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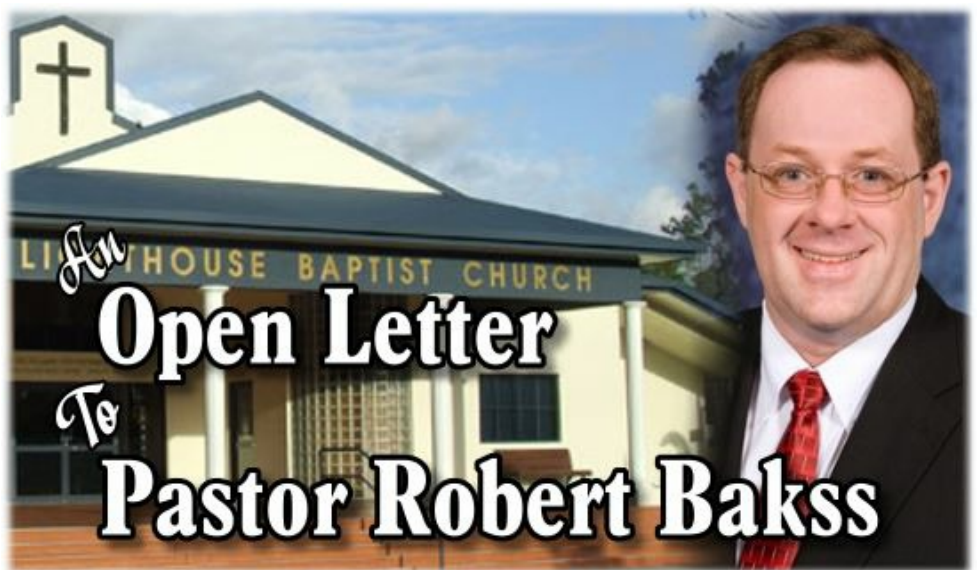


"But the path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."
Proverbs 4:18

Heads Up!

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FEATURE ARTICLE - AN OPEN LETTER TO PASTOR ROBERT BAKSS -



AN OPEN LETTER TO PASTOR ROBERT BAKSS

Lighthouse Baptist Church
Rockhampton, Qld.
Australia

Dear Pastor Bakss,

Over the past five years or so I have often considered writing to you out of concern over the direction Lighthouse Baptist Church is going. I finally decided to do so in an "open letter" format.

No doubt, someone will say that the issues being addressed should be discussed with you alone.

I disagree.

Modern technology allows pastors to publish their doctrines and their practices to a large audience. Whether or not it is their motivation to please their hearers and readers and therefore gain their applause, their audience will give them onions as well as orchids. Everywhere we see men lapping up the praise that is lavished on them, but when reproofs are given for their creeds and deeds, they cry "foul." Isn't it rather strange that this generation of preachers expects to be applauded, but are deeply offended when a critic offers reproofs? Is it not much more reasonable that they who preach and publish

and promote their messages in the modern “agora” must welcome reproofs as well as praise? Not everybody is going to agree with what we say. As Solomon said repeatedly in Proverbs, “Wise men receive reproofs.”

So what if someone were to write an open letter of appeal to a brother asking him to reconsider his public message and method? The epistles written to the churches of the New Testament were all “open letters”, intended to be read by sister churches. We have done exactly that for twenty centuries. Those church epistles dealt with some pretty confrontational matters. No doubt, the pastors who received the epistles of I Corinthians and Galatians would much rather no other church read their mail, but God intended otherwise.

In fact, one epistle of Paul's contains clear instructions for it to be passed on to another church, **Colossians 4:16** *“And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.”* And this was the epistle that attacked gnosticism in the church so strongly.

It was an open letter.

The seven letters written to the pastors of the churches of Asia by the Lord Jesus Christ through John were open letters, and are part of the book that promises a blessing to all who read it.

Though no man's epistle is inspired today as were those of the apostles, every man has the right to follow their example. So I am writing this letter to you to be read by all who wish to do so. We recognize every man's right to say what he believes he must say. We also recognize every man's right to say, “Amen” or “Oh me!” to what you and I say and do.



There are questions being asked about the direction Lighthouse Baptist Church is moving. Of necessity, churches (at least roughly) sail the compass headings chosen by their pastors. Like it or not, we pastors are helmsmen, as was the apostle James, in **Acts 15:19**, when he said, *“Wherefore my sentence is...”* So, I conclude that the direction LBC is moving is the direction Pastor Bakss has chosen for the church.

Most of the guest speakers at GBC ask me one or more of the following questions about LBC and Pastor Bakss. And they are questions I am asking as well.

1. Is there a biblical reason for the shift we observe in the music at LBC?

Our teens attended your youth conference about five years ago and came back with disturbing reports regarding the music at LBC. About three years ago, a member at LBC commented that your songleader spoke approvingly of Hillsong's music and said that “that is where we are going”, much to the hearer's chagrin. He also said he spoke to you about it. At least a dozen missionaries and pastors who have attended conferences at LBC have commented to me that they were offended by the music being sung and played there. Four of them told me that they have spoken or written to you personally on the subject. The use of “You Raise Me Up” as a worship hymn a couple of years ago was a surprise, since it is secular pop music and has nothing to do with God. For many centuries we who know God have held to the core belief that God uses and blesses that which is holy and pure, not the strange fire of men without Christ.

I received a letter this week from a veteran missionary expressing his concern at the harm being done in PNG by the music that is coming from America and Australia. Some of that music is coming to them from Lighthouse Baptist Church via the internet.

An example of this harmful music is what is being produced by Hillsong.

The Lord Jesus reproved the Jews for thinking that good fruit could be produced from an evil tree. He said, *“Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.”* **Mt 12:33.** Is it possible to separate a tree from its roots and fruits? The roots of Hillsong's CCM music and rock concert style of worship are easily traceable. Their music evolved from the “christian rock” music of the 1970's era flower children. It grew out of the secular rock music performed by Elvis and the Beatles. They borrowed the rhythm and blues music of the 1920 – 1950 jazz musicians, morphing it into “rock and roll.” Jazz grew out of the sensualizing of negro spirituals which originated from the ancient African idol worship music. Every one of these styles of music put the emphasis on the beat. All this has been public knowledge for many years. But what modern musicians refuse to recognize is that African music was, and is, predominantly fertility cult music, and that it had its origins in the worship of the sun, moon, and stars established by Nimrod when he built the tower of Babel. The chain of evidence is so strong that it cannot be refuted.

Nimrod's fertility cult music migrated from Babylon through Africa to America to Australia to Hillsong, and then to a church near you. Any honest study into the roots of CCM proves that it simply is not possible to separate Music, from its Morality, or from its Message.

Any Music. It simply is not possible to have Hillsong's Music without Hillsong's Message and Hillsong's Morality. Any church, including LBC or GBC (where I pastor), sooner or later discovers that the roots and shoots of Hillsong grow the fruits of Hillsong if the pastor waters and fertilizes it instead of rooting it out.

Men who study music tell us that composers draw from the wellsprings of their deepest beliefs to write their music. Religious musicians play and sing their theology, good or bad, orthodox or heretical. Hillsong may be large and loud, but it was not and is not (and never will be) sound doctrinally or morally. It has become a centre of Heterodoxy for the entire world through the music, the message, and the morality it exports to the famished multitudes in dead and dying churches.

2. Another question is, what possible benefit could you hope to receive when you attended the June 2014 Hillsong conference with Ben Bakss and Eric Capaci?

The photos of Ben Bakss and Eric Capaci are online (<https://twitter.com/ericcapaci>) Your positive, though reluctant reply to a brother's query about you attending as well indicate to me that you have no qualms of conscience about supporting the Hillsong Conference by your presence. I guess I am a bit puzzled as to why your photo was not posted along with Ben's and Eric's?

So, you may be asking, "What's wrong with Hillsong?"



Eric Capaci ericcapaci Jul 3
Enjoyed my time with dear friend @benbakss @hillsong conference

DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Ever' once in a while I come
acrost some downright
goodness that makes my
heart happy.



There is a little church in our
town that has a bus route
for pickin' up Sunday School kids. A retired
brother in the church drives a little van and
brings in several kids.

Not long ago, he was sick one Sunday and
was pretty upset that there was nobody at
church who could do his bus run. Would you
believe that one of his friends who goes to
another church heard about it and rang him up
to offer to do both bus runs.

He said, "I'll pick up your kids first and drop
them off at your church, then go get my kids
and take them to my church. Then I can come
pick yours up and drop them off at home
before I go back to get my kids after Sunday
School is over."

So he did.

And their churches aren't even the same kind.

Seems like somebody would have told them
fellers about denominations, doesn't it?

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

"I've decided to sell my Hoover ... well, it
was just collecting dust" ~ *Tim Vine*

"Always leave them wanting more, my uncle
used to say to me. Which is why he lost his
job in disaster relief." ~ *Mark Watson*

"I wanted to do a TV show about feminism.
But my husband wouldn't let me" ~ *Ria Lina*

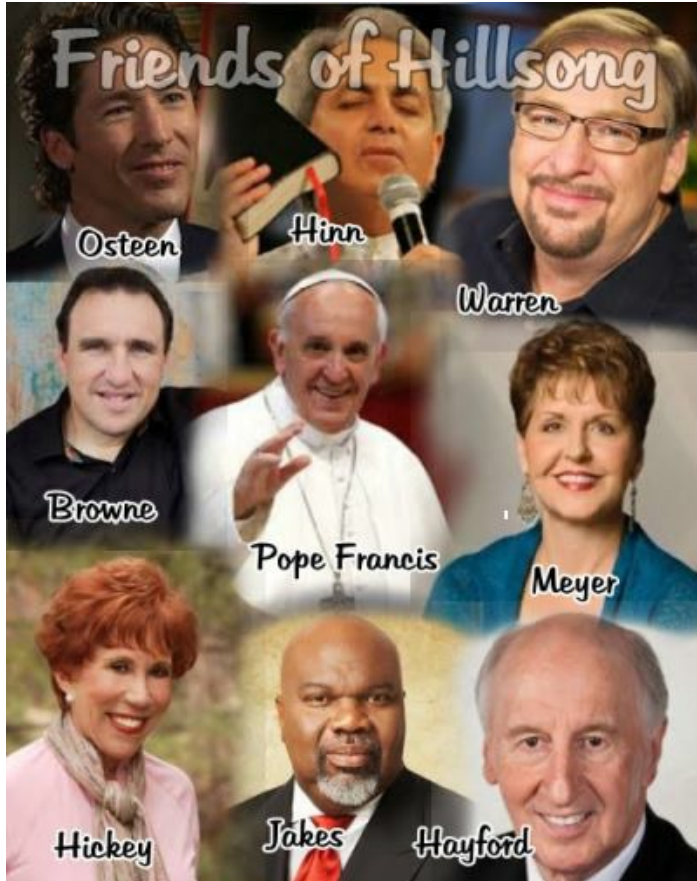
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To put it simply, "Everything!"

For instance, consider the speakers they invite to lead their conferences:

- **Men who promote Seeker Sensitive Church Growth/ New Age/ Emerging Church errors, such as:**

Bill Hybels (Willow Creek), Rick Warren (Saddleback Church – Guest Speaker 2014 Hillsong Conference), Mark Driscoll (Mars Hill Church – Guest Speaker 2014 Hillsong Conference), Louis Giglio (Passion Conferences), and Ed Young.



- **Men and women who promote Word Faith errors, such as:**

Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyer (Guest Speaker 2012 Hillsong Conference), Benny Hinn, Rodney Howard Browne (Toronto Blessing Holy Ghost Bartender), Cindy Jacobs, Marilyn Hickey, and Reinhard Bonnke (Christ for all Nations).

- **Men who promote ecumenism, such as:**

Jack Hayford (Foursquare Church), and Nicky Gumbel (Alpha)

- **Men who preach heretical doctrines, such as:**

TD Jakes, who denies the Trinity (Unitarian Pentecostal)

- **And what about Hillsong's involvement in Pope Benedict's World Youth Congress in 2008?**

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/worldyouthday/thous>

[ands-flock-for-god-and-rock/2008/07/07/1215282747305.html](http://www.smh.com.au/news/worldyouthday/thous-ands-flock-for-god-and-rock/2008/07/07/1215282747305.html)

- **And then there is the shadow that hangs over Hillsong because of Brian Houston's father (Frank's) immoral conduct and dismissal from the pastorate.**

(<http://hillsongchurchwatch.com/tag/brian/>)

- **Or possibly you and Pastor Capaci should consider Brian Houston's recent statement that his flock worships the same god as the Muslims do.**

(<http://hillsongchurchwatch.com/2014/03/17/brian-houston-the-muslim-and-you-we-actually-serve-the-same-god/>)

Do you think you should reconsider the re-imaging of LBC to conform to Hillsong?



3. Bro. Bakss, would you please explain beforehand to the pastors you are inviting to your 2015 Pastors Refresher School/ Retreat why you permit(ed) the following at LBC?

- The skit mocking the ordinance of baptism that you posted on Vimeo until pastors protested?
- The photos posted on Instagram of LBC youth in a "fashion shoot" (JayJay's) on church property?
- The screening (on the 10th of April, 2014) of Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ" movie for grades 9-12 high school students? (It doesn't seem to trouble evangelicals at all that Gibson filmed the movie promoting the blasphemous heresy of Roman Catholic mass at the same time as he carried on an adulterous affair with one of Hollywood's darlings.)
- The local woman who was invited to school to teach "body art" to senior students, "dressed in typical lesbian style, with a mohawk haircut."
- And the "fire twirling" on LBC's FaceBook page? What purpose did that serve?

4. Bro. Bakss, is it possible that the pastors you admire the most have influenced you and LBC to adopt a flawed interpretation of the great commission?

There are at least five texts that clearly define the great commission, Matt. 28:18-20, Mark 16:16-18, Luke 24:46-49, John 20:21, and Acts 1:8.

Every one of those texts puts the emphasis on expanding the size of the outreach of the gospel, not on increasing the size of the churches that result from this outreach.

For the past century or so, evangelicals and fundamentalists in particular have softened the meaning of the great commission until it now means, "Go and

build a large church,” not, “spread the gospel as widely as possible.”

So that most IB churches worldwide have now adopted a pragmatic model for doing the work of God. (Everything has to be geared toward producing an impressive bottom line: numbers of people, sizes of buildings, numbers of baptisms, budgets, staff, conferences and who speaks at them, etc.)

And inevitably, pastors find that they have to seek new methods to attract the multitudes required to fund their juggernaut, and feed the media.

Until the day comes when the lack of substance, of doctrinal content, of genuine service to God bites and the empire collapses.

In closing, will you permit this brother to appeal to you to return to the old paths, to return to preaching all the counsel of God?

Isaiah 58:8-12, *“Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward. Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday: And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.”*

Jeremiah 6:16, *“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.”*

It is my prayer and the prayer of many of your brethren that the last sentence of Jer. 6:16 will not be your reply.

“When a diseased Christianity become evangelistic it merely spreads the area of infection.” ~ A. W. Tozer

Pastor Buddy Smith.

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- God attends the funeral of every sparrow. ~ *Harry Ironside*
- “I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?”
- “The Church still continued to increase its outward splendor as it lost its internal purity.” ~ *Edward Gibbon, The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Vol. 2 P. 155.
- The strength of the camel varies according to size and age, but the driver has an unfailing test by which he knows if each beast's burden is suitable to its capacity. When it kneels to be laden it always grumbles, growls and shows resentment, but of this the driver takes no notice. He goes on loading up until the moment when the beast suddenly becomes silent; then he knows the the burden is heavy enough, and nothing more is added. ~ *The Gobi Desert by Mildred Cable*
- A generation of Christians reared among push buttons and automatic machines is impatient of slower and less direct methods of reaching their goals. We have been trying to apply machine-age methods to our relations with God. We read our chapter, have our short devotions, and rush away, hoping to make up for our deep, inward bankruptcy by attending another gospel meeting, or listening to another thrilling story told by a religious adventurer lately returned from afar. The tragic results of this spirit are all about us. Shallow lives, hollow religious philosophies, the preponderance of the element of fun in gospel meetings, the glorification of man, trust in religious externalities, quasi-religious fellowships, salesmanship methods, the mistaking of dynamic personality for the power of the Spirit: these, and such as these, are the symptoms of an evil disease, a deep and serious malady of the soul.
- True Faith requires that we believe everything God has said about Himself, but also that we believe everything He has said about us. Until we believe that we are as bad as God says we are, we can never believe that He will do for us what He says He will do.

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Gold From Ophir

Mimic the Master's Mercy on the Multitude

By Jerry Wilhite



As one works his way through the Bible the principles and practices of missions surface again and again. Meditating on Isaiah 7 and 8 brought the thought to me of how merciful God is to me and to the multitudes around our family.

Isaiah 8:9 states, *Associate yourselves, O ye people, and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces.*

Isaiah's message specifically referred to the northern kingdom of Israel, Syria, and Assyria, but generally to all people groups far off from Jerusalem and Judah like the countries of Africa. Those of us in **far off countries** do well to heed the message of Isaiah and in particular, the words in the context of this verse. In one word it is *Immanuel*. Note that it is found in **7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

8:8, *And he shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of thy land, O Immanuel.*

8:10, *Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.*

God is with the land of Israel and her people. We should learn this. For over three millennia men have endeavored to wipe Israel from the face of the globe, but they have failed, haven't they? And why? Because God is with his people. Despite her worldliness, waywardness and wickedness Israel has experienced time and again the goodness of God revealed in his great mercy toward her.

In Isaiah's day, King Ahaz was wicked as were his people. Their sins in **8:19** remind me of Africa, *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?*

They had forsaken the Lord their God and sought out counsel from their own "witch doctors." The difference between Africans and the Jews is that Israel had seen light and chosen darkness. Africans are born in darkness, never having been exposed to the light (This is not to deny the

light of creation and conscience, though.).

So why did God choose to preserve Judah and punish her enemies (Rezin and his Syrians, Pekah and his Israelites)? Because God's decisions are made on the basis of who He is, and not on the basis of who man is.

God's mercy is evident here with wicked Judah just as it is with us and the lost around us. Mercy is defined as "the removal or withholding of a just penalty," and it is often seen in the Old Testament like right here in our text.

Psa 86:15, *But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.*

Psa 103:8, *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

Num 14:18, *The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.*

Neh 9:17, *And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage: but thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and forsookest them not.*

Lot (Gen 19:16), Abraham (Gen 24:27), Joseph (Gen 39:21), and Joseph's brothers (Gen 43:14) all experienced God's mercy indicating that both the unrighteous and righteous are indebted to God for it. But for the mercy of God, we all would be and should be worse off than we are. Since our God is merciful and has been toward us in salvation (Tit 3:5; Eph 2:4; 1Ti 1:13,16), let us **mimic his mercy toward the multitudes** around us.

Mat 5:7, *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

Luke 6:36, *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

Rom 12:8, *Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.*

People will do wrong to us. We have been lied about and to, shunned, robbed, cheated, hated, falsely accused, scorned, mocked, and ridiculed, but what should be our response? The ungodly response is to retaliate with malevolence; the godly response is to respond with mercy.

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Testimonies of Christ's Sinlessness

By David Cloud

(Source: 7/29/14 -- David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061 , 866-295-4143 - Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org – fbns@wayoflife.org)

Two thousand years ago a man walked this earth who was like no other man who was ever born. His birthplace was a stable in the tiny town of Bethlehem in Israel. He lived on this earth for about 33 years and was crucified by the Roman government as a criminal. He life was under the microscope of human observation. He did not live in secret. His ministry was public, and his every word and deed was examined by those who lived at that time. And the record of His life has been examined by the world ever since. No man has been as intensely examined as Jesus of Nazareth.

Before His death, Jesus issued an amazing challenge that has never been answered, a challenge that only an insane or a sinless man could offer. He said, "Which of you convinceth me of sin" (John 8:46).

The word "convince" means to bring an accusation that can be proven, a charge that can stand.

Though He was accused of wrongdoing by those who hated him and crucified him, the accusations were blatant and obvious lies. The Roman governor himself said that Jesus was innocent of all charges.

He wasn't crucified because of any sin He had committed. He was crucified because of the jealousy of false Jewish teachers and the idolatry of the Roman Empire with its Caesar worship. But far more than that, He was crucified because He came to "seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). He came as the Son of God to make atonement for man's sins so that men might be reconciled to God.

The fact of Jesus' sinlessness proves that He was the Son of God. Every man since Adam has been a sinner by nature, by thought, and by deed. Children don't have to be taught how to sin. We don't need schools to educate children in how to lie and cheat and dishonor their parents and disobey authority.

I believe that the Bible is the Word of God for many reasons, and one of those is that what it says rings true to what can be observed in life. The Bible says, for example, that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). I can observe that in my own life. I can see it everywhere in the world today and everywhere in human history.

Everywhere except in Jesus.

Following are some of the testimonies to Jesus' sinlessness:

THE TESTIMONY OF PILATE

Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. (Joh 18:38). See also John 19:4, 6. When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it. (Mt 27:24)

THE TESTIMONY OF PILATE'S WIFE

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. (Mt 27:19)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. (Lu 23:40-41)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE CENTURION

Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man (Lu 23:47) And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. (Mr 15:39)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

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. (2Co 5:21)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE PETER

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: (1Pe 2:22)

THE TESTIMONY OF THE APOSTLE JOHN

And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. (1Jo 3:5)

THE TESTIMONY OF GOD THE FATHER

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. (Mt 17:5)

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(A friend sent me this a couple of months ago. It is actually quite revealing in its exposure of people's dependence on electronic gadgets. If the reader will take a moment to compare the two sets of data (2004 and 2014) you will be surprised to see what is actually causing the restaurant to receive unfavourable reviews of its service. It is not poor service that delays the waiter taking orders, or food being prepared, or served. It is not the waiters that are causing the food to grow cold before the diners eat it. It is the customers' addiction to their mobile phones (as we call them in Australia).



May I ask a rhetorical question? Why do so many feel such an urgent need to be on their phones so much? Is their business really placing that many demands on their time? Are their families in such urgent need of attention? Are they actually serving others via electronic media that frequently? Or is it possible that their phones are tools of self love, of gaining attention from others, and that their phones give them a previously unknown opportunity to bask in self admiration, and give them an electronic megaphone to shout to all the world, "LOOK AT ME!!!! LOOK AT ME!!!!!! LOOK AT ME!!!!!!" ? I suspect that is what has really changed our society.

Self love has exploded to such a degree that there are very few that can handle the new liberty they have via social media. Liberty to love self.

2 Timothy 3:1-2 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..... - Ed)

NYC RESTAURANT COMPARES OLD SURVEILLANCE OF CUSTOMERS TO MOST RECENT AND IS SHOCKED BY THE RESULTS

<http://ifyoucantaffordtotip.com/>

A popular New York City restaurant recently hired a firm to investigate why they continually kept receiving such bad reviews for slow service. Once the results came in they were shocked by what they discovered. They then decided to rant about it on Craigslist (*content has since been removed from Craigslist*), comparing footage from 2004 to footage from 2014.

This is what they posted:

We are a popular restaurant for both locals and tourists alike. Having been in business for many years, we noticed that although the number of customers we serve on a daily basis is almost the same today as it was 10 years

ago, the service just seems super slow even though we added more staff and cut back on the menu items...One of the most common complaints on review sites against us and many restaurants in the area is that the service was slow and/or they needed to wait a bit long for a table. We decided to hire a firm to help us solve this mystery, and naturally the first thing they blamed it on was that the employees need more training and that maybe the kitchen staff is just not up to the task of serving that many customers.

Like most restaurants in NYC we have a surveillance system, and unlike today where it's a digital system, 10 years ago we still used special high capacity tapes to record all activity. At any given time we had 4 special Sony systems recording multiple cameras. We would store the footage for 90 days just in case we needed it for something.

The firm we hired suggested we locate some of the older tapes and analyze how the staff behaved 10 years ago versus how they behave now. We went down to our storage room but we couldn't find any tapes at all. We did find the recording devices, and luckily for us, each device has 1 tape in it that we simply never removed when we upgraded to the new digital system! The date stamp on the old footage was Thursday July 1, 2004. The restaurant was very busy that day. We loaded up the footage on a large monitor, and next to it on a separate monitor loaded up the footage of Thursday July 3 2014, with roughly the same amount of customers as ten years before.

I will quickly outline the findings. We carefully looked at over 45 transactions in order to determine the data below:

2004:

Customers walk in. They get seated and are given menus, out of 45 customers 3 request to be seated elsewhere.

Customers on average spend 8 minutes before closing the menu to show they are ready to order. Waiter shows up almost instantly takes the order.

Appetizers are fired within 6 minutes, obviously the more complex items take longer.

Out of 45 customers 2 sent items back.

Waiters keep an eye out for their tables so they can respond quickly if the customer needs something. After guests are done, the check delivered, and within 5 minutes they leave.

Average time from start to finish: 1:05 (1 hour and 5 minutes)

2014:

Customers walk in. Customers get seated and are given menus, out of 45 customers 18 requested to be seated elsewhere.

Before even opening the menu they take their phones out, some taking photos while others simply do something else on their phone (sorry, but we have no clue as to what they are doing and do not monitor customer WIFI activity). 7 out of the 45 customers had waiters come over right away, they showed them something on their phone and spent an average of 5 minutes of the waiter's time.

Given this is recent footage, we asked the waiters about this and they explained those customers had a problem connecting to the WIFI and demanded the waiters try to help them.

Finally the waiters are walking over to the table to see what the customers would like to order. The majority have not even opened the menu and ask the waiter to wait a bit. Customer opens the menu, places their hands holding their phones on top of it and continue doing whatever on their phone. Waiter returns to see if they are ready to order or have any questions. The customer asks for more time. Finally they are ready to order.

Total average time from when the customer was seated until they placed their order 21 minutes.

Food starts getting delivered within 6 minutes, obviously the more complex items take way longer.

26 out of 45 customers spend an average of 3 minutes taking photos of the food.

14 out of 45 customers take pictures of each other with the food in front of them or as they are eating the food. This takes on average another 4 minutes as they must review and sometimes retake the photo.

9 out of 45 customers sent their food back to reheate. Obviously if they didn't pause to do whatever on their phone the food wouldn't have gotten cold.

27 out of 45 customers asked their waiter to take a group photo. 14 of those requested the waiter retake the photo as they were not pleased with the first photo.

On average this entire process between the chit chatting and reviewing the photo taken added another 5 minutes and obviously caused the waiter not to be able to take care of other tables he/she was serving.

Given in most cases the customers are constantly busy on their phones it took an average of 20 minutes more from when they were done eating until they requested a check. Furthermore once the check was delivered it took 15 minutes longer than 10 years ago for them to pay and leave.

8 out of 45 customers bumped into other customers or in one case a waiter (texting while walking) as they were either walking in or out of the Restaurant.

Average time from start to finish: 1:55 (1 hour and 55 minutes)

We are grateful for everyone who comes into our restaurant, after all there are so many choices out there. But can you please be a bit more considerate?


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Lifting Up The
STANDARD

"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church
www.fairhavensbaptist.net

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



DOES ANYBODY LISTEN TO THEIR MESSAGE?

(I can't help wondering if any of the fans of CCM musicians ever listen to what they say? Not only in the lyrics of the "songs" they sing, but in the interviews they give to the media. WND is not a reliable source of info. Sometimes it appears to be a religious Wikipedia. Nonetheless, here is an example of "modernism with a rock guitar." - Ed.)

<http://www.wnd.com/2014/09/christian-singer-jesus-may-have-lied-about-adam-noah/>

CHRISTIAN SINGER: JESUS MAY HAVE LIED ABOUT ADAM, NOAH
(EDITED BY DCB)

Yes, "An award-winning Christian singer is being blasted this week by the head of Answers in Genesis after the performer suggested Jesus may have been wrong about the creation story, or possibly even lied about it to fit in with popular culture."

The singer is Michael Gungor who in a recent interview said that people are "... making a lot of assumptions based in a perspective that was handed to you from our culture, and the way we think in the modern world is very different than how people thought in the pre-modern world." He said that even if Christ "...was wrong, even if He did believe that Noah was a historical person, or Adam was a historical person, and ended up being wrong, I don't understand how that even would deny the divinity of Christ. The whole idea of the divinity of Christ being fully human and fully God, that God lowered Himself to



become a human being with a human brain, in a human culture with human language and human needs and human limitations."

At least "Gungor's views have already cost him among fans, as at least one church canceled a concert, and a Wisconsin radio station removed itself from an event featuring Gungor, saying it 'cannot be a party to introducing more doubt into the hearts and minds of young Christians already being fed doubt and lies by the world.'"

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OBSERVATIONS RE CHURCHES THAT ARE MOVING INTO EMERGENT METHODOLOGY –

A few weeks ago I received a letter from a missionary in which he mentioned the loss of support from a church that appears to be moving toward Emergent methodology.

I replied along these lines (expanded since I wrote to him.)

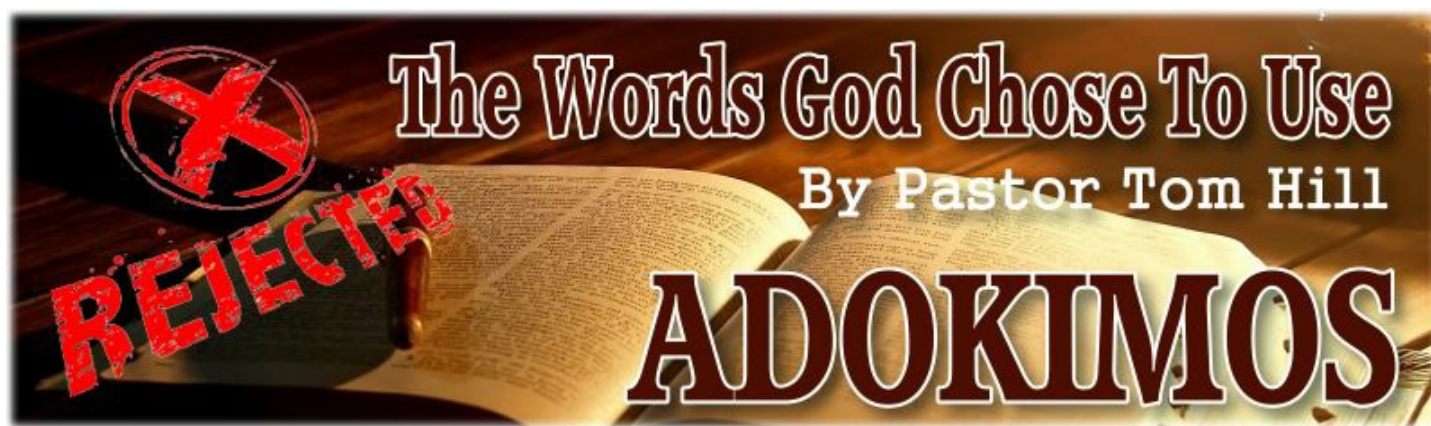
Dear Bro. _____

1. Each pastor and his church move in a direction they have chosen to be the "best" one.
2. "Best" varies from church to church
3. Pastors tend to run in groups that support and defend each other.
4. Most pastors are not deep thinkers.
5. Pastors tend to be lazy and let others do their thinking for them.
6. They often just copy the pastors who are the most "successful."
7. Success is not measured by obedience to Scripture, but by pragmatic ideals, such as size, popularity, budget, image, reputation, poise, etc.
8. From the time of J. Frank Norris, IB pastors have copied the pastors who drew the largest crowds, supposing that gain is godliness.
9. Because of this, they permitted grievous errors to creep into their churches as long as they brought with them beneficial side effects, such as bigger crowds, more noise, larger offerings, wider influence, more publicity, and more admiration from the people they were copying.
10. Crises occur in the pursuit of pragmatism, when anyone discerns the church's incremental surrender and dares to name it and shame it.

11. Whenever this occurs, it almost never results in the pragmatic pastor turning back to the old paths.
12. Repentance of pragmatism is never consistent with the image of "success" they are building.
13. The pastor/church that is departing from the old paths searches for and finds other pastors/churches who are moving in the same direction and fellowships with them as he moves away from his old friends.
14. As the pragmatist departs from the old paths we observe other pastors/churches in smaller nations (sometimes the churches on a mission field, but not necessarily) leaping ahead of their mentoring pastors/churches in the USA and moving quickly into radical doctrine and practice. Some pastors even race far ahead into heresy.
15. In its final stages pragmatism causes a shift of emphasis from the biblical mandate of the Great Commission (Evangelism and Edification) toward a business model patterned after the "successful" megachurches they admire, (Empire Building, Entertainment, and Education).
16. An early indicator of this is the pastor's acquisition of CEO status in his church.

Bro. Buddy Smith

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In the downward spiral of mankind that Paul speaks about in Romans 1 to the point of absolute worst point and final point of perversion, which deals with homosexuality, and ALL forms of sexual deviancy as defined by the Scriptures, Paul uses a word most of us have at least heard. That word is the word REPROBATE.

Paul declares in **Romans 1:28**, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient"* (convenient means things which are fit).

The word for REPROBATE is one of those words that means essentially the same in the Old Testament as it does in the New Testament. It occurs numerous times in the Old Testament, but only a handful of times in the New.

REPROBATE comes from the Greek word ADOKIMOS (pronounced AD OKEE MOS). The root word is DOKIMOS which means "accepted, approved, tried." According to one source, the word was used mostly in the Greek world concerning coins. "In the ancient world there was no banking system as we know it today, and no paper money. All money was made from metal, heated until liquid, poured into molds and allowed to cool. When the

coins were cooled, it was necessary to smooth off the uneven edges. The coins were comparatively soft and of course many people shaved them closely.

In one century, more than eighty laws were passed in Athens, to stop the practice of shaving down the coins then in circulation. But some money changers were men of integrity, who would accept no counterfeit money. They were men of honor who put only genuine full weighted money into circulation. Such men were called DOKIMOS or approved (Barnhouse)."

When the letter "A" is added to the word, it then is given the meaning "not standing the test, not approved, unfit for use, spurious, reprobate." Paul is dealing with the godlessness of mankind, which is in essence the full disregard of God. That leads to this place of being reprobate. Paul said that God gave them over to a REPROBATE MIND.

The word REPROBATE modifies or tells us about this kind of mind. It is a mind that has left the standard of God, which is His Word. It then is a mind that is now unfit in light of God's word. You see, such a one has rejected what God has said for something that comes from his or her own darkened heart.

Such a mind has become absolutely worthless in the sight of God. The words of Paul tell us that man tests God, and they did not approve God in their knowledge. They tested God and refused Him. The act of testing God had an effect upon that person. They did not like what He said. They found God to be in essence worthless to them.

When a person comes to this place mentally, God gives to that person a REPROBATE MIND. Here is a mind that will not stand the test.

Paul uses somewhat of a play on the two words. The idea is this: their minds did not *approve* of God, thus God gave them a mind that would not itself *stand the test*. It became a worthless mind.

That is exactly what Job was speaking about in **Job 21:14**, *"Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways. What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?"*

It should concern each of us when we hear someone declare, *"I do not want to know what God says about _____ or I do not care what God says about _____ . I have my mind made up based upon what other human beings have said or what I have concluded."*

In essence, they kick God out of their thinking and their mind. Such a mind begins to entertain and then ultimately to carry out actions that are not convenient or fitting for God's creation to be doing. God did not create man to be this way. He did not create men to

marry men nor women to marry women. He did not make mistakes when He created anyone. He made a man a man and woman a woman.

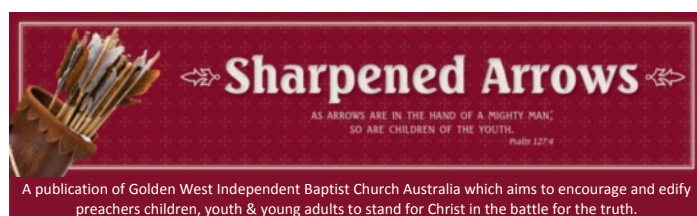
You see, beloved, a person's mind, body, and very being were created to bring to God glory! But now, man has kicked God out of his own mind, and now man does those things which are of a WORTHLESS MIND. Paul gives a list of 22 sins in such a heart in v. 29-32.

You see, these sins are the elements of God's judgment. Restraint is removed and mankind goes his own way doing the desires of his blackened heart.

That leaves a very dismal picture of that person. Is there hope? Absolutely! The only hope is in Jesus Christ, Who can and will break that horrible bondage through that person's repentance and their faith in Christ.

Sadly, many will not turn to Him. They have their minds set, their consciences are dead, and they love their sin too much. Thus, they refuse to repent, and confide in that self-chosen worthless place.

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BUILDING IN THE DARK

My Wifey Dear is a Builder

Editorial - By Bro. Buddy Smith

My sweetheart Susan, the wife of my youth, is a builder. She is like the wise woman of **Proverbs 14:1** *"Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."*

Susan Smith builds her house, not the walls and roof and windows of our dwelling place, but the character, the virtue, the morals and values of her family. She builds up her husband, her children, her grandchildren. We are her construction site, and she works every day sawing away and hammering us into shape. She uses the Master Plan found in the Holy Scriptures.

When Paul described his missionary work as being that of a wise masterbuilder (I Cor. 3:10) he used the word "arkitektos". We use the same word today and pronounce it "architect". That is my wife's calling, her true profession. In the New Testament it is called "edifying" one another.

I have to tell you she is jolly good at it. In fact, this morning I gained an important insight into why my body moves slower and slower all the time.

It's all those extra rooms, the study, the storerooms and workshops, she keeps building into me. No doubt about it, I am becoming more useful, but moving this "MANsion" around is pretty difficult. (I now understand why I have to line some of you older preachers up against a fence post to see if you are moving or not. It's because your wife has been edifying you, busily adding a room or two on and it's slowed you down.)

SHE BUILDS IN THE DARK -

There is one aspect of my Susan's "architectural edification calling" that I want to focus on, and that is that much of it is done in the dark. We talk at night, before we drop off to sleep, we talk when we awake in the wee hours, and we talk in the early mornings before the rooster crows. Much of my Susan's edification of her husband is done at night. She builds me up in the dark. Well, actually we both do much of our mutual edification in the dark.

Darktime building is not difficult if you've read and memorised the Master Plan and have the Holy Spirit to call to remembrance what the Masterbuilder says about the project in hand. This construction work is what wise parents do in their children, **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** *"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."* From the biblical viewpoint, MOST of the Bible doctrine our children learn they ought to get from their parents, all day long. And that works for husband and wife. I believe the time we spend talking together about the things God teaches us are the most important things we ever learn. That's why I tell people my favourite commentary is The Wifey Dear Commentary.

I only hope I can be the help to her she is to me.

BUILDING LIKE BOAZ AND RUTH -

Let me give you an example. This morning we woke up about 5 o'clock, and started talking about Boaz and Ruth, two of our favourite people. Before long we had hammer and saw at work on Boaz's "husband potential." Without needing to turn on the light we pulled up in our hearts the builder's plan for the book of Ruth and edified each other.

Boaz met Ruth in chapter 2 and immediately displayed some of the qualities of a godly husband. He said verses 8-9 *"Then said Boaz unto Ruth, Hearest thou not, my daughter? Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens: Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? And when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn."*

He described two things that godly husbands do. He told her we would provide for her and protect her. He showed

no romantic interest in Ruth. In his words we see the loving treatment of the labourers who reaped his fields. He sought their welfare. He displayed real godly charity, in that he "sought not his own", but others' good.

We then observed Naomi's response to Boaz's kindness, *"And Naomi said unto her daughter in law, Blessed be he of the LORD, who hath not left off his kindness to the living and to the dead. And Naomi said unto her, The man is near of kin unto us, one of our next kinsmen."* (Ruth 2:20)

Next we saw that Naomi discerned that Boaz had the character needed to be a good husband and that he was qualified to take Ruth to be his wife, if he was willing.

Naomi had the experience and wisdom that Ruth did not have. As we meditated on Ruth's need for a "covering", and on Boaz's "husband potential" we began to ponder the marriages we observe all around us, new and old, and examine our own marriage. We discussed how vital it is for men to be trained to develop their own "husband potential", that is, to grow the godly mindset that looks at life with a "Provider/Protector" perspective. Men who know Christ need to treat others with this Provider/Protector approach every day. Not for personal gain, not for advantage, not even with romantic objectives in mind, but just because God built men to be that way. Boaz was that kind of man. He treated his reapers as a Provider/Protector does, and in doing so he found a wife.



Though fewer and fewer men appear to have this mindset, we who know Christ should be Provider/ Protectors toward everyone we meet. Sadly, it seems that the favourite musical note is the E note. You know, the one we call Mi, Mi, Mi!

Everywhere we look we see people whose total focus is on Grabbing and Getting. Why? Because they have happily immersed themselves in a materialistic and self centered Consumer Society. Their motto is "He who dies with the most toys wins," never realizing that he who dies with the most toys is still dead. How much better would it be to say that "Provider/Protectors are Ish-Ghayil's, men of wealth." Like Boaz. Ruth 2:1

Oh, to be of Boaz and Ruth's lineage.



Yes, it is true that my wife also sharpens my sword. *"Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."* Proverbs 27:17

My friends do this work of edification in me, especially my wife, who is "the desire of mine eyes."

Bro. Buddy Smith

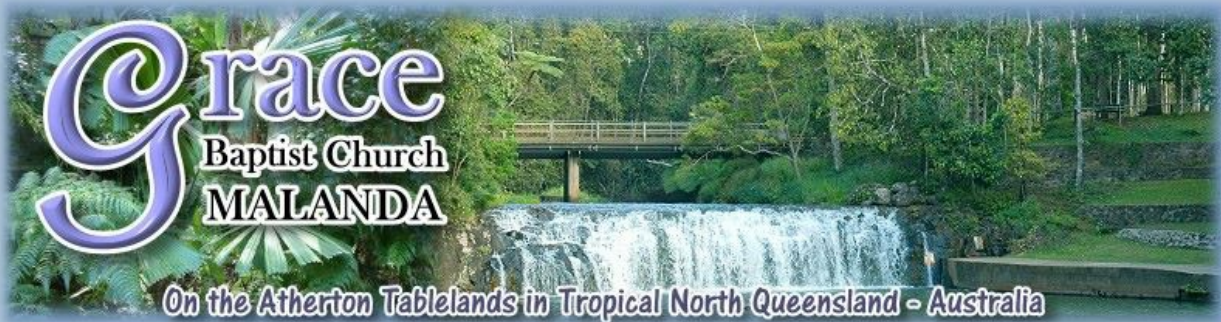
PS. If you are one of those rare individuals who builds in the dark or who just loves being an edifier, you might like to look over these verses on edification:

- Acts 9:31 *Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*
- Romans 14:19 *Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 *Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.*
- 1 Corinthians 10:23 *All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 *Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.*
- 1 Corinthians 14:26 *How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.*
- 2 Corinthians 10:8 *For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord hath given us for edification, and not for your destruction, I should not be ashamed:*
- 2 Corinthians 12:19 *Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but we do all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying.*
- 2 Corinthians 13:10 *Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.*
- Ephesians 4:12 *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*
- Ephesians 4:16 *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*
- Ephesians 4:29 *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.*
- 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.*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.*
- 1 Peter 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*
- Jude 1:20 *But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.*

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Heads Up! - Back Issues Archive



Heads Up!

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