Popes in the name of self-preservation. Prior to World War II, Pope Pius XI signed a Concordat with the Nazi government to protect Church interests in Germany. He gave Hitler the legal basis and the Churches blessing to shut down the Catholic Press, Catholic schools, and inter the Catholic Youth into the Hitler Youth movement.)

At that time, the papacy in Rome was in a fight for supremacy with the Eastern Orthodox churches in Constantinople. And the battle turned on the insidiousness of two men; the Pope and a somewhat manic-depressive translator. The Pope hired a linguist named Jerome to translate the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin. As scribe to the pontiff, Jerome was granted all expenses for over 15 years and came up with the translation known as the Latin Vulgate. Notice the name, Vulgate. That means that this translation is not in Classical Latin, but the “vulgar” or “language of the masses” of the people who spoke Latin. This type of translation allowed itself to be skewed in favor of the ruling hierarchy in many critical verses of scripture. It was the Pope’s bible which could be selectively quoted in the language of the people and then interpreted to the favor of the hierarchy. Jerome, by the way, was the person who changed the Hebrew and Greek words for “covenant” into “testament,” as in the Old and New “Testaments.” This one change allowed many heretical beliefs to enter the Roman Church in successive generations. After Jerome’s death, successor scribes under new Popes added to and manipulated the Latin Vulgate to their own liking and needs. It held sway over the illiterate masses of Christians for over a thousand years. And some “ill translations” are still with us today to confuse us during our Bible reading and preaching.

Let’s take several examples of this. In the book of 1st Corinthians, chapter seven, the first verse reads;

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is good for a man **not to marry**. But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each wife her own husband.” The Roman hierarchy has used this verse for centuries to urge men of God not to marry. And homosexuals have used it out of context to use the Bible to their heinous ends.

In the original language (Greek) manuscripts, the verse reads,

“Now for the matters you wrote about: It is **not good for a man to sexually excite a woman**, but since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife and each wife her own husband.”

We see the difference in the wording, which first states that it is good for a man not to marry. Then, the next verses become open to interpretation that men who do marry are somehow second class Christians. The Greek is very plain in the original. The key word used here is “haptomai” meaning “not to sexually excite,” from the root word “haptō” meaning “to ignite.” But the Pope’s reading and interpretation validates, and indeed, elevates the station of unmarried priests which was unknown for the first three centuries of the Church. Of course, we see how this invalid interpretation has not only

strengthened the stranglehold of men dedicated to the hierarchy, but has brought on sins like pedophilia and the protection of priests and bishops who practice it.

A second, and even more insidious, example of false interpretation of scripture is found in the Catholic interpretation of the passage in the book of Matthew in the sixteenth chapter. This is the Petrine Principle of the Catholic Church. Verses 18-19 say,

“And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (NIV)

The original manuscript vernacular was changed by Jerome just slightly. The original 19th verse reads in Greek;

“I will give “petros” (Gr. = “pebbles” from the rock, i.e., “little rocks (“believers” of the church who understand this great truth,” NOT THE APOSTLE PETER AND HIS SUPPOSED HIERARCHICAL PROGENY ,“... the keys of the kingdom of heaven.”

And, also, “whatever **you** bind...” was originally, Gr. = “*whatever **has been bound** on earth...*

And, “whatever **you** loose...” was originally, Gr. = “*whatever **has been loosed** on earth...*”

The change of these tenses to the personal pronoun, **you**, changes the meaning so as to allow the Roman Church to rule by decree of the Pontiff in Rome so as to rule Christianity by whatever he thinks should be God’s will under heaven. Jerome earned his money by “interpreting” these changes for the Pope.

A proof text of the original meaning is found only several chapters later in the speech of Jesus to his disciples about who would be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. In the original Greek, in chapter eighteen, verse eighteen, Jesus is talking to his disciples who asked, “Who is the greatest in the Kingdom?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, whatever you (disciples who have a personal faith in me) bind on earth, will have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth, will have been loosed in heaven. In other words, “under my spiritual leadership, what you as brothers in Christ decide from your personal experience within a given situation is what is Heaven’s choice for earthly judgments.”

By the misinterpretation of Matthew 16, Jerome took the rule of local disciples in a given congregation and gave it completely to the Bishop of Rome (The Pope) and his successors. Brilliant work!, - for the evil one.

(for references, see the appendix under **)

So, by the year AD 375, the subtle work of kidnapping the true church was done and the ecclesiastical hierarchy was established. Never again would society’s Christians look back at the “bad old days” when they were persecuted by Caesar as second class citizens. Pope Damasus the 1st was given the title of ‘Summus Pontifex et Universalis

Papa'; the 'Universal Father' with civil as well as spiritual sanction from Roman Emperor Gratian. (co-emperor of the west with Valentinian, his father) The Nicolaitans now ruled from Rome and the Pope could pursue the quest of making "classes" of Christians and deciding who was in and who was not.

In the centuries to follow, the Latin Bible was revised and edited by the hierarchy in order to strengthen its stranglehold on the people. Even with the Roman revisions, the Bible was seen as too dangerous for the average person to read. Translation into any other language than "the Pope's Latin" was forbidden. To be caught with a Bible, even a Latin one, was grounds for torture and death. It was even hard for some priests to get a copy of the Latin Vulgate translation because many who were on the lower level of the hierarchy were considered too close to the people and might let the Bible be read and copied through dereliction of duty.

By the seventh century, the "official church" had gone over to the religious bureaucrats who made it their calling to keep the bureaucracy alive at all costs. In the year 600, Pope Gregory the Great officially created the doctrine of the primacy of the papal office. He appointed papal governors of major cities in southern Europe who were responsible to the Pope for providing munitions of war, instruction to generals of the army and sending ambassadors to the Kings of various countries. He wanted civil control of Europe and he took it.

Gregory was the first to initiate, over 500 years after Christ and the apostles, the Lord's supper as becoming the actual body and blood of Jesus as the priest prays over it. This is called transubstantiation and was never known until that time. Why did the Pope do such a thing? Because there were groups of Christians who were meeting without a priest to preside over them. The Pope classified these groups as non-Christian if they didn't have one of his official priests there. The Pope declared that only a real priest who was a representative of Roman Papacy could actually turn the bread and wine into Christ's body and blood. And, he, of course, would report obedience to or rebellion from Roman authority as well as take up a collection for the Pontiff.

Gregory also put in place the idea of praying to saints. Once again, an official priest only could offer congregants an official icon of a saint,- for a price. Finally, the Pope also began the teaching that there is a purgatory. One could pay for the privilege of staying out of purgatory on the way to heaven and/or pay for a relative to get out of purgatory early. Gregory's pontificate saw the development of the concepts of penance that became institutionalized in the later church; that the purifying penance the soul would go through in purgatory could be begun in this lifetime through good works and obedience to the church's idea of Christian conduct; thus making the travails of purgatory lighter and shorter.

All of these things were non-scriptural, unbiblical and unknown until The Great Administrator Pope Gregory the Great took control of the "church." There would be no looking back. Successor Popes added to these ridiculous and sinful ideas until the church was no longer recognized as one of Jesus Christ.

Here are a few examples of what happens when men "take over for God:"

AD 325 - Council of Nicea: decreed that after ordination a priest could not marry. However, those married could remain wed, but must no longer have sexual relations.

AD 567 - Second Council of Tours: The body of leaders decreed that any priest having sexual relations with their wives be excommunicated for one year. However, so many were excommunicated that the Council later amended the decree to excommunicate priest's wives completely; so their husbands would leave them.

AD 590-604 - Pope Gregory "the Great" said that all sexual desire is sinful in itself (meaning that sexual desire is intrinsically evil).

AD 1074 - Pope Gregory VII said anyone to be ordained must first pledge celibacy: "priests [must] first escape from the clutches of their wives."

AD 1095 - Pope Urban II had priests' wives sold into slavery, children were abandoned.

In fact, it was not until the Second Lateran Council of 1139 that the first actual written law came about which made the holy orders incompatible with marriage for the Catholic Church. It has had untold disastrous consequences. For example, in 2011, the Archbishop of Vienna said "...priestly celibacy could be one of the causes of the sex abuse scandals to hit the Catholic church." (You don't say!)

Jesus told His Church not to call anyone Rabbi (Master), Father, or Teacher, as this would make us susceptible to exactly what has happened to followers of the Roman Church to this day; become the victims of men dedicated to selfishness, ambition and greed; without the counsel of our better-halves to keep us humble and steady. We must mention that there are some wonderful, dedicated to Christ, priests. However, they are caught in the maze of the hierarchy and are victims of the church.

Mariology

One of the other ways Roman Catholics believe they come close to God is to pray through Mary. This worship of Mary is called, by the Catholic Church, Mariology; as in Theology, the study of God. They believe that Mary, being the "mother of God," is alive in heaven and sits in counsel with the Trinity. This belief makes it a Tetrarchy. And she is able to convince Jesus and God to bless people and answer special prayers. Mariology is heresy as far as the Bible and the evangelical church is concerned.

As recently as 1988, Pope John Paul II wrote in a letter to Catholic priests,

"A link with the mother of God is fundamental for Christian thinking."

And

"Jesus Christ is the only son of "Mary most holy."

The Bible tells us clearly that Mary was the physical mother of Jesus. Jesus is part of the Trinity, who, while part of the Trinity, was not the same as the entire Godhead. His was the function of the Son of God and the Savior of Mankind. Mary was fully

human and non-God. So, it is biblical heresy to call Mary the Mother of God. Why? Because not only is it a theological stretch, but it leads to other fallacies represented by the second quote above. The Bible clearly teaches that Mary had other children. But, in the Pope's eyes, Mary could not be the Mother of God and perfect if she had sexual relations with Joseph after Jesus' birth and had other children. Catholics have to deny multiple passages of New Testament scripture in order to keep Mary, the Mother of God most holy and totally virgin throughout her life. It's like telling a lie. Once you tell one, you have to keep inventing others in order to support the first lie.

Pope John Paul II also wrote in another letter to women of the church;

“Through obedience to the Word of God, she (Mary) accepted her lofty yet not easy vocation as wife and mother in the family of Nazareth. Putting herself at God's service, she also put herself at the service of others: a service of love. Precisely through this service Mary was able to experience in her life a mysterious, but authentic “reign.” It is not by chance that she is invoked as “Queen of heaven and earth.” The entire community of believers thus invokes her, many nations and peoples call upon her as their “Queen.””

“In fact, there is present in the “womanhood” of a woman who believes, and especially in a woman who is “consecrated,” a kind of inherent “prophecy”, a powerfully evocative symbolism, a highly significant “iconic character,” which finds its full realization in Mary and which also aptly expresses the very essence of the Church as a community consecrated with the integrity of a “virgin” heart to become the “bride” of Christ and “mother” of believers. When we consider the “iconic” complementarity of male and female roles, two of the Church's essential dimensions are seen in a clearer light: the “Marian” principle and the Apostolic Petrine principle.” (Note: words in quotation are the Pope's quotation marks)

In this quote, the so-called pontiff heralds the “Marian” principle, which is the man-made idea that Mary is the mother of God and the mother of all women, thus separating them from men believers as a class. In fact, he also offers his infallible opinion that there are higher classes of women: Martyrs, Saints and Famous Mystics. So, we have five classes of Christian women; Believers, The Consecrated (nuns), Martyrs, Sainian and Mystics. These are in levels of accomplishment that the church recognizes, so that simple Believer Women think of themselves on the lower rung of the theological ladder and must work toward the higher levels. This teaching has the effect of keeping women in their “place” and so busy trying to reach a higher level within the woman classes that they have no time or energy to confront the men who run their lives and their church. So, they try to get their just dues in subversive ways, all the while praying to Mary to help them.

(In the Catholic theology of the Petrine principle, we see another great heresy that keeps the Pope in power. This will be explained more fully in just a few pages.)

Finally, listen to the words Pope John Paul II uses as the ending of most of his prayers:

“May the Blessed Virgin help men and women in our time clearly understand God’s plan for femininity. Called to the highest vocation of divine motherhood, Our Lady is the exemplary woman who developed her authentic subjectivity to the full. May Mary obtain for women throughout the world an enlightened and active awareness of their dignity, gifts and mission.”

The Pope opines that Mary can obtain for women enlightenment and awareness. From where would Mary “obtain” this except through being a mediator for them to God? The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus is the only mediator with the Father. Surely Mary is in heaven with the Father and Jesus today, however, she is no mediator, no active helper of Christians as they endeavor to live a Godly life.

The Bible teaches us that Mary was as fallen and as “depraved” as any one of the rest of us. Scripture clearly teaches that even Mary believed this. In the Gospel of Luke, the first chapter, Mary’s Song is recorded. This is the song that she sings in praise to God for giving her the opportunity to birth the Messiah. In it, Mary states that she is a lowly and humble servant of God. She begins her praise by saying;

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

If Mary is the mother of God and she is so holy and to be worshipped along with Jesus, why would she need a Savior? If she was “saved by God” through His favor, why do we need a Messiah to save us? We can just be good like Mary and God will come to us and we will become the mother or father of Messiah’s too. See the crafty way religionists can come up with denial systems to prove we are not in a state of depravity?

Christian theologian Karl Barth had something to say about the seriousness of Mariology.

“The dogma about Mary is nothing more and nothing less than the critical central dogma of the Roman Catholic Church. It is the dogma in terms of which all her decisive positions must be regarded and with which they either stand or fall. Here we see the heresy of Rome through which all her other heresies become transparent. Mary has become for Rome the principle, the primal image, the sum of the human creature who in his redemption serves co-operatively on the ground or prevenient grace, as she is also the principle, the primal image and sum of the Church.”¹⁰

This belief in Mariology also spawns other biblical fallacies such as Angel worship. The Bible makes it plain that Christ alone, not rulers and authorities, nor angels, is to be worshipped. Back in the first century, some people in Colossae were saying that the worship of Angels was part of the way up to God. In Colossians 2:18, the Apostle Paul says, “No.” In effect, he says, “These angels that some think are so great – the good ones and the evil ones – were created by Christ and for Christ. Don’t worship them. Worship the one who made them.”

Many Catholics will say that they do not worship Mary or Angels or saints but that they pray to them as mediators between themselves and God. In his first letter to

Timothy, Paul says, “There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

Anyone who doubts that Roman Catholicism is a works-based religion should read a list of the Saints to be offered bribes in order to get favors from God in heaven. They should talk to devout Catholics and see if it is acceptable for them to miss mass and not give an offering to the priests or buy a candle to pray over. The Roman Catholic Church is the richest religious organization in the world today and it did not get that way by allowing followers to only worship and go away. Catholic hierarchy has taken fleecing the flock to an art form for more than a thousand years.

In the year 1316, a tariff was established by Pope John the twenty-second and continued for over 200 years. For a fee, one could be forgiven by the church.

Among the taxes paid to the church;

- For perjury, forgery and lying, two dollars each offence
- For killing a layman, one dollar and seventy-five cents
- For striking a priest, two dollars and seventy-five cents
- For a priest to keep a concubine, two dollars and twenty cents
- For ravishing a virgin, two dollars
- For marrying on a forbidden day, ten dollars
- Adultery committed by a priest with nuns, ten dollars.

During these years, over 100,000 prostitutes were in the employ of the church, since Augustine (chief theologian to the Pope) proclaimed, in effect, that prostitution was a “necessary evil”.

Artifacts supposedly belonging to Jesus and/or the original Apostles were strategically positioned and enshrined for the purpose of drawing lay people to them and charging exorbitant prices to pray to them. (Many of these are still in use today and many others have been invented since. In the country of Mexico, there are hundreds of new icons to pray to, just to give an example. A final, most ridiculous, example is that there is a Saint Fiacre, whose feast day is September 1st in the Roman Catholic Church. He is the patron saint of hemorrhoids. Today, his shrine is in the Cathedral at Meaux in France. Thousands travel there, with painful hemorrhoids, to give money and pray for healing.)

Indulgences (forgiveness documents sold by the Pope) were granted for crimes ranging from adultery to murder,- and the State was powerless to prosecute if the indulgence was produced by the criminal upon attempt at arrest.

Popes Julius and Leo declared holy wars to justify the mass slaughter of Jews in order to steal their money to finance the building of the Vatican. It was expedient and they were expedited to the grave.

In Europe, over 100,000 Christians were burned at the stake and over 500,000 were put into prison for disobeying the Pope and his minions, though the civil laws of their lands were not broken; only the Pope’s religious decrees.

As we have stated, in the year 600, Pope Gregory the Great officially created the doctrine of the primacy of the papal office. He appointed papal governors of major cities in southern Europe who were responsible to the Pope for providing munitions of war, instruction to generals of the army and sending ambassadors to the Kings of various countries. He wanted civil control of Europe and he took it.

Other decrees of Gregory: “The Big 7” ALL created with no biblical basis but a Pope’s decree, (Tradition) and, over 500 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Decrees of Gregory: “The Big 7”

1. Mariology
2. transubstantiation
3. praying to icons of saints
4. purgatory
5. penance
6. sacred artifacts (official)
7. indulgences (forgiveness for cash)

Even today, the Pope helps to send people to hell by insinuating that the family of man is saved without recognizing its total depravity and salvation in Jesus Christ. Read closely again to the words Pope John Paul II:

“For the family of God includes everyone: not just those who through baptism become God’s adopted children, but in a certain sense all mankind, since Christ has redeemed all men and all women and offered them the possibility of becoming adopted sons and daughters of the eternal Father. Thus have all become brothers and sisters in Christ.”

Such equivocal and leading language intended to sooth the pride of stubborn souls against grace for our depravity caused by the fall is the stuff of evil and the language of the devil, not the “Head of the Church.” What the Bible actually says about mankind seems irrelevant to the Papacy. The analogy is given that religious life is like a stage play. The script is the scriptures. The Catholic Church is the director and can interpret the script as they will. The actors are the Church members and if they cooperate in interpreting the play from their own vantage point, they all win by having done a great play. Down to the 1990s, theologians of the Roman Church still write that the book of Genesis is mostly a myth.

Listen to a respected Priest and Catholic theologian, William J. O’Malley:

“The second story in the book of Genesis is also a myth, a story that never occurred historically but that still tells a truth. The author of Genesis, who lived about the same time as Aesop, surely didn’t expect his audience

to believe that at one time snakes actually talked to naked ladies in the park, any more than Aesop's audience believed a turtle and rabbit actually decided one day to have a race."

And

"To say, with the simplicist, that (these Bible stories) actually did occur historically is to say that at one time beans actually did sprout into stalks that went "right up to the sky."

And

"The gospels did not begin to be written until a generation after Jesus' death, and each by a person or group who did not have direct contact with Jesus... How could those later authors be sure of the authenticity of their work? How could they be sure their personal viewpoints didn't skew what they were documenting?"¹¹

Of course, informed scholars and theologians have known for many years that the gospels were written within the lifetimes of the apostles whose names they hold. The Magdalene Papyri, The Barcelona Papyri, the Oxyrhynchus Papyri and the Beatty Papyri, among others, have proven that the original gospels were written between AD50 and 90; well within the lifetimes of the men who followed Jesus Christ in the flesh. (The Apostle John was a teen-ager when following Christ. He wrote the last of the gospels in about AD 90-95, which would have made him about 80-85 years old when writing his gospel. Long life yes, but not unheard of in the 1st century.)

For more information on this, and conclusive proof, please see the author's work, *The Light of Truth*, available at www.killingthebible.com

Here is the bottom line for Roman Catholicism. The ripple of the lies they began in the late 3rd to the 6th centuries became the wave of official religious sins during the 7th through the 13th centuries, and the disastrous flood was let loose which has since wiped true Christianity off their religious map. They cannot go back to truth without admitting that their entire religious life is a scam of works for men to accomplish in order to enrich the church in the name of God to no salvific effect.

Here is a final quote from our Roman Catholic Priest and Theologian, William J. O'Malley:

"The history of the Roman Church shows a kind of unnatural life, nearly miraculous, working in what so often should have been a corpse. It should have died in the Roman arenas. It should have died in the barbarian invasions, in the Arian heresy, in the split between East and West, in the Islamic conquest of half of the known world, in the turbulence of the Reformation... from the corruption and stupidity of the Inquisition, the Crusades, the witch hunts, the moral depravity of its leaders...but the old chaste whore didn't."

(From the book, Why be Catholic?, underline above mine)

Much more about this can be found in the author's book Killing the Bible.
The web address for more information is
www.killingthebible.com

THE PROTESTANT EFFECT COMING

We're going to address the Protestants next, but before we do, we must realize that they are closest to being in the position of true Christianity. The one authority in most churches called Protestant, is the Bible. The ruling principle is equality of all members. This is called the "Priesthood of the Believer." Honest Protestants point to the story of Jesus' encounter with the "religious" Nicodemus in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. Nicodemus is the religious "believer in God" who has been convicted in his heart by the Holy Spirit of God and comes to Jesus in secrecy. Nick was typical of all of us who are caught in the human condition and seeking more religion to get us out and up. You might say that he was, Mr.-got-it-all-together-while-falling-apart.

Jesus tells him that he may be able to do everything else in his life by his own efforts, but he can't earn his soul, he can't earn spirituality. In effect, Jesus says, "Nicodemus, it isn't about earning, it is about receiving. It is about trusting. I know you're good, but salvation is not about what you can do. It is about what you receive. You being born, in the first place, is a gift from God. And, your being born again is from God."

Nicodemus questions Jesus about being born again (of spirit) because he is a religious man and he doesn't like to think of salvation coming from outside of ourselves, from above; just being given to us. His accomplishments and skills are all about doing. He's unskilled at trusting. Unfortunately, two-thousand years of Christianity have not been able to get this simple point across to many of us fallen and depraved men. The New Testament implies that Nicodemus finally "got it," as he, the Bible tells us, was with Joseph of Arimathea when collecting and burying the body of Jesus. But many religionists never do catch the clue-bus; they never do "**get** grace."

“Even so then at this present time also, there is a remnant according to the selection of grace. And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.”
Romans 11:5-6 NIV

C H A P T E R S I X

THE PROTESTANT EFFECT

PROTESTANTISM

The term Protestant comes from the fact that Martin Luther protested against the total depravity that the Roman Catholic Church had become, in his day of the early 1500s. Luther was an Augustinian Monk who never wanted to break away from the Church, but reading the Bible and believing what it said, forced him into it. He insisted that the power-mongering interpretations and rulings of the Popes were anathema to the true church of Jesus Christ.

At approximately the same time, other protesting sects arose in Great Britain and Europe. John Calvin (1509-64), was a French convert to Lutheranism, who was chased out of France by the Roman Catholics, into Switzerland. In our opinion, Calvin was correct in his writings about the Bible and the Total Depravity of Mankind. However, he went too far in fighting the Catholics. He set up a theocratic government to fight fire with fire. And fight Protestants did. Within forty years of Luther's nailing of the 95 Thesis to the Wittenburg Church door, Protestants controlled the Western World except for Spain, Italy, Southern Germany and pockets of land in Latin America.

Today, much of Protestantism has been invaded by power-hungry elite leadership, ignorant of Total Depravity, in many congregations. Many denominations are led by those who would make the Christian Protestant movement one of works. The devil is no discriminator. He leaves no one on earth alone, except those totally given over to him. (No need to bother them,- for now.)

Denominations

A denomination is a group of people who are “denominated” or “known by” certain ways in which they practice their faith. Sometimes they are called “mainline religions.” Today, we have protestant Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Churches of Christ, Assemblies of God, and many more. All these are what might be called protestant because the beginners of the denominations “protested” against what they saw as heresy in the Roman Catholic Church, or a parent denomination. However, even many of them have fallen for the same tricks of the evil one in the denial of our total depravity and/or developing a works based religious practice.

Martin Luther, the original “protester,” when later questioned by a follower and fellow preacher about the Lutheran Church continuing to follow certain liturgies and

practices of the Catholic Church, i.e., infant baptism and confession, is quoted to have said in reply, "Remember, the Catholic Church may be a prostitute, but she is still our mother."

The venerated founder of Methodism, John Wesley, saw that his followers had a tendency to "be independent," listening to the sound of their own drummer, and developed The Discipleship Manual, which was a works based rulebook for Methodists. The "method" was to be followed in order for the "work" to be right for God. The Wesleyan movement stressed personal religious experience and "priesthood of the believer." However, from the beginning, the work of repentance for the purposes of social reform and social justice received preeminence.

Richard Heitzenrater, biographer of John Wesley and the Methodist movement relates Wesley's basic attitude of compromise in the name of social justice.

"Wesley sought to bridge the French Catholic mystics, the German Lutherans, the English Calvinists, the American Revivalists and the Scottish Evangelicals... (For a) holistic concern for the well-being of God's creatures- mind, body, and soul. The Wesleyan heritage takes its vital energy from the dynamic imagery of the spiritual pilgrimage. The story of a people struggling together to understand God and themselves as they move from birth to death, from new birth to eternal life, from fear to joy, from doubt to confidence."¹²

Wesley was a man of God who was dedicated to Jesus Christ, however, the times and the culture he grew-up within harbored great injustices like, class warfare, slavery, child labor and the like. He was terribly troubled by the inconsistencies of these practices with the precepts of Christianity. Wesley was right, -however, as his bureaucracy of Methodism grew, he and his inner circle tried to help God, too much. In order to establish social justice, his successive followers came to something of the philosophy of Reinhold Niebuhr, who said; "Inherited dogmas and generalizations will not be accepted no matter how revered or venerable if they do not contribute to the establishment of justice in a given situation." Today's United Methodist Church has thrown off many of the foundational "shackles" of true Christianity in the name of helping God to bring social justice. They acknowledge that there is only one God, but they keep applying for His position. They forget that the lessons of history under God's sovereignty tell us that all things are created and permitted by Him for the glory of Christ, - sometimes even social injustices.

Even our Presbyterian brothers and sisters are often caught up in the "old ways of works." Their hierarchy still insists on infant baptism wherein parents bring their most precious possession to symbolically "sacrifice" it to God. This is, of course, a relic to the Old Testament and not the New, wherein animal sacrifice was offered to God. The animal never had a choice. He was "artifice" an unwilling symbol of another's devotion to God. The only true sacrifice in the world was Jesus Christ on the cross willingly giving his life for others. So, the only true baptism is wherein one willingly gives himself to God and symbolizes it through baptism.

Some in the Presbyterian fellowship believe that all men are chosen to be in God's

family. It is true that all are sought by God, but it is equally true that many do not choose to be with Him. Here is a quote by one of their clergy.

“The Lord’s Supper is really not remembering the last supper; rather, it is the joyful feast of the people of God who are caught up in anticipation of the future, a future in which God’s long arms will one day be able to reach all the way around the world and bring everyone together so that all are included, each and every one, and so that none will be left out.”

This is mercy run amuck against the scriptural foundations of the ages wherein God defines himself as merciful and judging in that order, but not in unequal parts. Exodus 34: 5-7a says:

“Then, the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him (Moses) and proclaimed his name, the Lord. And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished...”

The Book of Hebrews tells us:

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

Through the Bible, God is repeatedly described as 1st, the God of mercy, but not second and also 1st, the God of Justice. Sometimes, we religious leaders find it seemingly harsh to mention the other side of the “God coin,” justice for sin.

The list of the religious working toward God goes on and on, but the point is made. We find it hard to follow the simple grace message of the Bible and stipulate its precepts, and so, our leaders decide that they must get us in line by adding works to our faith.

The above men of God we have been talking about were brilliant men. However, Jesus taught that intellectual superiority is not a requirement for spiritual maturity. Sometimes we fall into a state of worshipping our own minds and stagnating in our ways. This mental focus forms an insecure religion. Often, liberal fundamentalists in our denominations are outwardly motivated to change the world, but secretly despairing and making rules because they feel it is up to them to accomplish it. Jesus wanted religion to be a vehicle through which we receive God’s help in our lives, not a vehicle through which to help God.

Some protestant leaders say that, in order to be all one can be, followers must speak in tongues, give more to the church (of which they are the leaders), and do all sorts of actions in order to be right with God. These too are meaningless gestures designed by religious “priests” to get more funds into their pockets in God’s name, or they are birthed by ignorance of the Word of God.

One of the most popular “evangelical” religionist practices is to focus on “being a

Spirit-filled Christian.” This is code for being a “first-class Christian” as opposed to those run-of-the-mill, everyday Christians who have not worked their way to the top of Christianity through doing the things that show that one is Spirit-filled. Might as well be a Hindu, Buddhist, Catholic or Islamist. The Bible clearly teaches that ALL Christians are Spirit-filled at the time of salvation. The only distinction in this arena that the Bible addresses is one of appropriating the power of the Spirit already in us at salvation as we serve others and lose our self-pride.

I'd like to explain through an excerpt from the author's work, The Zion King.

“We must realize that it is His work in us; not our work. He works to sanctify us. We cooperate. Let me say that again. The highest type of Christianity that each of us can attain is to operate in the will of the Holy Spirit and it is His work.”

This is where many people begin to go wrong in speaking and teaching about the work of the Holy Spirit. They point to 2nd Corinthians 13:14 where Paul speaks a benediction over the saints; “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen.”

The word communion here is the same Greek word used in the first century marriage contract. It means, “to enter into a joint-participation in the necessities of life.” Some Bibles translate it as “fellowship” instead of communion. This is where some misunderstanding can take place. There is danger in thinking that the “fellowship” of the Holy Spirit means companionship with the Spirit. Though the Greek word in this passage is one of joint participation, the context of our lives in the Spirit should be considered within all of the New Testament references and not in one passage. Of course, all Christians seek to be near to the Holy Spirit, but to seek His fullness for His sake alone is to leave sound Bible doctrine. This thought pattern opens us to the snares of Satan and the control of his evil spirits.

In his landmark work, Word Studies In The Greek New Testament, Kenneth Wuest says,

“There is no such thing in Scripture as the believer's fellowship or companionship with the Spirit comparable to the believer's fellowship with the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to glorify the Son, and in doing that He always calls the believer's attention to the Lord Jesus, never to Himself. He keeps Himself in the background. The Lord Jesus must always be central in the life of the saint. He is the One with whom we have fellowship in the commonly accepted usage of the word today.”

The Holy Spirit makes this possible. Sir Robert Anderson's words are to the point here: “In proportion therefore as mind and heart are fixed on Christ, we may count on the Spirit's presence and power, but if we make the Holy Ghost Himself the object of our aspirations and worship, some false spirit may counterfeit the true and take us for prey.” (vol. 3, p. 101-102)

As saints of God, our job is to, moment by moment, be dependent upon the Holy Spirit for guidance, strength, and ministry in putting sin out of our lives and keeping it

out; of radiating the love of the Lord Jesus through our every word, thought and deed.

But, to be “filled with the Spirit” should not be interpreted as though the heart of the Christian is a receptacle, like a bottle, that should be emptied so that the Holy Spirit may fill it. The Holy Spirit is not a substance to fill emptiness, He is a Person to control another person, the believer. He does not “fill” a Christian’s life with Himself. Rather, He controls that person. When we speak of a Christian “filled with the Spirit,” we are referring to the control which a divine Person, the Holy Spirit, has over a human being, the believer, as that believer seeks to emulate Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul tells us to; “be filled with the Spirit.” Proper Greek translation of this verse is to be “controlled by” the Spirit. Once again Wuest comes to our aid when he says, about the Spirit in us, “The Holy Spirit’s ministry in the ‘premises’ is to maintain in the actual experience of the Christian, that which God did for him the moment He saved him. The Holy Spirit suppresses the activities of the evil nature whose power was broken, and produces His fruit in the life. The control which the Spirit exerts over the believer is dependent upon the believer’s active and correct adjustment to the Spirit... Our Lord in John 7:37, 38 lays down two simple requirements for the fullness of the Spirit, a thirst for His control and a trust in the Lord Jesus for the Spirit’s control.”¹³

The Holy Spirit does not work automatically in our lives, we must thirst for His control and then trust his control. The opposite side of that “fullness” coin is that neither do we “do things” that cause Him to fill us other than those things; no amount of speaking in tongues, or any other “works” by us cause His work to be done. There is no scripture for the practice of asking for the fullness of the Spirit for one’s self.

Some may point to the verse in Luke, chapter eleven, where Jesus says to his disciples,

“How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?”

We must realize that Jesus invited the disciples to ask for the Person of the Spirit, not His fullness. If a Christian asks with thirst and trusts in Jesus to send the Comforter and at the same time yields his whole life to the Spirit’s control, he gets it. But if a saint asks for the Spirit and retains an unyielded life, he doesn’t get the fullness of the Spirit. It can’t be done. To what is the life “yielded?” To the teachings and commands of Jesus in Holy Scripture.

We might also be predisposed to quote Acts 19:2, “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?” Some imply that this means until a child of God has come to a certain stage in his Christian experience, the Holy Spirit does not come to abide with him. However, the correct rendering of this verse, according to Greek scholars, is; “Did you receive the Spirit when you believed?” (correctly translated in the NIV) Paul was surprised at the absence of spirituality in the believers he was writing to because it appeared that they acted under the law and not under the indwelling of grace. It is clear that we Christians can’t use this verse to justify our “class warfare” against our fellow believers.

Some may also imply that a Christian is not as mature or that they may be a “second-class Christian” because they do not speak in tongues. Acts 2:4, 10:46 and 19:6 are often quoted about speaking in tongues. But let’s be careful to notice that these were mentions based on the actual culturally existent languages of the individuals mentioned in Acts 2:8-11 and that speaking in those “unknown” tongues in Acts 10:46 was evidence for that time given to the Jews to prove that the Gentiles had also been given the gift of receiving the Spirit. And, Acts 19:6 has to do with a special case where Jews came into salvation under the Old Testament dispensation of law and now were receiving the addition of the Age of Grace. All these are cases which cannot occur today, nor need they.

Finally, one may quote Acts 8:17 and 19:6 about the laying on of hands for receiving the Spirit. However, we must remember that the laying on of hands in the Bible always signifies identification with something which already exists. So, laying-on of hands is not necessary for reception of the Spirit. It is an indication that the Spirit is in residence. At any rate, “hands” were not laid on in the scenarios of Acts 2:4, Acts 4:31, Acts 10:44 nor 1st Corinthians 12:14, but the Spirit filled the participants just the same. There is a difference between the “filling” of the Spirit and the power of the Spirit.

In practical application, for the “fullness of the Spirit” we must desire it and simply make a positive action. The “power of the Spirit” is revealed in that, when we are confronted with a temptation, we don’t just rest in the Holy Spirit. We, of our own free will, cast it away. We say “no” to it. When we do, in that instant, the Holy Spirit gives us energizing power to overcome. So, this is a true cooperation. The Spirit in us aids us with wisdom to say no and not be overcome by the temptation, we say “no” to it, then He comes and energizes us to go in the right direction. This is the miracle of the free will of man and the sovereign grace of God in action together, just as it is when He prompts us as to our depravity in sin and Jesus saves us from that sin.

This is the process and possession that Simon, the Sorcerer did not have in the story related by Dr. Luke in Acts, chapter eight. This Simon “believed”, but not in the salvation work of Jesus, just in the power of His Name. Therefore, (verse 16) NONE of the baptized who followed like him had received the Holy Spirit. This is the reason that the Apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria to follow-up on what was being represented as Christianity. They found that their suspicions were correct. Peter and John prayed for these people, “that they might receive the Holy Spirit” through Jesus Christ’s shed blood for salvation AND THEN laid hands on them so that they received the power of the Holy Spirit.

The bottom line is that “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” happens only once, at the moment of conversion. It is true that all believers have it. It cannot be undone. And, there is no prerequisite except faith in Jesus Christ.

“However, the power of the “filling of the Spirit” can be a repeated experience. It is not necessarily experienced by all Christians on a regular basis, nor has it to be in order for salvation. The power of the filling can be lost, but regained upon maturity and obedience throughout the Christian life.

It solely depends on yieldedness. On occasion of one claiming a new filling of the Spirit, a listener could correctly ask those who say that they have been “filled with the Spirit,” so, “What backsliding caused you to lose the power of the filling?”¹⁴

“If filling relates to the control of the Spirit in one’s life, then filling is related to yieldedness. When I am willing to allow the Spirit to do what He wishes, it is up to Him to do or not to do with me whatever is His pleasure. I can check my willingness, but I cannot manipulate His activities.”¹⁵

In EVERY biblical reference to the “filling of the Spirit,” the filling is a sovereign act of God and not based on imposing conditions on or the work of the one being filled.

We could spend hour upon hour explaining these truths. However, the bottom line is that there are no second-class Christians who are not able, in an instant, to be “filled with the Spirit.” Anyone who thinks differently should consult his Bible.”¹⁶

Author and Pastor Max Lucado gives us a great word-picture of our relationship with the Holy Spirit in his book, *Just Like Jesus*. He says;

“Your heart is a fertile greenhouse ready to produce good fruit. Your mind is the doorway to your heart – the strategic place where you determine which seeds are sown and which seeds are discarded. The Holy Spirit is ready to help you manage and filter the thoughts that try to enter. He can help you guard your heart. He stands with you on the threshold. A thought approaches, a questionable thought. Do you throw open the door and let it enter? Of course not. You “fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5 Phillips). You don’t leave the door unguarded. You stand equipped with handcuffs and leg irons, ready to capture any thought not fit to enter.”

This is the beauty of our Lord’s Gospel. Every Christian has his own greenhouse heart and mind with the greatest “Gardener” the world has ever known inside. Our job is to work our greenhouse while being counseled by the Gardener and watch the door so that “bad seeds” don’t get through our door. This is not the work of super-saints. It is the simple, but sometimes hard, often confronting, work of all Christians. If someone supposedly in authority makes it harder than this, keep a close eye on him or her. They may be the “friend” who brings you a discount box of bad seeds to sow.

The Bottom Line On “Holiness”

The religion of Jesus was intended to connect us to God AND each other. There is no getting ahead or rising above the others; there are only deeper connections with them. We are to worship God and respect each other. On the spiritual plane we are all one.

This “filling of the Spirit” subject is but one of a litany of so-called Protestant beliefs that are but another attempt by mankind to deny our depravity or to accept it and “work” so that God will take it away. Impossible! But many so-called preachers of the Word have made and are making ill-gotten gain from ignorance based teaching. There

is a millstone tied around their necks for this.

Some people just love to worship themselves worshipping and love to believe in their believing. (Believers who like to be referred to as believers can sometimes get caught-up in believing in their believing. I prefer the term, “The Baptized” because we are those who walk under the name of Another, Jesus Christ.) Real Christians being transformed into the life of Christ cease pretending that we will ever be anything but real, authentic, skilled sinners – who are forgiven! We believe that there is more mercy in God than sin in us.

There are a lot of Christians today who fall into the same traps of “works” that the Puritans and Pietists fell into. They talked about believing in salvation by grace alone but doubted that their gratitude to God would be enough without working a little for it. Their motives were right, because they wanted to call Christians back to strong moral values. But they went wrong when placing upon their fellow Christians a “worthy of grace” mentality. That is where we always take a wrong turn. As one preacher put it, “This is where grace becomes house-trained.” We use our religion to make ourselves feel better, just as addicts use drugs. In both instances painful feelings are hidden behind our “use-actions;” in this case, tangible rules and rituals. In the case of religious idolatry, rules and rituals become the “drug” that gives people the illusion that they are better off spiritually than they really are. Dangerous! And totally unnecessary!

The Bible teaches that none of us is ever worthy, but that the issue is not our worthiness, but how awesome God’s grace is in Jesus Christ. This is freedom of religion and freedom from religion. The true, Christian religion is based on gratitude to God and not on self-deceiving motives of guilt or fear. Any other sort of activity is a game, and religionists are skilled gamesmen.

“The “until death do us part” job of every Christian is to expend oneself in service to others by the methods and in the name of Jesus Christ as we know him from the Bible.”
—W. Michael McCormack (from the book, *Killing the Bible*)

CHAPTER SEVEN

WHERE ARE WE?

THE GREAT DIFFERENCE

So, one might ask, are all religions alike? Is the Christian faith really different at all?

- Christianity is not unique in its belief in miracles. Many faiths do that.
- Christianity is not unique in its great teachings. Judaism and others have been famous for that before Jesus, and after.

So, what is unique and different about true Christianity from all other religions on earth? It is the New Testament teaching that God is the one who seeks us and finds us. God is the One who is trying to get close to us before we seek Him because He is love and He knows we are fallen away from Him into depravity. The Gospel, “the good news,” is that God comes for us. We do not get ourselves close to God. God moves toward us. However, we won’t be saved unless we acknowledge our FALL. Why would we, if we are good enough to work our way to eternal life?

In the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus, having heard the Judaic believers whispering about how un-godlike he was behaving, taught them three parables about who God truly was. They are the parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and the Lost Son. The same message is given in all three parables; that God takes the initiative. That was scandalous teaching and the “righteous believer Jews” were upset. They preached that we have to get close to God before God can get close to us. They said that the believers had to act right first. But Jesus said, over and over, that the unique message of the Christian faith is that God has found you through His Love that is like a;

- Hard-working Shepherd,
- A devoted Wife and a,
- Loving Father.

A. You don’t have to find yourself. All you have to do is to trust the hard-to-believe good news that you can be a child of God because of Who He is.

B. True Christianity breaks the shackles of religion that call on any works

for closeness to God, salvation by God or “help” of God and rejoices in the free gift of grace to bring us home as adopted sons and daughters through belief in Jesus Christ and THEN,

C. We work in gratitude to God so that others in their depravity may be convicted by the Holy Spirit and also choose Him.

We’re Mad As Heaven And We’re Not Gonna Take It Anymore!

Have you ever heard the saying, “We’re mad as _ _ _ _ and we’re not gonna take it anymore?”

Bible-believing Christians should be as mad as heaven and not take the badgering of the world or the religionists anymore. We should declare our freedom in Christ. If we do not, we are in danger of God’s anger, just as those who deny it.

Have we ever thought that God could be angry? Does God get angry? Amazingly, the first mention in scripture of God being angry is about a conversation He personally had with one of His favorite people, Moses. The Book of Exodus is remarkable in many ways. However, probably the most remarkable is that its author (Moses) does not sugar-coat his own faults. He tells us over and over how flawed he was. During his calling to deliver God’s people, Israel, out of Egyptian bondage, Moses argues with God.

Keep in mind the set-up of the story when God has shown up and talked to Moses from a “burning bush.” God identifies Himself as the God of the Universe and the God of Moses’ fathers. Moses gives excuses to God not once, but three times! God gives him miraculous signs. First, the burning bush. Second, Moses staff turning into a snake and back again. Third, Moses’ own hand becoming leprous and healthy again. Then, after all that, in the fourth chapter, the tenth through the fourteenth verses, here’s the conversation;

“Moses said to the Lord, “Oh Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue.” The Lord said to him, “Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Go now; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say.” But Moses said, “Oh Lord, please send someone else to do it.” Then the Lord’s anger burned against Moses...”

Exodus 4:10-14a NIV

In the Bible, the first mention of something defines the subject’s meaning and importance to God. This is the first time God’s anger is mentioned. He is never mentioned as “angry” with Adam and Eve, nor Cain. He is not mentioned as ever being angry with Seth, Noah, Abraham, Issac, Jacob or Joseph, though they all failed Him and, most, even argued with Him.

Why is this “first mention” so important? It means that God’s anger is kindled by

our lack of faith in His power. When we lack this faith it means that we, individual Christians, doubt that He can use us because we fear our weakness.

Numbers 11:1 is the second mention of God's anger. – His people complained in the desert after all his guidance and goodness.

Numbers 12:9 is the third mention of God's anger. – His leaders (Aaron and Miriam) complained about Moses and sought to undermine him.

God is angry with men on over 200 occasions in the Bible. Most of them have to do with the fact that his people and their leaders never seem to get it. No matter how God blesses us, we soon forget about his desire to be close to us through righteous fellowship and selflessness and we revert to selfishness and fear. This is the evil of other religions rather than true biblical Christianity; they encourage us to try to be godly from within ourselves, which is impossible! Just in case the reader is in need of more proof texts of this, here are twelve biblical examples of actions that provoke God to anger:

1. Stubbornness - Exodus 4:14 The first mention. Even Moses has the audacity to argue with God and not have faith in the Power of the Creator out of fear.
2. Idolatry – Exodus 32:7-14 The Golden Calf, Deuteronomy. 4:25 Prophecy of “The People” corrupting themselves in the land of “milk and honey.” Soon after the death of Joshua and the elders who remember the desert experience with God, they lived mostly in corruption and sin until they had to go into captivity.
3. Murmuring – Israel is in the middle of the birth of a nation. They see the “cloud of glory” regularly coming down into the Tabernacle that they have built as a house for Him. They continually experience the miracle of sustenance from Him, yet, they murmur that they don't have a sensual and varied diet in the desert. Numbers 11:1
4. Pride – Even the “best and chosen” leaders, in this case Aaron and Miriam, become prideful and sin against God by touting themselves. Numbers 12:1-15
5. Self-will – The Story of Balaam shows that even Gentile prophets (Balaam was an Edomite) hear the voice of God, but are bent and have to be saved by the voice of their own donkey. How appropriate.
6. Adultery – Israel's leaders began to take part in sex orgies with the prostitutes of the god Baal of the Moabites. They also bowed down to Baal and worshipped him. Over 1,000 of the leaders and 23,000 other men went to the prostitutes of Baal, DURING MOSES' LIFETIME.
7. Rebellion – Through fear of the “giants” and other men of war in the land of Canaan, the people were stirred-up against God by 10 of the men who scouted out the land of “milk and honey” and the majority of the Israelites lined up with them and refused to go into the promised land. So, they were kept out in

the desert by God and most all of that generation died there during 40 years of wandering. These were the same people who saw all the miracles of God during the Exodus and the year of His miraculous sustenance during the desert travels.

8. Backsliding – The instances are too numerous to mention. Israel is documented in the Book of Judges, 2nd Kings and 2nd Chronicles to have “fallen” continually, no matter the mercy and blessings of God.
9. Sin – Even King David, after all God had done and after all he had gone through, at the end of his life, he decided to take a census of his army. A census was only to be taken for the “soul-ransom” of men in order to dedicate them to the Lord. However, this census was taken out of pride, so that David could see who was loyal to him and he could boast of his greatness. This was condemned by the Lord and a plague was put upon the land and 70,000 men of valor died before David could amend the tragedy. (7 = number of completion, 10 = number of man, 1,000 = number of complete mankind; so, 70,000 was the symbolic number of the complete destruction of man when he is dedicated to himself.
10. Interfering with the Ark – In 1st Chronicles, chapter 13, David is bringing the Ark of the Covenant back from Gentile hands to Jerusalem. However, once again, David errs. He assigns men of his troop to drive the cart with the Ark in it. One of those men was Uzza. When the oxen stumbled, Uzza reached around to steady the Ark and the Energy of the Lord implanted in the Ark killed him. David should have only had the Priests CARRY the ark. This was originally ordered by God. An ox cart was used to Carry “wares.” It was degrading for the ark of the covenant to be carried this way. Also, David was ignorant and sinful in putting warriors instead of priests on guard duty of the Ark. Every boy in Israel, from the age of a child, was taught the Books of Numbers and Leviticus. So, presumably, Uzza knew the fact that not even the Kohathites who carried the tabernacle items when Israel was on the move, could touch the Ark. He obviously carried out orders from the king that he thought overrode the command of God. This is scripturally proven when we read that, after a few years, David commissions priests and Kohathites to go to the same threshing floor, where he had left the ark for fear of more death among his men, and retrieve the ark by carrying it to Jerusalem.
11. Spiritism – In the story of the evil Israelite King Manasseh, we see God’s anger in fullness because His people had been corrupted beyond recognition. Manasseh “served the host of heaven” which was a religion of spiritism, used enchantments, dealt with familiar spirits (demonic spirits), and wizards.
12. Wickedness – There is a litany of Israelite wicked sins mentioned in Jeremiah, chapter 44. High on the list are the sins of; worshipping other gods, ignoring God’s prophets, and ignoring God’s statutes.

How does God get mad and justify it?

His is the knowing anger of a parent disobeyed, which brings danger and death to the child.

Why should we be as mad as heaven? Our ignorance of and rebellion against the biblical doctrine of total depravity is causing us to lose our influence in the world. We must ask ourselves if we are truly God's children, His heirs and His Elected Priesthood or not. Here is what we must see and must combat:

1. Stubbornness - Many so-called leaders of the church are timid when God calls and do not want to confront the power of the World, the Flesh and the devil. They want Him to "send someone else." They have comfortable pulpits and pensions.
2. Idolatry - There is idolatry throughout the land that God has called out by his providence to be a light of freedom to the world, America. The idolatry of humanism and materialism is rampant in our society.
3. Murmuring - There has been murmuring against God by those who should know better. We seek more and more creature comforts and ignore God's goodness to us.
4. Pride - Our leaders are selfish and prideful. Our Presidency, Congress and courts are in collective collapse because of the relativism and compromise endemic in them when they ignore the precepts of the Bible.
5. Self-will - Our collective self-will has been stomped into submission by evolutionists, religionists, homosexuals, and the educated elite. AND our "depravity" has been denied by us and our religious leaders.
6. Adultery - Adultery is bowed to and tolerated, even in the church. And, not only physical adultery, but "adulterated practices" blending the World's practices into our lives. The Bible should be our only guide.
7. Rebellion - We, the church, rebel and teach others to rebel by not teaching the Word of God, but pandering to congregations who want entertainment in worship like a three-ring circus because they are a mile-wide and an inch deep theologically.
8. Backsliding - We "backslide" as we try to make church "fun" and "friendly" and our society purposely forgets that past experience operating in sin was disastrous.
9. Sin - Sin is ignored in the name of fairness and individual freedom.
10. Interfering - Our so-called church leaders try to "help" God in ignorance of what has been taught during two-thousand years of true church history.
11. Spiritism - We tolerate Spiritism in our communities and nation. Humanist religions are everywhere and we don't challenge them. They teach that God is everyone and everyone is God.
12. Wickedness - We support wickedness in our media, our social networks and our families in order to save face and keep peace. Lecherous Las Vegas, homosexual

San Francisco and mercenary New York are not only tolerated, but venerated by their evil sister, Hollywood. And, we put them on a pedestal and honor them by giving our offerings of buying into fashion, staying in “Vegas,” where our sin can be kept a secret, accepting the perversion of homosexuality as a “lifestyle choice” of free people, focusing on trading to gain money from puffed-up stock prices and purchasing tickets to R-rated movies and stage shows.

COMPROMISE

Modern-day theologian, John MacArthur, wrote a tremendous book called The Truth War. The following is a quote all Christians and, particularly Christian leaders, should memorize:

“Both scripture and church history reveal the danger of compromising biblical truth. Those whom God uses are invariably men and women who swim against the tide. They hold strong convictions with great courage and refuse compromise in the face of incredible opposition...The health of the Church depends on our holding firmly to the truth, for where strong convictions are not tolerated, discernment cannot survive. Authentic Christianity has always recognized that truth is unchanging. The word of God is settled forever in heaven (Psalm 119:89).

Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). God Himself does not change (Malachi 3:6). How could we ever view truth as transient, pliable, or adaptable? This unchanging view of truth is essential for true discernment. When the Church loses its commitment to the inflexibility of truth, it loses its will to discern, it forfeits precise theology, precise morals, and precise conduct. Right thinking and right living therefore demand careful discipline and an unyielding commitment to the truth. Discernment does not survive where relativism is tolerated. And it cannot survive if we compromise with the world.”¹⁷

WHEN ARROGANCE HAS BLOOMED

In Ezekiel 7:10 we read,

“Look, the day is coming! Doom has gone out. The rod has blossomed. Arrogance has bloomed.”(NIV)

Arrogance, haughty, prideful; these are the words used in the Bible to describe those whom the Lord will destroy.

What is the difference between pride and arrogance?

Pride is the underlying attitude that we can be the source of our own destiny and we do not need God. It was the original sin of Satan.

Arrogance is the fruit of the vine called, Pride. Arrogance develops as we are

seemingly secure in our pride. We have used our resources to build-up hedges against anything that would allow us to be insecure in our self-reliance. We not only have committed to be our own source of security and happiness (pride) but we have proven to ourselves and others, over and over, that our pride is justified.

“Doom has gone out.”

In the Bible, “doom” is the term for total and irrevocable destruction. The Hebrew word is Abaddon. Abaddon is the personification of destruction; a personage, or Angel, sent forth from God to destroy. In Revelation 9:14, the sixth trumpet is sounded and the four angels or “four horsemen” are released by God to destroy a third of mankind for their rebellion.

Here in Ezekiel, God is saying that Abaddon, the one that will cause the destruction of the land of Israel has already been sent out and is gone forth. It is too late for repentance. That time has passed for those who are still in Israel and worshipping themselves and/or other Gods.

“The rod has blossomed.”

In the Bible a rod is used for punishment, whereas a staff is used for guidance. In Numbers, chapter 17, Aaron’s staff budded, blossomed and produced almonds as proof that the Levites would be priests before God and serve in the Tabernacle. The miraculous manifestation of life from death, new flowering from dead wood, was a sign that renewed life could be received from God.

However, when the term “rod” is used, it is for punishment more than guidance. In the book of Numbers, chapter 20, and verse 11, Moses wields Aaron’s staff, the symbol of God’s power to bring new life. God had told Moses to speak to the rock and bring forth water for the people. Out of frustration, Moses struck the rock, using the guiding staff as a rod of punishment. Use of the rod of punishment is God’s job. Moses was punished because he put himself in the place of God.

For another example, in the 23rd Psalm, the fourth verse says,

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.”

A shepherd had a rod and a staff. The rod was a long pole with a large knot on the end for pummeling animals who would seek to kill the sheep. A staff was a walking stick with a crooked end for gently prodding the sheep to stay together. Both were a comfort to the sheep. In the Psalm, the Hebrew word for “rod” is “shebet,” meaning a “club” to knock down attacking animals. The word “staff” in Hebrew is “mish eneth” meaning “crook’d staff. Two different tools, but both for protection of the sheep.

So, when God is speaking through Ezekiel, He is saying that the “*rod has blossomed.*” He means that His rod of judgment was “ready,” in its fullness, to provide punishment on this generation of people who had been more rebellious than any before. Despite all their many blessings, they became stiff-necked toward God. (Does this remind you of some in America?)

Finally, what we spoke of earlier is declared by God. “*Arrogance has bloomed.*”

When arrogance is so embedded in the heart of man that God is totally ignored as irrelevant, it is said to have bloomed, like a flower blooming into its fullest form.

Reading and interpreting the text reveals in reverse, we might say: Arrogance (of God's people) has bloomed, so the rod of God's punishment has blossomed and the blossom cannot go backwards and "un-blossom," and so, the Angel of destruction has already been sent out and will destroy Israel.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

Where are we as a Church and where is America as a nation?

First, we must realize what is really going on here in the text. Ezekiel was a priest who was part of the first exile to Babylon. He was taken into exile with the "cream of the crop" of exiles which were brought out in the first wave of exiles from the land of Judah.

In ancient times, when a conquering king vanquished a nation, he would take into captivity all the "leadership" and leave the underlings in the area to work the land for him and he would place a vassal king and administration to take the place of the leadership that he had taken captive.

So, the Israelites were continuing their abominable lifestyles under the rule of Babylon – and enjoying it. They had replaced the worship of Jehovah God with all the detestable practices of everyone else in the Middle East. This was not the effect of Babylon's take-over. The Israelites had been worshipping other gods for many years. The Prophet Jeremiah, an older contemporary of Ezekiel, also received from God the vision and example of a clay jar in Jeremiah, chapters 18 and 19. He also says that the "clay jar" representing Jerusalem would be broken into pieces because they had forsaken God by worshipping other gods; including burning their sons in the fire to Baal.

On top of that, five years after Ezekiel and others were taken away, the vassal king, Zedekiah, was becoming arrogant in his security. He and his administration were beginning to move toward rebellion against Babylon. Tweaking the nose of the gorilla, so to speak.

Now, they and their practices were to be destroyed. There was no hope for them. However, there was a remnant of the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in Babylon who needed to know that their God was still in control and still had a purpose for the people of Israel. So, the message, the prophesy, was for them, - to have them realize, when the destruction happened to Israel, that there was a purpose and the purpose was to redeem THEM and eventually bring THEM back to the land of Israel as a people of the One and Only God, who would not relapse into iniquity, but be holy and bring forth the Messiah.

Ezekiel spent a lot of time and God gave him lots of messages to the people in exile. Messages that would help them to realize God's pre-imminence and guidance for a new future.

So, we, the Church, are receiving warnings from Ezekiel today.

What are the detestable practices of those who are doomed?

What shall we, who are in exile on planet earth, see and understand about our situation and our hearts?

Let's spend a few minutes and hear the word of the Lord.

In Ezekiel 16, we see a picture of those who were in rebellion.

They were not only arrogant, but they were acting out the detestable practices that the other peoples who did not know God had always done. There was no discernible difference between them and all other sinful nations and peoples.

God recalls for them that they were just like other peoples in the beginning, but that he had mercy on them and took them as abandoned babies, loved them, raised them and married them. Then, they had believed in their own beauty more than the God that had made that beauty possible. They became prostitutes, preferring the love of others as opposed to their own saving and loving husband.

WHAT SAY WE?

Are we, today, acting as though there is no difference between our lifestyles and the sinful peoples around us? What do you and your children think about: birth control, homosexual lifestyles, evolution, abortion, marriage, prayer, Bible study?

Verse 20 of the sixteenth chapter tells us some of the details of the detestable practices of Israel in that day which brought on their destruction. Prostitute Israel had even taken her own children and sacrificed them to the gods of other nations; false gods. So, she was not only an ingrate and a prostitute, but a murderer of her own children.

The god Molech, who was then being worshipped in Jerusalem, required that the first born of a family be sacrificed in fire to him in order for the family to be blessed by him. And Israelites were actually doing it!

Finally, God says that His adulterous wife was not even a simple prostitute anymore; that she had gone way beyond that. A prostitute charges her lovers and at least gets monetary gain from them. However, Israel invited "illicit lovers" from all over the region and paid them for defiling her. A desperate and depraved action.

Have we and are we actively kicking God out of our lives?

Here is the application for us. Or rather the questions for application:

- is He loved by our children, or do they think they have descended from apes as a by-product of evolution, a "chance being" out of the primordial soup that now must put its own preservation first, do its own thing and make its own rules?

Ask your children and their teachers if there is fundamental truth in life or if everything is relative.

- do we spend time worshipping Him or are our churches just social clubs where we make sure that we are keeping up with the Jones' but living to hedge our secure and happy lives regardless of God's "risking to give" principles clearly laid out in scripture?

- have we become a prostitute to our own materialism and do we prize things; our cars, houses, I-pods, and appetites more than we prize the eternal values of promoting God's kingdom by giving? What is the ratio of what we buy for ourselves and what we give to kingdom causes? Are we prostitutes to these?
- do we condone and even pay for the abortion of the "first born" of our families and our society? The blood of the unborn is on our heads as we remain silent. From the least to the greatest, are we in favor or in denial about sacrificing our children to Molech?
- are we so afraid of being attacked by our rivals in the nation and the world that we give them money so that they might be dissuaded from coming and raping us. Even to the point of inviting the Islamic radicals and despots to speak in our assemblies and to seduce us with words that defy and camouflage their actions?
- do we allow our media and our children to hear the siren song of the detestable to the point that they "see their point of view" and join them in destroying the very society that gave birth and nurture to them?

Much evidence suggests that the answers are; Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. Yes. And Yes.

Are we living out for our children the truth that there is no freedom without risk and sacrifice? Or are we "going along to get along",- as the ancient Israelites did? You may say, "Well we are not as bad as the ancient Israelis were." Have you ever been to New York, Las Vegas or San Francisco? Do you ever watch or read the news?

Hear the words of The Lord to Ezekiel, the one and only God who never changes. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

"Look, the day is coming!
Doom has gone out.
The rod has blossomed.
Arrogance has bloomed."

May we separate ourselves out from the nations and peoples who are in rebellion against God. And may we be like Jesus.

CONCLUSION

No wonder that the ranks of Atheists and Agnostics are growing. All of the works-based religions and works-based practices give religious practitioners a bad name. The only religion that makes any sense in the reality of our fallen and depraved, expedient human condition is grace-based TRUE Christianity. And that "True Church" has remained true because it propounds the Doctrine of Total Depravity as God's unchanging truth, which allows us to be saved only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and, THEN, to "work in service to others" because of that salvation.

Let's not forget what Abraham Maslow, gave us his 7 levels of human need and motivation. In a hierarchy, from most basic, they are;

1. Safety
2. Security
3. Comfort
4. Leisure
5. Esteem (Love)
6. Respect
7. Self-Actualization (fulfillment as a “fully functional person”)

Psychologist Carl Rogers referred to persons who reached the height of human fulfillment as the FFP, the Fully Functioning Person, and suggested in his writings that this was the height of personal development to which a human could aspire.

This brings us to a question. What is the fastest way to gain self-actualization from our basic safety needs to our ultimate fulfillment? The answer is – by acquiring power. It is by acquiring power that assures complete safety, security, comfort, leisure, esteem, and respect that we find fulfillment in our world. But, like the proverbial dog, we not only chase our tails but we catch them by this philosophy. We must let go our tails and listen to the whistle of the Master in order to really progress as the created and responsible in this world.

Once again, let’s review the Doctrine of Total Depravity from a leading evangelical scholar:

“In the perspective of biblical faith total depravity can be thought of as having four meanings, all of which are valid.

First, it refers to the corruption at the very center of man’s being, the heart, but this does not mean that man’s humanity has ceased to exist.

Second, it signifies the infection in every part of man’s being, though this is not to infer that this infection is evenly distributed or that nothing good remains in man.

Third, it denotes the total inability of sinful man to please God or come to him unless moved by grace, though this does not imply that man is not free in other areas of his life.

Fourth, it includes the idea of the universal corruption of the human race, despite the fact that some peoples and cultures manifest this corruption much less than others.”¹⁸

This is the only doctrine or basis of religious practice that explains the true state of mankind that most religions so ingeniously strive to deny within their theology and practice.

Here’s the good news, we are a fallen race, but we can get up,- to heaven.

“But because of his great love for us God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast.” (Ephesians 2:4-9, NIV)

Jesus Christ gave us commandments about how to live with one another and how to approach God, AFTER we have accepted the free gift of grace in order to become, as it was forever to be in the beginning, true men and women in the image of God and brothers/sisters in the Kingdom of God. He gave us a picture of what God looks like and acts like, so we could see Him in juxtaposition with the false gods of men and in contrast to our own fallen state. We don't have to work toward God through anything or anyone else. We simply accept that He, Jesus, is our Savior sent from God and we, in thankfulness, act as he acted and serve as he served. This is not a trifling or small difference. It is the hinge upon which the doors of heaven and an abundant life on earth, swing open wide.

Here is a final quote for us from theologian and author Max Lucado about those who are Christians.

“Do it yourself Christianity is not much encouragement to the done-in and worn-out. Self-sanctification holds little hope for the addict... At some point we need more than good advice; we need help. Somewhere on this journey home we realize that a fifty-fifty proposition is too little. We need more. We need help from the inside out. Not near us. Not above us. Not around us. But in us. In the part of us we don't even know. In the heart no one else has seen. In the hidden recesses of our being dwells, not an angel, not a philosophy, not a genie, but God.”

Jesus said;

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.”

(John 14:16-17)

So, how do we begin to really know that we are being genuine with God in our religion and how to start fresh with Him? In their great, little devotional book, 31 Days of Praise, Enjoying God Anew, Ruth and Warren Myers write a devotional prayer which is perfect for those of us who might want to work toward God:

“I'm so grateful, Lord, that the Christian life is not a rigorous self-improvement course or a do-it-yourself kit...that it is not a call to prove myself or improve myself by overcoming my own shortcomings and failures, in my own way, by my own resources.

Thank you that, instead, you are at work in me and my situation to break old patterns of thought and action, to create within me both the

desire and the power to do Your gracious will and to make me a joy to You in new ways.

Thank you for the many ways You use other people to counsel me and help me grow, and yet that Christ Himself is the answer to my hang-ups, the one Source who can meet my deepest needs. How I rejoice that He is wonderful in counsel and mighty in power, and that He heals from the inside out.

Thank You, too, for the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and strength. I praise You that He is in me to enlighten me through Your Word, to flush away my anxieties and fears, my resentments and hostilities, my guilt and regrets, as water washes away dirt and trash to keep me filled with Himself and to flood my heart with Your love; to produce through me the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”¹⁹

May the True God through His Holy Spirit open our eyes to see Him as He really is and to worship Him in spirit and truth, becoming His children and heirs through the only perfect life manual that has ever existed, the Holy Bible.

Amen.

ALLAH AND PRAYER

The following is the Muslim justification for causing followers to continually pray and, when they pray, to bring offerings so that their prayers would be seen as sincere and effective. In this, they are “saved each time” for Allah.

Prophet Muhammed is reported to have said “The first duty that Allah, the Supreme, has ordained upon my nation is that of offering Prayer, and indeed Prayer is the first thing that will be taken account of on the Day of Resurrection.” **as well as** “Whoever keeps the Prayer established, has kept his religion established - and whoever leaves Prayer has demolished religion (i.e. left the fold of Islam)”. While, the Qur’an makes it clear that the purpose for creation is to worship Allah alone, and that the most excellent way of praying is to offer Salaah standing before Allah in devout obedience. The Islamic Adhaan (call for prayer) which is recited at time of each prayer contains two verses (each recited twice) «Hayya’ala-Salaah» and “Hayya’ala-Falaah” which translate to “Come to Salaah” and “Come to success” respectively, indicating that by performing Salaah, one may attain eternal success.

In a Hadith reference, Abdullah ibn Mas’ud narrates “I asked Allah’s Messenger, Prophet Muhammed: “*O Messenger of Allah, which deed is most beloved to Allah?*” **He said:** “*Prayer at the appointed time.*” **I said:** “*Then what?*” **He said:** “*Kindness to parents.*” **I said:** “*Then what?*” **He said:** “*Jihad (struggle) in the way of Allah.*»

“Prophet Muhammed is also reported to have likened the Salaah to five daily baths that cleanse a person’s sins; Abu Huraira narrates that “*I heard Allah’s Apostle saying, “If there was a river at the door of anyone of you and he took a bath in it five times a day would you notice any dirt on him?” They said, “Not a trace of dirt would be left.” The Prophet added, “That is the example of the five prayers with which Allah blots out (annuls) evil deeds.*”

The Qur’an has also pointed out that believers perform Salaah only to earn the pleasure of Allah and not to impress anyone else, calling anyone who does so a hypocrite. Moreover, those who abandon Salaah are warned of dire consequences, while only those who humbly submit themselves to Allah alone are said to have ease in offering it. In Surah Al-Ma’arij, Allah uses the word *halu’an* to describe the restless and impatient nature of man, stating that whenever he is afflicted with trouble he lacks patience and trembles in despair. This occurs due to shortcomings in his faith, whereas when he is given in abundance he becomes ungrateful towards Allah. He is also arrogant and uncaring towards those less fortunate than him. The Qur’an then assures the observance of Salaah as a way to preserve hope in times of grievance and humbleness as well as humility in periods of bountiful life. Salaah thus has the power to erase the roots of evil deeds which bring barriers in the society giving birth to racial as well as financial discriminations and sinful intentions.

TAQIYYA POISON

UNDERSTANDING TAQIYYA—ISLAMIC PRINCIPLE OF LYING FOR THE SAKE OF ALLAH

by Warner MacKenzie
30 April, 2007

Lying and cheating in the Arab world is not really a moral matter but a method of safeguarding honor and status, avoiding shame, and at all times exploiting possibilities, for those with the wits for it, deftly and expeditiously to convert shame into honor on their own account and vice versa for their opponents. If honor so demands, lies and cheating may become absolute imperatives.” [David Pryce-Jones, “The Closed Circle” An interpretation of the Arabs, p4]

“No dishonor attaches to such primary transactions as selling short weight, deceiving anyone about quality, quantity or kind of goods, cheating at gambling, and bearing false witness. The doer of these things is merely quicker off the mark than the next fellow; owing him nothing, he is not to be blamed for taking what he can.” [David Pryce-Jones, “The Closed Circle”, p38]

The word “Taqiyya” literally means: “Concealing, precaution, guarding.” It is employed in disguising one’s beliefs, intentions, convictions, ideas, feelings, opinions or strategies. In practical terms it is manifested as dissimulation, lying, deceiving, vexing and confounding with the intention of deflecting attention, foiling or pre-emptive blocking. It is currently employed in fending off and neutralising any criticism of Islam or Muslims.

Falsehoods told to prevent the denigration of Islam, to protect oneself, or to promote the cause of Islam are sanctioned in the Qur’an and Sunna, including lying under oath in testimony before a court, deceiving by making distorted statements to the media such as the claim that Islam is a “religion of peace”. **A Muslim is even permitted to deny or denounce his faith if, in so doing, he protects or furthers the interests of Islam, so long as he remains faithful to Islam in his heart.** (See endnotes)

Like many Islamic practices, taqiyya was formed within the context of the culture of Arab tribalism, expansionary warfare, Bedouin raiding and inter-tribal conflict. Taqiyya has been used by Muslims since the 7th century to confuse, confound and divide ‘the enemy’.

A favoured tactic was ‘deceptive triangulation’; used to persuade the enemy that preparations for a raid were not aimed at them but at another tribe altogether. The fate in store for the deceived enemy target was an unexpected plunderous raid, enslavement of the women and death to the post-pubescent males.

The core foundation of hyper-masculine Arab culture is bound up in perceptions

of “honour and shame”. At all times, he (it’s usually a male) must avoid having his face “blackened” by words or actions which are a slight upon, a challenge or affront to, his status in the family or broader social / tribal group. To be open, frank and forthright or to make self-damning admissions in his dealings (particularly with the infidel enemy) is to leave himself open and vulnerable to humiliating shame and to the subsequent disrespect from his peers. Tongues will wag in the bazaar’s coffee shops and rumours will rapidly spread that so-and-so has lost his “manliness” and status. In short, he is no longer worthy of deferential respect; to an Arab, this is worse than death itself.

The higher one is placed in the social order (or rather, on how important the individual perceives himself to be), the more imperative it becomes to strenuously avoid “loss of face”. The male’s perceived loss of honour and status, must be redressed and his face “whitened”, i.e. his honour regained and restored, at any cost; even to the extent of (as in the honour killing of daughters) murdering the person “responsible” for causing the initial humiliation. When taqiyya is used to avoid making an admission or concession it is simply an essential means of ensuring that ones honour and standing remain intact and untarnished. Blood feuds and vendettas, caused by an ancient humiliation of a long dead ancestor, can persist, fueled and propelled by shame and honour, for generations. Muhammad, who is promoted as every Muslim’s exemplar, set the precedent for vengeful retaliation when he ordered the murder of those who mocked or satirised him and, as he was an Arab, caused him potential loss of face. [See link, [“Muhammad’s Dead Poets Society”](#)]

OUTWITTING:

Islamic spokesmen commonly use taqiyya as a form of ‘outwitting’. The skilled taqiyya-tactician doesn’t want the matter at hand to be debated or discussed; so his opponent must be outwitted or preemptively outflanked by the use of taqiyya. The objective is to divert attention away from the subject through duplicity and obfuscation.

The claim is often made that difficulties in translating from Arabic to English makes the meaning of what they say or write difficult or impossible to convey....this is simply another subterfuge. Keysar Trad has repeatedly claimed that Sheikh Hilali’s obnoxious, inflammatory and misogynistic comments have been “mistranslated”, misquoted or “taken out of context”. The aim of this ploy is to dilute or neutralise public opprobrium. The use of independent translators has, in the past, disproved his assertions. The Sheikh states what he believes to be correct according to Islamic precepts and his “interpreter” reconfigures the statement to make it palatable to the unwitting listener.

Consider the following statement by Mr. Trad on the February 24 2006.

Keysar Trad, president of the Islamic Friendship Association of Australia, told Reuters that Australian Muslims

agreed with Costello’s (Australia’s Treasurer, Peter Costello) sentiments about being good, law abiding citizens.

“But to continually single out the Muslim community like this is very unhelpful, it’s very divisive and it does stir up Islamophobia”,

Trad said.

“We’re proud to be Australian and our religion strongly stipulates that if you make an oath, whether it’s an oath of citizenship or any other oath, that you honour it, abide by it.”

However, the Prophet Muhammad seems to have a different idea on the subject.

Sahih Bukhari, Volume 7, Book 67, Number 427:

“By Allah, and Allah willing, if I take an oath and later find something else better than that. Then I do what is better and expiate my oath.’ “

Role playing as the victim:

When placed under scrutiny or criminal investigation, (even when there is overwhelming, irrefutable evidence of guilt or complicity), the taqiyya-tactician will quickly attempt to counter the allegation by resorting to the claim that it is, in fact, the accused who are the ‘the victims’. Victims of Islamophobia, racism, religious discrimination and intolerance. Currently, this is the most commonly encountered form of distraction and ‘outwitting’..... defense by offence.

Manipulative ambiguity and Semantics:

Sheik Hilali and the late Yasser Arafat are both on public record as (a) ‘condemning’ the 9/11 attacks, in ambiguous terms, to the Western media and (b) praising suicide bombings, or “martyrdom operations”, to their Arabic speaking audiences .

Islamic spokesmen will rarely unequivocally condemn a specific act of terrorism and direct questions will be skillfully evaded.

(NB: because Muslims regard Islamic attacks as “jihad”, and not terrorism, their spokesmen can truthfully deny any support for terrorism.)

Interviewers would be better advised to ask the more precise question “do you believe in jihad against the unbelievers?”

However, a direct question requiring a simple “YES” or “NO” reply is rarely forthcoming and is usually deflected by responding with a tangentially irrelevant rejoinder or, in an attempt to neutralise the original question, counter-challenging with another question such as “are you in favour of killing children in Iraq?”.....Touché and Checkmate!

Diversion, deflection and “tu quoque”:

Questions relating to the 9/11 terrorist attacks will usually be diverted by either making outrageously wild conspiracy claims “the CIA did it to give the U.S. an excuse to attack Muslims,... Mossad was the perpetrator... No Jews came to work at the World Trade Centre on September 11” etc. or by making an irrelevant counter reference to “the plight of the Palestinians”,.. Iraqis,.. colonialism,.. the crusades, or US foreign policy’s support for Israel” as the ‘root causes’ of terrorism.

Then, of course, there’s the ever popular, specious allegation that George Bush is a bigger terrorist than Osama bin Laden.

Diversionsary “tu quoque” response ploys usually start with the words “but” or “what about...?” in an attempt to turn, and transfer an equal culpability back on their interlocutor.

Demanding ‘evidence’:

Islamic spokesmen practice a form of taqiyya defined in psychology as ‘cognitive denial’ by repetitive and persistent demands of ‘where is the evidence!’ and ‘prove it!’ whenever there is Muslim complicity in terrorist acts, evidence, which they know very well, for security or legal sub-judice restraints, cannot be disclosed. If indeed the “evidence” were to be publicly presented, they would then move on to the familiar “prejudicial to the defendant receiving a fair trial--grounds for a mistrial” default position.

Tactical denial:

Rather than admitting that a proposition concerning a subject under discussion can be partly true, an Islamic spokesman will flatly deny a claim or proposition in absolute terms. For example, “It is impossible to be a Muslim and a terrorist”; this semantic argument is purely a matter of definition, because radical Islamists don’t define their violent attacks as terrorism, but jihad. (i.e. holy war in the way of Allah) .Another popular assertion is that ‘Islam forbids suicide’, which is true, but by virtue once again of definition, irrelevant, because suicide bombings are regarded as “martyrdom operations” and are therefore not forbidden, but on the contrary, admirable and praiseworthy. Muslim spokesmen are also fond of using extreme hyperbole. Their refutations regularly include the word “percent”. e.g. “I am 150% certain that Jews orchestrated September 11” “I guarantee the accused is 200% innocent”.

Exploiting cognitive dissonance:

Islamic spokesmen regularly perplex and baffle interviewers and their audiences as they resort to double talk, ‘clichés and platitudes’ concerning Islam. A state of cognitive dissonance (i.e. holding two contradictory beliefs and attempting to resolve them) is therefore induced in viewers and readers as they attempt to mentally process the claim that Islam is a peaceful religion despite the indisputable evidence before them of Islamist involvement in terrorist acts or criminal conduct.

The Islamic ‘defense’ script:

Islamic spokesmen repeat the same predictable duplicitous clichés concerning Islam in Europe, as do their counterparts in Australia and America. They appear to follow a well prepared script as they repeat “Islam is tolerant and peace loving”. In instances where they find themselves presented with, and cornered by, undeniable evidence that murderous radicals are indeed guilty as charged the spokesman will then fall back on the old chestnut that the culprits are only a “small minority” and not “true Muslims” anyway. Islamic spokeswomen use taqiyya when making the somewhat Orwellian claim that wearing the hijab, niqab, burqa etc. is “liberating” and “empowering”, and that, for reasons known only to them, these symbols of submissive exclusion offer them more freedom than Western women, thereby implying that women in Muslim

countries are somehow 'freer' than women in the West. This ruse is designed to preclude further examination into the well documented inferior status of females in Islamic societies. Being put on the spot, and having to admit their true obedient and subservient status, would be embarrassing and therefore shame inducing so resorting to denial and exaggerative taqiyya is their only option.

There's a common and oft repeated lie that "Islam" means peace", it doesn't, it translates as "submission" (to Allah).

Islamic falsehoods are echoed uncritically by Western politicians and other apologist dupes, for example "A small group of fundamentalists have hijacked a great and noble religion". This timely, skilful, misleading and diversionary theme of the 'hijacking' of Islam was introduced into public, political and media discourse by an Islamic 'spokesman' in the United States shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and has become an "accepted fact" repeated, ad nauseum, ever since.

The "Islam has been hijacked" myth is now a clichéd media and political reference which serves to deflect attention from the empirical proof of a fourteen hundred year continuity of the doctrinal, political and religious nature of Islamic jihad.

A related theme that "a small minority of Muslims are engaged in terrorism" is utterly irrelevant as terrorism is always perpetrated by 'small minorities' or more accurately small groups or cells. Surveys consistently reveal that between 10-15% of all Muslims sympathise with the aims and methodology of this radical strain of Islam which has been "hijacked". This means, that within an estimated world population of 1.2 billion Muslims, there are 120-180 million people prepared to fund, facilitate and in general, give moral and financial assistance to the jihadists..... "a small minority"?....you decide!

The indisputable truth is that there has been no "hijacking" of Islam. Islamic extremists can, and do, find ample inspiration, justification and encouragement for their violent ideology in the Quran and Hadith.

TAQIYYA AS IMPRESSIONS AND PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT

Pathos and the tactical use of children:

Australian television viewers may recall that interviews with terrorist suspects raided by ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) and AFP (Australian Federal Police) frequently featured women in hijabs holding small children or a crying baby as they plaintively protested their husband's innocence and attested to his innate piety, decency and kind-hearted nature.

Trembling fingers and quavering voices pointed out damage, disruption and disarray to the family home. In some interviews the suspect / father holds the child, whilst denying any involvement in, or knowledge of, radicalism .

Sheikh Hilali's daughter, in a newspaper interview, played the taqiyya pathos card by claiming that, because the cold northern winter was imminent, her father was travelling to Lebanon to "hand deliver" thousands of blankets to "orphanages" and homeless victims of the war between Israel and Hizbollah.

In the same Israel /Hezbollah war, a photojournalist filmed a Lebanese man, strewing, for the purpose of emotional impact, the contents of a large cardboard box full of children's stuffed toys amongst the wreckage and debris. This was obviously for the benefit of a large contingent of international TV film crews who were about to be taken on a guided tour of the bombed buildings later that morning.

Photos of carefully placed baby's bibs and dummies (pacifiers) also appeared to be extraordinarily abundant on the internet, as were "staged" photos of a "body" being removed from the piles of collapsed concrete. One sequence of photos clearly shows the "body" in question, alive and well, walking around with his "rescuers" before and after the "retrieval" of his dusty, "lifeless body". This is taqiyya by imagery!

The above are examples of taqiyya in the age of impressions and perception management and are designed to, dupe, play on the emotions of, and elicit sympathy from, the compassionate, unwitting public.

Taqiyya and the Deceptive definition of Jihad:

The contemporary political meaning of jihad is clear: it is "Jihad of the sword" and not the peaceful internal struggle for spiritual improvement as their spin-doctors would have us believe. Islamic fundamentalists consider jihad to be the sixth pillar of Islam, a binding duty and integral to the faith. Claiming that Jihad is a subjective and psychological state to become a better person is taqiyya. In contemporary terms, Jihad means – HOLY WAR - against the unbelievers and it is in this context that Al Qaeda training manuals and other radical preachers use and refer to jihad.

The study of taqiyya is crucial to an understanding of Islamic fundamentalism and terrorism. Its use ranges from the issuing of false terrorist threats, operational and strategic disinformation issued by Al Qaeda in the form of 'intelligence chatter' for the purpose of throwing national defense groups into confusion. Terrorists in captivity resort to taqiyya during interrogation. It is most frequently used by Muslim 'spokesmen' whilst intentionally making misleading public statements concerning Islam and terrorism.

The Arabs have a story which exemplifies subtle, semantic dissimulation (taqiyya) perfectly. Legend has it that Mohammed's nephew, son-in-law and future Caliph, Ali, was sitting on a stool outside his dwelling when one of his allies ran red-faced and gasping into the village and hid in Ali's home. Perceiving that the man was being pursued, Ali promptly got up and sat on another nearby stool. A few minutes later, a group of angry pursuers ran into the encampment and asked Ali if he had seen the man they were pursuing. Ali responded with the statement "AS LONG AS I HAVE BEEN SITTING ON THIS STOOL I HAVE SEEN NO ONE"

This story demonstrates why nothing an Islamist says can be taken at face value. Every statement and utterance needs to be thoroughly analysed, or "unpacked".

After yet another violent incident in Sydney, involving "Males of Middle-Easter Appearance", a spokesman for the Muslim community appeared on a Sydney television evening newscast. In the brief soundbite he defensively declared "our religion teaches us that we must be kind to one another"and indeed it does, it simply depends

on how we are to interpret the words “one another”, as these verses from the Quran demonstrate:

Muslims are harsh against the unbelievers, merciful to one another. – (Q 48:25)

Muhammad is Allah’s apostle. Those who follow him are ruthless to the unbelievers but merciful to one another.

Through them, Allah seeks to enrage the unbelievers*. – (Q48:29)

So, was this spokesman lying?

Or was he telling the truth?

The answer is both, YES,... and NO! –Or, perhaps neither, and if you are confused by this apparent contradiction?,. You’re meant to be, because he was practising taqiyya;where the devil is ALWAYS in the detail.

- The precise identity of the “unbelievers” in the above references requires no further explanation.

A P P E N D I X 3

CIVILIZATION JIHAD

There are 199 mentions of Jihad in the Koran. All 199 speak of or insinuate that Jihad is combat to subdue and enemy. According to the Center for Security Policy’s 2010 Team B report, “Shariah, The Threat to America,” the most nefarious, long-term threat is what the Muslim Brotherhood calls “civilization jihad.” This is a pre-violent form of jihad, which according to the totalitarian ideology of Shariah, is a vital phase within the overall architecture of jihad, whose goal is global supremacy.

Civilization jihad is best described by Mohamed Akram, a senior Hamas leader in the U.S. and a member of the board of directors for the Muslim Brotherhood in North America. He describes an Islamic “settlement process” as a grand jihad in eliminating and destroying Western civilization from within and “sabotaging its miserable house by their hands and the hands of the believers so that it is eliminated.”

This jihad is sort of like the frog in the boiling pot. If you are not familiar with the analogy, it goes like this. When you want frog legs for dinner, and you place a frog in a pot of water he will jump out if it is already hot. However, if you place him in a pot of tepid water gradually heated to boiling he will stay until he is boiled to death. Civilization jihad promotes very tame and socially acceptable Muslim communities as the tepid water. As they intermarry and become one with the society, they become too strong to resist when they become militant. By then Western society is cooked. This has already happened in many areas of Europe and segments of Great Britain.

It is critical to remember that the goal of both civilization jihad and violent jihad is the same; the subjugation of the ‘Dar al-harb,’ ‘the house-of-war’, (i.e., Those not already in the control of Islam.) We can realize what is happening in America or we are cooked.

ENDNOTES

1. Imam Abu Hammid Ghazali says: “Speaking is a means to achieve objectives. If a praiseworthy aim is attainable through both telling the truth and lying, it is unlawful to accomplish through lying because there is no need for it. When it is possible to achieve such an aim by lying but not by telling the truth, it is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible.” (Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri, *The Reliance of the Traveller*, translated by Nuh Ha Mim Keller, amana publications, 1997, section r8.2, page 745)
2. Bukhari Vol 3: 857 “Narrated Um Kulthum bint Uqba”: That she heard Allah’s Apostle saying, “He who makes peace between the people by inventing good information or saying good things, is not a liar.”
3. Bukhari Vol 4: 269 “Narrated Jabir bin ‘Abdullah: The Prophet said, “War is deceit.”
4. Bukhari Vol 5: 668 “Narrated Zahdam: “When Abu Musa arrived (at Kufa as a governor) he honored this family of Jarm (by paying them a visit). I was sitting near to him, and he was eating chicken as his lunch, and there was a man sitting amongst the people. Abu Musa invited the man to the lunch, but the latter said, “I saw chickens (eating something (dirty) so I consider them unclean.” Abu Musa said, “Come on! I saw the Prophet eating it (i.e. chicken).” The man said “I have taken an oath that I will not eat (chicken)” Abu Musa said.” Come on! I will tell you about your oath. We, a group of Al-Ash’ariyin people went to the Prophet and asked him to give us something to ride, but the Prophet refused. Then we asked him for the second time to give us something to ride, but the Prophet took an oath that he would not give us anything to ride. After a while, some camels of booty were brought to the Prophet and he ordered that five camels be given to us. When we took those camels we said, “We have made the Prophet forget his oath, and we will not be successful after that.” So I went to the Prophet and said, “O Allah’s Apostle ! You took an oath that you would not give us anything to ride, but you have given us.” He said, “Yes, for if I take an oath and later I see a better solution than that, I act on the later and give the expiation of that oath”
5. Bukhari Vol 6: 138 Narrated Aisha: “That her father (Abu Bakr) never broke his oath till Allah revealed the order of the legal expiation for oath. Abu Bakr said, “If I ever take an oath (to do something) and later find that to do something else is better, then I accept Allah’s permission and do that which is better, (and do the legal expiation for my oath) “ .

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