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TORTURING CHRIST

By Rev. Need

2 Peter 3:16 *Which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest as they do also the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.*

Every form of media—radio, TV, print—is filled with speakers presenting some strange things under the banner of Christianity. The shelves of professed Christian book stores are covered with books under the banner of Christianity that promote ideas and theories that are clearly contrary to the total of the Word of God.

The question we shall consider is, “What should be the Christian’s response to those who clearly change the context of the Word of God to make it say what they want it to say, or who change the Word of God to make points that are obviously contrary to the Law, Psalms and the Prophets?”

We must include those who are proud of their higher education in theology. When they deal with theological issues, it is obvious that they are making the text say something that according to the context of the Law, Psalms and Prophets as well as the New Testament au-

thors does not say. They seem to believe that their high level of education or their importance in the eyes of men give them license to ignore the context of the passage they might use.

You must divorce yourself from Christian emotions and feelings and sentiments, and you must express humanistic emotions and feelings and

sentiments in order to be truly educated. Thus, the argument that is used against Christian schools, homeschools and private schools, is that they do not permit the development of the democratic sentiment and feeling because they do not meet with every kind of person and child in such a school. (RJR)

I mentioned to a friend some time ago that I did not think that a Christian should receive instruction from those who profess to be Christians yet openly corrupt the Word of God. His reply to me was that we can either learn to eat fish and spit bones or not eat fish at all. Now, spitting bones might make for a good fish dinner, but it is not Scriptural. God presents false doctrines and false teachers as poison, and it probably will be impossible for a new believer to separate the 1% poison from the 99% carrier of that poison.

Notice we are not referring to “experts” outside of theology which is the study of God. We must commonly seek their expertise in various areas. Rather, we are referring to wolves in sheep’s clothing. That is, “experts” claiming to believe God’s Word as they offer “life-giving” advice. My pastor used to refer to a “theo-

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logical sieve.” That is, run everything we hear through the word of God in order to filter out the trash of misused, corrupt ideas and doctrines.

Though the context of 2 Peter 3:16 refers to the doctrine of last things, Peter’s warning includes all Bible doctrine with the words, *also the other scriptures*. The key word is *wrest*, and it is only used this one time in the Word of God:

1828 Webster:

WREST, verb transitive [G., to wrest to snatch or pull, to burst, to tear.]

1. To twist or extort by violence; to pull or force from by violent wringing or twisting; as, to wrest an instrument from another’s hands.

2. To take or force from by violence. The enemy made a great effort, and wrested the victory from our hands.

Example: But fate has wrested the confession from me. (Sadly, it seems that the Republicans do not put up a united front against the Marxists who are determined to destroy this nation. Thus, the Marxists easily wrest the victory from the conservatives. As Rush Limbaugh used to say, “The Republicans snatched defeat out of victory.”)

3. To distort; to turn from truth or twist from its natural meaning by violence; to pervert.

Exodus 23:2 *Thou shalt not wrest the judgment of the poor.* (That is, bend justice out of shape to favor a particular group or person.)

Strong: Wrest. pervert, twist, stretch or **torture as on a rack.** That is, torture language to give it a false sense or meaning.

Torture as on a rack as in the movie “Princess Bride.” Those of you who have not seen Princess Bride should see it.

In other words, a passage is ripped from its context and twisted out of the shape required by its context, particularly its Old Testament context, in order to make it say something it does not say.

We have sat under more than a few dispensationalists, and even some self-proclaimed Orthodox teachers, who are experts in this method of exegesis. **That is,** they wrest scripture to justify a point they are trying to make. I often wrest scripture, but I try to tell the hearer that I am using the passage out of its immediate context. Only the biblically illiterate can sit under preachers-teachers who constantly *wrest* the Word of God.

What do we have here?

“Torturing” the written Word of God actually “tortures” the incarnate Word of God to make HIM say something He did not say. **Will God hold the perpetrators guiltless? How about the first-century believers:**

Would they have allowed those who tortured the Saviour just before His death instruct them on how to treat one another? (Repentance and Conversion changes things, e.g., Paul as Saul “tortured” the Word of God.)

Why do Christians allow modern “experts” who “torture” God’s Word to instruct them in truth?

“Ask Jesus into Your Heart,” which is based on Revelation 3:20 is no doubt the most serious example of torturing Christ in common use today. These speakers have **put Christ on the rack**, and have tortured the Word of God beyond any recognition.

Comment: No doubt, a great portion of the false doctrine being promoted is simply what that person was taught, and they trust their teachers. They see no need, nor do they have a desire to search the scriptures (Old Testament) to seek the truth of what they were taught.

Some years ago, I spoke with a close pastor friend, and called his attention to a scripture he was using apart from its Old Testament context. The context was quite contrary to what he was saying, and he knew it. When I challenged him on its use, he told me “That was the way I was taught by men I respect, and that is what I have taught. I am not going to change now.” Though that was probably 30 years ago, I will never forget his response that he knew the truth, and he would not change now. Was it his pride? I had worked with him several years previously when we were both big promoters of Antinomian, Arminian Dispensationalism. I do not know that he ever “saw the light” in that area.

Obviously, those who torture the Word of God to make Him say what they want Him to say will face some very serious results. Peter tells us that **THEY TORTURE THE WORD OF GOD TO THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION.** He thus warns the Child of God to avoid those who torture the Word of God, or they will also be partakers in the torturer’s destruction of God’s Word. The Spirit speaks loud and clear concerning the Christians’ response to men of corrupt minds who wrest language:

Matthew 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*

The Lord told us that false teachers are known by their false doctrines concerning His Word. Though they may appear as good teachers and able to attract a large following, they are at heart ravening wolves. Their false doctrines concerning the Word of God reveal the truth. Though the teachers may appear as “*angels of light*,” their false doctrines in their biblical teaching show that they are thorns, thistles and corrupt trees. The Lord Himself said that those who corrupt His Word will devour the innocent. Jesus Christ said that the standard by which everything must be measured is the Law, Psalms and the Prophets:

John 5:39 *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

The Word of God says that it is impossible to gather grapes, figs and good fruit from false teachers who commonly wrest Scripture. **Paul warned Timothy:**

1 Timothy 1:4 *Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.*

The Geneva Bible defines the words used to torture the Word of God as “**vain and curious speculations**” and “**declaration and utterances of which can help our faith in no way.**”

God not only forbids listening to foolish, wicked fables and endless genealogies, but He also commands Christians to withdraw from those who develop and defend fables that are not supported by the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets. They coat their poison with sugar.

1 Timothy 6:3 *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.*

The context refers primarily to undermining the proper servant-master relationships, yet the application is equally obvious: Those who seek to add their corrupt words, ideas, theologies and views of history to the sacred Word of God are proud men, setting themselves above God. They weary both themselves and others with vain questions and speculations because they do not content themselves with Christ’s clearly revealed doctrine found in the law. Note that Christ is the Truth; therefore, He is the personification of the Law.

This is a harsh saying, but those who “torture” the Word of God to fit within their theories, particularly about the gospel, are lying deceivers; they are mad men because they trouble themselves in matters of nothing; they corrupt men’s minds; they torture and abuse the Word of God, the Lord Jesus Christ; they are vain babblers and foolish talkers; they are men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth; they are perverse and corrupt frauds. TRUTH is not in them. The Word commands one to get away from them, for there is no light in them.

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

Those who commonly *wrest* the Word of God are blind leaders of the blind. What will happen if God’s people allow those blind leaders to lead them? Will not they both fall into the ditch? There are many warnings in the Word of God about false teachers. In the context of this message, we are speaking about leaders who for whatever reason corrupt the Word of God to present a message more to their liking or more appealing to the crowd. Simply adding one *wrested* word to a text can easily change the meaning of that text, and the average listener will not recognize the change. As we who use the KJV or other versions from the Received Text, and listen to various speakers who use different versions, it is amazing how many words are added or left out, changing the complete meaning of the text. [1]

2 Timothy 3:1 *This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was. (The last days started with Christ.)*

The Lord warns His people about men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. The **Reformers warn us:** There will be a “great abundance of the most wicked men even in the very bosom of the Church;” they will “make a show and countenance of great holiness, and charity,” but they “resist the truth not from simple ignorance, but from a perverse mind.” God’s people “must not tarry with” such men, but “turn away

from them.” (Geneva) They “torture” God’s Word to make HIM say something He did not say. The Spirit commands, from such turn away. The warning is throughout Scripture, e.g., **2 Peter 2:1-5, 12, 13,**

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways;

The Church of Jesus Christ, that is the New Israel of God according to Galatians 6:16, has **more confused, confusing and false** prophets in it than did the ancient Israel of God. Not only are there many heresies and promoters of heresy in the church, but there are as many in the New Israel of God who gladly welcome these teachers as there were in the Old Israel of God.

2 Timothy 4:3 *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

God promises to deliver His Elect from the errors of the false teachers if they will act according to the Truth:

Romans 16:17, 18 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*

Paul did not name the ones to be marked and thus avoided. On the contrary, their **evil, false doctrines** obtained by “torturing” the Word of God clearly identifies them. The “torturers” did not die out, so today they must be diligently sought as one would watch for his enemies from a tower.

Note Paul’s words: When identified by their corrupt teachings contrary to the doctrine *which ye have learned*, they are to be marked for a specific reason: not so one can sift out fiction from the truth, but so the “experts” can be AVOIDED. Identify them according to the Law, the Psalms and the Prophets, and **avoid them**. This writer has found that at times that separation may even be from beloved friends and family members.

Deuteronomy 13:1-5, the Law of God is dogmatic requiring death to those who subverted, corrupt or torture the Word of God, *i.e.*, excommunication.

Deuteronomy 13:5 *...And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to*

turn you away from the LORD your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

Any preaching or worship of the Lord God that is not according to the Word of God is service to a false god. Prayer to the Father apart from the intercession of Christ is prayer to a false god.

Note that the subverter of the Law was from within the congregation of the Lord, and the Law required his death:

Deuteronomy 18:20 *But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die.*

V. 20 is quite stronger than Deuteronomy 13:5, for it requires capital punishment against all who offer answers for life apart from the Word of God. We may hear of desires to enforce the “Law of God,” but where are the desires to enforce these laws against those who “torture” God’s Word? They abound in Orthodox and non-Orthodox Evangelical churches as well as in liberal churches.

We must conclude, therefore, that those who, knowingly or unknowingly, “torture” God’s Word to uphold their supposed Biblical theories are embodiments of the spirit of the antichrist as defined in 1 & 2 John.

Deuteronomy 3 and Matthew 24:24 tell us that the corrupters are God’s enemies who are sent by God to test and deceive the very Elect if possible. Though their numbers are legion, their purpose is one: draw the Elect away from the real issues of life that provide genuine solutions, *viz.* the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth. That advancement can only be through the honest preaching and teaching of the law-word of God—teaching all nations the Word of God and the proper application of His command-word to all areas of life and thought.

We freely use **Psalms 1:1** (*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.*), yet not really believing what it says. The Lord did not say, “*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the ungodly counsel of men.*” Rather, He said, *in the counsel of the ungodly*. In other words, the Lord’s blessings are upon those who **do not seek** life-giving counsel from

the ungodly. Who can be more ungodly than those who “torture” the Word of God in order to support a doctrine or theory that fits within their view of Scripture, **such as** Antinomianism, Arminianism and Dispensationalism, none of which can be taught without wresting of Scripture?

Why would a child of God willfully and intentionally spurn the blessings of the God he claims to love and serve? Those who seek, or sit in the counsel of the ungodly depart from God’s blessings.

God’s people are clearly instructed by the Spirit to avoid those who wrest – *torture* – God’s Word, and who refuse correction by the Word. They are corrupters of God’s Word. Consequently, they are corrupters of men’s minds as they speak concerning the *issues of life*. Their “sheep’s clothing” cannot change the fact that they are, knowingly or unknowingly, at heart ravening wolves with only devouring poison for God’s people no matter how pleasant and good they may sound.

2 Kings 4:40 *O thou man of God, there is death in the pot.*
Note

[1] I received this email from by Pastor Ron Rumburg who I have known for maybe 15 years: Dear Friends, I am sending out a U-tube video connection called “The Great Bible Hoax of 1881: Is the Text Mistranslated” and I know it is long, but it deals with what has happened to the modern texts especially of the NT. It reveals how under Westcott & Hort we have been brought to a one world Bible with erroneous errors being a part of modern translations, etc. You will be surprised how even missionary translations have been tainted with modern methods. You will be surprised with some of the present day advocates of the modern critical theory. (“The Great Bible Hoax Of 1881: Is The Text Mistranslated? | Bridge To Babylon”) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIC5rUbs_-E

We need to be aware of the assault on God’s Word. If you have already seen this then you know of its importance. Your fellow believer in the inspired, inerrant Word of God, pastor Ron Rumburg. Editor’s note: SIL (Summer Institute of Linguistics) is mentioned at 2:19. At 2:22:34 W. Cameron Townsend, “Uncle Cam,” founder of Wycliffe Bible translators, employed ecumenical means for his translating. SIL is introduced at 2:23:17.

BE A MAN

If Telling People to Shape Up Is Bullying, Then America Needs More Bullying

Townhall Columnists Kurt Schlichter

Hurricane Katrina had nothing on the collective party wetting by the regime media when Governor Ron DeSantis told a bunch of teens to divest themselves of their ridiculous face thongs. Apparently, older males teaching younger ones not to act like serfs is now “bullying”

instead of exactly what should happen. Yeah, if there’s one thing America has too much of it is positive male influences on younger men. Now, if the Governor’s righteous chastisement constitutes bullying – which it doesn’t, but go with it – then let’s have more bullying.

On the other hand, the incident did lead to the spectacle of a prominent Lincoln Project member complaining that powerful adults should not use their position to force teens to bend to their will. Who saw that coming, right?

These are the kind of situations where you see who went to basic training and who did not. It’s all part of the toxification of manhood designed to undermine the kind of strength and discipline that, not at all coincidentally, provides a powerful bulwark – the defensive structure kind, not the cheesy blog kind – against feminized nanny fascism. Men are not born – they are made. And they are not made with just hugs and participation trophies. Nurturing is a woman’s task, and it is important. Men and women – which are the only genders – are both equally essential. But boys need to be introduced to the world of men, and it’s a tough world where there are expectations and failure is not excused. You earn your respect; you don’t get it because you deserve it in some cosmic sense. Fathers, coaches, drill sergeants – these are the impatient, insensitive, and tough role models who take little boys and turn them into men who can do things like kiss their families good-bye and send them to Poland while they pick up an AK-47 and go off to kill Russians.

Men fight for lots of reasons. One important one is so that the other men around them don’t think they are loathsome cowards. That’s a manifestation of what our garbage elite would call “toxic masculinity,” which is ironically what allows these frivolous clowns to flourish by keeping them physically safe. Congratulations, toxic males – you made the West safe for the woke, and they repay you with contempt and abuse.

Of course, this male mindset is anathema to the pampered prisses of the American ruling class that inherited a paradise that was built and bled for by better men and is defended by them still. But there is another reason they hate the world of men – the unyielding, harsh world of inflexible standards and high expectations that leaves little room for half-steppers and slackers. They can’t hack it. You look at the neuters of the coastal elite and you can see that they are frauds, Potemkin men

(does using a Russian-derived analogy make you Putin's pet?) with nothing backing up their Twitter bluster and MSNBCNN butchness. And they know it.

They know they don't measure up, that they are not peers to the very people they seek to look down upon. Yeah, they may have credentials from all the right institutions, a bachelors from Yale or a resume with Bain and McKinsey gigs on it, but among men, that guy with a high school diploma and a DD214 [Honorable Discharge, ed.] is the one who earned respect instead of culturally inherited his social position.

Think of a world where a family without a father was the exception instead of the rule. Would America be better, or worse? Remember that one kid that DeSantis told to unmask? Did you see his smile as he tasted facial freedom? And his mother had him stand there in front of the cameras – in his obedience gag – behind her as she whined about how the Governor was so mean to her baby and risked his “safety” by letting him be free. He was mortified. And she was – as the nags, scolds, and Mask-olinis always are – unmasked.

Real bullying is taking delight in the pain of others. Teaching young men to be men – in this case, to demand their freedom from arbitrary and ridiculous mandates by power-mad functionaries – is something different. You know who were the best drill sergeants in basic training (and the opportunity for all young men to go through that crucible is the only argument I find compelling with regard to peacetime mandatory national service), or the best TAC officers at Officer Candidate School? The guys who thought the yelling and berating part was distasteful but necessary. They did not get off on it (we all knew the ones who did, and despised them). Instead, they did it because they wanted to make us into soldiers, the way soldiers have been made for thousands of years.

Telling the truth is not “bullying.” Directing proper actions is not “bullying.” Telling people to shape up is not “bullying” any more than mutilating the perfectly healthy genitals and breasts of children to conform to the delusion created by gender dysphoria is “medical care.” But if the establishment wants to torture the Eng-

lish language and try to jam this round peg of perfectly proper and absolutely essential direction and guidance into the square hole of bullying, then fine. Then it's bullying, and our society would be a hell of a lot better if we had a hell of a lot more of it.



Bettie & her first-born, Jennie Chancey

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

By Bettie Need

The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at St. James's Theater in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the pro-

tagonists maintain fictitious personae in order to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

The successful opening night marked the climax of Wilde's career but also heralded his downfall. The Marquess of Queensberry, father of Lord Alfred Douglas, an intimate friend of Wilde, planned to present Wilde a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards, however, their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde's homosexual double life was revealed to the Victorian public and he was eventually sentenced to imprisonment. Wilde's notoriety caused the play, despite its success, to be closed after just 86 performances. After his release, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work. (Wikipedia)

In my (first) husband's life as a pastor, he has occasions to visit people in the prisons, and at times, I accompany him. Once we visited a young woman who was accused of assault and burglary. When we visited her, she gave us her side of the story, and was quite upset that her ex- husband was the one who sent the

police to put her in jail for entering his new girl friend's house. Another young woman in jail was there because she was in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people, who were caught with drugs. What were the steps leading to their incarcerations?

Oscar Wilde was a successful author, yet his private life was his downfall. When what he did in private was exposed publicly it ended his career in 1895. Fast-forward to 2022. Homosexuality is openly exalted and biblical marriage is openly criticized. Evil is called good and good is called evil. "Shacking up" has become accepted as normal, instead of commitment to marriage for life; and many Christians trust the public school to teach their children good morals.

When I was a young mother, I was distressed when one of the ladies in the church we were attending said she and her husband did not teach their children the Bible because they wanted their children to discover Christianity for themselves! That was 40 years ago! Even recently, my husband heard a mother say she did not use Scripture memorization as a tool in training her children because she wanted them to discover it on their own! How many families in how many churches believe the same thing? How many churches are "teaching Fluff and Stuff" in Sunday School? (See Answers in Genesis for chronological Sunday School curriculum for all ages.)

The Victorians in 1895 put Oscar Wilde out of business for his pagan, anti-biblical personal views. Where is the church today? Openly flouting God's condemnation of fornication, adultery, killing the unborn and homosexuality! Sadly, we know non-church "Christian" groups that overlook fornication and adultery among their members and officers!

Some blame the change in our culture upon the government removing the Bible from public school. But where were the churches and pastors who did not teach God's command for parents to teach their children about God and His commandments? Where were and are the Christian parents to teach the ways of the Lord?

Deuteronomy 6:4-8 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt*

bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Not only are parents to teach their children about God and His Word 24/7, they are even to decorate their homes with God's Word! They should teach God's word not only to their own children, but also to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Psalm 78:1-8 «Maschil of Asaph.» *Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.*

In the New Testament, Paul encouraged Timothy: *But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (II Tim 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.)* And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. II Timothy 3:14-17*

Sadly, we see even in homes where the Bible was taught morning, noon and night, far too many of the children of these homes denying God, turning to the world, and some even embracing homosexuality!

The Importance of Being Earnest, A Serious Command for Trivial Christians

"Earnest"— [noun] something of value given by one person to another to bind a contract;

[adjective] with sincere intent, grave, sedate, sober, solemn; one's dearest wish, devout wishes for their suc-

ness; purposeful, goal-directed.

Pr 13:22 *A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: 1 Pe 1:15* *But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 1 Pe 1:16* *Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

Are we leaving a godly or an ungodly heritage to this and the next generation? Are we earnestly doing all we can to pass on practically lived out Biblical Christianity? Are we in the world but not of the world? Let us walk in the light as Christ, who is the Light; and may we walk in such a manner that there will be no mistaking who our Father is.

To God alone belongs the Truth and the Glory— let us pass it on to thousands of generations!

Bettie Need. <https://titus2joy.blogspot.com/>

Doctrines of Devils

THE ANTINOMIAN HERESY

By Rev. Need

Matthew 7:15 *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*

24:24 *For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Acts 20:30* *Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 1 Timothy 4:1* *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. [1]*

The natural man is pleased with false doctrines and doctrines of devils whether the speaker believes them or not, for they release the hearer from responsibility. The speaker's conscience being seared, he is able to sincerely present false doctrines. How much is being preached to the purse in order to fleece the flock? There is a good income to be made with the message "Don't Worry, be Happy," for you are no longer responsible to the law of God. The speaker can be as serious as a heart attack, but sincerity cannot justify doctrine that is not according to the Law, Psalms and the Prophets.

Doctrines of Devils—Modern Teaching History

Below is a March 4, 2022 article that exemplifies the Antinomianism Faith that is prevalent in the church today, especially among Baptists, but others are certainly are not exempt. Many of us were raised in the anti-Christian Antinomian tradition and perhaps some may still follow that faith. I may be preaching to the

choir, but... Ignoring the Darby-Scotfield foundation of the 1800s, let us turn our attention to the modern fountain-head that has brought us to our present lawless situation. (I was born in 1941, so I am speaking from experience.)

One may say, "This does not affect me!" But it does. There is not one area of Christian thought that has not been influenced to some extent by the Modern Antinomian Heresy.

Modern: Since the 1940s, the church has had a steady diet of Antinomianism from both the physical and electronic pulpits. The result has been and is an inward turning to pietism and the removal of the Biblical Christian influence from church, education, state and from society. Events like the burning down of Seattle with political approval is a clear result of seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils that have controlled the pulpits of America for the past couple of generations.

Obviously, the lawlessness we see today **did not happen in a vacuum**. The church has known for years about the lawlessness that was being taught in the teachers' colleges and then in the public schools, yet the pulpits failed to warn their people where that anti-Christ teaching was leading with "GET GOD'S HERITAGE OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUES OF SATAN." The teachers of the past generation or so have had Socialism "drilled" into their very being in the tax supported teachers' colleges, and we wonder why they are so committed to the Socialist' agenda. "We" paid to have Socialism instituted in the US. "Oh America, why have you destroyed yourself by following seducing spirits, and doctrines of devil, and not contending for the faith once delivered to the saints?"

All of the above is to lay a foundation for the following article by Dr. Terry Frala from the tabloid "**Sword of the Lord AMERICA'S FOREMOST REVIVAL PUBLICATION.**" The Sword was founded in the early 1950s by **evangelist John R. Rice (1934-1980)**. He traveled nationwide, but particularly east of the Mississippi holding revival conferences with "big named preachers" who could draw a huge crowd. (**Jack Hyles, 1926-2001**, was the king of big-name preachers who could draw huge crowds from miles around, and he often spoke along with John R. Rice. Hyles fell to women problems.) Yearly *Sword Conferences* are still held, and draw many hundreds of primarily Evangelical Baptist preachers from all over the country. The Sword

is thoroughly Antinomian, Arminian and Dispensational and commonly attacks “Calvinism.” Years ago, I attended Rice’s meetings when they were close at hand. A few years ago, someone placed me on the *Sword* mailing list. The tabloid contains many good Dispensational, Armenian, Antinomian messages, and plenty of ads from Baptist churches inviting one to attend their church, promoting a church college, promoting special meetings, &c.

J. Vernon McGee (1904-1988) who was an ordained Presbyterian minister, must be numbered among the popular heretical teachers of that era. Until he died, McGee had a very popular daily radio program, “Through the Bible.” He is sadly remembered for his teaching that “*You don’t polish brass on a sinking ship,*” an evil doctrine that appealed to the natural man, and caused many to give up any Christian responsibility outside of the four walls of their churches and homes. Both McGee and Rice were “radical” Antinomian Arminian and Dispensationalists who urged the Christian to endure and wait for the any moment Rapture. We are facing the destructive consequences of their doctrines of devils as Christians withdrew and turned both religion and society over to the wicked. The damage done to the theology of victorious Christianity and is being continued with the *Sword* cannot be overestimated. Messages in the *Sword* are aligned with Scofieldism. [8]

[T]he fact is however, your premillennialists represent the biggest single group in the United States. There is no group equal to them, but they are the most impotent group in the United States. In other words, there is something wrong with their authority. There is something wrong with their position. They are not able to amount to anything with it, so they have got millions lined up who believe in this, an incredible element in the population in America, impotent. Which is evidence enough they are not Godly. (Rushdoony)

This writer’s desire is to call attention to the fact that vast numbers of pastors and evangelists of all denominations have been snared by the Antinomian heresy. Hence, for the past two generations, there has been a steady flow of Antinomianism from the pulpits of charismatic preachers who attract great followings. This generation is now reaping the fruit of the various seducing spirits and doctrines of devils as lawlessness now reigns in both church, state and society in general.

As we consider the following, we must keep in mind that a text apart from its Old Testament context of the

Law, Psalms and Prophets is a false doctrine, Luke 24:44, Acts 24:14.

This *Sword* article defining the Antinomian faith, *i.e.*, Scofieldism.

KEEPING THE LAW TODAY

By Dr. Terry Frala

I want to look at a passage that clearly says that we are not under the Old Testament Law today.

The way of salvation is made very plain in Acts 16:30, 31:

“... What must I do to be saved?”

“... Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” [1]

The question of the jailer was so simple that there can be no mistake about what he wants to know. The answer given is just as plain. To teach a way of salvation other than faith, people have to get a group of verses, take them out of context and build some complicated system to make them say what God did not intend. The Bible answer is very clear.

There is another verse that makes it equally clear why the Law was given.

“Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come.”—Gal. 3:19. [2]

“Wherefore then serveth the law?” In other words, what is the purpose of the Law? Since that question is germane to the issue before us, it is important to discover the Bible’s answer. It is just as direct as the answer was in Acts 16. “It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come.”

Notice three key words. The first one is “added.” Adding requires two things: something must first be there, and it must remain. The first item in a recipe isn’t “added” but simply put in the bowl. And if that which is in the bowl doesn’t remain, I am replacing it instead of adding to it.

The Law was never intended to stand alone. Prior to its being “added” in Exodus 20, Israel accused God of getting them out of Egypt just so He could kill them with hunger or thirst in the desert! Instead of destroying them for blasphemy, He provided them food and water—grace in action!

When the Law was given, a dark cloud came over the mountain; and God said that if anyone even touched it

he would die. The Law wouldn't save the Israelites; it would only destroy anyone who disobeyed. Grace preceded the Law and remained in place to keep God from destroying them for their disobedience.

The second key word is "till." This word sets a time limit. If you are going to do something "till" noon, you intend to stop at that time. When God "added" the Law, it was only "till" something. Though the Law is eternal, it was never intended to continue this Old Testament function forever. God had the end in view at the beginning and clearly tells us here what that end was. [3]

The third word is "seed." Galatians 3:16 tells us the "seed" is Jesus Christ. The Law was "added" to work alongside grace "till" the "seed" (Jesus) should come and fulfill it, as He said He did (Matt. 5:17). It was never intended to operate as it had been past that point. Jesus lived a sinless life, fulfilling the Law in all points; then He took our sins upon Himself and died for them on the cross. Now God imputes Jesus' obedience to all who believe in Him:

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 11 Cor 5:21.

He applies this teaching in Galatians 3:23-26.

"But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

"But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

"For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." [4]

In the first three verses, Paul says, "We," "our" and "us." Then in verse 26 he changes the pronoun and says, "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

"We" means a group to which I belong along with someone else. "Ye" indicates a group to which you belong that excludes me.

The first group ("we") included Paul, but it apparently excluded the Galatians, or there would have been no need for a change in pronouns in verse 26. Paul was talking about Jews—he belonged; the Galatians did not.

The Law was Israel's schoolmaster to bring them

"unto Christ." A schoolmaster was a servant charged with protecting and supervising a minor son until he reached manhood. "Unto" indicates time, as shown by the context—"before" (vs. 23) and "after" (vs. 25). The Law would "bring" (protect and separate) Israel up to the time of Christ. [5]

The Galatians ("ye") had become children of God by faith in Jesus, and this showed that His work of fulfilling the Law was complete and this time of the "seed" had come. The Galatians were trying to observe parts of the Law, and Paul was telling them they didn't need to do so. They were not of Israel, and that time had passed anyway. [6]

The Law had not passed away; it had simply served its purpose. The outward observance of the Law ceased, which was good, because no one except Jesus had ever kept the Law perfectly.

"Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?" —Acts 15:10.

This was the reason Jesus had to die.

"If there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law."

"If righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."— Gal. 3:21; 2:21.

It is true that "by the law is the knowledge of sin" (Rom. 3:20), but now there is even a better way to recognize our sinfulness. Whatever law you give me, I can make an excuse for why I broke it. But when I turn from Mount Sinai to Mount Calvary and see God sacrificing His Son, my excuses vanish. If God had to offer His Son for me to have a chance to be saved, surely I am without excuse. [7]

Freed from the formal observance of the Law, we are taught by grace to live up to those same holy standards from the heart (Titus 2:11,12). Thus, love fulfills a law (Rom. 13:10) that flesh could not satisfy (Rom. 8:3). [8]

Dr. Terry Frala, retired Sword Staff Writer for the Sword of the Lord.
3/4/22

A text without its Old Testament context is a doctrine of devils, and above are some of Dr. Frala's antichrist doctrines.

End Notes

[1] Dr. Terry Frala ignores and thus denies the meaning of Lord. "Lordship Salvation" is not only denied by the antinomians, but

is considered heresy. However, even the simplest word study will define Lord as “one who has control of the person, the master.” Moreover, the Lord Himself required obedience to His Law-Word in Luke 6:46 *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?* In other words, there can be no salvation in the Antinomian Faith, for there is no law. It denies the Lordship or Kingship of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Rom 10:13**, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord...* **Acts 17:7**, *another king, one Jesus*. The wicked who are in civil authority then and now realize that preaching Jesus is preaching that there is another king whose laws control His people. Thus, the terrible persecution in the early church as well as in nations like China today. The powers-that-be in America are now in very open warfare against the preaching of King Jesus. Those who ignore His demand for dominion will get along very well with the ungodly in authority. The preaching of Jesus will result in the expansion of the Kingdom of God, and the displacement of the kingdom of men, 1 Cor 15: 24, 25. Moreover, how does Dr. Frala deal with Matthew 28:19, 20? See Acts 2:21, 9:20, 10:48, 21:13, 10:13, &c. Both Christ and Paul spoke according to the Prophets of old, and ignoring the already established Old Testament doctrine will lead to the final destruction of men and nations. (Isa 56, Jer 23, Ezek 34, Rom 16:18, Eph 4:4, 19, 2 Tim 3:5, 2 Pet 2:2, 3, &c.)

[2] In his very first statement, Dr. Terry Frala revealed that he is corrupting the Word of God, and is presenting false doctrine and doctrines of devils. He took v. 19 completely out of its context to make it fit his corrupt doctrine; v. 20 *Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one*. Paul is clearly referring to the mediation laws, sacrifices and ordinances, the blood of bulls and goats, not to the Commandments as given to Moses on the Mount. Those laws spoke of the Mediator to come in the “seed,” which was Christ. When Dr. Frala based his doctrine on one verse, v. 19, which was removed from its context, v. 20, he destroyed any Scriptural legitimacy he might have had. He is exercising his power to speak and write without the moral authority from the Word to do so; therefore, all the rest of his doctrine must be false. He builds on a false premise, so we could dismiss him at this point, but we will continue on for a bit. There is far too much here to develop in this short tome; see <https://www.biblicalexaminer.org/Com/NT/Galatians%203.html>

[3] The cross was the end of the many binding and oppressive mediation laws, **Colossians 2:14** *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;*

[4] Remember, Dr. Frala has completely destroyed the meaning of the text by avoiding the next verse which clearly tells us that Paul is dealing with the mediation laws which were necessary until the *seed* should come. The Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled all the mediation laws, and the way was opened for all peoples and nations to come to the Father. He had to perfectly fulfill the Commandments in order to be the spotless Lamb needed to fulfill the mediation laws. By fulfilling the Commandments, He was able to fulfill the needed Sacrifice for the sins of His people.

[5] Paul is dealing with two laws, the Commandments and

the Mediation laws. Every doctrine Christ and Paul presented was according to the Law, Psalms and Prophets, and that Old Testament context determines whether Paul is speaking of the Commandments or the Mediation laws.

[6] The initial church was all Jewish. Paul is breaking their attachment to the mediation laws by which they had been bound for 1500 years. Throughout the book of Galatians, Paul is proving that the new nation of God is the Church, 6:15 *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. 16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God*. Dispensationalism vehemently denies Paul’s words that said that old national Israel was replaced by the new nation, the Israel of God.

[7] A better way than the Commandments! It seems that Dr. Frala is saying that the believer is now free to sin as long as he loves God from the heart. However, sin is always in terms of the Commandments and their implications. **1 John 3:4** *Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. 5 and ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. 6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. 7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*

[8] In his last paragraph, Dr. Frala gives his explanation of how Schofield’s wicked doctrine works out today. The Scofield Bible was first published in 1909, and has dominated the



The natural result of Antinomian Doctrine

“fundamentalist” movement from the early 1900s. All of the popular preachers of the 20th century used the Schofield Bible, and many even gave the page number in their Schofield bible for the congregation to look up. Dr. Frala’s definition of love is totally contrary to the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my*

commandments. 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. What Dr. Frala, i.e., C.I. Scofield said releases the believer to live in sin with a clear conscience. Antinomianism ignores the book of James, for James equates Christian love with actions that conform with the Law and the Prophets. **James 4:17** *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.*

Antinomianism gives no dogmatic law for right living after one is converted, for it permits every man to be his own god as he allows his conscience to be his

guide: ‘Under the new covenant of grace the principle of obedience to the divine will is inwrought.’” (“Under the new covenant...” Scofield Bible note at bottom of p. 1245. Oxford University Press, 1909. Copyright renewed, 1945. Scofield simply systematized J.N. Darby’s (1800-1880) theories. The implications of Antinomian, Dispensational theology is developed in *Death of the Church Victorious*, by Rev. Ovid Need, p 362. Sovereign Grace Publishers, Lafayette IN. “Death...” is available in hard copy or PDF download. Contact ovid.need@gmail.com. BTW, China Inland Missions took the doctrine of withdrawal into China in the 1800s.

• **CONCLUSION:**

The heretical antinomian church was and is unable to deal with Humanism. It may preach boldly against all the aspects of Humanism, but with no authoritative law from God, the preachers are preaching in their own authority, for all authority must come from the law-word of God. Without God’s law, there is no power nor authority to withstand any sexual revolution, nor can antinomianism deal with corrupt politics and all that entails, nor with the rise of occultism and witchcraft that is flooding our nation. All authority and power belongs to Christ. Note the many popular movies that promote witchcraft, particularly shows that appeal to children, *e.g., Disney*. The promotion of witchcraft is a profoundly dangerous antichrist social force.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [of God’s law]: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. 7 As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame. 8 They eat up the sin of my people, and they set their heart on their iniquity. 9 And there shall be, like people, like priest: and I will punish them for their ways, and reward them their doings.*

The reward of the antinomian spirit in the church is upon us.

Is there salvation for those who are committed to the Antinomian Faith after they have heard the Word of Truth? Dr. Frala defined again why lawlessness now prevails, and the people love the theory for it relieves them of responsibility except for a “love” that has no definition of obeying law of the Lord.

Romans 2:6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: 8 But*

unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, 9 Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; 10 But glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: 11 For there is no respect of persons with God.

Righteousness and Unrighteousness is defined by the Law-Word of God. How will the Antinomians answer God in that day? Will they say, “We were told that Your law no longer applied in the Age of Grace?”

It’s Official

THE AMERICAN CHURCH IS APOSTATE

By Chuck Baldwin, 2/17/22

I’ve known for many years that the Church in America has fallen to the lowest spiritual state of its entire existence. I’ve tried to warn Christians in both this column and my public speaking to the dismal state of today’s churches. Faithful readers are very much aware of those warnings.

But now, studied research confirms all I have warned about over the past several decades, and it’s actually worse than I thought: The American Church is not just derelict; it is apostate.

Researcher George Barna and the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University have released Barna’s latest survey, and the findings are horrific.

According to Barna’s research,

Today, 176 million Americans claim to be Christians—69% of the population. Yet, only 6% of U.S. adults—which is 9% of those identifying as Christians—possess a biblical worldview, believing the Bible to be accurate and reliable, among other convictions.

“Two out of three Americans think of themselves as a Christian, and a majority still think that Christianity is kind of about the Bible,” Barna said in an interview at the time. “But there’s a big gap between what (self-identified Christians) believe the Bible may teach, and what the Bible actually teaches.”

The CRC study, which included 2,000 adults, classifies American believers on a spectrum of five subgroups, from those who only self-identify as Christians to those who are termed “integrated disciples” and possess a biblical worldview. On the surface, they may all appear Christian, but the survey reveals stark differ-

ences in their core beliefs.

Large majorities of self-identified Christians also report many beliefs “not in harmony with biblical teaching,” according to the survey. These include:

72% argue that people are basically good

66% say that ‘having faith’ matters more than which faith you pursue

64% say that all religious faiths are of equal value

58% believe that if a person is good enough, or does enough good things, they can earn their way into Heaven

57% believe in karma

“There is a remarkable level of self-deception (even among) born-again Christians,” said Barna, commenting on his recent worldview research. “It represents a huge educational challenge for those responsible for biblical worldview development.”

“Too often . . . people who want a certain reputation or image embrace the label ‘Christian,’ regardless of their spiritual life and intentions,” states Barna. “‘Christian’ has become somewhat of a generic term rather than a name that reflects a deep commitment to passionately pursuing and being like Jesus Christ,” he states.

Resonant with his decades of research work, George Barna’s latest survey seeks to arouse urgency among evangelical parents and pastors regarding the necessity of teaching sound doctrine to the next generation.

To bring Barna’s research into focus:

Of the 176 million Americans who claim to be Christians, only 9% of them believe the Bible to be the true Word of God and thus might genuinely be saved. (“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17) That means the number of truly born-again Christians in America is probably no more than 15 million. This also means that probably less than 10% of the professing Christians attending America’s churches are truly saved.

But the real number of truly saved people in this country might actually be even smaller than that.

Barna’s 9% number of Christians possessing a Biblical worldview includes 33% who believe in the Buddhism/Hinduism doctrine of “karma,” which is just another form of works salvation. Plus, 52% believe that man is basically good, which is a blatant rejection of Biblical truth that “there is none good but one, that is,

God” (Mark 10:18) and “there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:12)

To reject the spiritual depravity of man is to replace the imputed righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ with human self-righteousness, which, of course, provides no righteousness or redemption at all.

That means the real number of truly saved adults in this country could be somewhere between 7 and 11 million. This is out of a total population of 258 million adults.

This highlights the words of Christ: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Matthew 7:13, 14)

So, when we complain about the churches’ lack of spiritual courage and conviction, we must remember that over 90% of the members of these churches are not even born-again Christians—which brings MUCH into focus.

Barna is also astute in highlighting the reason for this massive Christian apostasy: The pulpits are not teaching sound doctrine.

Quoting again from the report:

Resonant with his decades of research work, George Barna’s latest survey seeks to arouse urgency among evangelical . . . pastors regarding the necessity of teaching sound doctrine to the next generation.

There it is: By and large, America’s pastors are not teaching their people sound doctrine. Hence, the blame for this massive apostasy in the U.S. can be laid squarely at the pulpits of America’s churches.

One would think that the stark reality of the above report would cause America’s pastors to reevaluate their emphasis on “church growth,” motivational speaking, turning their churches into glorified social clubs, avoiding hard sermons, being “yes-men” for civil government and on their unscriptural infatuation with Christian Zionism.

It should; but it won’t.

God has written “Ichabod” over the churches of America.

[The evils of Christian Zionism explained at <https://www.biblicalexaminer.org/JudaismOpen.html>]

BLACK FAMILIES MOTIVATED TO HOMESCHOOL CHILDREN BY 1 FACTOR

Programs jumped 6-fold under pandemic, now at 18%

By Lance Izumi. 1/19/22

Real Clear Education

As the United States observes Black History Month, African-American families are making history by leaving failing public schools and homeschooling their children in record numbers.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, parents, and especially black parents, found public schools incapable of handling the crisis. Even prior to the pandemic, public schools were failing to improve learning among African-American children.

In 2019, only one and a half out of ten black eighth-graders taking the national reading and math exams scored at or above the proficiency level.

The pandemic made a bad situation even worse. According to a 2021 McKinsey & Company study, “students in majority Black schools ended the [2020-21 school] year with six months of unfinished learning.” The study concluded: “The pandemic widened preexisting opportunity and achievement gaps, hitting historically disadvantaged students hardest.”

Not surprisingly, black parents reacted to this educational disaster by doing the one thing they could do immediately – pull their children out of public schools to homeschool them instead.

While homeschooling increased among all racial and ethnic groups during the pandemic, the rate skyrocketed among African-Americans. Census Bureau data shows homeschooling among black households jumped six-fold, from 3% in spring 2020 to 18% in spring 2021. Relatively equal proportions of white, black, and Hispanic households now homeschool their children.

One African-American mother in Detroit told The New Yorker that she had challenged the city’s school superintendent, saying: “Parents are not deciding to take their children out because of COVID. Parents are doing [homeschooling pods] because education has failed children in this city forever.”



Jeanetta Riley, another mother interviewed by The New Yorker, said, “A lot of Black people are struggling.” Her daughter was performing two grade levels behind in math when she decided to join a local homeschool parents’ group.

Using learning tools, such as the free online Khan Academy tutorial program, plus other resources, Riley homeschooled her daughter, who is now achieving at grade level. Her daughter is happier and Riley plans to continue to homeschool her even after the pandemic ends.

Academics, however, are far from the only reason that blacks are turning to homeschooling.

Demetria Zinga, who created a popular homeschool YouTube channel, believes that black families “choose homeschooling for different reasons” and that “each family is unique.” Some, she says, choose to homeschool because of the time and schedule flexibility it offers, while others want to take their children out of public schools because their kids “are being dishonored or devalued.”

Further, she says that many African-American families want to “share our values and we want to pass on our heritage, which cannot be done holistically if we’re sending off our children for eight hours a day to be under the care of a system that doesn’t support that.”

Zinga used the freedom and flexibility that homeschooling affords to choose the type of curriculum that best suited her children’s needs. Her oldest daughter Nyomi thrived using a classical education curriculum, which she said was “a pretty hard challenge,” but which “was helpful to make me a better writer.”

“I believe homeschooling is growing and exploding amongst African Americans and there will be more and more homeschoolers,” Zinga predicts. She says that homeschooling has been “a journey well worth it” because “I really got to be there for [my kids] in a way that I wouldn’t have been any way else.”

Khadija Ali-Coleman, co-founder of the growing

Black Family Homeschool Educators and Scholars, observed, “COVID-19 was the publicist for homeschooling.” With the success and satisfaction that many parents are experiencing with teaching their kids at home, expect homeschooling to be a key wave of the future in the black community.

Lance Izumi is senior director of the Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute. He is the author of the new PRI book, *The Homeschool Boom: Pandemic, Policies, and Possibilities*.

https://www.wnd.com/2022/02/black-families-motivated-homeschool-children-1-factor/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

The devilish-wicked “government school” system is collapsing under its own weight; its primary goal has been and is the destruction of the family, and the preservation and strengthening of the “beast-state.” Black parents are realizing that they are victims of the system. Lord willing, these homeschoolers will bring strength to the Black community. We should pray to such an end of strengthening Black families in the Lord and discipline.

Where are the Parents?

TIKTOK IS DESTROYING OUR CHILDREN

By Michael Brown

Alex Marlow, News Editor-in-Chief at the rightwing website Breitbart.com, recently made the claim that “TikTok is Chinese mind control,” pointing to how it has captivated the “increasingly A.D.D. American mind” with its constant scrolling. ...

[A]lthough TikTok was developed by a Chinese company and is owned by a Chinese company, it is banned in China, along with a number of other, major social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. How interesting! So, the app is good for kids in America and the world but not good for kids in China?

...

To give a shocking case in point, according to a recent video by conservative commentator Matt Walsh, “TikTok Is Making Mental Illness Trendy.”

He noted how destructive ideas and behavior and concepts “can go from fringe to trendy to mainstream quite literally overnight.” He added, “What was unusual one moment might be ubiquitous the next, and people, especially young people, can get caught in the

current and drowned before they even notice that their shoes are wet.”

He pointed to the latest TikTok fascination with what is called Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD), as a result of which large numbers of young people are wrongly diagnosing themselves with this unusual condition.

It’s really as if a foreign entity has invaded the hearts and minds of our kids, what Jordan Peterson recently referred to as a “sociological contagion.” (**Clearly demonic, ed.**)

Peterson also opined that opening the boundaries of “sex categories” would “fatally confuse thousands of young girls,” ...

Perhaps this Newsweek headline from October 2021 provides some of the necessary substantiation for Peterson’s claim: “Nearly 40 Percent of U.S. Gen Zs, 30 Percent of Young Christians Identify as LGBTQ, Poll Shows.”

This spike of more than 4,000 percent, from roughly 3 percent of the population to the current 40 percent, did not happen in a vacuum. Instead, this is what takes place when a society loses its boundaries, casts off traditional biblical values, and inundates its young people with a constant flood of pro-LGBTQ messages and propaganda. The latest TikTok trends provide yet another avenue for such mass deception, as kids are self-diagnosing themselves with all kinds of alleged mental disorders....

[T]hese are major results of TikTok (along with some other social media apps), and parents need to be incredibly alert to this latest threat. Is this another reason why China bans the app?

A child abuser may not be crawling through your child’s window, but another, very destructive force may be flooding into your child’s mind through social media apps, with TikTok at the top of the list. Be vigilant and beware! And remember that, as Solzhenitsyn warned, if we lose our moral and spiritual grounding, we lose all, and chaos soon ensues.

The entire article is at <https://www.christianpost.com/voices/tiktok-is-destroying-our-children.html>

Antinomianism has to weapons with which to fight this demonic invasion, for our weapon is the preaching, teaching and applying the law of God.

RESCUED BY RUBY

By Rev. Need

Rescued by Ruby is a new original Netflix film which is worth the whole family watching. It is based on a true story about a very active and uncontrollable shelter dog that was adopted by a RI State Trooper whose dream was to be in the K-9 unit. The age limit for getting into the unit was 30 years old, and he was 30. The cost of a pureblood Shepherd was around \$10,000, and the unit did not have that kind of money nor did this trooper. Though he was assured many times that he did not qualify as a K-9 handler, he refused to be discouraged from his dream. His only option was to obtain a dog and train himself and the dog for the K-9 unit. He adopted a dog from a shelter that several people had returned because that though the dog was very friendly, she was totally uncontrollable. The dog was to be “put down” the evening of the day the trooper showed up requesting a dog. He was unable to take the dog to the K-9 training classes, so he spent the next several months training her and himself. It is a very heartwarming and encouraging story. There is no violence, skin, sex nor foul language in this movie. One of key points of the film was that when he was the most discouraged, his wife encouraged him to continue on with his dream.

The reward of dedication, discipline and hard work? *Ruby* was named *The Nation’s Search & Rescue Dog of the Year, 2018*. It is an encouraging, true story of husband and wife—with one young child and another on the way—working together to achieve the husband’s dream. As we think on these kinds of movies based on true events, we see there are more than enough true events to make good, encouraging and family movies for many years, e.g., “Sergeant York,” “Greater,” “For the Glory,” “Secretariat,” “42,” &c.

As I thought on the dog *Ruby*, I was struck **with the fact that *Ruby* was uncontrollable** until she was adopted by someone who would love her and with his wife’s encouragement, would not quit. He invested his time into taming and training *Ruby* so she would be useful to society. How much like *Ruby* were we before we were called and adopted into God’s family; we were wild and untamable, but the Lord loved us even



while we were yet sinners, took us up out of *hole of the pit*, adopted us into His family, and placed us with people who would patiently train us in the Christian faith so we would be profitable for His glory in society. (Isa 51:1)

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Cor 6)

One of my favorite songs that should touch the heart of everyone who has been lifted from the miry pit by the Hand of the Great Shepherd. This wonder song by Horatius Bonar speaks to the issue at hand:

I was a wand’ring sheep, I did not love the fold; I did not love my Shepherd’s voice, I would not be controlled. I was a wayward child, I did not love my home; I did not love my Father’s voice, I loved afar to roam.

The Shepherd sought his sheep, The Father sought his child; They followed me o’er vale and hill, O’er deserts waste and wild: They found me nigh to death, Famished and faint and lone; They bound me with the bands of love, They saved the wand’ring one.

Jesus my Shepherd is; ‘Twas he that loved my soul, ‘Twas he that washed me in his blood, ‘Twas he that made me whole; ‘Twas he that sought the lost, That found the wand’ring sheep, ‘Twas he that brought me to the fold, ‘Tis he that still doth keep.

I was a wand’ring sheep, I would not be controlled; But now I love my Shepherd’s voice, I love, I love the fold. I was a wayward child, I once preferred to roam; But now I love my Father’s voice, I love, I love his home.

Horatius Bonar, 1843. Original Trinity Hymnal, p. 396. https://opc.org/hymn.html?hymn_id=328. It is sung at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VMwIVDNTNQ>

Two quick takeaways: **First**, the trouper was not a dog trainer, yet his desire to train his dog forced him to learn so he could instill discipline into the dog. Parents need to train themselves in discipline, so they can effectively instill discipline into their children. **Second**, that young Christian who may seem to be beyond all hope of mentoring into a mature and useful Christian may be a *Ruby*—rescued at the last minute on her way to being destroyed, and with tender love, patience and training,

she was disciplined and developed into *The Nation's Search & Rescue Dog of the Year, 2018*, for the greater good of society.

May God see fit to raise up men dedicated, as was this trooper with *Ruby*, to train themselves in discipline so they can train their own children in the needed discipline to be effective servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, and a blessing to the community

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

VARIOUS

- Farmer to Americans: Your grocery bill is going to go up \$1,000 per month

Grower of corn, soybeans explains why food prices will skyrocket

https://www.wnd.com/2022/03/corn-soybean-farmer-americans-grocery-bill-going-go-1000-month/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-brief&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=brief&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

Biden is promising a food shortage in the US as he finances the permanent corruption of multiplied thousands of tillable acres with solar panels that will never pay for themselves. The profit is the government subsidies that encourages farmers to cover their tillable land.

- My youngest daughter works a very early shift at Kroger, where she gets opportunities to talk with the vendors. A vendor told her that Boar's Head meat and cheese prices are not being raised but by a little bit, in comparison to the huge markup that Kroger is doing for the products they sell. BH is raising prices by cents compared to Kroger raising prices well over a dollar more. "He asked me why do I think that is. I answered because the people, through the media, news, whatever, are being told to expect inflated prices. He agreed with me." Note that the producers will get the blame for higher prices while Kroger pockets the inflated prices.

Note: Oil producers are not warm to the idea of increasing output, and oil may reach \$200 a barrel. The goal of the "Environmentalism" movement is not only to depopulate the earth, but to see the price of our abundant natural energy gets so high that the consumer must switch to EVs and renewable energy. But who can afford a \$50,000+ vehicle? God has given this nation such an abundance of natural energy that we could supply much of the world with energy. Remember the problem with Natural Gas in the Gulf. It is under such

high pressure, we have been unable to tap it.

The average homeowner uses 911 kWh per month. It takes at least 25 modern, high-end and expensive solar panels to power the average house. Most places in the US have only 4 hours of usable sunlight. Where will the energy to power the house be stored? If it were not for government subsidies, solar would be unaffordable. The solar promise is a fraud. The average installation cost payback is 8-16 years. (We drive through hundreds of acres of solar panels, and many are not following the sun.

"Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." This proverb first appeared in *Sophocles'* 17th-century play *Antigone*. That is to say "evil appears good in the minds of those whom God leads to destruction." It has become a common proverb since, and this proverb certainly describes our modern world as God's hand of judgment descends on all those who have rejected the law of God. Propaganda has replaced reality.

- **Reporter Posts Video of Trying to Charge His Tesla, Shows Why Electric Cars Won't Quickly Solve Gas Issue** [You will like this video]

Let's stop paying high gas prices and save the planet and be like the cool kids and drive electric cars!

That's what we keep hearing, right?

Who needs the laws of physics, economics, infrastructure or plain old common sense? Just electrify! Electrify! Electrify!

No need to worry about those rolling electrical blackouts in California. Or how close the Texas electrical grid came to collapsing in bad weather. Or federal mismanagement increasing natural gas prices.

After all, if men can be women and Sen. Elizabeth Warren can be a Cherokee, anything is possible. Anything!

Except replacing the internal combustion engine for transportation. At least in the near future. ...

One response to his tweet featured a video of a stranded roadside Tesla being rescued by — of all things — a man with a gas can! [The man had a small Honda generator and a can of gas in the trunk of his Tesla so he could get enough "juice" to get him to the next charging station.]

https://www.westernjournal.com/reporter-posts-video-trying-charge-tesla-shows-electric-cars-wont-quickly-solve-gas-issue/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=western-journal&ats_es=76c8869964

• **NaturalNews.com**

You do not control your own money if it's in the banks. Everything the banksters are doing to the Russians, they plan to do to YOU. If you refuse to comply with anything -- such as vaccines -- you can be cut off from the entire financial system without warning.

Given these radical changes in the world over the last several weeks, I have made what I believe to be an honest reassessment of the role of crypto in our modern (risky) world.

A few years ago, nobody imagined banks would be weaponized against innocent, peaceful citizens, but now that governments has crossed that Rubicon, crypto is the only sensible place to store assets that require near-liquidity.

Comment: Crypto or in real property, metals or ... I don't think I can go crypto, basically I do not understand crypto.

• **Teacher 'dazed' and 'unresponsive' after 5-year-old pummels her**

PEMBROKE PINES, Florida -- A disturbing incident in a South Florida classroom put a teacher in the hospital last week after she was allegedly beaten by a 5-year-old student, leaving her "dazed" and "unresponsive."

https://www.wnd.com/2022/03/teacher-dazed-unresponsive-5-year-old-pummels/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

Because of the child's age, no one was held responsible, not even the parents.

• **Yesterday I filled my faithful Ridgeline's** gas tank with 16 gallons of regular that at \$4.10/gallon cost me over \$65. I say gas prices will shoot over \$6/gallon, thanks to Brandon's feckless and idiotic ban on Russian oil imports. Where'd I get such a consarned fool notion? From this Brent Crude Oil chart and this West Texas Intermediate Crude chart. In 2008 the WTIC high was \$145.08 and the Brent high \$146.08. In just this first surge occasioned by the Ukrainian war, Brent shot up to \$139.13 and WTIC to \$130.50. If they do this in the green tree, what will they do in the dry? Blow through \$145 like a scalded dog.

Been thinking about that Russian oil ban. My guess is the absurd climate change advocates are perfectly overjoyed to see \$6 gas, since they want to end oil, coal, and gas use anyway. Fits right into the WEF's Great Reset.

Oh, by the way, have I told y'all that for five years I studied and wrote about the environmental movement and climate change? My unfazed and un-rebutted conclusion remains that man-caused climate change is baseless hogwash, not as much as a mouse burp. That's the real science, not the political science....

Franklin Sanders

Note that the crude oil cheaper, but gas prices are much higher. There is much more to this than we are being told.

• **'Demonic': Woman** who once lived as a man shatters media narrative

https://www.wnd.com/2022/03/demonic-woman-lived-man-shatters-media-narrative/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

• **Articles By Jon Rappoport**

1) **The real US-Russian connection looks like this**

2) **Hate Russia. The campaign builds.**

The late great author and researcher, Antony Sutton (1925-2002), labored for many years to unearth US-Russian collusion at the highest levels. That's why Sutton was censored by mainstream news and academic institutions.

The Best Enemy Money Can Buy (1986), and his three-volume classic, *Western Technology and Soviet Economic Development*, published between 1968 and 1973, exposed the deep historic relationship between US and Russian power players. Sutton meticulously documented the transfer of key technologies from the West to the USSR. ...

<https://blog.nomorefakenews.com/2022/03/18/the-real-us-russian-connection-looks-like-this/>

3) **US helps build Russian war machine**

Recently, I have been presenting evidence, from the work of the prodigious researcher, Antony Sutton, that modern Russia was, to a significant degree, established by Americans.

One—and not the only—vector of Sutton's work was: technology transfers from the US to Russia. His proof was voluminous and specific.

4) **The Russians needed lots of help. They were behind the curve.**

<https://blog.nomorefakenews.com/2022/03/23/us-helps-build-russian-war-machine/>

5) **Naming names: US built war capability for**

Russia—leading to the deaths of American soldiers

<https://blog.nomorefakenews.com/2022/03/25/us-built-war-capability-for-russia-leading-to-deaths-of-american-soldiers/>

Editor’s Note: Sutton documents what has been known for years, i.e., without US support, which started after WWII, Communist Russia would have passed into history long ago. Warfare moves people to accept oppression and taxation they would not otherwise accept. There are huge amounts of money causing and supporting war. It appears that the military-industrial complex needed nations to fight each other so they could reap financial benefits for supplying equipment on both sides. Warfare moves people to accept oppression and taxation they would not otherwise accept. Besides, warfare helps deal with the “overpopulation situation.” The banks financed both sides in Lincoln’s war against the Confederate States of America.

• **America Has To Lead** the New World Order? Wake Up, and ditch the malarkey, Sleepy Joe!

In order to try to con the Free West, the globalists have repackaged the so-called New World Order calling it the Green New Deal, and more recently Klaus Schwab’s Great Reset and its phony “Build Back Better”.

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/america-has-to-lead-the-new-world-order-wake-up-and-ditch-the-malarkey-sleepy-joe>

• **Think the Price of Oil Is Bad? Lithium Needed to Make Electric Cars Up 472% Since Last March**

https://www.westernjournal.com/think-price-oil-bad-lithium-needed-make-electric-cars-472-since-last-march/?ff_source=Email&ff_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&ff_campaign=dailypm&ff_content=western-journal

• **Medical, off the rails**

We have a good friend whose daughter is studying to be a nurse. She told us a few days ago that patients who are well enough to go home and want to go home are not released by the hospital to go home. When she asked why they were not sending the patient’s home, she was told that if they send them home, they will not get government payments, the beds will be empty and they will need to lay off staff members.

• **Soybean Oil May Cause Irreversible Changes in Your Brain**

Vegetable oils and seed oils like soy, canola, sunflower, grapeseed, corn, safflower, peanut and rice bran oil are loaded with omega-6 linoleic acid (LA), which acts as a metabolic poison when consumed in excess. ... Soybean oil has been shown to cause irreversible ge-

netic changes in the brains of mice. This was true both for unmodified soybean oil and soybean oil modified to be low in LA. Both produced pronounced effects on the hypothalamus, which regulates metabolism and stress responses. A number of genes in the mice that were fed soybean oil were not functioning correctly, including a gene that produces oxytocin, the “love hormone.”

https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/03/09/soybean-oil-cause-genetic-changes-brain.aspx?ui=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d&sd=20110406&cid_source=dnl&cid_medium=email&cid_content=art1HL&cid=202203098&mid=DM1130171&rid=1428723637

Comment: There are very few commercial food items that do not contain soy. We have known about and warned about the dangers of Soy for years. We cook with Coconut oil, olive oil and butter.

• **READ the LABELS**, and you will be surprised at how much water is being added to just about everything, even sausage. Many things that in the past had no water, now have water listed as a first or second ingredient. Chicken is normally clearly marked, “Up to 15% added water.”

• **FDA Announces Real Meat Will Be Banned in 2024**

https://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2022/04/01/raw-meat-sales.aspx?ui=62275c4f6eb5e1c6872faec264ac18ae89396dd486d6b98af038d9fef2e3c00d&sd=20110406&cid_source=dnl&cid_medium=email&cid_content=art1HL&cid=20220401Z1&mid=DM1137138&rid=1449517847

All of these distressing events are according to *the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God*, as He directs all history for the praise of His own glory.

Easter

EMOTIONALISM OR FAITH?

The Danger of Dramatizing the Life and Sufferings of Jesus

Pastor H. Rondel Rumburg

Is there a danger in dramatizing the life and sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ? Did Jesus Christ say anything about drama, theatre or movies portraying any personage of the Godhead including Himself?

Certainly some will say the Lord Jesus did not speak about the movie “The Passion of The Christ” for the film occurred 2000 years after He ascended back into heaven and was seated at the right hand of God the Father. And if He did say something about it how and when did He do so? The Word of God records only the

truth and the earthly words of Jesus the Christ are without flaw. Therefore, we must not say He had nothing to say about this and other such productions, for He was/is God and saw the end from the beginning. He is omniscient or all knowing. Of course our Lord did not speak of the film directly by its title and producer, but did He speak indirectly about it and the way it was viewed? The passage before us seems to be very applicable to that point. The text is a part of the depiction of the sufferings of the Lord Christ.

TEXT: *“And there followed Him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented Him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us”* (Luke 23:27-30). These are the only words of Christ spoken between His condemnation and the crucifixion, and this is the only place they are found in the Bible.

The Word of God is the place that the Christian is to find directions for worshipping and serving God acceptably.

“The quickest way to slay error is to proclaim the truth. The surest mode of extinguishing falsehood is to boldly advocate Scripture principles. Scolding and protesting will not be so effectual in resisting the progress of error as the clear proclamation of the truth in Jesus.”
— C. H. Spurgeon

What are the dangers of movies portraying Christ or any person of the Godhead? There is the danger of the grievous offense of idolatry; there is the danger of becoming a spectator standing aloof as a judge; there is the danger of questioning the sufficiency of the Bible because of the supposed need for film depictions and other extra-Biblical authorities; there is the danger of humanizing Christ to the exclusion of His divine nature; and there is the danger of making Christ’s suffering common.

At the root of the problem we seem to have the confounding of two matters: faith and feeling; and an incorrect relationship to these issues can have eternal consequences. The present age is permeated with the penchant of calling evil good and good evil—“Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put

darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight” (Isa. 5:20, 21). There is much death in the modern religious pot, especially when the spiritual is turned into the sensual or fleshly.

There is the matter of obedience to the Word of God. What does God demand in the second commandment, “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments” (Ex. 20:4-6). This declares that no heavenly or earthly likeness is to be made to worship or know God. I wonder if many today ever think of the reason that God allowed no likeness to be left us of Jesus. This commandment obligates us to separate our worship publicly and privately from all pictures and statues of Christ. This is an early declaration from Jehovah Jesus. This means it is wrong to make likenesses of any person in the Godhead whether stationary or moving on a screen. Why did God the Father not leave an image of His Son to remember Him by? Obviously there was a reason and conformity to the second commandment should be considered.

One world famous preacher betrayed this commandment when he endorsed *The Passion of The Christ*” by saying, “Every time I preach or speak about the Cross, the things I saw on the screen will be on my heart and mind.” That is the very point of the issue. The heart and mind should be stayed upon the Word of God and dependent on God the Holy Spirit. This preoccupation with something seen on the screen instead of something derived from the Word of God is Paul’s point about apostate man, “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things” (Rom. 1:22-23). One writer put it this way, “Every visual representation of Jesus is inevitably a lie.”[1]

The age in which we live may be characterized as one of religious syncretism. Syncretism is when there is a mixture of error with truth. The Bible has been made quasi-authoritative by relegating its authority in certain

portions to other periods of time or mixing it with human concepts. True Biblical teachings are being mixed with pagan thought and apostate religion with the result that there is a skewed view of the Bible and a denial of true saving grace. Things are blown out of their proper Biblical perspective and mixed with error. For example the attributes of God are now being distorted to the point that most consider God a loving being who has no discernment of evil or else He just ignores evil. How often have you heard a radio or TV preacher preach a message on the following passages, “God is angry with the wicked every day” (Ps. 7:11), or “For evil doers shall be cut off” (Ps. 37:9), or “The foolish shall not stand in Thy sight: Thou hatest all workers of iniquity” (Ps. 5:5)?

Faith or feeling what is the proper relationship, and in what order? Some have faith in their faith, which is a mark of self-deception. There are as many dangers presently in considering the modern views of the spiritual realm as there would be if you were in an activated mine field in the physical realm. “There is one thing which ... all of us too much becloud ... namely, the great truth that it is not prayer, it is not faith, it is not our doings, it is not our feelings upon which we must rest, but upon Christ.”[2] This means the person of Christ and not a likeness! Thus even the matter of personal salvation has been perverted. We have people for example asking, “Have you accepted Jesus as your Saviour?” Is the Lord Christ an object that we have veto power over? By the way “accepting Christ” is not a Biblical way of speaking of the matter. The Bible puts it another way, “But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood (not hereditary), nor of the will of the flesh (not man’s will), nor of the will of man (not by family, friends or preachers efforts), but of God” (John 1:12-13).

Now in preparation for our text consider that the Lord Jesus was condemned to death by the Roman authority

at the insistence of the Jewish religious leaders. Jesus was beaten and led away. The cross that Jesus bore was a great burden to the humanity of Jesus for he had been weakened by the treatment that He had received. Simon of Cyrene was induced to carry the cross after Jesus. What of the entourage or those who followed Jesus?

This passage should help us to see the relationship between faith and feeling. Here one discovers one of the great errors of the film *The Passion of the Christ*. Yes, we see in this passage Jesus the Lord dealing with the principles relating to the wrongness of the Gibson movie. Thomas Manton asserted regarding the words relating to this text, “The gospel does not propound the death of Christ as a spectacle of human calamity. No; it is a point of higher consideration, and God looks for more inward and spiritual motions than this passionate condoling.”[3]

The physical sufferings of our Lord Jesus are well known. Many have tried to use them for their own agenda, and that is unfortunate. Some make merchandise of our Lord. Mel Gibson stands to make a half billion dollars on his movie. Some have sought to describe or picture the intensity of those sufferings in visible ways, such as: artistic studies, sculptures, jewelry, film, etc. Of course anyone who would try to diminish the terrible nature of the human sufferings of the Lord Jesus would be wrong. But it is equally wrong to distort those sufferings and put them in a context that is not Biblical. The atoning work of Christ has been interpreted by some not in context but as a pretext. True the intense sufferings of Christ may motivate one with fellow feeling to feel sad, mad or cause weeping. But is feeling commensurate with faith? Right now (4-11-2020) Fox Nation is advertising the Gibson film.

John Owen (the English Congregational Puritan), and I paraphrase him as he warned about “scenical fancies” relating to the sufferings of Christ. And what were those fancies, they were of the dramatic or theatrical kind in the 1600’s? They were “childishly ridiculous ... but draw off the mind, not only from a spiritual contemplation of the excellency of the offering of Christ, and the glorious effects thereof, but also from the rational comprehension of the truth of



the doctrine concerning what He did and suffered.”[4] He went on to talk about a crucifix with the image of a body on it, wearing a crown of thorns, nails in the hands and feet, etc. The point he made was that the mind was taken off of “the great transactions between God and the soul of Christ, about the finishing of sin, and the bringing in of everlasting righteousness.” Fleshly dramatics or the theatrical obliterates or obscures the true sense of the work of Christ especially in His soul sufferings.

The Lord Jesus was being led to the place of crucifixion after enduring scourging (Mark 15:15; Matt. 27:26), mocking, being clothed with a purple robe and a crowning with thorns (Mark 15:16-19; Matt. 27:27-30). Luke points out an event that he alone records. This event will give us the view that would likely have been taken by the Lord Christ of the film *The Passion of the Christ* or any such portrayal.

I. CONSIDER THOSE MAKING UP THE CROWD THAT FOLLOWED THE SUFFERING LORD JESUS? (LUKE 23:27).

A. There Were Two Groups Mentioned. There was following Jesus “a great company” (polu plhqoV) or “a great multitude of the people.” Then was added another group “and of women” (kai gunaikwn).

1. These people seemed to have a curious interest in what was about to happen as crowds usually do. Here was a high profile execution of one greatly hated by the Jewish religious leaders and many of the people. High profile public events induce emotional and public responses.

2. These were not the believing women (Luke 23:48 f.), who were generally women from Galilee (Matt. 27:54, 56). “We cannot, however, suppose that those believing women who ... beheld the death of the Lord from a distance, were amongst this company of females. To the former, these words would not, in fact, have been appropriate, because they certainly had no reason to be alarmed at the heavy retribution of which Jesus spoke as approaching, since, according to the promise of the Lord, they were, like Noah and Lot, to be preserved from it. (Compare Matt. 24:37 ff.)”[5]

B. The Activity of the Women Was Mentioned. The women “bewailed and lamented Him” (ekoptonto kai eqrhoun auton).

1. The word translated “bewailed” meant that they began the bewailing and kept this up by smiting them-

selves on the breast.

2. “Lamented” means they kept crying aloud in lamentation. Here they were sobbing for the suffering Jesus as one who was already suffering and who was as good as dead. At the point of the text Jesus had been condemned to death, beaten and crowned with thorns.

3. They appear to be moved by emotional sentiment and were expressing pity. There was no depth to their act or in their emotional display for there was no Holy Spirit produced expression of faith and repentance. There was an affliction of natural feeling from the women which was expressed, but even this would not be a lasting condition.

4. Emotion is the most superficial expression of the human nature. Emotions are usually very fleeting. “Tears of mere emotion because of the external sufferings of Christ are speedily wiped away and forgotten. We do not know that any of these women ever became our Lord’s converts.... I fear that the most of these Jerusalem sympathizers forgot to-morrow that they had wept to-day. I may be mistaken, but there is nothing in the mere fact of their lamenting the Saviour’s doom which would prove them to be his regenerated followers. The morning cloud and the early dew are fit emblems of such fleeting emotions.”[6]

5. They showed mere sentimentalism, but have no understanding of their condition before God or the true reason for this event. They saw no purpose in the event outside of the earthly, which is true of the film “*The Passion of the Christ*.” The film’s producer did not understand the true purpose that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit had in the sufferings and death of Jesus the Christ. The sufferings of Christ are nothing to be belittled, but sentiment obscures the message of the substitutionary suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

6. Sentiment makes a focus on the horrendous nature of the physical circumstances, but does not recognize the divine nature and purpose of these circumstances. Sentiment is a form of hypocrisy. The soul sufferings of Christ and the satisfaction of the atonement before God the Father is missing. “Sentimentality destroys truth. It recognizes that truth is often hard, and therefore tries to soften it. Sentimentality rules many of the nineteenth-century hymns that predominate in so many twentieth-century hymnals. Sentimental lies deceive people about reality and induce guilt when hard times come, thereby weakening both faith and will. Christians must rid

themselves ... of sentimentality because it refuses to see the truth.”[7] It is a momentary attachment.

7. Moral sentiment is not a life changing act, it leaves the character unchanged, it produces no repentance of sin, and it does not lead to an embrace of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour by faith. The danger in sentiment is that it often deceives the person into thinking they must love Christ since they wept over His suffering. Is a person a genuine Christian because they weep over the physical sufferings of Jesus? “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17). Where is the repentance of sin and the faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? Jesus said, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). Paul talked about preaching the Word of faith, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Rom. 10:9-10).

II. HOW DID THE LORD JESUS DEAL WITH THOSE WEeping AND WAILING OVER HIS SUFFERING? (v. 28).

A. Jesus Addressed Them.

1. Jesus “turning” (strajeiV is an aorist passive participle) toward the women, which indicates that He was not the one carrying the cross at this point it was Simon (v. 26).

2. He addressed the women as “daughters of Jerusalem” or “inhabitants of Jerusalem.” These women must not be confused with the women who were Jesus’ disciples. The major part of the population of Jerusalem was unregenerate or lost in their sins (Luke 13:34-35; cp. Matt. 23:37-38).

3. Here Jesus addresses those caught up in the big public event that centered in His suffering and eventual death. They had missed the reason for this event just as those who look at Adam and think that the whole problem he had revolved around a piece of fruit. One misses the point when such things are externalized by the natural man. Adam’s problem was that he violated God by disobeying the command for him not to eat of the forbidden fruit. It centered in a spiritual problem and not in a piece of fruit. The fruit was merely something forbidden by God and it could have been any kind of fruit forbidden. The issue was the authority of God

and what He required, the fruit was a test of obedience. One approach is purely man centered and the other is God centered or humanism verses theism.

B. Jesus Commanded Them.

1. Jesus turned to them and said, “weep not or stop weeping” (mh klaiete is a present active imperative with mh or not). Stop weeping was an imperative demand from the Lord Jesus. Do not weep “for or over me” Jesus commanded! “But the words which the Lord spoke to those sympathizing hearts cannot but surprise us. They bear no consolatory, beneficent character, but are rather of terrific import.”[8]

2. They had a wrong motive in what they were doing for they were not weeping over their national sins, their city’s sins, the religious sins of their day or their own personal sins against the holy God of the Bible. Alfred Edersheim was clear and to the point when he expressed, “And yet natural, and, in some respects, genuine, as were the tears of ‘the daughters of Jerusalem,’ mere sympathy with Christ almost involves guilt, since it implies a view of Him which is essentially the opposite of that which His claims demand. These tears were the emblem of that modern sentiment about the Christ which, in its effusiveness, offers insult rather than homage, and implies rejection rather than acknowledgement of Him.”[9] Those words are true of the Gibson movie.

3. What one learns here in this text or in viewing the portrayal of Jesus’ suffering on film is that weeping over Christ’s physical sufferings is no sign of grace or spiritual understanding. The great mistreatment and sufferings of Christ may induce fellow feeling expressed in tears. Lenski, the Greek scholar noted, “The sufferings of Jesus still arouse the emotions of especially the softhearted. But all sentimentality regarding Jesus is useless even when it brings tears to the eyes. Let sinners weep for themselves and for their sins, let them sob like Peter (22:62), their tears may then lead to something that is worth while.”[10] Feelings have nothing to do with a person’s salvation!

4. Jesus told them to weep for themselves and their children (v. 28 b) because of the days of judgment coming upon them (vv. 29-30). The women in this text by their act were looking on Christ and His sufferings as those outside the incident. They were as uninvolved spectators pitying one suffering as though they had no identity with it personally. If these women had a true sense of sin they would have mourned, not for what

Christ has suffered, but for what He suffered because of their sin. Mere sentimentalism is foolishness, and it was impertinence since Jesus was the Son of God. It was the greatest of folly if He was just a man.[11]

CONCLUSION:

The motive for the weeping was fleshly and useless toward God for it had no lasting meaning or purpose. This was a passing feeling they had that would soon go away. How many today do the same as these women?

How many are moved over physical suffering who care nothing about their sinful attacks upon God's law? It was sin that brought on Christ's sufferings, but the cause of His sufferings, their own sin, brings no tears. Mere pity at this point is sacrilege and that is what such films produce.

Have you considered faith and feeling through this passage? Jesus did not want sentiment, but He revealed to them judgment to come that they might repent. The primary point is not the act of faith but it is the object of faith—Christ. Faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour produces a proper feeling, but it is after grace has been experienced.

Andrew Bonar summed it up quite well when he wrote, "When we weep over Christ's sufferings merely because they are sad and sorrowful, that is feeling. When we weep because of the sin that made Him suffer, and see that He suffered for us, that is faith." [12]

Taking the film "The Passion of the Christ" into consideration with the words of Bonar it appears that the film produced feeling, but not sorrow over sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! "It is peculiarity of Romanism ever to present the Christ in His Human weakness." [13] Jesus is the God/Man. He is a divine person.

What Jesus said to the weeping crowd of women should likely be said generally to the viewers of the film by Mel Gibson. "Stop weeping for Me!" Jesus said, "Judgment is coming on you over sin that is unre-



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pent of."

The words of Jesus Christ to the women during his suffering trip to the cross are very applicable to those hyping the film and speaking about how it impacted their emotions. Such a film misses the point, confuses the issue, and will be an instrument of evil to many deceived souls!

[1] Andrew J. Webb, *Five Reasons Not to Go See The Passion of Christ*. [2] Iain H. Murray, *The Forgotten Spurgeon*, p. 50. [3] *The Works of Thomas Manton*, vol. 18, p. 328. [4] *An Exposition of the Epistle of Hebrews*, vol. 4, p. 519. [5] Hermann Olshausen, *Biblical Commentary on the New Testament*, vol. 3, p. 84. [6] C. H. Spurgeon, *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, vol. 22, p. 594. [7] Herbert Schlossberg, *Idols for Destruction*, p. 301. Olshausen noted, "And then the sympathy of these women must be regarded less as a true expression of their full consciousness concerning the event that was then occurring, than as that mere natural feeling of pity which we find so frequently expressed by the excitable female sex." p. 84. [8] *Olshausen*, p. 84. [9] *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, vol. 2, p. 588. [10] *Interpretation of St. Luke's Gospel*, p. 1128. [11] *Edersheim*, p. 589. [12] Andrew A. Bonar, *Heavenly Springs*, p. 75 f. He also wrote, "If at any time we lose the sense of His presence, the way to get it back is not by sitting down to 'count our evidences.' It is by coming back to Him." "Feeling is not to be trusted. Fear may drive away all feeling. Faith by itself is not to be trusted. Our standing fast is due to a living, interceding Saviour, and our eye must rest on Him in an hour of trial." The Lord "wants us to look up, and not in—to look at the object of faith [Christ], and not to the act of faith." [13] *Edersheim*, p. 589.

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