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THE GATES ARE OPEN - by Buddy Smith

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ." (Jude 3b, 4).

The temple gates allowed access into the sacred precincts of the temple in Jerusalem. Nothing profane was ever to be brought into the place of worship.

But it was. More than once. And more than one way.

In Nehemiah's day Tobiah, the enemy of Israel, set up camp in the temple. I wonder which gate he came in? Ahaz brought in a new altar copied from the one he saw in a pagan temple in Damascus. I wonder which gate it was brought through? And even Solomon set up altars in the temple. Which gates were the idols and altars carried through? In latter times Antiochus

Epiphanes dedicated an altar to Jupiter and sacrificed a sow in the temple court. I wonder which gate they led the pig in through? The High Priest permitted the courts of God's house to be made into a cheap and sleazy flea market. Which gate did they use?

They all came in at one gate or another.

Jude wrote of men who creep into churches and bring their heretical baggage with them. Bro. Bob Kirkland calls them "creeps."

They are no longer creeping in. The present day idolators with all their idols are rushing the gates of our churches. Or we might say that they are pushing their way through every door and every window of our churches.



Higher Criticism - For years there has been a trickle of higher critics slipping into independent Baptist churches via the door marked "Modern Bible Translations." Some of them have even crept into our pulpits and are now firmly entrenched there.

Political Control of the Churches - Strangers have climbed through windows and crept into doors marked "Denomination Is All and All" or "Leadership Conferences For Control of the Churches!" or "Pragmatism is a BIG Word And Therefore a Good Word" or "Follow Hyles Or Die!" and "Calvin Rocks!"

Commercial Christian Music - Of late there has been one small doorway that is being greatly enlarged due to the increase in traffic.

It is the Music Door.

In some churches entire walls are being removed to make room for huge Music Roll-A-Doors to be installed. The very most modern churches have gone a step farther and after demolishing the wall, have refused to install a door at all. They just left a great, gaping portal where the wall was before. Needless to say, this modification has greatly weakened the entire structure so that more than one church has collapsed entirely with many souls lost. This modification proved to be a doorway of destruction. It opened the way for the world to come into the church like never before.

SaddleBlanket, an Emergent church in California, boasts of being on the "cutting edge" of the music scene and is currently in consultation with their architects to build a church with no walls at all. The latest Anti-Gravity technology will support the roof so that there will be no need for any visible posts or beams for people to bump into. The pastor, Rabbi T. Warren, held a press conference recently in which he boasted that they will have a church that will let anybody in that wants to come and welcome them all, Muslims, gays, metro's, and polyamorists. He predicted that they hope to install the nuclear power plant this week to power the Anti-Gravity coils which will hold the roof up as they build it. One of the journalists, from the Pilgrim Way news outlet, B. Stedfast, asked Rabbi T. Warren if he expected any difficulties with his worshippers being blown about with winds of doctrine since there are going to be no walls to protect them. He also asked if there was any danger of the 5 story tall electronic music amplifiers causing a power failure because of the 250 decibel shock wave impact on the power plant. Rabbi T. Warren chose not to answer the questions from Bro. Stedfast, and the last we saw, Bro. Stedfast was being escorted out of the press conference under armed guard.

The Music Door was slow to open, but is now the widest of all the doors into modern churches. It all started

back in the 1950's with Southern gospel, then Barnyard Music, Bill Gaither, Christian Rock, CCM with all its variants, including Hillsong, and now secular rock and pop music. The popularity of the music door is seen in how many people flood in that door to the neglect of all the others.

Churches that once called themselves "fundamental Baptist", like Lancaster Baptist Church in California, and Lighthouse Baptist Church in Australia are welcoming Hillsong music, and many of the bridge building CCM songs as well as secular pop and rock. It is sad to see that Steve Petit is now recording and performing the bridge building CCM music that has its roots in the ecumenical charismatic music scene.

There are a few old doors closing as these new doors open.

The door for the gospel is closing. The shift in thinking among these churches from a Save The World mindset to the Let Us Build An Empire mindset is resulting in a new message. It is a message that plays down the preaching of the gospel to the point that it has all but disappeared in most churches.

We are observing a decline in support for worldwide missions. Missionaries on the field tell us that they can tell when their supporting churches tip over the edge into the new modernism (called Emergent). They simply drop their missionaries. You see, missions and missionaries and saving a lost world don't agree with the new focus on empire building.

It would be good for pastors and "music ministers" to remember that there are many M's in the music they sing and play.

All the M's of Music.

Their Music was written and performed by a Man who was part of a Movement.

Every song preaches a Message, often a Message about God's Methods. If it is godly Music it glorifies God by pointing to His Miracles.

Musicians have Motives that need to be discerned by pastors and songleaders.

There is a Mood and there are Morals that go with each style of Music.

And the Music will ultimately produce its Merchandise so all who see and hear it performed will know its fruits.

So, I just wonder, does your church have the new Music Door? Have you checked to see what is coming in the door?

And what is going out?

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John Alexander Short was born into a working class home at Barmers, South Australia on Australia day 1939. His parents were nominal Anglicans but under the influence of a godly grandmother he attended Sunday School. John completed his secondary school studies at the Adelaide Boys High School, and graduated as a dental technician from the Royal Adelaide Dental Hospital. In January 1962 he joined the staff of the Adelaide YMCA and continued in this work until his departure for China and Hong Kong in January 1964. At 21 years of age, through the efforts of the YMCA Secretary in Adelaide, Mr Graeme Irvine, John was saved and thereafter made it his consuming passion to make known the Gospel of God's love in Christ and His substitutionary death to young people at the Adelaide YMCA.



After hearing Dr. Andrew Gih, the Chinese evangelist, and missionary Gladys Aylward, John knew the call of God to serve the Lord in China and was commended from the Unley and Elizabeth Gospel Halls in South Australia. He sailed for Hong Kong in January 1964.

Between 1964 and 1974 refugees were pouring out of China to escape the cultural revolution and each morning John worked in the Kowloon Peace Clinic with veteran missionary Miss Frances Wilks, extracting teeth from poor refugees. In the afternoon he studied the Cantonese language.

Having obtained a good understanding of the language John worked to establish New Testament Churches and by the early 1970s two new Churches were planted in busy Mongkok and another in the New Territories city of Tsuen Wan. Today there are more than fifteen local assemblies throughout the Territory.

While at a Sunday School picnic at Tegiggee in country Queensland in 1976, John met his wife Karen who had been converted at 17 years of age through the witness of a fellow worker at the Bunderberg Base Hospital where she trained as a nurse. She later specialized in Ophthalmic nursing in Melbourne and they married in January 1978 in Bundaberg, God has blessed them with three sons who all grew up in Hong Kong.

It became clear to John that there was a great need for sound New Testament Church literature and the Christian Book Room, China's oldest Gospel Publishing House, was purchased. Over past decades, much effort has been invested in the translation and publication of sound, encouraging written ministry for China's inland provinces. Today, to the glory of God, that ministry has expanded into Burma, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia and other Chinese speaking areas. John is assisted by a team of dedicated co-workers including some who have been with the CBR for more than 50 years.

DEACON TRUE SEZ

When a child of God marries a child of the Devil, he's gonna have trouble with his father in law.

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

One final word! We have already mentioned that a disciple who walks by faith will doubtless be considered a dreamer or a fanatic by men of the world or even by other Christians. But it is good to remember that "the faith that enables one to 'walk with God' enables him also to attach the proper values to the thoughts of men" - *C. H. Mackintosh*.

Before God uses the man, God breaks the man. - *C.H. Spurgeon*

I am resolved never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life. - *Jonathan Edwards*

The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people. - *A.W. Tozer*

Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can. - *John Wesley*

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Upon the death of Chairman Mao in 1976, prayer was answered and regular monthly visits into all of China's provinces with much needed Bibles and literature, teaching tools, clothing and practical fellowship for evangelists and needy believers, became possible. A vast network of contacts has been established and this is seen as one of the most precious and valuable possessions.

There has been much to encourage us in Hong Kong especially in the commitment of local brethren to full-time labours. Brethren Silas So-Man and his wife Sarah in 1982, and Thomas Yiu Kwong-Yin in 1993 continue in the work locally. We were joined in the work by Miss Joy Smith and Mr Bryan Ford in 1998, who subsequently married in 1999. Their contribution to the work has been a blessing locally and into China.

Since the hand over of the British Colony of Hong Kong to China in June 1997, there has been an increased sense of "big brother" monitoring Christian activities and the ministry continues amid increasing pressures.

In May of 1996 John was arrested a second time in China and his entry visa was revoked. He became "persona non grata" with the communist authorities for almost two years. During this time Karen, along with other workers, continued fortnightly visits inland with the literature ministry.

Eventually, when it was proved John had no political agenda, he was again allowed to visit China's provinces. During the ensuing years he has been arrested on several occasions for speaking out about brutality against Chinese Christians. Pray for China!

Since the lifting of the "Bamboo Curtain", Christian testimony in China has spread like wildfire, with millions seeking answers to their deep spiritual need. The need for sound Bible teaching has never been greater but the 21st century missionary faces seemingly impossible odds to carry on the great commission.

Those who are called and commissioned "to go", however, will be more than able to overcome. The missionary call "to go" has never been revoked, irrespective of the "missionary-go-home" and "leave-it-to-the-national-workers" statements that we hear expressed. We are still called to go in person, or in proxy into all the world. It may be locally, or across a cultural barrier overseas.

Have you heard the call? – Then "GO"!

Acknowledgement : Herald of Hope, June, 2009 The Story of John Short

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M. R. DE HAAN'S COMMENTS ON BRIDGE BUILDING MUSIC -

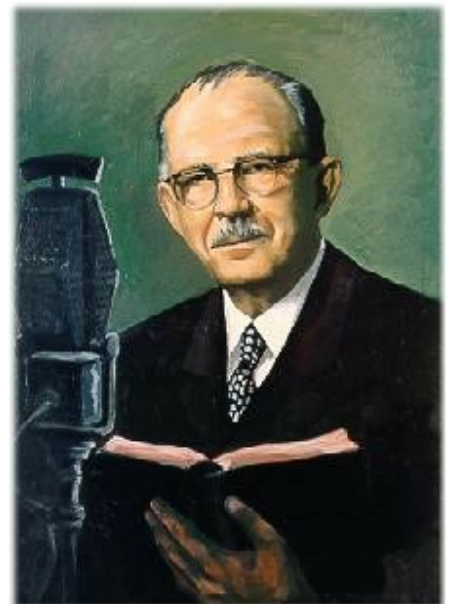
"One of the alarming signs of the times is the invasion of the world and popular music field into the realm of religious and sacred music. Recording companies have begun to "package" devotional songs---adopting them to the swing beat and syncopation of the bar-room. One "big time" producer claims that secularizing sacred music is 'the greatest new groove since rock and roll.' As a result of this type of recording business, Gospel music is now being sung in night clubs, taverns, and dance halls across the land. All of this is a symptom of deterioration--of the breakdown between the sacred and the secular.

Even more serious than the use of Gospel music by the world, however, is the growing evil of using worldly music in our evangelical circles! Gospel music is designed to teach the Gospel (See Colossians 3:16). The jazzing of sacred music by gospel comedians is nauseating and regrettable. Why don't we stick to the 'psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs' of Ephesians 5:19?

I know I shall be accused an old-fashioned, moth-eaten, archaic sourpuss, but we still believe that the Gospel should be presented in song, as well as sermon, in a reverent and dignified way in harmony with the majesty and seriousness of its message. If the music in our churches has no real message in it, why sing it? We cannot stop the world from using and debauching Gospel music, but we can stop the world's music from being used in Christian churches."

Dr. M.R. DeHaan, ardent defender of the faith and founder of the Radio Bible Class
Copied, The Fundamentalist Digest

Feb-Mar 2013



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- To amass a fortune is directly contrary to the example of the Lord Jesus. He was infinitely rich, yet He voluntarily became poor in order to enrich us through His poverty (II Corinthians 8:9). In the original language of the New Testament, there are two words which are translated poor. One word means the condition of a working man who has nothing beyond the essentials of life. The other means destitute or devoid of wealth. It is this second word that Paul uses to describe the Lord Jesus.

How many of us are willing to follow Jesus all the way?

- Another evil of riches is that they are detrimental to the prayer life. Where every material need is provided, why pray?
- More serious is the sham of asking God to do things when we can do them ourselves. For instance, how often do we as believers ask God to provide funds for certain projects when we ourselves could provide the money without delay. Oftentimes the Lord's own money is not available to Him.
- Finally, it is wrong for Christians to accumulate wealth because it encourages others to become religious with the hope of becoming rich.

- The poverty of the early believers was an asset, not liability:
- A religion which turned the world upside-down, while its first preachers were all poor men must needs have been from heaven. If the Apostles had possessed money to give their hearers, or been followed by armies to frighten them, an infidel might well deny that there was anything wonderful in their success. But the poverty of our Lord's disciples cut away such arguments from beneath the infidel's feet. With a doctrine most unpalatable to the natural heart, with nothing whatever to bribe or compel obedience—a few lowly Galileans shook the world, and changed the face of the Roman empire. Only one thing can account for this. The Gospel of Christ, which these men proclaimed, was the truth of God—J. C. Ryle.
- *Gilmour of Mongolia* once wrote: "If I go among them rich, they will be continually begging and perhaps regard me more as a source of gifts than anything else. If I go with nothing but the Gospel, there will be nothing to distract their attention from the unspeakable gift."

Peter and John met a lame beggar at the gate of the temple. When he asked them for a handout, Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6).

Perhaps some will say that preachers should be poor, but not necessarily all Christians. But where does the Bible teach a different economic standard for one above the other?

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"And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God; and into the patient
waiting for Christ." 2 Thes. 3:5

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WAY OF LIFE LITERATURE

O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

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According to most Masonic authorities, modern Freemasonry (also called "speculative" Masonry) can be traced to the founding of the first Grand Lodge in London in 1717. The Lodge is also a secret society. In fact, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* classifies it as the largest secret society in the world. To maintain its secrets, Masonry uses symbolism, secret oaths, and secret rituals to instruct new members called "Initiates." Each new member swears during these secret ceremonies to remain loyal to the Lodge and its teachings. The teachings instruct each new candidate how he is to serve and the rewards he can expect. In addition, Masonry views its mission in life as helping to bring the beliefs of all men into harmony--a harmony based primarily on Masonic teachings. Two of these teachings form the foundation of all Masonry.



First is their belief in the universal fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. By this, Masons teach that all men--Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Mormons, Buddhists, and Christians--regardless of their personal religious views, are the spiritual sons of God.

Masonry's second foundational belief is that reforming personal character and practicing good works will secure God's favor...[and] will earn him a place in the "Celestial Lodge Above" (i.e., heaven).

Several leading Masons have defined Masonry. According to Albert G. Mackey in *Revised Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, "All [Masons] unite in declaring it to be a system of morality, by the practice of which its members may advance their spiritual interest, and *mount by the theological ladder from the Lodge on earth to the Lodge in heaven.*" [Italics added--see Jn 10:1] Other respected Masonic authorities define Masonry in the following ways:

- "Masonry is the realization of God by the practice of Brotherhood."
- "It is a science which is engaged in the search after Divine Truth, and which employs symbolism as its method of instruction."
- "Freemasonry, in its broadest and most comprehensive sense, is a system of morality and social ethics, a primitive religion and a philosophy of life...incorporating a broad humanitarianism...it is *a religion without a creed, being of no sect but finding truth in all*; It...seeks truth but does not define truth."

Masonry: The Same Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow?

Through its history Masonry has changed, and even today Masonry worldwide is not uniform. This characteristic of Masonry presents an important issue that needs to be resolved at the outset: Does Masonry's lack of a central authority make it incapable of being subject to legitimate criticism? The answer is no....Masonry may not have a single human authority, but few Masons will dispute that Masonry itself provides the authority. In *The Newly-Made Mason*, H. L. Haywood refers to the obligations placed upon the new Mason:

I hereby solemnly and sincerely promise and swear that as a beginning Craftsman in the Masonry of the mind and as a Newly-Made Mason I will not permit myself to be led into making hasty conclusions.

I promise and swear that I will not listen to those who are not competent to teach me. There will be nothing binding on me except the truth. If there be those who say one thing and if there be others who say the opposite thing, I will consider that it is Freemasonry itself which finally is to decide between them. [Italics added]

Regardless of the fluid and sometimes historically contradictory nature of Masonry, there remains a solid core of belief that is central to the majority of Masonry and to which almost all Masonic writers appeal. Mr. Bill Mankin, a 32d Degree Mason, admitted on national television that "The authoritative source for Masonry is The Ritual. The Ritual--what happens in the Lodge, what goes on." State by state the rituals may vary slightly, but the doctrines they are intended to convey are everywhere uniform. For example, Mackey states in his encyclopedia on Masonry that

The Ritual is only the external and extrinsic form. The doctrine of Freemasonry is everywhere the same. It is the Body which is unchangeable--remaining always and everywhere the same. The Ritual is but the outer garment which covers this Body, which is subject to continual variation. It is right and desirable that the Ritual should be

made perfect, and everywhere alike. But if this be impossible, as it is, this at least will console us, that while the ceremonies, or Ritual, have varied at different periods, and still vary in different countries, the science and philosophy, the symbolism and the religion, of Freemasonry continue, and will continue, to be the same wherever true Freemasonry is practised.

A vast amount of Masonic literature is available to the researcher. This includes at least 100,000 volumes, among which are a minimum of 600 analytical works....Also in print are numerous exposés of Masonry by former members who have revealed virtually all the secrets of the Craft. Thus, Masonry is a "secret society" *only to those who have not read this literature.*

The Blue Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the York Rite

The Blue Lodge is the parent, or mother, Lodge of Freemasonry. In the Blue Lodge are conferred the first three degrees: (1) the Entered Apprentice, where a man is initiated into the beginning mysteries of the fraternity of Freemasonry; (2) the degree of Fellow Craft; and (3) the Master Mason Degree. Many, and probably most, Masons do stop with the first three degrees. But the candidate may choose to proceed higher along one or both of two branches in Masonry. One branch is known as the Scottish Rite, which advances by numerical degrees, beginning with the Fourth and ending with the 32d, the 33d Degree being either active or honorary. The other major branch is the York Rite...ending with the degree of Knights Templar.

Although the Blue Lodge is Masonry, and although it is the Masonry of most Masons, it is not all that Masonry constitutes. Sovereign Grand Commander Henry C. Clausen admits, "An initiate may imagine he understands the ethics, symbols and enigmas, whereas a true explanation of these is reserved for the more adept." Masonic author Albert Pike wrote in *Morals and Dogma*:

If you have been disappointed in the first three Degrees, as you have received them...remember...that these antique and simple Degrees now stand like the broken columns of a roofless Druidic temple, in their rude and mutilated greatness; in many parts, also, corrupted by time, and disfigured by modern additions and absurd interpretations. They are but the entrance to the great Masonic Temple-Imagine not that you will become indeed a Mason by learning what is commonly called the "work," or even by becoming familiar with our traditions....The streams of learning that now flow full and broad *must be followed to their heads in the springs that well up in the remote past*, and you will there find the origin and meaning of Masonry.

The first three degrees of Masonry, then, are merely a stepping-stone to the higher "truths" of the Lodge. In fact...many Masons will admit that the Blue Lodge teachings are *purposely deceptive*. Under his discussion of the Third Degree of the Blue Lodge in *Morals and Dogma*, Albert Pike observes that "Masonry, like all the Religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect [the worthy], and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols to mislead...to conceal the Truth, which it calls Light, from them, and to draw them away from it. Truth is not for those who are unworthy."

Congress: Freemasonry Is "Bedrock" to the United States

In 1948, *The New Age* [magazine of Freemasonry] estimated that "between one in five and one in 10 of the adult thinking population come directly within the circle of Masonic influence." Even in 1912, scholar Martin Wagner could observe in his critical treatment on Masonry that "Masonry, with its numerous offsprings, is a powerful factor....It is influencing our civic, our social, our family, and our moral and religious life far more than is generally realized."

Wagner's assessment remains true. Critic Paul A. Fisher, who has had considerable experience in military intelligence and has been active in political life, refers to Masonry's "enormous influence in the world media...." In the US, according to the leading Masonic magazine, *The New Age*, many members of the National Press Club are Masons. Fisher observes that Masons have dominated the US Supreme Court from 1941-1971....He concludes that such influence may have contributed to the high court's "determination to move the nation away from an emphasis on Judeo-Christian values in public life," helping to further secularize society and sustain "an epoch of revolutionary liberalism" with far reaching consequences.

If Fisher's claims contain any substance, then addressing the religious views, content, and goals of Freemasonry is not an idle task but is relevant to each of us. In the 13th Degree of the Scottish Rite the oath reads, "I furthermore promise and swear to use *every means in my power*...to contribute with *all my might* to the...propagation of liberal ideas *wheresoever I may be*." [Italics added]

According to Masonic and Congressional records, as many as fourteen US Presidents have been Masons...[while] an additional fourteen Masons have been Vice Presidents. The influence of Masonry in contemporary government was revealed by the Senate Congressional record of September 9, 1987. Objections from...Congressional

members were raised against questioning Masonry because "*Masonry in this country is the bedrock....*" [Italics added]

Secrecy: Its Power and Purpose

Masonry stresses the importance of secrecy for at least two principal reasons. The first is that the element of secrecy itself is something that attracts men and makes them feel important. They have access to what they believe are vital secrets and truths that other men do not share. The second reason is because it offers the Craft a stabilizing influence. Men who swear extremely solemn oaths of secrecy to the Lodge not only conclude that the information received is important but that it must be protected at all costs.

For example, the Guide to the Royal Arch Chapter observes, "*Mystery has charms as well as power. The entire fabric of the universe is founded on secrecy; and the great Life-force which vivifies, moves and beautifies the whole, is the deepest of all mysteries. The first obligation of a Mason--his supreme duty--his chief virtue--is that of silence and secrecy.*"

Masonic historian Alphonse Cerza further believes: "The secrecy of our ceremonies of initiation are intended to meet a natural human characteristic. What is open is often overlooked, but *what is hidden attracts attention*. It is hoped that the new member, because of the element of secrecy and interest in discovering what it is all about, will come to the meeting with an alert mind...." [Italics added]

But there are other reasons for Masonry's secrecy, both religious and, apparently, sometimes political. By maintaining secrecy, Masonry can hide its religious nature from the outside world and secure converts who would not otherwise join. In addition, some believe secret political goals of the Lodge exist. Paul A. Fisher, formerly active in both military intelligence and political life, claims that "Freemasonry in America and elsewhere is far more than a fraternal organization. It never hides its charitable endeavors. But its secret work is something else entirely."

A New World Order "Coming into View"

Masons foresee the day when all religious division and sectarianism (i.e., what Masonry views as specific or exclusivistic, and therefore "divisive," religious beliefs) will be wiped away, and a new era of universal peace, brotherhood, and religious faith will emerge. In this sense, Masonry is far more than a fraternal brotherhood. It seeks to *remold* the world after its *own* image. In other words, it wants to ["fundamentally transform"] the world.

Masonic author H. L. Haywood sets forth the objectives of Masonry. He asserts that Masonry will bring about a new world order: "It is a world law, *destined* to change the earth into conformity with *itself*, and as a world power it is something superb, awe inspiring, *godlike*." Another Masonic writer declares that "the doctrines of Masonry will ultimately rule the intellectual world."

The most widely read and influential book in Masonry is Joseph Fort Newton's *The Builders*. Newton declares that as Masonry expands, all religious dogmas will "cease to be." All individual creeds and doctrines will be done away with, and what remains will be what is termed "the one eternal religion--the Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man, the moral law, the golden rule, and the hope of a life everlasting!" Because of this, Newton defines Masonry as "a great order of men, selected, initiated, sworn, and trained to make sweet reason and the will of God [i.e., Masonry] prevail!" Newton claims that Masonry will not become "only one more factor in a world of factional feud" but that "it seeks to remove all hostility which may arise from social, national or religious differences."

Why does Masonry seek to change the world? Because Masonry teaches that all non-Masons are living in spiritual darkness. The ritual of Masonry for the First Degree of Entered Apprentice teaches the candidate that he "has long been in darkness, and now seeks to be brought to light." The Lodge teaches that *only true Masons are enlightened and live in the Truth*. Masonry claims that "each member is a living stone in this Holy House"--the Masonic temple." It refers to itself as a "Holy Empire" whose mission is "to dispel darkness." Thus, it is the mission and "duty of its initiates to diffuse among men its ideals, *without which error, superstition, and spiritual subjugation must be eternal.*" [Italics added]

The result of this premise is that, if true world brotherhood is ever to be achieved, it demands for its success *a worldwide religion of Masonry*. Thus, informed Masons partake in "the glorious privilege which belongs to Masonry as the precious jewel of its prerogative, *to be the chiefest of human agencies used by God* to bring forward the *rosy dawn* of this magnificent future." [Italics added]

But if Masonry is to one day rule the world, then all non-Masonic beliefs must either be abandoned or absorbed into Masonry. "Sectarian" religions with exclusive teachings, such as the Christian faith (John 14:6; Acts 4:12), simply cannot be permitted if Masonry is to succeed. Masonry then, claims that the Lodge is the light of the world and that only "its ideals" can save the world from its errors and superstition. All of this is why Masonry

is far more than simply a worldwide fraternal brotherhood. Masonry desires to change the world. As we have seen, one means by which it hopes to change the world is to influence and *remold* the church....In [this book] we will provide detailed documentation revealing how the religious world view of Masonry distorts, dismantles, and replaces the Christian faith with Masonic doctrine.

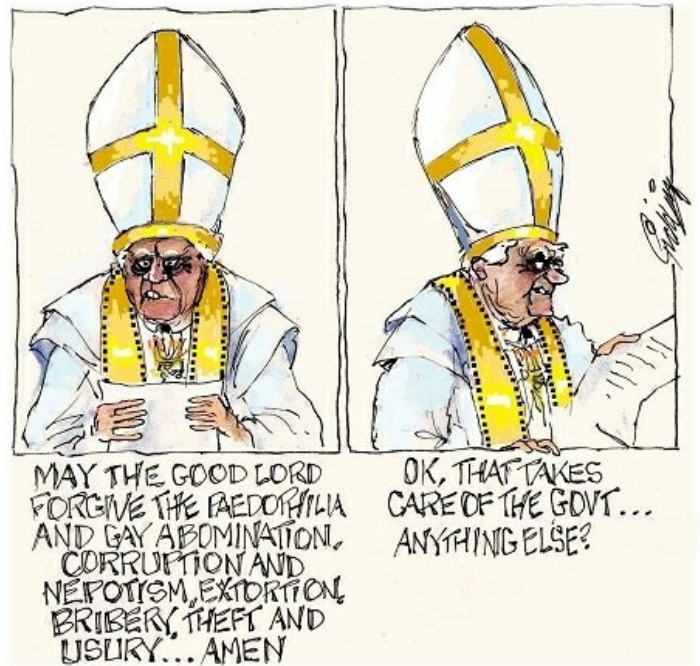
"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." (Jude 4).

"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." (Acts 20:30).

Excerpted from *The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge* by John Ankerberg & John Weldon.

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CARTOONS FOR THE WISE -



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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

CHILDREARING Q&A

Q. Should I have a baby after 35?
A. No, 35 children is enough.

Q. What is the most common pregnancy craving?
A.. For men to be the ones who get pregnant.

Q. What is the most reliable method to determine a baby's sex?
A. Childbirth.

Q. My childbirth instructor says it's not pain I'll feel during labor, but pressure. Is she right?
A. Yes, in the same way that a tornado might be called an air current.

Q. Is there any reason I have to be in the delivery room while my wife is in labor?
A. Not unless the word "alimony" means anything to you.

Q. Does pregnancy cause headaches?
A. Pregnancy causes anything you want to blame it for.

Q. Our baby was born last week. When will my wife begin to feel and act normal again?
A. When the kids are in college.

MEXICAN JEWS

Two old Jewish men, Aaron and Zacc, are sitting in a Mexican restaurant one day.

Zacc asks Aaron, "Do you know of any Jews born and raised in Mexico?"

Aaron replies, "I don't know, let's ask our waiter."

When the waiter walks by Aaron asks, "Is there any Mexican Jews in Mexico?"

The waiter says, "I don't know senior, I ask the cooks."

He returns from the kitchen after a few minutes and says, "No senior, the cook say no Mexican Jews."

Aaron isn't satisfied and asks, "Are you absolutely sure?"

The waiter, realizing he is dealing with "Gringos" replies, "I check once again, senior," and goes back into the kitchen.

While the waiter is away, Zacc says, "I find it hard to believe that there are no Jews in Mexico. Our people are scattered everywhere."

The waiter returns and says, "Senor, the head cook Manuel, he say there is no Mexican Jews."

"Are you certain?" Aaron asks again "I just can't believe there are no Mexican Jews!"

"Senor, I ask EVERYONE," replies the exasperated waiter. "All we have is Orange Jews, Grape Jews, Prune Jews, Tomato Jews, and Apple Jews, but no Mexican Jews."



BELL LAB PROVES EXISTENCE OF DARK SUCKERS!

For years it has been believed that electric bulbs emitted light. However, recent information from Bell Labs has proven otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light; they suck dark. Thus they now call these bulbs dark suckers. The dark sucker theory, according to a spokesman from the Labs, proves the existence of dark, that dark has mass heavier than that of light, and that dark is faster than light.

The basis of the dark sucker theory is that electric bulbs suck dark. Take for example the dark suckers in the room where you are. There is less dark right next to them than there is elsewhere. The larger the dark sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Dark suckers in a parking lot have a much greater capacity than the ones in this room.

As with all things, dark suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the black spot on a full dark sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You will notice that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark which has been sucked into it. If you hold a pencil next to the wick of an operating candle, the tip will turn black because it got in the path of the dark flowing into the candle. Unfortunately, these primitive dark suckers have a very limited range.

There are also portable dark suckers. The bulbs in these can't handle all of the dark by themselves, and must be

aided by a dark storage unit. When the dark storage unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable dark sucker can operate again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a dark sucker, friction from this mass generates heat. Thus it is not wise to touch an operating dark sucker. Candles present a special problem, as the dark must travel in the solid wick instead of through glass. This generates a great amount of heat. Thus it can be very dangerous to touch an operating candle.

Dark is also heavier than light. If you swim deeper and deeper, you notice it gets darker and darker. When you reach a depth of approximately fifty feet, you are in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats to the top.

The immense power of dark can be utilized to a man's advantage. We can collect the dark that has settled to the bottom of lakes and push it through turbines, which generates electricity and helps push it to the ocean where it may be safely stored. Prior to turbines, it was much more difficult to get dark from rivers and lakes to the ocean. The Indians recognized this problem and tried to solve it. When on a river in a canoe traveling in the same direction as the flow of dark, they paddled slowly, so as not to stop the flow of dark, but when they traveled against the flow of dark, they paddled quickly so as to help push the dark along its way.

Finally, we must prove that dark is faster than light. If you stand in an illuminated room in front of a closed, dark closet, then slowly open the door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet, but since the dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leave the closet.

In conclusion, Bell Labs stated that dark suckers make all our lives much easier. So the next time you look at an electric light bulb, remember that it is indeed a dark sucker.

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Sharpened Arrows

AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.
Psalms 127:4

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.

POEMS THAT PREACH -

Lord, what a change within us one short hour
Spent in Thy presence will prevail to make,
What heavy burdens from our bosoms take,
What parched grounds refresh, as with a shower!
We kneel, and all around us seems to lower;
We rise, and all the distant and the near
Stands forth in sunny outline, brave and clear;
We kneel, how weak! We rise, how full of power!
Why, therefore, should we do ourselves this wrong,
Or others, that we are not always strong,
That we are ever overborne with care,
That we should ever weak or heartless be,
Anxious or troubled, when with us is prayer,
And joy, and strength, and courage are with Thee?
—Trench

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BLINDED MINDS -



VATICAN COMMISSION TO CONSIDER CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS AS 'BEACONS OF HOPE'

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran; "objectivity can open the way to asking and giving pardon."

ROME, March 01, 2013 The Vatican's commission for relations with Muslims is set to discuss over the next four years the theme "**Christians and Muslims: Beacons of Hope.**" The commission concluded a three-day meeting Thursday. The group was founded by Pope Paul VI in 1974, and it works closely with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. It includes eight Catholic experts in Christian-Muslim dialogue from countries as diverse as Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Italy, Germany, the UK and the United States.

In his opening remarks to the meeting, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the *Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue*, spoke of the turbulent history of Christian-Muslim relations since the birth of Islam ***in the 7th century***. History, he said, "*is not simply something from the past, but it influences positively or negatively our present and future.*" Christian and Muslim historians, he stressed, ***must work together to discern the truth of events***, since "***objectivity can open the way to asking and giving pardon.***"

Cardinal Tauran also emphasised three areas of discussion that deserve particular attention: First, the constant temptation to shift from interreligious to political dialogue. Second, the need for consistency between religious values and behaviour, especially with respect for human dignity and human rights. Finally, the need for Christians, lay, religious and clergy, ***to receive a good formation for meeting believers of other religions***, especially through interreligious dialogue.

Members of the Commission, which meets each year in Rome, also attended Pope Benedict's last General Audience in St Peter's Square on Wednesday. - The Apostasy Alert

COLORADO RINGS IN NEW YEAR WITH POT CLUBS

Tuesday, January 01, 2013

The first marijuana clubs have begun popping up in Colorado after voters legalized recreational pot-smoking. But the state's new amendment prohibits public marijuana consumption, prompting some pot-smokers to head indoors to Club 64. "It's just a place for adults to exercise their constitutional rights together," Club 64 attorney Robert Corry explained. "We're not selling pot here. It smells like freedom," he said.

Club 64 gets its name from the number of the amendment. The establishment opened near downtown Denver, and about 200 people are already signed up. It costs \$29.99 to join the "bring-your-own pot" club. A similar club also reportedly opened in a small southern Colorado town called Del Norte.

http://www.cbn.com/cbnnews/us/2013/January/Colorado-Rings-in-New-Year-with-Pot-Clubs/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+delicious%2Fgqlf+%28Christian+Headlines+Top+Headlines+29

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God hath chosen the foolish (stupid) things of the world to confound the wise." 1 Corinthians 1:27

In last week's discussion about the blood, we had seen how someone said (and since retracted the pejorative) about people who took a certain position that disagreed with him, "You can't fix stupid." There's a lot I could write on and would like to write on, but I want to write on this again, because I think that this is in fact a serious problem in evangelicalism and fundamentalism, that being, they're too afraid of being stupid.

I say "stupid"? Yes, "stupid." Evangelicals have decried the anti-intellectualism (perhaps a kind of stupidity or at least perceived stupidity) of fundamentalists. The practice of the new-evangelicals was cooperation and dialogue and association in part to remain credible with the the liberal intelligentsia. Prominent new-evangelical Harold Ockenga, famous pastor of Park Street Church in Boston, represented this idea in a renowned press dispatch in December 1957: "The evangelical believes that Christianity is intellectually defensible, and that the Christian cannot be obscurantist in scientific questions pertaining to the creation, the age of man, the universality of the flood, and other debatable biblical questions . . . The new evangelicalism is willing to face the intellectual problems and meet them in the framework of modern learning."

The attack that they are in fact anti-intellectual has always been an issue for Christians. Part of the pressure put on them is to fit in with the world system, and its intellectualism a major part of it. Paul dealt with this in 1 and 2 Corinthians because it was a problem for him there. The Greeks needed "wisdom," but that's not how God

operates, which is why the Bible is full of paradoxes. You just take what God says by faith, even though your head says it contradicts.

This enters the realm of epistemology. How do we know what we know? God's will, which is as smart as anyone can get, is apprehended by faith, not by an elite intellect. Jesus said you've got to become like little children to enter the kingdom of God, a sort of purposeful naivety, dropping intellectual barriers to reception of Christ.

The original twelve disciples were unlearned and ignorant men. Paul was assailed by false teachers at Corinth for his stupidity. You read strains of an answer to this charge in 1 Corinthians 1-3 and then expressly in 2 Corinthians 4.

Not many mighty or noble were called because God saw fit to use weakness so that no flesh should glory. I didn't say "defense," because Paul was admitting stupidity, "the filth of this world" and "the offscouring of all things" (1 Cor 4:13). God used earthen vessels, mundane clay pots, like himself "that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of [him]" (2 Cor 4:7). His enemies said he was stupid, and Paul's comeback, "Well, you're right!"

A swing toward evangelicalism in fundamentalism today relates to the issue of intelligence. Fundamentalists are the straw man heading toward Oz to get a brain from the wizard of evangelicalism. This pursuit of a brain, or at least recognition of one, is witnessed in many doctrines.

Intellectualism made room for another account of creation in Genesis 1 for evangelicals. It picked up textual criticism or eclecticism as the method for deciding Scripture in contradiction to faith. It accepts egalitarianism. It commends contextualization. It assigns its own meaning to already established expressions of holiness. It invents its own standards of unity for coalitions beyond God's ordained institution. It's all very, very smart.

Evangelicalism is smart like David was smart when he had the ox cart built to hold the ark. It's smart like Cain with his fruit and vegetables. It's smart like Nadab and Abihu with their new recipe for incense. And fundamentalism wants to be smart too. They bring in smart people. They associate with smart people. They praise smart people. And they ridicule the stupid people, the foolish ones.

You can't fix stupid. Don't fix stupid. Stupid doesn't need fixing.

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IF I WERE THE DEVIL

by Paul Harvey

If I were the devil ... If I were the Prince of Darkness, I'd want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I'd have a third of it's real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first — I'd begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: 'Do as you please.'

"To the young, I would whisper that 'The Bible is a myth.' I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good, and what's good is 'square.' And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington...'

"And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd pedal narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.

"If I were the devil I'd soon have families that war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

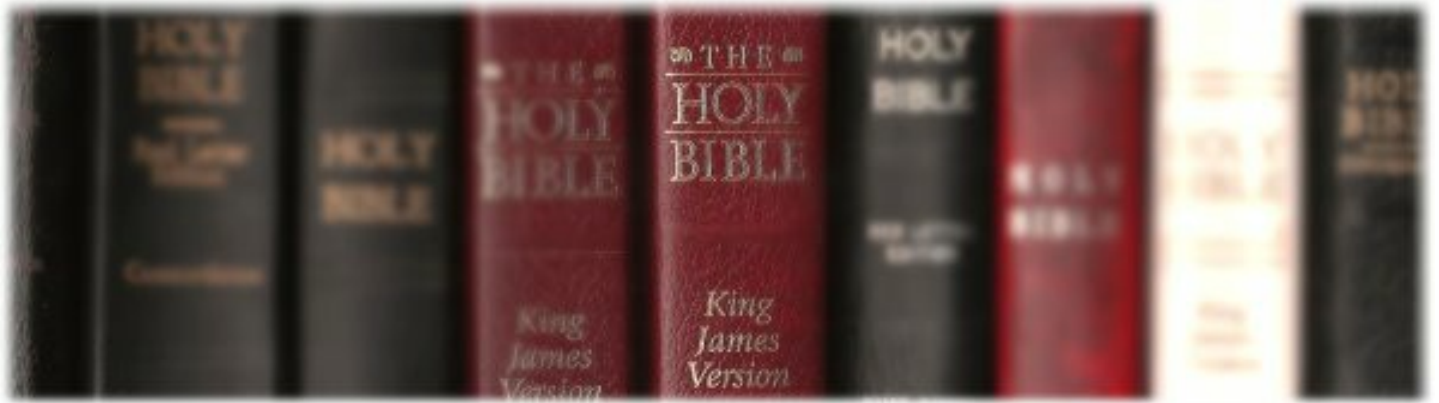
"Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing, I'd have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I'd make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

"If I were the devil I'd take from those, and who have, and give to those wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. And what do you bet? I could get whole states to promote gambling as thee way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work, in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I'd just keep right on doing on what he's doing."

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PSALM 19:7-14

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸ The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. ¹¹ Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward. ¹² Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. ¹³ Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.



(One of the strongest indicators of our spiritual decline is the pervading fear of Bible words among pastors. It is most often seen in their avoidance of those texts that use the "forbidden" words. While Roman Catholicism had its index of banned books (until 1966!) we now see "fundamentalists" banning God's own words. And if they do not ban them, they redefine them so drastically that preachers of even fifty years ago would not recognise them. Repentance is one of those words. One poor deluded Hyles clone has even come up with a Repentance Blacklist, which is his index of banned preachers who are guilty of preaching the biblical doctrine of repentance.

I must sit down and write him one day soon and ask him if it is not true that the theme of John the Baptist's ministry was repentance? And if so, did not his words to Herod, reproving him for his adultery, perfectly agree with his life work and ministry? And if he rebuked Herod's adultery was he not preaching repentance of sin. Preaching repentance is never preaching works for salvation. Salvation was NEVER by works, not in the Garden, not at Sinai, not when John preached, and not today. - Ed)

What is biblical repentance?

Repentance is to admit that I am a sinner before God (Romans 3:23). The gospel says that Jesus died for our sins (1 Cor. 15:3-4), so if I do not acknowledge that I am a sinner I cannot be saved. But acknowledging that I am a sinner doesn't mean that I merely admit that "I am not perfect." It means that I acknowledge that I am the type of sinner that God says I am, that I am not good (Romans 3:10) and that even my supposed righteousness is as filthy rags before a thrice holy God (Isaiah 64:6).

Repentance means to surrender to God's rule (Acts 20:21; Isaiah 45:22-23). Repentance is "toward God" because it is God that we have offended. He made man for Himself, and He made man to obey His laws, but we have rejected His sovereignty and lived according to our own wills.

Repentance is to acknowledge that God is God, that He is the sovereign of life and that He has the right to rule my life, that He has the right to make the laws by which His creatures live, and that He has the right to punish the infraction of those laws. The Bible says the sinner is at enmity against God because of his rebellion to God's rule (Rom. 8:7). "Enmity" means "the quality of being an enemy." To repent means that I renounce this attitude and surrender to God's rule over my life. We see this surrender throughout the New Testament in the lives of those who were saved. In fact, there is no example in the New Testament of an individual who was saved and who continued to live at enmity to God's rule. Those who did this were hypocritical false Christians like Judas.

Repentance is to receive Christ as Lord (Romans 10:9-13). To believe is to receive Jesus Christ as my only Saviour and to repent is to receive Him as my only Lord. Those who received Jesus in a saving manner called upon Him as Lord (Luke 23:42). (By receiving Jesus as Lord we are not referring to any type of sinless perfection; we are simply referring to surrendering to Christ's rule. For more on this, see "Repentance and Lordship Salvation" and "Repentance and Lordship Salvation Revisited" at the Way of Life web site -- www.wayoflife.org.)

Repentance means to turn around, to change directions (Acts 26:20). It is something that happens in the heart and mind. Repentance is not a change of life; it is a change of mind about God and sin that results in a change of life. Many who "believe" or "pray the sinner's prayer" have no intention to change or to allow God to take control of their lives. They are not interested in being a disciple of Christ. They want a ticket to heaven that keeps them out of hell, but they want to continue to live as they please. They want to "believe in Jesus," but they have no interest in obeying Him. That is not biblical salvation. The sinner must be ready to turn from his false gods, including self-worship, in order to worship

and serve the true God ("ye turned to God from idols," 1 Thessalonians 1:9).

Repentance is an assassin laying down his knife.

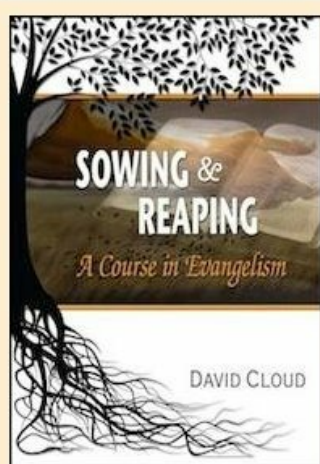
Evangelist James Stewart wrote: "The hand that clutches the assassin's knife must open 'ere it can grasp the gift its intended victim proffers; and opening that hand, though a single act, has a double aspect and purpose. Accepting the gift implies a turning from the crime the heart was bent on, and it was the gift itself that worked the change. Faith is the open hand, relatively to the gift; repentance is the same hand, relatively, not only to the gift but more especially to the dagger that is flung from it" (Stewart, *Evangelism*, pp. 48, 49).

Repentance is a thief returning the stolen property. The late Lester Roloff said: "I believe we ought to make right

what we can make right. What if I was staying with a group of preachers and one of them stole my wallet while I was sleeping? The next day he comes up to me and tells me he is terribly sorry and asks me to forgive him. I would be glad to hear that he is sorry for stealing my wallet, but I would certainly want and expect more than that from a repentant thief. I would want my wallet back! I don't believe he has really repented unless he brings my billfold back. I DON'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE REPENTED UNTIL YOU GET RIGHT AND SAY, 'LORD, I'M GOING TO LIVE DIFFERENT FROM NOW ON,' and by the grace of God you will live different" (Roloff, *Repent or Perish*)."

- excerpted from the newest edition of [*Sowing and Reaping: A Course in Evangelism*](#) by David Cloud.

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SOWING & REAPING A Course in Evangelism

by David Cloud

"The objective of biblical soul winning is not to get people to 'pray a sinner's prayer'; the objective is to see people soundly converted to Christ."

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