



May 03, 2013

SPOILED? WHO'S SPOILED? - PART 1 - By Buddy Smith

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE:

Spoiled? Who's Spoiled? - Pt 1.

[A PRESENT DAY AWAKENING
AMONG ABORIGINAL CHRISTIANS](#)

[DEACON TRUE SEZ](#)

[BLINDED MINDS](#)

[BOOKS YOU OUGHTA OWN AND
READ](#)

[DIARIES OF THE SAINTS](#)

[NOTABLE QUOTES AND
QUOTABLE NOTES](#)

[STUBBORNNESS Will Kill YOU](#)

[NOT TIP-TOEING THROUGH THE
TULIPS - PART 3](#)

[RAMPANT FAKE SPIRITUALITY -
PART 2](#)

[A LETTER TO A NEW
EVANGELICAL LEADER WHO IS
SYMPATHETIC TO MORMONS](#)

[THE TRUE ART OF KNITTING](#)

[THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE](#)

[EDDY-TORIAL:](#)

Hypocrisy Is Alive and Well!



THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST CONFRONTS AND IS CONFRONTED BY EVERY CULTURE.

There, I've said it. I have uttered the ultimate modern heresy.

Of course, this unashamed heresy of mine is the old orthodoxy of the apostles. It was once believed universally that the saving message of the gospel, the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for sin, was an offence to every form of worldly wisdom. That is no longer the case. The church has become so worldly minded and the world so churchy that we can no longer perceive where one stops and the other begins. One of the old time preachers commented on this in his sermon on the cross of Christ. He said, "There are only two perspectives on the cross. A man will either glory in the cross (Gal. 6:14), or he will be offended by the cross (I Cor. 1:23 & Gal. 5:11). There are no other views on the cross."

(Galatians 6:14 *But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.* **1 Corinthians 1:23** *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;* **Galatians 5:11** *And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased."*)

So what is the "new orthodoxy"? If the old gospel that offends is out, what is in? Why, of course, it is a new gospel which no longer offends. It is the theological harvest of new evangelicalism, it is the insipid and anemic semi-gospel of the emergent church. It is the new body of doctrine that accommodates itself to a world in rebellion against God. It is an ever shifting and changing belief system that conforms to its culture and never confronts it. It is a nose of wax eager to be

Heads Up!

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;
Phone: 07 4096 6657
Email: smiletex@higpond.net.au
Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au

reshaped to fit every new face of the ecumenical "church" and play every part on the world's stage.

Have you seen this nose of wax? Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu and Mother Teresa and Popes Benedict and Francis, and Robert Schuller and Rick Warren, and Joel Osteen and Benny Hinn, and President Obama and TD Jakes and Rob Bell and Mark Driscoll and a thousand thousand emergent gurus sport this new nose of wax. And they do it with a smile.

Heaven help the poor simple preacher who dares to refuse the new nose of wax and the new "gospel," and clings to the old fashioned gospel of the grace of God. He will find he is increasingly an object of scorn and derision.

So how did the modern churches come to preach and promote this "new gospel?"

They have been **spoiled**, as the apostle Paul warned the church at Colossae.

Colossians 2:8 *"Beware lest any man **spoil** you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

GNOSTICISM THEN AND NOW -

A couple of years ago our adult Sunday School class studied the Doctrine of Christ. It took us some weeks to examine the Old and New Testament passages that reveal this keystone doctrine. As we pondered the New Testament passages we noticed that several of the apostles wrote polemic epistles attacking Gnosticism. John and Paul and Jude especially expounded the truths about Christ that refuted the gnostics' heresies. The commentators are united in the opinion that gnosticism was an attempt to blend Greek philosophy with the divinely revealed truths of Holy Scripture. It claimed to improve the gospel of Christ, but instead the gnostics spoiled the churches.

Dr. Orr writes, "Gnosticism may be described generally as the fantastic product of **the blending of certain Christian ideas--particularly that of redemption through Christ--with speculation and imaginings derived from a medley of sources (Greek, Jewish, Parsic; philosophies; religions, theosophies, mysteries)**."

Neander has described Gnosticism as **"the first notable attempt to introduce into Christianity the existing elements of mental culture, and to render it more complete on the hitherto rather neglected side of theoretical knowledge; it was an attempt of the mind of the ancient world in its yearning after knowledge, and in**

its dissatisfaction with the present, to bring within its grasp and to appropriate the treasures of this kind which christianity presented" (Antignostikus, Intro, 199).

"Gnosticism," says Dr. Gwatkin, **"is Christianity perverted by learning and speculation"** (Early Church History 73). The intellectual pride of the Gnostics refined away the gospel into a philosophy. The clue to the understanding of Gnosticism is given in the word from which it is derived--gnosis, or "knowledge." Gnosticism puts knowledge in the place which can only rightly be occupied by Christian faith. To the Gnostic the great question was not the intensely practical one, "What must I do to be saved from sin?" but "What is the origin of evil?" "How is the primitive order of the universe to be restored?" In the knowledge of these and of similar questions, and in the answers given to these questions, there was redemption, as the Gnostic understood it.

"These little Gnostic sects and groups all lived in the conviction that they possessed a secret and mysterious knowledge, in no way accessible to those outside, which was not to be proved or propagated, but believed in by the initiated, and anxiously guarded as a secret. This knowledge of theirs was not based on reflection or scientific inquiry and proof, but on revelation. It was derived directly from the times of primitive Christianity, from the Saviour Himself and His disciples and friends, with whom they claimed to be connected by a secret tradition, or else from later prophets, of whom many sects boasted. It was laid down in wonderful mystic writings, which were in the possession of the various circles.

"In short, Gnosticism in all its various sections, its form and its character, falls under the category of mystic religions, which were so characteristic of the religious life of decadent antiquity. In Gnosticism, as in the other mystic religions, we find the same contrast of the initiated and the uninitiated, the same loose organization, the same kind of petty sectarianism and mystery-mongering. All alike boast a mystic revelation and a deeply veiled wisdom" (Bousset, op. cit., 153). - excerpted from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia

In this series of articles we will examine the spoiling of the churches, not only in the days of the apostles, but in our day as well.

WHAT IS MEANT BY "LEST ANY MAN SPOIL YOU?"

Though we do not commonly use the word "spoil" in this sense, it means "to lead away as booty, to strip (as in removing the hide from an animal), to flay, to harass, to plunder, to rob, and to ravage." David spoiled Goliath when he took his armour to his tent after slaying the

giant. The four kings of Mesopotamia plundered Sodom and Gomorrah (with the other cities of the plain) and Abraham spoiled the very same kings when he and his servants and three friends defeated them in battle. When Israel departed from Egypt, they asked for and received much of the riches of their masters, and thus they "spoiled" them. In Judges 5, the mother of Sisera feared for her son as she looked out the window and fretted that he was delayed in returning. Her wise ladies comforted her with the thought that he was still dividing the spoil, a damsel or two to every man, and needlework for his mother.

Thus it is that the warning of the apostle, "Beware lest any man spoil you..." becomes a strident call to arms, the blast of the trumpet, and an alarm we must not ignore!

- There are men who plunder the churches!
- There are men who ravage the bride of Christ!
- There are men who lead our people away as booty!
- There are men who spoil the churches!

WHAT TREASURES HAVE THEY ROBBED FROM US?

- It is not the external trappings of religion they take from us, but the greater treasure of power through prayer.
- They stir up carnal excitement with a party atmosphere and steal from us our zeal in preaching the gospel of Christ.
- They plunder our churches by feeding the members' carnal natures so that they no longer bear the fruit of the Spirit.
- They ravage the Lamb's espoused Bride by teaching her how to conform to the world instead of to Christ.
- They rob us of a simple faith in God and replace it with a double mindedness that doubts God and believes man.
- They steal away from us the pure Word of God and leave behind comic book bibles.
- They lead our people away from our tiny churches and herd them into enormous religious night clubs with their rock bands and laser shows.

Every once in a while I hear of Independent Baptist Pastors who spoil their brethren. They are very subtle in their ravaging of other pastors' churches.

THEIR METHODS FOLLOW A SET PATTERN

FIRST, they allow themselves to be spoiled and robbed of true godliness. Most often it is through reading the writings of new evangelicals and modernists who have been spoiled by false doctrine. Sometimes it is through

attending training seminars and conferences hosted by men like Rick Warren and Bill Hybels. I am sure that Paul Chappell does not realise how dangerous it is for his youth ministry leaders to attend Rick Warren's conferences, but the philosophies they learn at Saddleback will come back to bite Lancaster Baptist Church before long.

SECOND, they come to admire and embrace the philosophies of a Christless world. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the embracing of CCM by independent Baptist churches. The shallow appraisal and approval of Carnal Commercial Music by our pastors completely ignores the facts: There is an unbiblical message that is believed and preached by CCM musicians. The message that is preached is permeated through and through with an unbiblical and ungodly morality. And, the music (?) they perform is simply an audible expression of their message and morals. They cannot separate the message from the morals or from the music.

THIRD, they creep into our churches and Bible colleges in order to sow their tares. If they promote the music of Hillsong, then they also promote the message and morals of Hillsong. We are now beginning to see the harvest in our churches, to the extent that many IB pastors are sounding more and more like Brian Houston (of Hillsong church in Sydney) and the sensual immorality of Hillsong is taking over our churches. You don't think so? Have a look at your youth group's dress standards. Watch how they flirt openly in your church. And then go and read the FaceBook pages of your young people.

FOURTH, they draw a large enough crowd to impress the gullible. Take note of which churches are the largest among the IB's. And then ask yourself how they got to be that size? Was it through sound gospel preaching? Or was it through the so called "WOW FACTOR"? Was it by entertainment and amusement or by the work of the Spirit of God as He blest the bold preaching of the word of God? It is likely that every big thing being done in these churches is being done without God's help at all. A. W. Tozer once wrote about a freight train in Pennsylvania that could shut down its boilers and coast 70 miles downhill. He said he believed that most churches had been coasting for 70 years. He said the Holy Spirit could withdraw from most churches and never be missed. They had been operating in the flesh for so long they wouldn't know that the Saviour was standing outside the church knocking and seeking some individuals to fellowship with.

AND FIFTH, they proceed to indoctrinate the leaders in our churches with all the latest wisdom from ungodly men. The worldly philosophies that are spoonfed to our pastors at Leadership Conferences ought to be seen for what they

are. At a recent NBF conference here in Australia Paul Chappell encouraged pastors to put their photo on every piece of literature (and I expect on every page on their websites) so people can see who is the pastor. One dear old pastor friend told me he walked out the door afterward and wept and said, "Lord, if that is true, then I've been doing it wrong for thirty years."

Sooner or later someone is going to wake up to find that his church has been stripped of all that was godly. Those holy things handed down to him from his faithful old teachers have been plundered, and in their places have been left a carnal gospel, and a shabby and worldly worship, and no lasting fruit at all.

Because we have been spoiled.

(In part 2, we are going to consider several of the philosophies which are spoiling our churches. - Ed)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

A PRESENT DAY AWAKENING AMONG ABORIGINAL CHRISTIANS - By Kevin Milson

This prayer and newsletter has been compiled by *Kevin Milson* with information received from different persons who attended the recent Easter Convention at Ampilatwatja, 365klm north east of Alice Springs.

A REPORT FROM CENTRAL AUSTRALIA



Central Australia is a very dry place, mostly barren Sandhills. On a map look for the Sandover Highway from Camooweal in Queensland, to Alice Springs, a distance of approximately 850 klms. It is along this highway, all dirt, and as the name suggests SAND, the little communities of Lake Nash, Alpurrurulam, Ampilatwatja, Eamarre, Epinara and many others are situated.

Hazel Lauridsen, mentioned in the letter below, has spent her lifetime in these desert areas faithfully handing out literature and witnessing for the Lord. As English is only a second language spoken, most of the teaching has been done by large illustrations drawn on canvas and hung on fences so these people can look at them and ask questions.

DEACON TRUE SEZ



I counted up the other day the number of sermons I've heard in my lifetime and it added up to something more than 10,000 over the past sixty-five years. Some good, some bad and some mediocre. Lots of old preachers, quite a few young ones and all in between. Educated and uneducated, pastors, missionaries, evangelists, teachers, exhorters, and lay preachers, I've heard 'em all. Lookin' back over all that preachin', I reckon the ones that did me the most good were the sermons that the preacher was preaching to himself. Heard one the other night like that and it helped me plenty. Best kind of sermon there is.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

ACTS 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



Almost twelve months ago, one of the Christian Aboriginal men (Maxi) organised a Bible play, spoken in an Aboriginal dialect, with the parts played by aboriginal people. For many of these people who cannot read or understand English, this play allowed them, aided by the Holy Spirit to understand the gospel. Many of the aboriginal people gave their lives to the Lord in a revival that swept across this area. God has been doing many wonderful things over the past year, leading up to an Easter Convention in 2013.

"I want to share how the Lord has been reviving his work amongst the Aboriginal people of central Australia. The change brought about by this revival was instantly noticeable upon arriving in the community. One of many illustrations was our morning prayer meeting. In 2005 the prayer meeting in this same community was announced as starting at 7 am. The first person never came until 7:30 am and we never started until 9:00 am with about 12 in attendance. This year people began to show up at 6:30 am (I had to be told this as I didn't arrive until 6:55 am!), and when we started at 7 there were 80 people eager to come before the Lord in prayer.)"

Another great blessing was the hunger the people demonstrated to be both reading and hearing God's Word. At the first meeting on Friday morning, Hazel Lauridsen, who runs a traveling book shop, sold out all 100 Bibles in less than three hours. Let me share with you what another missionary brother wrote about this revival and Easter Convention.

"I have seen and heard of changes in people that would blow your minds and it is only because God has worked in their hearts. There is a hunger for God's word that I have never seen in White people. Two years ago I met a young lady who at the time wouldn't give me the time of day; all I got was a dirty look. But last year during winter, I met her again after she had been converted in this revival. She was a changed woman and she had a real hunger for God and his Word. It blew me away that this was the same woman. Nine months on and at the Easter convention she is still going strong, that hunger still there. She is not an isolated case, just one of many!

This brings me on to the Easter Convention at Ampilatwatja Aboriginal Community, 365km NE of Alice Springs just off the Sandover Highway. I have never seen so many Aboriginal people in one place before, let alone at a Christian convention! On the Friday night after a walk around, I would say there would have been close to 1000 people there (and less than a dozen of us white fellas). I saw young Aboriginal men walking around with Bibles. I saw young men and women looking through their highlighted and marked Bibles. I saw a hunger for God

and His word that I have never seen before. Young Aboriginal men sharing from their Bibles up the front. Even Law men (tribal elders: editor) who had never set foot on a church property were seen sitting in the church property for the meetings.

After the Saturday morning meeting (day meetings are not as popular as night meetings - it's an Aboriginal thing), the men and women broke off into separate groups. The message went for about 45 min and then they discussed what they had just learnt! Now this wasn't just a 10 minute thing, the discussion went on for nearly an hour!

I was one of those cynical ones a year ago, but evidence has proved me wrong. The communities that this revival has affected have turned upside down. Pray that this revival will continue down the Plenty Hwy. & onward into Alice."

There were dozens of people who came to be prayed with and give their lives to the Lord, but this happens at every Easter Convention. What made this convention different was those who testified they had not gone back to their old ways, and we pray the same testimony will be given by those who came to know the Lord this year.

BLESSINGS FROM HAZEL LAURIDSEN

- First three hours on Good Friday Morning, sold 100 Bibles. (Sold out)
- Over the convention time \$13,800 of Bibles and literature were sold.
- Suitable Bibles and literature are difficult and expensive to obtain, freight from USA more than the cost of material.

PRAYER POINTS

As white fellows we want to keep out of this great happening, and let it be entirely of the Lord among our dear Aboriginal people. Yes we can pray, we can encourage, we can give. Cost of fuel and upkeep of vehicles on these terrible roads is exorbitant. There is one white man from Camooweal who travels regularly throughout this area, and Hazel with her bookshop bus, otherwise all is run by local aboriginal men in each community.

Pray for the many people who professed to trust in the Lord this last Easter.

Kevin Milson

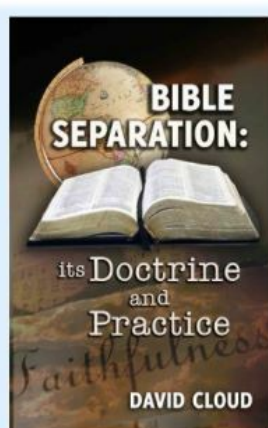
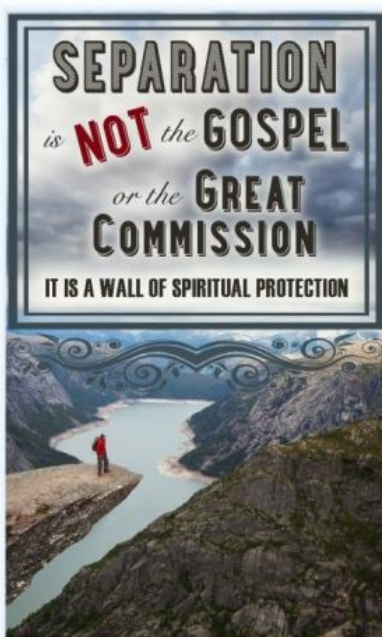
[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

BLINDED MINDS -

- Liberal Judge Says It's Illegal To Drink Milk From A Cow You Own -
<http://www.mrconservative.com/2013/04/11455-liberal-judge-says-its-illegal-to-drink-milk-from-a-cow-you-own/>
- Homosexuals Want Special Rights, Not Equal Rights! - Don Boys, Ph.D. -
<http://donboys.cstnews.com/homosexuals-want-special-rights-not-equal-rights>
- Rob Bell Supports Same-Sex Marriage, Says He Is for 'Fidelity and Love' -
<http://www.christianpost.com/news/rob-bell-supports-same-sex-marriage-says-he-is-for-fidelity-and-love-92064/>
- 'Mother' and 'father' to be scrapped from Scottish law -
<http://www.christian.org.uk/news/mother-and-father-to-be-scrapped-from-scottish-law/>
- NBC/WSJ poll: Majority, for first time, want abortion to be legal -
<http://firstread.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/21/16626932-nbcwsj-poll-majority-for-first-time-want-abortion-to-be-legal?lite&ocid=msnhp&pos=1->

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

BOOKS YOU OUGHTA OWN AND READ -



Print Book - Regular Price: \$4.95
eBook - \$3.25

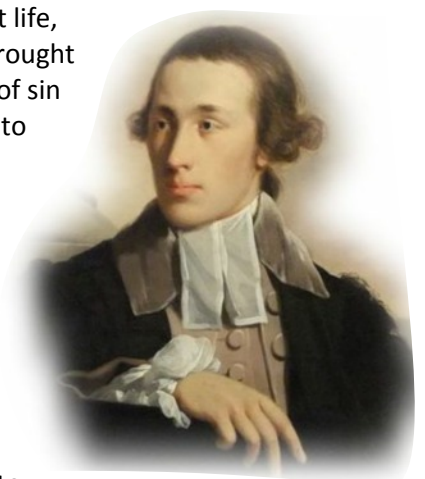
Available in PDF, Kindle, ePub

For more information
Click [HERE](#).

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

DIARIES OF THE SAINTS -

After a wild and corrupt life, Brownlow North was brought under deep conviction of sin and soundly converted to God. He eventually became a powerful preacher of the Gospel and his name became a household word throughout Scotland.



On one occasion as he was entering the building where he was to preach, a note was put into his hand which said:

"Brownlow North, you miserable hypocrite! Do you remember the part you took in the events at ..."

The letter went on to give specific places and dates, as well as details of what happened. Then the letter concluded:

"Now, you wretched hypocrite! You know that every word in this letter is true. Will you now dare to go into that pulpit, tell others that they are sinners, and preach what you call the Gospel?"

Mr. North felt the force of the letter keenly, and when the time for his address came, he read the familiar words: "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." He paused, and then, with deepest feeling, added—"of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

"My friends," he said, "when I entered this building tonight, a letter was put into my hands. The writer is evidently one who knows a great deal about my life in the past. This letter charges me with participating in rebellion, excess, and sin of all kinds.

"Dear friends, there are three things that I have to say about this letter. First, it is true. Would to God that I could undo the past, but it cannot be undone. God knows that it is true, and I confess with sorrow and shame that it is true. And the second thing I have to say is, it's all forgiven. Because I have trusted Jesus Christ, who died for my sins and rose again, it is forgiven. God knows it is forgiven, and I know it is forgiven. And the third thing I have to say is that, if God, through Jesus Christ, can forgive the sins of such a sinner as Brownlow North, there is not a sinner in this wide world too great for God to forgive all his sins."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES –

- America is not dying because of the strength of humanism but the weakness of evangelism." - Leonard Ravenhill
- It ill becomes the servant to seek to be rich, and great, and honoured in that world where his Lord was poor, and mean, and despised. - George Müller, 1805-1898
- After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box. - Italian proverb
- If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. - Mark Twain
- What this country needs are more unemployed politicians. - Edward Langley, Artist (1928-1995)

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

JAMES 3:17-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

¹⁸ And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.



STUBBORNESS Will Kill You -



([Back to Table of Contents](#))

NOT TIP-TOEING THROUGH THE TULIPS - PART 3 - By Dr, Don Boys

It is true that a lost man cannot understand spiritual things but Scripture does not declare that he cannot receive Christ as he is commanded to do in John 1:12 *"To as many as received him gave he power to become the sons of God."* Calvinists pounce on verse 13 *"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."* Of course, we are born of God! And no, it is not of blood or physical birth; nor are we born of the will of man who wills himself to salvation apart from God nor can anyone, however sincere, bring you to salvation. It is of God when a sinner is born again.



Christ asked the lame man in John 5, *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* He wilt! And he walked!

After **"T"** comes **"U"** meaning Unconditional Election followed by the petals of **"L," "I,"** and **"P."**

The Westminster Confession states this second point well: *"By the decree of God, for the manifestation of his glory, some men and angels are predestined unto everlasting life and others foreordained to everlasting death. These angels and men, thus predestinated and foreordained, are particularly and unchangeably*

designed; and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished."

Calvin didn't tiptoe through the TULIPs when he bluntly wrote on this subject: "Predestination we call the decree of God, by which He has determined in Himself, what He would have to become of every individual of mankind. For they are not all created with a similar destiny: but eternal life is foreordained for some, and eternal damnation for others" John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book III, p. 1320.

In Rom. 8:29-30 note our salvation from beginning to end where we are conformed to be the image of Christ. "Foreknowledge" means "to know beforehand," or **"knowing something before it happens."** Upon the foreknowledge of our trusting Christ is predestination determined, not to salvation, but to be conformed to His image. No lost person was ever predestined to anything.

My Calvinist friend wrote of the above, "Nowhere in Scripture is 'foreknowledge' defined or referenced as 'knowing beforehand that someone would believe.' In fact, it's used not so much as knowledge, but as setting favor upon." However, there are five places in the KJV where foreknow, foreknew, and foreknowledge are used. It seems all passages deal with "knowing beforehand" the definition I found in eight dictionaries.

Rom. 8:29 reveals, *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* Calvinist R.C. Sproul admits, "All the text declares is that God predestines those whom He foreknows." R. C. Sproul, *Chosen by God*, P 131.

Peter declared in *Acts 2:23*, *"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain."* Adam Clarke wrote, "that counsel of God which defined the time, place, and circumstance, according to his foreknowledge, which always saw what was the most proper time and place for the manifestation and crucifixion of his Son." God determined back before time began that Christ would be the sin offering for the world but the actualization of the events were not predetermined. If Judas had not chosen to be a traitor then someone else would have done so.

1 Pet. 1:2 says, *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."*

Note the elect resulted from the foreknowledge of God.

In Rom. 11:2 Paul declares, *"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew."* Clearly, Paul is referring to Israel as the context shows. He is saying, "God has not cast aside Israel whom he had before determined to be his people."

Pink wrote, "Foreknowledge of future events then is founded upon God's decrees, hence if God foreknows everything that is to be, it is because He has determined in Himself from all eternity everything which will be." Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, p. 110.

Calvinists tell us that my position makes salvation man-centered rather than God-centered.

We are told that each person would then be sovereign since "we make the choice; we make the decisions." God is seen as a pitiful suitor standing before the sinner pleading for a chance to come into his heart. Alas, God could not overcome the sinner's reticence, reluctance, and rejection, so His will has been frustrated by sinful man. No, salvation is God-centered since God planned this wonderful, free, undeserved salvation if man chooses to meet His conditions of repentance and belief of the Gospel. However, man is the object of this great salvation and God will save him if he meets His predetermined conditions. If he does not, he is damned by his own choice. *John 3:18* declares, *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* Note that unbelieving men are condemned because of unbelief not because they were unelected.

There is no question that a sovereign God could have done exactly as the Calvinists say He did, but that does not mean He did what He could have done. God is not willing that any should perish and He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked. But a loving, kind, gracious God did not create Heaven and Hell, then a plan for man to disobey so He could curse the human race, provide the salvation plan, but fix men so that it would be impossible for most of them to be saved and make it impossible for the elect to not be saved.

Pink also bluntly affirmed: "As a builder draws his plans before he begins to build, so the great Architect predestinated everything before a single creature was called into existence." Pink, *The Doctrines of Election and Justification*, p. 9. Note the word, "everything." Does that mean everything, even sin? Yes, according to Boettner who wrote: "Even the fall of Adam, and through him the fall of the race, was not by chance or accident, but was so ordained in the secret counsels of God." Loraine Boettner, *The Reformed Doctrine of Predestination*, p. 234. Pink

continued with such nonsense when he declared: "Not only did His omniscient eye see Adam eating of the forbidden fruit, but He decreed beforehand that he should do so." Arthur Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, p. 249. Not the God of the Bible!

Calvinists say that if God did not decree beforehand Adam's disobedience, then "God either relinquishes His control or, worse yet, the control is, by definition, out of His hands. What God is that?" It is a God who loves men so much that He refused to make a puppet out of him and gave him a free will to decide to love, follow, and obey a sovereign God. What kind of God has to force or program men to believe, follow, love, and trust Him? Can love be forced or programmed? If so, what kind of love is that?

This nonsense was vividly expressed by this Particular Baptist hymn.

*We are the Lord's elected few,
Let all the rest be damned;
There's room enough in hell for you,
We won't have heaven crammed!*

A question must be asked: What about infants who die? Calvinists disagree on that question. It would seem that if a couple had a houseful of children, one or two of them would not be chosen for Heaven. Augustine taught that babies who had never been "baptized" would be damned although they would receive a lesser punishment than unbaptized adults.

Obviously, according to extreme Calvinists, God designed and created men as robots programmed to perpetrate unspeakable wickedness so that a sovereign God could be glorified by those He chose to save. Those He chose to damn (the vast majority of mankind) would not be inclined to glorify Him since they had no option in choosing God or self, life or death, heaven or hell, happiness or horror.

Calvinists will say that the above is a mischaracterization of their position but that is not correct. While robots is my term, I have provided many quotes to prove the validity of my assertion. If every act of man has been predestined, even the most wicked, then obviously my statement is correct.

The Calvinists say, "What claim does a lost sinner have to God's amazing grace? Are you saying that every sinner on earth can go to an omnipotent God and demand salvation because God has chosen to save some?" A repentant sinner does not demand anything, but he can go to a beneficent God and plead the blood of Christ as propitiation for his sins based on offers made by a God who cannot lie: whosoever will may come.

So leading spokesmen for Calvinism declare that the most wicked acts of men were ordained in the secret, sovereign counsels of God back in the eons of time. Not that they were foreseen, but were planned as an architect plans a house, for the glory of God! God becomes responsible for every evil perpetrated in the universe! When a man molests, tortures, rapes, and murders a child, it really was not his fault because God planned it because somehow, sometime, someway, God will be glorified! Such advocates must not have read Paul's question in [Romans 9:14](#): "*Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*"

Calvinists tell us that if God knew about it and did not stop the evils mentioned above then He becomes a participant in the evil. After all, He could have stopped every evil act but chose not to do so. But again, God gave each one a will to obey or disobey and the resultant evil is not God's choice but man's, so men must live with the horrendous consequences.

Most sane, sensible, scriptural-minded people will reject with horror the extreme position that makes God the originator of all evil. The proponents of the above are known as hyper-Calvinists, more technically known as surplapsarians. Others take the infralapsarian position whereby man takes the hit for his own sin. In this position, where most Calvinists stand, God damns mankind **because** of the Fall as just deserts for disobedience. God is not the author of sin but the judge of sin. Sublapsairans is another group similar to infralapsarians.

Almost all Calvinists run through the TULIP patch to Romans 9 dealing with the potter and the clay; however, it has nothing to do with salvation! Romans is a great book dealing with salvation but the ninth chapter focuses on Israel (mentioned 5 times), Jews (mentioned once), "my brethren," (once) "my kinsmen" (once), Israelites (once), Abraham (once), Isaac (twice), Sarah (once) Rebecca (once), Jacob (once) Esau (once) Sion (once).

The clay is the nation of Israel according to Jer.18:6 and the clay was formed not created. The vessels unto dishonor were fitted to destruction because they crucified Christ. See Matt. 27:25. This has nothing to do with God's choice of individuals to eternal damnation.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)





To Read Part One, go to: http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com.au/2013_03_01_archive.html. There is important introductory information there.

God created us for a relationship with Him. He is a Spirit. The relationship with God will be a spiritual relationship. Satan would like people to be fooled about their relationship with God. A way that Satan fools people is by causing them to think that a feeling they've experienced is from God, when it isn't. Since a person can't see God, he depends on a feeling as signal of God's working or presence. There's nothing that Satan would like people to be fooled about more than worship. He doesn't want God to be worshiped, but if people feel like they're worshiping God, when they're not, and even just the opposite, they're dishonoring Him, that would nicely accomplish Satan's goal. It's also possible that some don't even care that God is honored, as much as they get to entertain and then have people express how wonderful they are, and then the combination of entertainment and spiritual experience comes together in music.

Charismatics developed a very complicated superstructure of fake spirituality over a number of years, until they had an elaborate theology and group of go-to experiences to validate their reality. Many have been fooled by that. The same type of deceit or modified forms of it have fooled and are fooling other self-professing non-charismatics. Anyone can be deceived. Please think about it.

Feelings can replace true spirituality. Men who need God replace it with feelings produced by their music, videos, sports excitement, and personal relationships. Faith doesn't depend on feelings, but faith lacks the preferred pseudo-confirmation of a feeling. Judging spirituality is controversial. People don't want their spiritual experiences invalidated. They react with anger to that.

On the other hand, people want their feelings validated. They want their feelings to be accreditation of their spirituality. They like the feeling. Since they like the feeling, it would be great if the feeling would count as spirituality. Deceit works better when there is a fleshly appeal to it.

Music can produce feelings. Certain rhythms and chords interact with the flesh for a pleasant feeling. The popularity of rock music and related genres occurred because of the feelings they gave. The Charismatic movement started mixing that music with their concocted experiences. The feelings synthesized with their version of Christianity. The Charismatic movement boomed. That part of the movement flowed into evangelicalism.

Let me take a step back, because Charismaticism didn't initiate the incorporation of feelings into Christianity. That started with revivalism. Finney and then Moody used music to shape audiences. Their theology called for human means to meet divine goals. Moody's music wasn't as bad as the rock of today, but it shifted things that direction. The Charismatics stemmed from revivalism, becoming revivalism on steroids. This was the original gospel music, because music was a method to lead to a desired outcome. All of what I'm writing is true. Some of the same people, who rely on the exact methods of Finney, savage the operation of Finney. It's rank hypocrisy. Worse than that, it's fooling people just like Finney did. Finney proclaimed that he was manipulating people. The new evangelicals deny it.

Billy Graham experimented with all sorts of means in his crusade to draw a crowd and to prime their emotions to

move at an invitation. Men all around copied him. These methods "worked" and were imitated even more. It became the norm. It had a "history" to it. Any critics were marginalized. "They were emphasizing second tier doctrines." "They were judging in areas that scripture was silent." "They were legalists." "They are divisive." "They are fundamentalists." I was called a liar recently for calling it what it was. Whatever.

The Jesus movement used these methods to merge a segment of a generation in the 1960s. Even a conservative evangelical like John MacArthur called it a genuine revival. That movement brought Christian rock mainstream into the church. Many evangelical radio programs start with their own Christianized version of bumper music.

People confuse the feeling they get in "worship" as some kind of spiritual sensation. They're getting in touch with God somehow, are on His frequency. At times, they even send up their hands, like raising the antennae. Those feelings are not spiritual. They're flesh. So what is flesh they think is spiritual. This is spiritual deceit. People think they're spiritual, when they're not. When they operate on these terms in their "worship," they'll take that lack of discernment to many other areas. And they do.

The worst result is the loss of worship. Instead of worshipping God, the participants are serving themselves. They like the feelings, and now they are justified as worship. It is more insidious and evil than if it were just a straight secular rock concert.

This form of fake spirituality is described in a paragraph by Peter Masters as:

"...gathering thousands of young people annually, and featuring the usual mix of Calvinism and extreme charismatic-style worship. Young people are encouraged to feel the very same sensational nervous impact of loud rhythmic music on the body that they would experience in a large, worldly pop concert, complete with replicated lighting and atmosphere. At the same time they reflect on predestination and election. Worldly culture provides the bodily, emotional feelings, into which Christian thoughts are infused and floated. Biblical sentiments are harnessed to carnal entertainment."

He continues:

"In times of disobedience the Jews of old syncretised by going to the Temple or the synagogue on the sabbath, and to idol temples on weekdays, but the new

Calvinism has found a way of uniting spiritually incompatible things at the same time, in the same meeting."

Many who agree with Masters have given up the fight on this. They have concluded that it isn't worth it. They don't like it, but they don't want to minimize their influence by bringing it up.

Masters isn't the only evangelical saying this kind of thing. In his biography on John MacArthur, Iain Murray has the gall to spend a few pages criticizing him for this. He's not as harsh as Masters or me, but he brings it up, in his biography no less. He writes (p. 57):

"I want to add a measure of regret that MacArthur does not seem to have given fuller attention to an issue connected with all these controversies. The contemporary decline in public worship bears a relationship to antinomianism, with the charismatic movement, and with the practice of the Church of Rome. . . . A lost consciousness of the majesty of God has turned worship into providing what people desire."

When I watched the "worship" at the recent Shepherd's Conference of Grace Community Church and MacArthur, joined by hundreds of pastors, if not thousands, on display was the acceptance of this fake spirituality on a massive level. This is where people are at today. Some might say that they accept it, because it is in fact acceptable. It's not wrong. It's even a superior spiritual experience. "We've reached new heights of spirituality with it." No. It is the same fake spirituality that Jonathan Edwards criticized in his Treatise on the Religious Affections. Of course, what Edwards bemoaned and rejected, was much more tame than that produced by evangelicalism (even conservative), but it was what he was talking about. All of this is tell-tale of rampant fake spirituality, when its "conservative" leaders gather to be fooled by it themselves.

I can't talk about everyone on this, but there is an interesting synergism between evangelicalism and revivalist fundamentalism here. What you hear at Lancaster Baptist Church and West Coast Baptist College and then at Grace Community Church are amazingly the same. They are almost identical in their feelings. They are producing the very same fraudulent spirituality. How could they be so much the same? What Murray wrote, pragmatism, is the common denominator. They're both moved by success. This stuff works. And when it works, the sense is that it must be the "power of God." You hear both Paul Chappell and John MacArthur talk about the power of God. They even have a similar take on it. The charge in their power is seen in their music.

I don't know if these churches can or will turn back from this. Once you've gotten where they're at, it's tough. Giving it up is like weaning yourself off of caffeinated beverages. It doesn't feel very good to let it go. They would lose a lot of people if they did, and that wouldn't be worth it. It would be to admit their "worship" is wrong. That's a heavy admission. What I predict is that it will all just get worse and worse in the next generation. It's very much like our country moving from FDR to

Lyndon Johnson to Barack Obama in our addiction to spending and debt. The feelings will mount and the deceit will grow without a stark, clear repentance and willingness to call it what it is.

Posted by Kent Brandenburg

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

A LETTER TO A NEW EVANGELICAL LEADER WHO IS SYMPATHETIC TO MORMONS –



Richard J. Mouw
President and Professor of Christian Philosophy
Fuller Theological Seminary

Dear Dr. Mouw,

I was saddened when I heard of your visit to the Mormon Tabernacle. I was horrified to see that you compounded your error by slandering Dave Hunt and Walter Martin in your note to all who were disturbed at your comments.

You don't owe an apology to the Mormon Church, you owe an apology to Dave Hunt and to every man who has lovingly sought to minister the truth to those lost in Mormonism. Please consider rectifying your errors.

Yours in Christ,
Rob Yardley
Costa Mesa, California



Thanks for writing. I could give many examples from Hunt and Decker where they seriously misrepresent LDS thought. Here are two: they claim that Mormonism has communistic tendencies--even though Mormons strongly endorse the idea of private property. Worse yet, they

claim that "Mormons have an almost fanatical aversion to the cross and the shed blood of Christ" (136). This is simply not true. Robert Millet and others have insisted that the cross--with the substitutionary atonement that was finalized there--is absolutely essential to salvation.

If we are going to witness effectively to Mormons we must at the very least not say things that strike LDS folks as serious misrepresentations of their beliefs.

Bob Millet--a distinguished theology professor at BYU--recently told me a story, one that will appear in print in a book by him to be published in late February. He was meeting with a well-known evangelical theologian and in the middle of their conversation the evangelical suddenly asked Bob pointblank: "Bob, if you are at heaven's gate and God asks why He ought to let you in, what would be your answer?" Bob told me that he paused for what seemed like a long time, and then he said, "My only plea would be the merits and mercy of Jesus Christ." The next day he spoke to a large Mormon audience, and he told them about the question, but not about his answer. He asked them what they would say. He told me that he was chagrined at the silence. Finally a young woman blurted out: "What is the answer?" and he told them what he had said. Then they had a long discussion about why Mormons are reluctant to give that sort of answer. My Mormon scholar friends are emphasizing these days--with the blessing of many in the LDS leadership--salvation by grace through the atoning work of Christ on the Cross. They are doing this by showing that there are key passages in the Book of Mormon that echo the message of the Epistle to the Romans. I find this a very exciting development, and I want to encourage it in any way that I can. You may think I am compromising with evil--that is your choice. But at the very least I want my Mormon friends not to be misled by blatantly inaccurate representations of what they believe. The real disagreements are big enough--we don't need to rely on false-witness-bearing.

*Blessings for this new year!
(from Dr. Richard Mouw)*

Dear Dr. Mouw,

Thank you for your response to my e-mail. I can't speak for Ed Decker or Dave Hunt, but I know that they would never want anything in print that isn't 100% true.

You said, "[Decker and Hunt] claim that Mormonism has communistic tendencies--even though Mormons strongly endorse the idea of private property." Dr. Mouw, that is a mischaracterization of their views. Decker and Hunt note the parallels between the Iron Curtain and the Zion Curtain in terms of oppression, nothing to do with private property rights. They cite specifically the curtailing of freedom of speech and freedom of the press in Utah, not repression of property rights.



You then said, "Worse yet, they claim that 'Mormons have an almost fanatical aversion to the cross and the shed blood of Christ' (136)." As you note, they say this on page 136 of the original version (page 149 of the updated and expanded version) of *The God Makers*. You focused on a sentence that surely doesn't apply to all Mormons, just as your apology doesn't apply to all Christians (despite your "clarification" to the contrary, it certainly doesn't apply to Dave Hunt). This same *God Makers* paragraph that you quote from notes that Mormons serve bread and water, not bread and wine at their communion services. Why no wine? This paragraph notes that Mormon chapels and temples lack a cross inside or outside. Why no cross?

You didn't address the occultic history of the Mormon Church, the lies and deceit of Joseph Smith (Moroni appearing; the golden plates; his claim that "Neither Paul,

John, Peter, nor Jesus ever did it. I boast that no man ever did a work such as I!"; the urim and thummim; etcetera), the Masonic ties to Mormonism, the pursuit of Godhood, the folly of the Book of Mormon (allegedly "the world's most perfect book"), the string of lying apostles and prophets, the secret temple rituals, or any of the other thoroughly documented claims in *The God Makers*. Hunt and Decker prove that the Mormons are following a different God and a different Jesus.

You point out, "...there are key passages in the Book of Mormon that echo the message of the Epistle to the Romans." Dr. Mouw, Decker and Hunt document that large sections of the book of Mormon were plagiarized from the King James Bible, right down to the italics where the 1611 translators added words! Nephi's writings, allegedly penned in 500 to 600 B.C., include sections of the gospels. Why would it surprise us to find that portions of the Book of Mormon echo Romans?

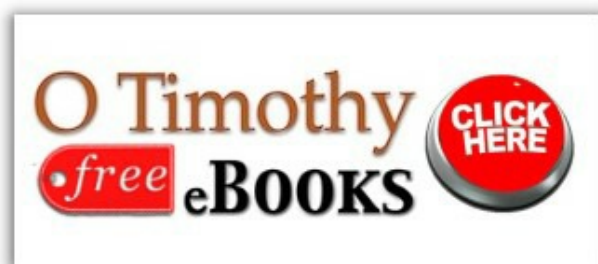
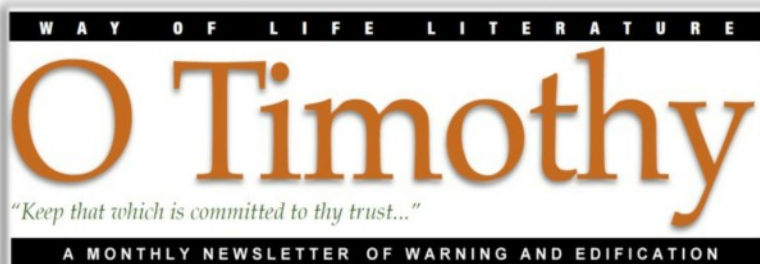
The sentence on page 136 may be an overstatement, but if a sincere member of the LDS Church reads *The God Makers* he won't be concerned with one overstatement, he will see the gospel contrasted to the outrageous claims of the Mormon Church. As you know, the Bible says, "...the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (2 Chronicles 16:9a). Jesus said, "...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." Untold numbers of Mormons have read *The God Makers*, have come to Lord, and been born again.

I again ask you to consider apologizing to the brothers that you have wronged. I don't think that sitting with the enemies of Jesus Christ and taking pot shots at His servants is an effective way to win Mormons to the true God, the God Who never was a man and Who never lived on a planet near a star called Kolob.

Yours in Christ,

Rob Yardley
Costa Mesa, California

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



O Timothy Online Subscription \$10 a year (PDF VERSION) - Click [Here](#) to Subscribe



When I was a young person, I had a fancy to learn how to knit. Knitting was not something that anyone in our family knew how to do (crochet was a whole 'nuther' story). A Christian lady, who visited us occasionally, tried to take me in hand and teach me. The sad truth was that I made good progress while she stayed, and when she went away...away went my knitting into the top of the closet. There it stayed until she returned again; I think we only played this game twice, and then she saw through me. I thought I wanted to learn to knit but I had no real heart for it.

So much for my great knitting career! But knitting has been in my thoughts again recently, after reading an essay by F. W. Boreham. In passing he mentioned something that captured my thoughts and attention.

"Every moment that I spend with my friend is a weaving of his life into mine, and of my life into his; and pity me, men and angels, if I entangle the strands of my life with a fabric that mars the pattern of my own! And pity me still more if the inferior texture of my life impairs the perfection and beauty of my friend's!"

How true this is! Every moment that we spend with one another is a kind of knitting; it is probably the purest form of 'knitting' there is. It can change and colour the very fabric of our lives. Our friendships shape the way we think, they can even change the way we talk or dress.

Have you ever seen friends who are like a mirror image of each other in fashion and speech?

We think to ourselves, "How ridiculous," when we ourselves are showing exactly who we spend time with by our attitudes, words and actions.

The Bible tells us in [1 Samuel 18:1](#), *"And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul."*

Jonathan found what Anne of Green Gables would have called a 'kindred spirit.' You may have found one or two in your time. Most people have to work hard at getting to know each other but sometimes, and it is rare, you find someone that you feel you already know.

Jonathan was a prince, and David was a shepherd; their lives would have been very different but in their hearts they sought after the same things. Their hearts recognised each other! I hope God blesses you with someone like this but in the meantime....we have some serious knitting to do.

Let's think about the many moments of any day, the moments that we interact with family members, schoolmates, workmates and all the people that come across our path from day to day. Let's imagine that every word and every deed that leave my body are each a silken strand, a strand that connects and joins and twines with strands coming from the people I am with. Their silk cords attach to me, and mine to them.

It is a strangely compelling picture. I wonder if the strands emanating from me are strong and beautiful, or are they soaked in acid that will eat away at the fabric of someone else's life?

All our interactions with one another are a knitting and a weaving of our lives together; is it for our mutual benefit and blessing, or is it a curse and a sorrow?

"Pity me, men and angels, if I entangle the strands of my life with a fabric that mars the pattern of my own!"

Here is a challenge for us to put all our friendships under the magnifying glass. Do the people I spend time with help me to draw closer to God? When I copy their attitudes to their authorities, am I pleasing God? When I wear what they wear, am I pleasing God? Does what we talk about when we are together honour God?

God is concerned about who we are friends with; *Proverbs 22:24,25* tell us to... *"Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul."*

What about what I watch on TV? We tend to adopt the mannerisms and quotes and clothing styles of the shows that have our attention. Is what I watch beginning to mar, or spoil, the pattern God wants for my life?

What about books? Books may not cause such an obviously seen difference in our pattern, they work more slowly. Books create thoughts first, and eventually the actions will follow. Is what you are reading breaking down what is good in your life? Are your values and convictions gradually changing for something less confronting as you read through your favourite series?

And pity me still more if the inferior texture of my life impairs the perfection and beauty of my friend's!" Woe unto us, if we teach our brother or sister to sin! How many times have we taught some innocent something they didn't need to know, and now their mind struggles with thoughts that shouldn't be there, and they have to fight against a sin they were introduced to by a friend.

There is a heavy burden to be borne for those of us who are guilty of this! I wonder how many souls have been sent on their way to Hell through the foolishness of their 'friends.' life.

We should always be aware of how our words and actions are knitting themselves into another's life. Be careful!! You have more impact on the lives of others than you think! O God, let our hearts and minds be pure, let our great desire be the strengthening and blessing of others!

Colossians 2:2 speaks of, "...*hearts being knit together in love...*" Love is what should motivate us in our sacred act of 'knitting.' *Matthew 22:37-40* says, "*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*"

If our love for the Lord is strong, then our love for each other will be too. If our love for each other is weak and uncaring, then our love to the Lord is the same. These two loves will always mirror each other.

When we are truly loving God, our hearts will be seeking the best for the people around us. The words and actions that we weave into their lives will be the right ones. When we are not walking with the Lord as we should be, our lives' weavings will be toxic and harmful.

Let's think hard about this. What needs to go, and what needs to stay and be strengthened? Put yourself under the microscope. Be willing to ask forgiveness for mistakes made and wrongs done. Seek God's face and put Him first, and everything else will begin to fall into place.

Ephesians 4:29 reminds us, "*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*"

Let our desire be to grow into true ministers of grace.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.

MODERN TOOLS

HAMMER - In ancient times a hammer was used to inflict pain on one's enemies. Modern hammers are used to inflict pain on oneself.

PLIERS - A device used to extend your reach the necessary few inches when you drop a one-of-a-kind screw down behind the new wall it took you two weeks to install.

HALOGEN LIGHT - A worklight that lights up your backyard with the incandescence of a football stadium, causing you to cast a heavy shadow over the area you're working on so that you need to use a flashlight anyway.

CORDLESS DRILL - A device that lessens your chance of electrocution 90% over a standard plug-in tool.

AIR COMPRESSOR - A mechanical device similar in principle to harnessing the power of your mother-in-law's nagging complaints and using the resulting airflow to sandblast old paint off the side of the house.

CHAIN SAW - Allows you to cut your way out of the shed that you accidentally built completely around yourself.

WISE GRIPS - A pair of helping hands that doesn't critique the job you're doing or even offer advice.

A woman was overheard saying, "I don't want to brag or make anyone jealous or anything ... but... I can still fit into the earrings that I wore in High School."

A woman goes to the Doctor, worried about her husband's temper. The Doctor asks: "What's the problem?"

The woman says, "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every day my husband seems to lose his temper for no reason. It scares me."

The Doctor says, "Don't worry, I know a cure for that. When your husband is getting angry, just take a glass of water and start swishing it in your mouth. Just swish and swish but don't swallow it until he either leaves the room or goes to bed and is asleep."

Two weeks later the woman comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn.

The woman says, "Doctor that was a brilliant idea! Every time my husband started losing his temper, I swished my mouth with water. I swished and swished, and he calmed right down! How would a glass of water do that?"

The Doctor says: "The water itself does nothing. It's keeping your mouth shut that does the trick."

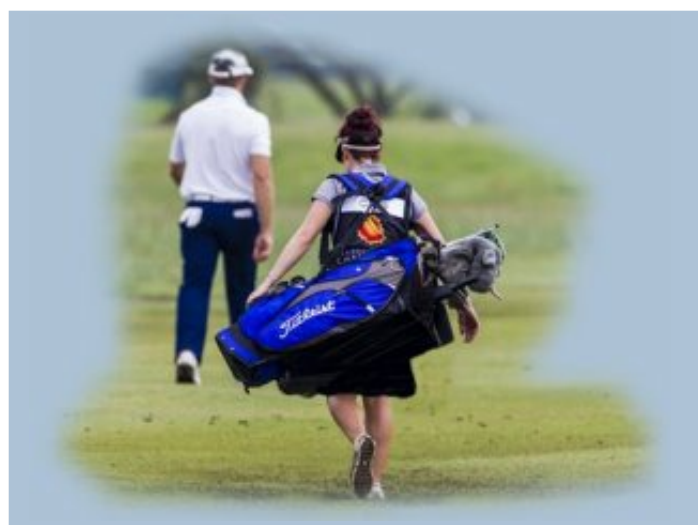
Picture a room full of pregnant women with their husbands. The Pre-Natal Nurse says, "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier. Just pace yourself, make plenty of stops and try to stay on a soft surface like grass or a path."

"Gentlemen, remember -- you're both in this together. It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her. In fact, that shared experience would be good for you both."

The room becomes very quiet as the men absorb this information. After a few moments a man, name unknown, at the back of the room slowly raises his hand.

"Yes?" says the Nurse.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"



[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

It is wrongly assumed that hypocrisy disappeared with the destruction of the temple and the desolation of Jerusalem in AD 70. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Why? Because the Pharisees, who were so riddled with hypocrisy, became the rabbinical class and dominated the spiritual life of Israel for centuries. And second, because Christians struggle with hypocrisy today as much as the Pharisees ever did.

SO WHAT IS HYPOCRISY?

Hypocrisy is pretence. It is play acting. It is pretending to be one thing, but actually being another. It is a thespian term, a stage name for someone who speaks from behind a mask, whether his mask depicts a frown and he smiles behind it, or his mask displays a smile and he frowns secretly, inwardly. The nature of hypocrisy is inconsistency. It is the opposite of sincerity and transparency. In [Luke 20:20](#), the elders practiced hypocrisy when they pretended to be righteous, but were actually spies for the chief priests and scribes, *"And they watched him, and sent forth spies, which should feign themselves just men, that they might take hold of his words, that so they might deliver him unto the power and authority of the governor."*

THE FINGERPRINTS OF HYPOCRISY

The Lord Jesus Christ painted such a perfect word picture of hypocrites that no man should ever wonder what they are. Sixteen times in Matthew alone He describes the hypocrites that he met everyday in Israel. When they gave their alms, or prayed or fasted with godless hearts (as in Matt. 6:2,5,16) He saw their hearts and knew their pretence. When they tried to pluck the mote out of another's eye and ignored the beam in their own, He knew their malady and exposed it as hypocrisy (Matt. 7:5). When their lips professed godliness and their hearts loved worldliness he saw through their empty speech (Matt. 15:7). When they read the sky and predicted the weather, but could not discern the hand of God in prophecy He saw their inconsistency (Matt. 16:3). When they pretended to be teachable, but hoped to ensnare Him with specious arguments, He reproved them openly for their hypocrisy (Matt. 22:18). And in that great expose' of Pharisaism in Matt. 23, He calls them hypocrites seven times, but even before that he defines hypocrisy in verses 1-11, "Then spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on



men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments, And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi. But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.

- In verse 3, they "say and do not."
- In verse 4, they load men up with heavy religious burdens, but do not help them carry them.
- In verses 5 - 7, they do all their works for show, and love the places and titles of honour.

Then the Lord pronounces a curse upon them. Eight times He cries, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" Each time, He exposes another expression of their hypocrisy.

- In verse 13, He reveals their total lack of interest in the kingdom of heaven, for themselves or for others.
- In verse 14, He exposes their rapacious treatment of the needy at the same time as they make long prayers.

- In verse 15, He describes their desire to proselyte men and make them worse hypocrites than themselves.
- In verses 16 - 22, He unmasks their spiritual blindness as they profess to be the teaching rabbis of Israel.
- In verse 23, He tells of their lack of discernment in paying the tithe precisely, all the while ignoring greater truths.
- In verse 24, He shows their imbalance, in that they were so critical in some areas and so gullible in others.
- In verses 25- 28, He exposes their superficiality in their desire to look good outwardly while they conceal wickedness within.
- In verses 29- 33, he reminds them of their tendency to honour the dead saints and persecute the living.

SO, HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Oh, I see, you didn't feel that these verses described you at all, and so you did not sit the exam? What say you go back and read them over again? Unless I am mistaken, you will find that you (and !!!!!) will not pass this exam.

Hypocrisy is an affliction we suppose others suffer from, but not us! It is an "us versus them" situation, eh? Non- Christians, members of cults, worldly lost people, they practice hypocrisy, but not us? We are the remnant! We are perfectly sincere and consistent!

Oh?

Let me suggest a text for you to ponder. Galatians 2:11-21 *"But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."*



PSALM 119:9-24

⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

¹⁰ With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

¹² Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

¹³ With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

¹⁶ I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

¹⁷ Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.

¹⁸ Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

¹⁹ I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

²⁰ My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.

²¹ Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.

²² Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies.

²³ Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.

²⁴ Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

The words "dissembled" and "dissimulation" are the same word as "hypocrite".

Uh-Oh, I see a problem here. It was the apostle Peter, the chief apostle, the preacher at Pentecost who led the way in the practice of hypocrisy in the fledgling church at Antioch. He who had learned in Acts 10 that God loved Gentiles as much as He loved Jews practiced hypocrisy in chapter 11. He it was that opened the door of faith to the household of the Roman centurion Cornelius and saw him and his family and friends converted to Christ. And he showed that great grasp of the true nature of the church in his treatment of the Gentile Christians in Antioch UNTIL the Jerusalem Jews showed up. And then he put his Jewish mask back on.

We should all greatly admire Paul for reproving Peter before the entire church. He exposed his hypocrisy in front of everybody. And Peter loved him for it. You don't think so? Go read II Peter 3:14-16.

So we see hypocrisy was still alive in the churches, apart from the Pharisees! And it is still alive today. Let me give you a few examples that are found every week in evangelical and fundamental churches all over the world.

HYPOCRISY IS ALIVE AND WELL WHEN:

- Religious leaders preach that no one is to reprove another Christian and then begin to strongly reprove their reprovers. Hypocrisy is alive and well.

- Evangelicals repudiate the biblical doctrine of separation from error then proceed to separate from those who practice biblical separation. Hypocrisy is alive and well.
- Christians strongly advocate a message of Unconditional Love and then viciously attack and slander anyone who loves all the words of God and preaches the judgment of God on sin. Hypocrisy is alive and well.
- Pastors mock those who practice biblical modesty and then pretend to have no dress standards in their churches. Hypocrisy is alive and well.
- Men who profess to be Bible scholars ridicule those whose lifelong research into textual criticism prove that the Received Text is completely trustworthy and reliable. Hypocrisy is alive and well.
- CCM musicians scoff at those who still use hymns, and become stricter than the men they ridicule in their advocacy of modern rock music in the churches.

Hypocrisy is alive and well.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



Heads Up! is a fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith,
[Grace Baptist Church](#), Malanda, Qld., 4885, Australia.

To be included to receive copies please contact us by one of the following methods:

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;

Phone: 07 4096 6657

Email: smiletex@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au