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FEATURE ARTICLE - THE DEADLY INFLUENCE OF HOLLYWOOD IN OUR CHURCHES - by Bro. Buddy Smith



WHAT IS IT ABOUT MOVIES THAT IS SO ATTRACTIVE? -

Pastors begin to realize how deadly is the influence of Hollywood upon their churches when they overhear the primary topic of conversation among their youth. It is not about spiritual things or Bible truths, which are seldom mentioned at all. It is not even primarily about sports, or friends, or cars, or work, or plans for the future. It is about the movies they've seen, the ones they like the most. One other observation is that their infatuation with Hollywood is being encouraged by their parents.

It ought to be stated that we all own many technicolour bilge pumps that, instead of ridding our homes of the excreta of the world, are pumping it in by the megalitre.

Most movie watching is now in the home, not in the "sinema". Large screen TV's, DVD players, Computer monitors, and even smart phones are the high-pressure bilge pumps that are used to daily fill the minds and hearts of Christians. Most of these are funded by parents, at least to begin with.

MOVIES ARE THE MAJOR INFLUENCE IN OUR CHURCHES

When I sought counsel from wise men concerning movies, I received a number of helpful replies. Here is one from a veteran missionary,

"I think it was while our daughter was with the _____ (family) she watched a number of Hollywood type movies. She observed that after watching them it made her feel very discontented with the normal everyday life that she had to live, as compared to the exciting ("unrealistic" - her words) world and life that movies portray. The never ending hype and excitement / action, etc. are like a high you get from drugs and when the movie is over it leaves her feeling empty and discontent.

The other observation (along the same lines) was that everybody in the movies is always very good looking / cool / self confident, etc., which breeds disillusionment with your own ordinary and often imperfect looks and figure, etc. All of our children have really struggled with movies this time round, it's a huge temptation to them, most every home we have been in have all the latest Hollywood hits and no one seems to see anything wrong in them, I'm amazed."

This observation is one of the indicators that movies have a larger influence in our churches than the Bible does.

WHY ARE MOVIES SUCH AN ATTRACTION?

Is it because we who know Christ are strengthened in our faith by watching the latest blockbuster from Hollywood? Is it because we are challenged by the plot, the screenplay and the actors to go out and preach the gospel to the lost? Is it because our morals and values are improved and our commitment to Christ deepened?

Ask yourself the question, "When was the last time someone said to you, 'Let's go to the cinema tonight. There's this really convicting film that God is using to turn thousands to Christ. If we go and see it, we will be helped in our witness to our friends. We'll take some gospel tracts with us and hand them out to the big crowds that are waiting to get into the movie theatre. I'm sure they will be glad to get them'?"

Some of you are laughing at that question. How ridiculous! Nobody watches a movie to become more spiritual! You watch movies to be entertained, to be amused. You go to the movies for "fun." Any fool knows the reason why movies are so attractive. They provide pleasurable sensations to the mind, to the emotions, and to the body.

But not to the spirit. And not to the Spirit of God.

THE PART OF ME THAT LOVES MOVIES

There is a part of me that is addicted to movies. You love movies? I love them more than you do. At least a part of me does. But it is not the part of me that loves God. It is not the spirit, but the flesh that loves movies. It is my carnal nature. It is the feral in me, the lazy pothead, the lecherous total sleaze in me that loves movies. God says it is the old man. God calls it "the flesh", that loves movies. It is the part of me that only ever seeks self gratification, the flesh that hates self denial, that knows nothing of the work of the cross in the life of the believer.

Have you read recently what God says about the tendencies of this old nature that indwells every Christian? Maybe we should read it again and again to remind us how devious our hearts are. Galatians 5:19-21 *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."*

When my flesh is permitted to rule, when I walk in the flesh, I find pleasure in the works of the flesh. I vicariously enjoy the immorality I see on the movie screen (*adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness*). I take a perverse pleasure in *idolatry*, whether it is in pagan form or in western covetousness. I am titillated by witchcraft, JK Rowling's or Tolkien's. My flesh loves the violence of *hatred, variance, emulations, wrath and strife*, and feeds on them like candy laced with drugs. My carnal mind finds great pleasure in seditious whisperings, and devious conspiracies, even in heretical, demonic doctrines. I feed my carnal mind on envyings, and plot the murder of anyone who slights me. I vicariously enjoy the altered states of consciousness I see in the drunkards and drug addicts on the movie screen and wonder what it would be like to experience them for myself. And the wild parties of the abandoned? There is a part of me that craves them. My flesh longs to sip champagne with celebrities, to be able to say that I was there, and that I wittily held my ground in cutting repartee.

Ah, so do I hear you say, that these are not your thoughts? These feelings are foreign to you? Do you say that you are no feral, lazy pothead, no lecherous sleaze within? Horace Bushnell is not renowned as a sound Bible commentator, but his insights were clear when he wrote,

"This, we say, is man, the fallen principality. In these tragic desolations of intelligence and genius, of

passion, pride, and sorrow, behold the import of his eternity. Be no mere spectator, turn the glass we give you round upon yourself, look into the ruin of your own conscious spirit, and see how much it signifies, both that you are a sinner and a man.

Here, within the soul's gloomy chamber, the loosened passions rage and chafe, impatient of their law; here huddle on the wild and desultory thoughts; here the imagination crowds in shapes of glory and disgust, tokens both and mockeries of its own creative power, no longer in the keeping of reason; here sits remorse scowling and biting her chain; here creep out the fears, a meager and pale multitude; here drives on the will in his chariot of war; here lie trampled the great aspirations, groaning in immortal thirst; here the blasted affections weeping out their life in silent injury; all that you see without, in the wars, revenges, and the crazed religions of the world, is faithfully represented in the appalling disorders of your own spirit."

God says you are capable of all these works of the flesh. So is every man, lost or saved.

MOVIES FEED THE FLESH AND NOURISH IT

The purest Christian you ever met has a carnal nature. You never saw it in them? It is there, nevertheless, and if it is not producing its vile works in your sight, it is only because they have been feeding their spirit the milk, meat, and bread of God's Word, and mortifying the flesh moment by moment. You can be sure they battle the old nature and fight its urges continually.

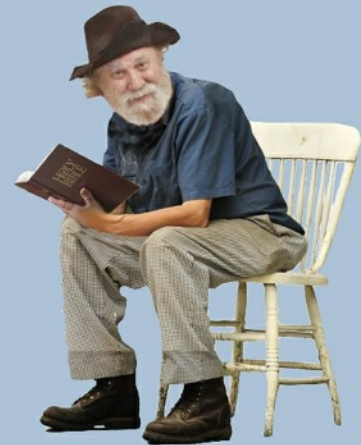
Such is not the case with the average Christian in our churches today. Rather, they feed the old nature a daily diet of romance, violence, rock music, glamour, and pretence, seasoned with profanity, sex, and mockery of the Christian faith. It is "fast food fatal to faith!" They feast on sweet poison from Hollywood.

As a pastor, I am observing the professing Christians who attend Independent Baptist churches and am shocked to see how strong, how muscular, how virile is the old nature in them. Initially, I turned a blind eye and assumed they were just having a bad day, but NO! It finally sunk in that our churches actually ARE filled with the Goliaths of the world, Schwartznegger saints, Bruce Willis Baptists, the Hulk in a three piece suit, Captain America leading the singing at our Leadership Conferences. If I go looking for a godly man in most of our churches I find him on the back row weeping over the spiritual condition of the members.

SO IS THERE ANY RELEASE FROM THE BONDAGE OF MOVIES?

My dear friend A.J. McClure once told me of a preacher friend of his who was so convicted about the vanity and vexation of spirit that invaded his soul through the eyegate that he took his television out to the back yard and smashed it to pieces. And then fifteen minutes later he was out there gathering up the pieces and trying to stick it back together to get it to work. It was not only humorous, but it pointed out the problem we all have with the flesh and its affections.

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Some folks lay claim to other folks' property mighty easy, and then wish they hadn't. Me and Ma worked in a home for orphans years ago. One of the boys told about havin' his lunch stolen, two - three days in a row. The cook said she'd make him two lunches for the next day and that he was to be sure he ate the right one. She used some sausage seasonin' that would peel the paint off the side of the house and doctored up a sandwich for the thief. Well, our lad never had his lunch stolen after that.

It makes me think of the old man who reckoned somebody was pinchin' firewood from his woodpile, not a lot, just a piece or two at a time.

So he took a stick out to the barn, drilled a little hole in the end, cut off a tiny pinch of dynamite, pushed it in the hole and then plugged it up with a little limb all trimmed up neat, and then laid it on the woodpile. Sure enough it went missin' that night. And the next mornin' the preacher's stove blew up. hmmm

Never saw that happen, but we do have a older friend that lost her whole woodpile to a thief a few years ago, and that was after she had split it all herself.

So she put an ad in the local paper somethin' like this, "I don't appreciate the low down scatterbrain that stole my firewood after I split it all for the winter. If I catch him, I will have his guts for garters!!!!"

Well, everybody (but one) in the town loved the ad and laughed, and she told us that so many people brought her firewood that she ended up with more than she started with.

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Breaking the TV is not the answer. Burning the "sinema" will not fix my problem either. Bulldozing the video rental shop will not correct the wicked tendencies of my mind and heart any more than living in a monastery made godly men out of Catholic priests. The problem is inside me. And you.

The means of being released from our celluloid bondage is given us in [Galatians 5:24](#), *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* The crucifixion here is not some second blessing experience. It is a conversion experience, according to [Galatians 2:20](#), *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith off the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

We have all heard the deeper life conference speakers use this text to appeal to their hearers to be "crucified with Christ" even though they already know the Saviour. I do wish they would read the verse in its context. The context is not one of sanctification, but of justification.

Paul is describing the same encounter with the cross that Jesus referred to in [Mark 8:34](#), *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."* And Romans 6 refers to the same event, the crucifixion of the sinner with Christ. In [Romans 6:11-14](#) we read, *"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more*

dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

Did you notice the key in verse 11? *"Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

I'm not sure who it was that said it, but somewhere years ago I heard a preacher tell about his time in the army. He said one of his fellow soldiers asked him to go to a dance with him. He replied, "I can't, I don't have any feet."

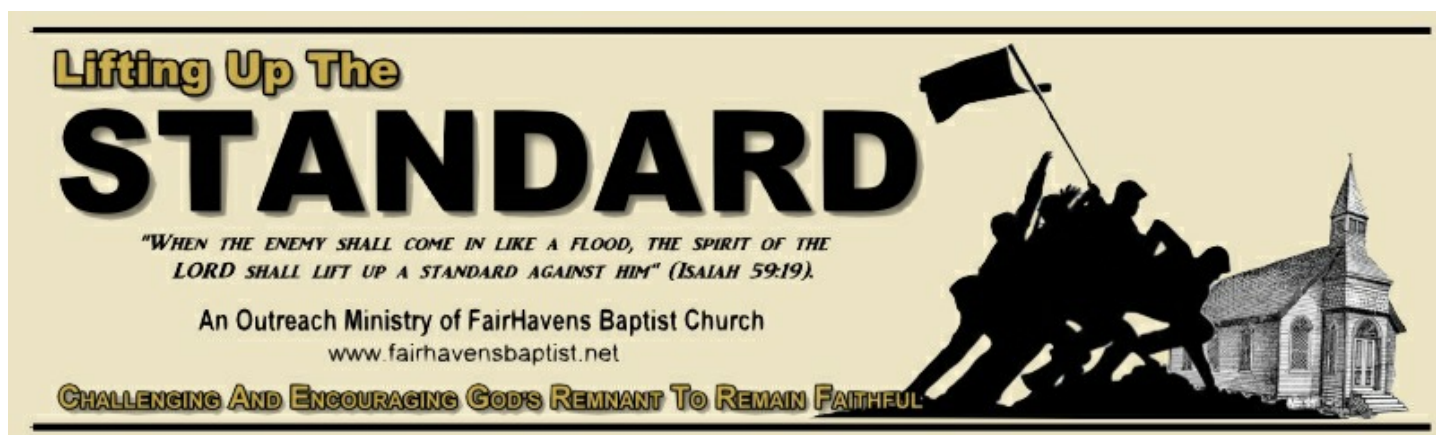
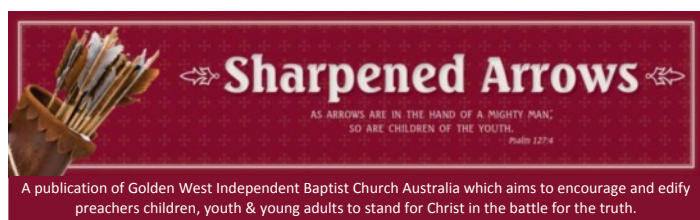
His pal said, "Well, what are THOSE?", pointing to his feet.

"Oh, they're not my feet. Those feet belong to the Lord, and I couldn't use his feet for dancing."

The truth is the same. I can't go to the movies for the same reason. I've got no eyes.

Try that one on for size the next time someone asks you to engage in a sinful activity.

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When I was a young teen, my Grandparents from the US came to visit. My Dad asked my Granddad to choose a passage for us to memorise in family devotions. It would be Grandpa's passage.

He chose Psalm 107:21-31. I can never read or quote it to this day without thinking of my Grandpa, and wondering exactly what drew him to this Scripture.

I love Psalm 107. It is so intricate. There are four particular stories in this Psalm, and then more examples of the lesson God is trying to teach us. The first verse sets the theme for the entire 43 verses.

"O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Then in verses 8, 15, 21 and 31 we see each has the exact same wording, *"Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"*

All of the stories, listed in verses 2-8, 9-15, 16-21 and 22-31 follow the same pattern. There is someone in distress. They sink lower and lower until, in desperation, they cry out to God for help. Each passage ends with God bringing about their deliverance, and is followed by the reminder to praise the LORD for His goodness to us.

In this Psalm, people are struggling for several reasons.

In the first passage (verses 2-8), it is God Who has brought them out from other lands, for His purposes, and now they are wandering – homeless, hungry and thirsty.

The passage contained in verses 9-15 tells us that sin is what caused this struggle. Verse 10-11 says, *"Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron; Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned (or despised) the counsel of the most High."*

Verses 16-21 also show us a scene of pain and sorrow due to the iniquity of the people involved. Vs 17 says, *"Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities are afflicted."*

Another scenario is shown in verses 22-31. These people are in fear for their lives due to the situation they have found themselves in, through no apparent fault of their own. *"For he commandeth, and raiseth up the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up*



to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble." – Vs. 25-26.

What we need to see is that although the purpose seems to be obscure to the people going through these things, God had brought about the situation. Do you think He did it for His own amusement? Or that He is a mischievous god, like the gods of Greek and Roman mythology? Certainly not!

One of God's most ardent desires for us is that we would be in a close and loving relationship with Him. He creates this need in us by the struggles He allows in our lives. As you can see in these verses, once the struggler cries to the LORD, God works mightily in his behalf. He goes beyond only getting them out of their troubles; verses 29-30 say, *"He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven."* Making the storm a calm was all He was asked to do! The people were happy with that answer but God went further, and brought them to their desired haven.

How do we respond to God when things are going wrong? Do we see Him as the instigator of all our troubles, and turn our back on Him? Or do we do as He desires us to, and run to Him as fast as we can? Aren't you thankful to know that all your difficulties are stairways and open doors into God's presence? As soon as I am struggling, I can run and run – straight to my Heavenly Father, and He is ready, so very ready, to hear and help!

Not only does He hear us but, like He does for the people in this Psalm, He plans so much more. Vs. 7 – He will lead us in a right way. Vs 9 – He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness. Vs 14 – He can bring us out of darkness and the shadow of death, He can break

the things that hold us in bondage. Vs 20 – He sends His Word, He heals us and delivers us. Vs 30 – He brings us to our desired haven.

The chapter goes on with even more examples and blessings from God. How can we doubt that He loves us, when He goes to such great lengths to get our attention?

The culminating verse, vs 43, says, *“Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.”* Maybe we should look back over our shoulder at the path we have trod. Can you see the fingerprints of God, leading you in the right way, delivering you, healing you? Can we see these things and manage to be ungrateful for His mercy and kindness to us? We have so much to be thankful for, and even though some of it was, and possibly still is, painful, we can know that God is using these trials to deepen our relationship with Him.

Having knowledge of God’s tender leading in our lives, we can begin to *“Give thanks always for all things...”* (Eph 5:20). We can be assured that God is at work!

I think this is a chapter we should come back to and ponder again and again. We will all experience the highs and lows of life; but those who are wise, and will observe, and turn these things over in their hearts and minds...they are the people who will understand, and be grateful for, the lovingkindness of the LORD.

I didn’t get to spend a lot of time with my Grandpa but in looking back, I cannot remember him being cast down or discouraged. Maybe he had figured out the key to this Psalm long before I was old enough to begin to understand it. I hope he can look down from Heaven and say, “I think she is beginning to get it now!”

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It may surprise you to know that there are televisions almost everywhere in South Africa, even in remote villages where there is no electricity available (car batteries and solar panels being used for power).

Wikipedia reports that there are 6,000,000 sets in our country. Internet is also available, and many people access it via their cell phones. Besides music, television and the Internet are contributing to the wholesale destruction of any moral fiber this country may have. If a home has a television, it is constantly on the programming is generally vile with the eyes of everyone in the room glued to it.

I made an unannounced afternoon visit to a home some time ago. The parents were at work and the grown son was gone, but a couple of youths were there, the television was on, and the filth pouring forth from the set was unbelievable. A teenage girl was there who regularly attended our Bible study at the same house and professed to know the Lord. When I expressed my shocked disapproval of what was being viewed, she must have become offended, because I haven’t seen her since.

A verse the Lord uses to monitor what we view is found in Psalm 101:3, *“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.”* Jeremiah says, *“Mine eye affecteth mine heart.”* (Lam 3:51). And Solomon tells us *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* (Pro 4:23). Godliness involves guardedness!

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

(Since I just celebrated the 49th anniversary of my 21st birthday, Bro. Cloud sent me some suitable FBT [Funny Bone Therapy] for old men.)

Young Man: "To what do you attribute your old age?"

Elderly Man: "The fact that I was born a long time ago."

Anybody who can still do at sixty what he was doing at twenty probably wasn't doing much at twenty.

At Joe's birthday party I tried to count the candles, but the heat drove me back.

An old timer is one who remembers when people who wore blue jeans worked.

My wife never lies about her age. She just tells everyone she's as old as I am. Then she lies about my age.

Q: What's the best cure for dandruff?

A: Going bald.

Youngster: "You're ninety years old? You're really old, aren't you?"

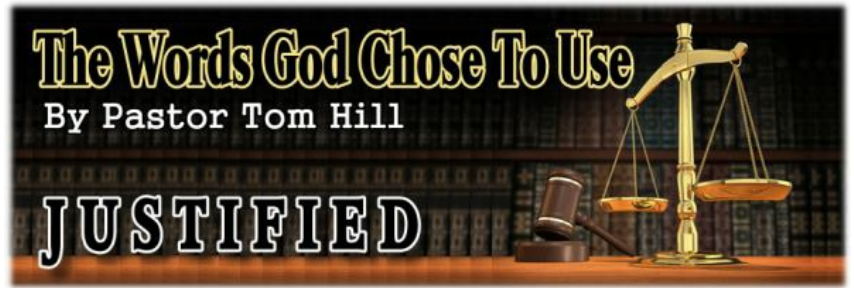
Old Timer: "No, I'm not old, but I've been young for a mighty long time."

The preacher's 5-year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "How come He doesn't answer it?" she asked.

I heard a story of a ship that was sinking in the middle of a storm, and the captain called out to the crew and said, "Does anyone here know how to pray?" One man stepped forward and said, "Yes sir, I know how to pray. The captain said, "Wonderful, you pray while the rest of us put on life jackets--we're one short."

Determined to have one last, lazy day of fishing before summer's end, I purposely ignored the leaky faucet and the broken gate -- household projects that had awaited me all summer. My wife asked, "What are you going to do today?" I grinned and answered, "It starts with F and ends with ISH." "Oh, good," she replied. "You're finally going to FinISH up those projects."

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Several years ago, a well-known preacher/author made popular a catchy definition of a word which we hold dear in light of our salvation. The word is "JUSTIFICATION." He stated that it meant, "just-as-if-I-never-sinned."

When I first heard that sort of definition, I thought how does that fit what the word really means? To suggest that it means "just-as-if-I-never-sinned," would be a rebuke of Paul for bringing up our past lives of sin, would it not (such as he does in Ephesians 2:1-3)? We DO have a past and we need to be reminded of what we were before Christ. Such a truth negates the trite and narrow definition. So what does this wonderful word mean?

Before we define the word, consider what Paul said about justification in *Galatians 2:16, 17*: "*Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*" Paul is declaring in contrast to the Gentiles, that the Jew had the law. Yet, he emphatically states that the law cannot save. It is only by faith in Jesus Christ that a person can be JUSTIFIED.

The word JUSTIFIED is the Greek word DIKAIÖO (pronounced – DIK-AI-YOO). DIKAIÖO comes from the root word DIKAIÖS which means "righteous." In the secular world of the Greek, several hundred years before Paul wrote the letter to the Galatian churches, the Greek poet, Pindar, said that the word spoke of a sovereign validation. DIKAIÖO was widely used in the legal world at the time of Paul, speaking of the divine rule and order in the law. Further in the legal world, the word spoke of the treatment of someone rightly, and to secure justice for someone. Strangely enough, the word was also used in a negative manner in the courts. It spoke of the condemnation and the punishment of someone. In some cases, it spoke of the death sentence. The way that the word was understood in the secular world, was via the context of its usage.

When the word is used in the Scriptures, it was never used in a negative manner. Neither does it take a meaning of "to regard as fair and right" as it was often used in the world. In fact, it takes on a whole new meaning. DIKAIÖO means that God has declared, in His presence, righteous, the sinner. Vine says that it is "the act of pronouncing righteous justification, acquittal from guilt." Justification is in fact a judicial declaration by the Father Himself. When used as a verb, it means "to deem to be right."

Mankind is positionally corrupt before the holy, perfect God. Man stands as a guilty, lost sinner, unable to do anything that will change his spiritual standing before Him. Thus, he is condemned, and in order to have a right standing before God, he must be declared righteous by God Himself.

The religious world believes that it is by works of the law and/or of the flesh. Some believe that circumcision is necessary, while others believe that is by baptism or keeping the Ten Commandments. But remember: religion is mankind seeking to reach up to God. The only way that man tries to reach up to God is through some human works. Religion takes its lead from the first religion that was invented by Cain.

Bible truth declares that justification is not by works of the law or any sort of work of the flesh. As Paul declares, justification is only through faith in Jesus Christ.

There must be repentance of sin, and a putting our full and complete dependence in Jesus Christ (faith). The Father accepts that repentance and faith of the sinner, because of what Christ Himself has done. It is then that the Father makes the declaration that this one now has a righteous standing before Him.

Further, such a one is also vindicated of any charge of sin in connection with the failure to keep God's law. Quite simply, justification is because of what Christ has done.

Once a person has been declared righteous in the sight of God, that position becomes unalterable. It cannot be changed. It is a one time act by the Father.

For example, when Paul declares to the Romans, *"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1), he uses a tense of the verb that says it is a one time decisive act never to be repeated (aorist tense). It is like our position of being put IN CHRIST. No one can take us out of Christ.

Justification is a wonderful word that every believer should be able to defend in both its simplicity and at the same time, in its depth.

Further, it is a truth in which every believer should rejoice, for it is our unalterable, and permanent position before the Father - for He Himself declared it.

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(Very few Christians are aware of the enormous decision taken by a group of evangelical pastors and theologians at Fuller Seminary in 1948. They conferred and decided that it was time to give up the battle for the orthodox Christian doctrines. They chose to cease contending for the faith and began to accommodate the modernists, the cultists, and the sceptics. They said they would win them all to evangelicalism, and so they coined a new name for their "softly, softly" approach. They called it New Evangelicalism. So here we are 66 years later, and what has been the result of their repudiation of the biblical doctrine of separation? Well, we now see evolutionists, Mormons, and New Agers teaching in their seminaries. Is it any wonder we find everything BUT sound doctrine in the pulpits of most evangelical churches? Here is a good example, Mormon talk show host Glenn Beck speaking at Liberty University's convocation service. - Ed)

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY AND MORMONS TOGETHER

May 21, 2014 (by David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org)

Jerry Falwell renounced biblical separatism decades ago and the fruit is evident in the school he founded. The Bible warns, "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33). Men like Billy Graham and Jerry Falwell are deceived, because they

think they can mess around with error and not be hurt. It is this deception that is feeding the end-time, one-world "church" from the "evangelical" and "fundamentalist" side.

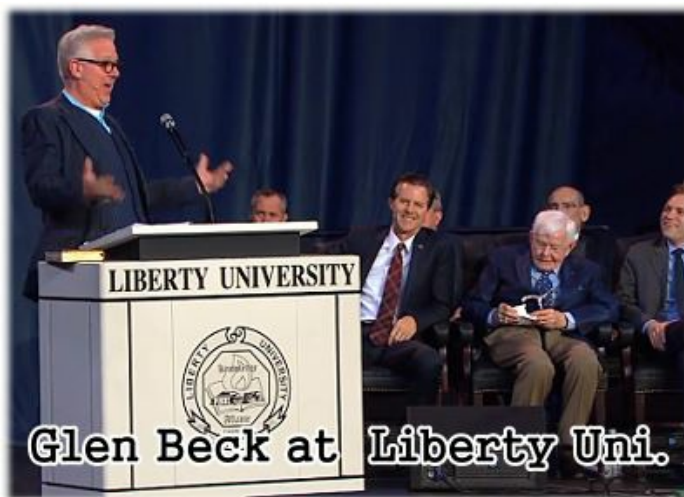
The truth of 1 Corinthians 15:33 cannot be disputed. The evidence is everywhere to be seen. Paul warned of doctrines of devils (1 Timothy 4:1), and no doctrines are more demonic than those of Mormonism, yet Liberty University is in happy spiritual fellowship with the most prominent Mormon alive.

On April 25, Glenn Beck, Mormon political activist and conservative talk show host, spoke at Liberty University's final convocation of the semester. It was not a political address. It was a rousing, tear-drenched sermon about God and the Bible, a sermon in which Beck exalted Joseph Smith and cited Mormon theology, and it was received with frequent cheers and applause and a standing ovation at the end.

Shame on Liberty University and Jerry Falwell, Jr., for giving this likable, personable deceiver a forum for his heresies.

(Beck spoke at Liberty University's graduation service in 2010 when he was given an honorary doctorate of humanities, and the Sounds of Liberty music group and Jerry Falwell, Jr., participated in Beck's Restoring Honor event in Washington, D.C., that year.)

Jerry Falwell, Jr., gave a glowing introduction to Beck and received from him a \$50,000 check as a gift to the school. This is in direct and blatant disobedience to God's Word.



"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (2 John 8-11).

The Falwells need to learn a lesson from the early preachers and teachers in the churches.

"Because that for his name's sake they went forth, TAKING NOTHING OF THE GENTILES" (3 John 1:7).

You are so tempted to compromise when you are not content with God's provision and aren't spending heaps

of money that you don't have and aren't pursuing accreditation from the world and when you don't build mega-institutions that have no biblical support.

Speaking before a large banner bearing the school's motto, "Training Champions for Christ," the Mormon's message was filled with spiritual deception. He started off with the following amazing statement:

"I am a Mormon, but I share your faith in the atonement of the Savior Jesus Christ."

This is a horrible deception. Mormons do not share the faith of Bible-believing Christians. They believe in a false christ, a false gospel, and a false spirit, all of which the apostle Paul warned of so fervently and condemned so plainly in his epistles.

"Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me. For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him" (2 Corinthians 11:1-4).

The Mormon Jesus as taught by Joseph Smith and Brigham Young is the firstborn spirit of Elohim and the brother of Lucifer, the second-born. He became God through obedience and was born into this world as the product of the physical union of Elohim and Mary. The Mormon gospel is salvation through faith, repentance, baptism, and obedience (*Basic Beliefs of the LDS Church*, a Mormon publication I received on a visit to the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City). The saved go to one of three Mormon heavens. Mormons are taught four secret handshakes in the temple ceremonies so that they can gain entrance into the third heaven by thus shaking God's hand (Bob Witte and Gordon Fraser, *What's Going on in There: An Exposing of the Secret Mormon Temple Rituals*).

Mormon leaders have been more honest about their theology than Glenn Beck. In 1977, Mormon Apostle Bernard Brockbank said, "It is true that many of the Christian churches worship a different Jesus Christ than is worshipped by the Mormons or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints" (*The Ensign*, May 1977, p. 26). And in 1998, Mormon President Hinckley said, "The traditional Christ of whom they [non-Mormons] speak is not the Christ of whom I speak. For the Christ of whom I speak has been revealed in this the Dispensation of the

Fullness of Times. He together with His Father, appeared to the boy Joseph Smith in the year 1820, and when Joseph left the grove that day, he knew more of the nature of God than all the learned ministers of the gospel of the ages" (*LDS Church News*, week ending June 20, 1998, p. 7).

Beck held up a Bible during his message at Liberty University and pretended to believe it and to uphold it as his authority, but he failed to acknowledge that his real authority as a Mormon is *The Book of Mormon*, *The Pearl of Great Price*, and *Doctrine and Covenants*. Beck whitewashed Mormon history by claiming that Joseph Smith was a great man, a man of honesty, a man who died as a peace-loving martyr for Christ.

A FORMER MORMON'S COMMENT ON GLENN BECK SPEAKING AT LIBERTY -

The following reply to this is by Ed Decker, a former Mormon:

"He ignored the historical fact that Smith wasn't quite as innocent as Beck claimed. He was in jail for leading his militia into town and destroying a newspaper press and burning the place down. He didn't like what the paper had said about his many, well-known adulteries. It was probably his thirteenth run-in with the law. Earlier charges included bank fraud, glass-looking, treason, conspiracy to commit murder, fornication and adultery.

Joseph Smith was in the unlocked upstairs of Carthage Jail with several of his leaders, arriving there with a small, armed group of his private militia, most whom went home after he assured them all was well. He was armed with a six shot pistol. Beck told the gathering that Smith told his followers in a note to lay down their arms and act in peace. He forgot to mention Smith's loaded pistol or the gunfight. Smith was eating and drinking wine with his friends when a small group of Masons and anti-Mormons gathered outside. As several came up the stairs firing into the room, Smith discharged the pistol into them, killing two, wounding a third. He ran to the open window, cried out the Masonic Distress call, *O Lord, my God, Is there no help for the Widow's son?* Apparently, not that day. He was shot and fell dead through the window.

I have to believe Beck is smart enough to have known exactly how the founder of his religion died and the circumstances surrounding the death. Either Beck is a brain dead heliograph controlled and operated through mirrors or an arch deceiver. I suspect the

latter" (Ed Decker, "Brain Dead or Arch Deceiver? Glenn Beck Visits Liberty University," May 3, 2014, saintsalive.com).

Decker mentions that Joseph Smith was charged with "glass-looking." Indeed, on March 20, 1826, Smith was tried and found guilty of deceiving people in New York by claiming he could find hidden treasure through a peek-stone. He was convicted by Justice Albert Neely in Bainbridge, New York. This was first published in *Fraser's Magazine* in 1873, but the Mormon church for years claimed that it was not true. In 1971, Wesley P. Walters located the original court records in the basement of a government building in Norwich, New York. These documents prove beyond doubt that Smith was a convicted "glass looker." The court ascertained "That at Palmyra he [Smith] pretended to tell by looking at this stone where coined money was buried in Pennsylvania, and while at Palmyra had frequently ascertained in that way where lost property was of various kinds..."

Returning to Beck's sermon at Liberty University, Beck called upon Liberty faculty and students to heed the voice of "the spirit," to be sensitive to the feeling imparted by "the spirit." Don't Jerry Falwell, Jr., and the teachers at Liberty University know that Beck's "spirit" is not a the Spirit of God, the third member of the Trinity, the Spirit of truth?

Again we quote from Ed Decker:

"When I joined the Mormon Church those many years ago, I was told to pray about its truthfulness; that I would know it was true through a burning in my bosom. "'But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right' (*Doctrine and Covenants* 9:8). 'I did as they said and I did receive a very real burning in my bosom. It took me 20 years to get that fire out. The Bible, God's actual Word, never tells us to test a spiritual thing that way. We are told to test all things through the Scripture. Not through any subjective experience" (Ed Decker, "Brain Dead or Arch Deceiver? Glenn Beck Visits Liberty University," May 3, 2014).

The Jews at Berea are called noble in God's Word because they tested everything by the Scripture. "*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so*" (*Acts* 17:11).

The Jews at Berea were more noble than those at Thessalonica, and they are more noble than those at Liberty University.

Beck used Christian and Bible terminology to hide his Mormon theology. Following are a couple of other examples:

“Beck praised his god as his true father, his dad who brought him and each of us to earth for a special purpose. He spoke of the great council above, from where we were sent to earth. Beck was talking Mormon-speak here. He was speaking of Kolob, where the Mormon god of this world met with the head of all the gods and other notable gods and concocted the plan for earth. He forgot to talk about his heavenly mother who gave birth to us as spirit beings there before we were sent to earth. Mormons are told that they are a special people, chosen by God for such a time as this. Beck offered that same word to his audience” (Ed Decker, “Brain Dead or Arch Deceiver? Glenn Beck Visits Liberty University,” May 3, 2014).

Liberty University is at the end of the slippery slide of compromise, a slide that began under Jerry Falwell’s direction. The university recently justified its hiring of a homosexual advocate to teach students choreography for a presentation of *Mary Poppins*. And a homosexual named Brandon Ambrosino was allowed to enroll as a graduate in Liberty’s seminary program.

Liberty has “explanations” for all of this, but there are no explanations of such things that will stand before God or that will stop the corruption that comes from “evil communications.”

For more about this see “[Jerry Falwell: The Billy Graham of Independent Baptists](#),” www.wayoflife.org.



<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/05/30/presidential-proclamation-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-pride-mon>

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE , MAY 30, 2014

Presidential Proclamation -- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and
Transgender Pride Month, 2014

**BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION**

As progress spreads from State to State, as justice is delivered in the courtroom, and as more of our fellow Americans are treated with dignity and respect -- our Nation becomes not only more accepting, but more equal as well. During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Pride Month, we celebrate victories that have affirmed freedom and fairness, and we recommit ourselves to completing the work that remains.

Last year, supporters of equality celebrated the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act, a ruling which, at long last, gave loving, committed families the respect and legal protections they deserve. In keeping with this decision, my Administration is extending family and spousal benefits -- from immigration benefits to military family benefits -- to legally married same-sex couples.

My Administration proudly stands alongside all those who fight for LGBT rights. Here at home, we have strengthened laws against violence toward LGBT Americans, taken action to prevent bullying and harassment, and prohibited discrimination in housing and hospitals. Despite this progress, LGBT workers in too many States can be fired just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity; I continue to call on the Congress to correct this injustice by passing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And in the years ahead, we will remain dedicated to addressing health disparities within the LGBT community by implementing the Affordable Care Act and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy -- which focuses on improving care while decreasing HIV transmission rates among communities most at risk.

Our commitment to advancing equality for the LGBT community extends far beyond our borders. In many places around the globe, LGBT people face persecution, arrest, or even state-sponsored execution. This is unacceptable. The United States calls on every nation to join us in defending the universal human rights of our LGBT brothers and sisters.

This month, as we mark 45 years since the patrons of the Stonewall Inn defied an unjust policy and awakened a nascent movement, let us honor every brave leader who stood up, sat in, and came out, as well as the allies who supported them along the way. Following their example, let each of us speak for tolerance, justice, and dignity -- because if hearts and minds continue to change over time, laws will too.

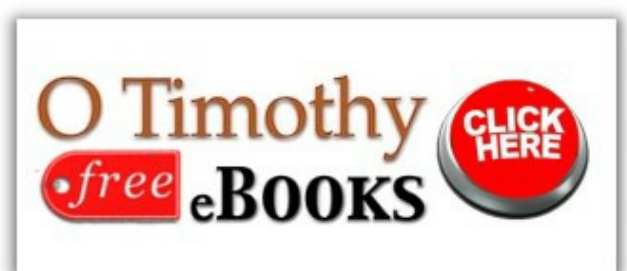
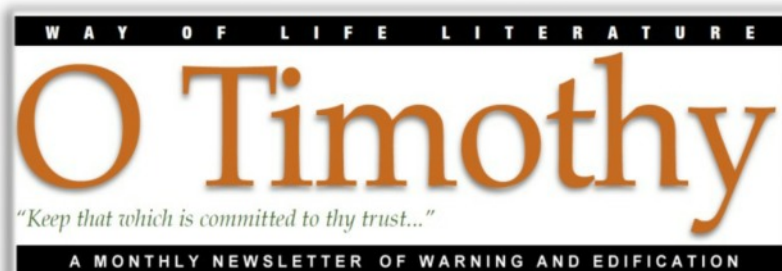
NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the

United States, do hereby proclaim June 2014 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month. I call upon the people of the United States to eliminate prejudice everywhere it exists, and to celebrate the great diversity of the American people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fourteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

I'm not really clumsy. It's just that the floor hates me, the tables and chairs are bullies and the wall keeps getting in the way. And besides that, gravity is really strong around here today" ~ *anon*, with help from *Bill Watterson*.

"Many a true word has been spoken through false teeth."
~ *Contributed by Ivan Toms*

Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

One good thing about getting old is that I can sing in the bathroom while brushing my teeth.

Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.

The older I grow the more I distrust that idea that age brings wisdom.

Whole Psalm. ~ In the year 1582, this psalm was sung on a remarkable occasion in Edinburgh. An imprisoned minister, John Durie, had been set free, and was met and welcomed on entering the town by two hundred of his friends. The number increased till he found himself in the midst of a company of two thousand, who began to sing as they moved up the long High Street, "*Now Israel may say*," etc. They sang in four parts with deep solemnity, all joining in the well known tune and psalm. They were much moved themselves, and so were all who heard; and one of the chief persecutors is said to have been more alarmed at this sight and song than at anything he had seen in Scotland. ~ *Andrew A. Bonar*, in "*Christ and His Church in the Book of Psalms*", 1859. Treasury of David - Psalm 124

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(So we are told, "Preaching repentance is heresy!" Do they mean, "Heresy like these men preached?" - Ed.)

"I am afraid that in our zeal to get people into the kingdom or the Church we have lowered the standard. In order to capture, we have compromised and lost. We have been more concerned about filling our Church registers than we have about the kingdom. We have not sufficiently emphasized the greatness of coming to Christ, and we have said, 'It is only a step.' Who told you so? Only a step to Jesus? It is not true. It is not gospel. Only a step to Jesus? Then it is a very big step. We have made it a very little thing, and we have multitudes of people joining the churches. It is child's play. It used not to be. He (Christ) never made it easy; and the man who makes it easy to be a Christian preaches a mongrel gospel. Jesus said, 'Repent.' There is no salvation without repentance."
~ *Gypsy Smith*

than I have for great numbers. If a man professes to be converted without realizing the heinousness of his sins, he is likely to be one of those stony ground hearers who don't amount to anything.

I believe we are making a woeful mistake in taking so many people into the Church who have never been truly convicted of sin. Sin is just as black in a man's heart to-day as it ever was. When a man is not deeply convicted of sin, it is a pretty sure sign that he has not truly repented.
~ *D. L. Moody*

"Shallow preaching that does not grapple with the terrible fact of man's sinfulness and guilt, calling on 'all men everywhere to repent,' results in shallow conversions; and so we have a myriad of glib-tongued professors today who give no evidence of regeneration whatever." ~ *Harry Ironside*, *Except Ye Repent*, 1937)

For the last few years I have been a good deal more anxious for a deep and true work in professing converts

The Nature of True Repentance – Thomas Watson's Six Ingredients

(Watson says "Repentance is a grace of Gods Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed." That is the heart of repentance – inner change that results in outward change. Repenting is not merely an outward conformity to a righteous appearance. It is putting off the practice of sin and pursuing righteousness inwardly, for from the heart come our actions. In his very thorough and scripture-saturated work, Watson identifies six ingredients of repentance. ~ Scott Head)

Sight of Sin

First, we must have sight of sin. *We must see it.* We may be very good at seeing sin in others, but blind to our own sin. A wise Christian receives his brethren when they speak to him concerning his sin; a wise Christians looks inward to himself when his Bible points out sins in others. True believers do not flee from such graces. He is a prideful man that believes he is spotless. Watson says such a man is "unacquainted with himself" and "veiled over with ignorance and self-love". The apostle John says *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."* (1 John 1:8) A humble Christian is not deceived, but knows he is a sinner. He does not deflect, deny, or run away from his sin, but "takes sight" of it so as to repent.

Godly Sorrow

Watson's second ingredient is *sorrow for sin*. He is concerned with separating true and false sorrow. Sorrow is a holy thing, a breaking of the heart, a rending of the inner man. Godly sorrow makes Christ precious, like a doctor to a dying patient. It does not avoid Christ, it does not flee from prayer and confession (of sin), it does not enter into so self-imposed moratorium or some kind of self-righteous penance. Such is a stunted view of the finality of the cross. Godly sorrow flees quickly to Christ.

Godly sorrow kills sin and purges it from the soul. It makes way for solid comfort. **Psalm 126:5** says *"They who sow in tears shall reap in joy!"* Godly sorrow is inward, meaning it is a sorrow of the heart as opposed to an outward show. It grieves for the stirrings of sin in the heart, the root of the sin, the very presence of sin within, rather than just the carrying out of sin. "A wicked man may be troubled for scandalous sins; a real convert laments heart-sins."

Watson reminds us that godly sorrow is for the *offence* rather than the *punishment*. True repentance means the sinner experiences brokenness because God's law has

been transgressed; His love has been abused. "This melts the soul in tears." But false sorrow grieves because of the consequence of sin. If we are honest with ourselves, we can easily remember times when our sin was found out and we were more upset because we got caught rather than being sorrowful that we had trampled upon our Lord's loving kindness, grace and mercy.

Psalm 51:3, David's great repentance psalm, declares *"For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me."* David does not say "the sword threatened is ever before me" or "the rod of reproof is ever before me." He owns his sin and is crushed because such iniquity is found in his heart. So "as our sin is ever before us," Watson concludes, "so God's promise must be ever before us." Watson spends much time on this very important ingredient before moving on to the third ingredient:

Confession of Sin

"Sorrow is such a vehement passion that it will have to vent. It vents itself at the eyes by weeping and at the tongue by confession." Confession is "self-accusing" before God. It is declaring that we deserve to be bound over to the wrath of God. Some modern writers have said confession should be "agreeing with God concerning your sin" and this is a technically true statement. But it is rather clinical and does not carry the fullness of sin. In reality, we should be ever mindful that we actually do deserve wrath, and every sin affirms it more acutely than before. We need to keep in mind sin's realities and not minimize it with theologically correct but clinical terms.

Confession should be voluntary, not coerced or extracted by another. Like the prodigal son whose sight of sin generated a self-charge, we too must freely say with him *"I have sinned against heaven, and before thee."* (**Luke 15:18**).

Watson insists that a true confession must be heartfelt. It must be "with compunction." It needs to come with a prick of the heart, with a sting, with true regret. While the reprobate may confess as to a judge with little feeling of regret, like "water through a pipe," his confession does not affect him at all. "True confession leaves heart-wounding impressions on a man"

The confession should be specific. Even the unbeliever is willing to say he is not perfect and will even go so far as to confess, in general terms, that he is a sinner. The evangelistic work of Ray Comfort shows us this with abundance when the man on the street will gladly confess general transgressions of God's law. But the Christian should strive to be specific and confess particular sins.

True confession has many more characteristics according to Watson. It must acknowledge our general nature as sinners; sin should be confessed with all its “circumstances and aggravations”, or thoroughly; we ought to charge ourselves so as to keep God’s name clear; and we must confess with a resolution not to act them over again.

1 John 1:9 speaks healing truth to us when the Apostle says *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Shame for Sin

Watson dwells long on confession, and then moves to shame for sin. There is no shame today. Our culture is brazen and the closest thing we know of shame is light embarrassment when our pride is wounded. But shame? We have abandoned true shame in the west. This is a necessary portion of virtue that we must recover. “When the heart is made black with sin, grace makes the face red with blushing: *‘I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens.’* **Ezra 9:6**”

The chapter on shame is a beautiful example of Puritan exposition as Watson takes us through a number of pithy observations about those shameful aspects of sin. Some rich and memorable quotes should jolt complacency out of even the most sleepy reader’s glassy eyes.

Hatred of Sin

Watson moves us from shame to hatred. **Ezekiel 36:31**: *“Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.”* A true believer is a sin-loather. He loathes the sin found in him and it sickens his soul. Watson says “we are never more precious in God’s eyes than when we are lepers in our own.” This would fly like a lead balloon in today’s feel-good, self-esteem churches. Our souls should long for the day when we are released from these husks of corruption because the thought of carrying around such sinful flesh is a loathsome thought to the man or woman who counts Christ as precious. While this idea sounds particularly “Puritan-ish” to our modern ears raised on pride and self-love, we would do well to consider Watson’s exhortations. He says:

Many a one is convinced that sin is a vile thing, and in his judgment has an aversion to it, but yet he tastes sweetness and has a secret complacency in it. Here is a

disliking of sin in the judgment and embracing of it in the affections; whereas in true repentance the hatred of sin is in all the faculties, not only in the intellectual part, but chiefly in the will: ‘what I hate, that do I’ (Romans 7:15). Paul was not free from sin, yet his will was against it.

He also compares sin with affliction, concluding that sin is far worse than both affliction and hell itself. On affliction he says, *Affliction only reaches the body, but sin goes further: it poisons the fancy, disorders the affections. Affliction is but corrective; sin is destructive. Affliction can but take away life; sin takes away the soul. Luke 12:20 “But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?”* A man that is afflicted may have his conscience quiet... But when a man commits sin, conscience is terrified.

Turning from Sin

Finally, the last of Watson’s six ingredients for true repentance is the one to which most modern Christians use to define the whole of repentance. “Turning from sin” is usually given as the answer to the question “what is repenting?” But according to our forefathers in the faith, this is the last step of several. It is last because it is looking forward to a changed life. It is the recovery.

The very day a Christian turns from sin he must enjoin himself a perpetual fast. The eye must fast from impure glances. The ear must fast from hearing slanders. The tongue must fast from oaths. The hands must fast from bribes. The feet must fast from the path of the harlot. And the soul must fast from the love of wickedness.

The change implied by turning from sin begins inwardly. Acts of sin may be restrained and put off and turned from because we fear getting caught. But a true believer puts off sin and turns from it out of love for God. He also turns from sin to God. **Acts 20:21** speaks of “repentance toward God.” Watson says “It is not enough to forsake the devil’s quarters, but we must get under Christ’s banner and wear His colours.” We must turn away from our sin as if to never return. We must not be like the false professors who return to their vomit (**2 Peter 2:22** *“But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”*)

A Gem of a Book - Watson’s book, *The Doctrine of Repentance*, is available in many outlets.

“And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent.” (Acts 17:30)

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(My sister in Dallas just wrote to say somebody musta been praying this prayer in West Texas because San Angelo got 8.5 inches the other day. (And since then a cousin said they got 15 inches near Wall, Tx.) That's about their annual rainfall. Where we live in north Queensland (in Australia) it is not uncommon for us to have forty feet of rain in a year!!!! Sometimes we hear of 40 inches in a day. A girl from Amarillo was living here when we first came north, and she wrote her dad to tell him that Kuranda had 120 inches in a month. He wrote back to tell her to come home immediately, there was nothing in her upbringing to prepare her for that. -- Ed)

"I have been told that this prayer was written during the time of the 50's drought and was printed in a magazine called Farm Show Magazine and that the actual author of the prayer is unknown. I do not know if any of that is true or false; nevertheless, I'm praying it now."

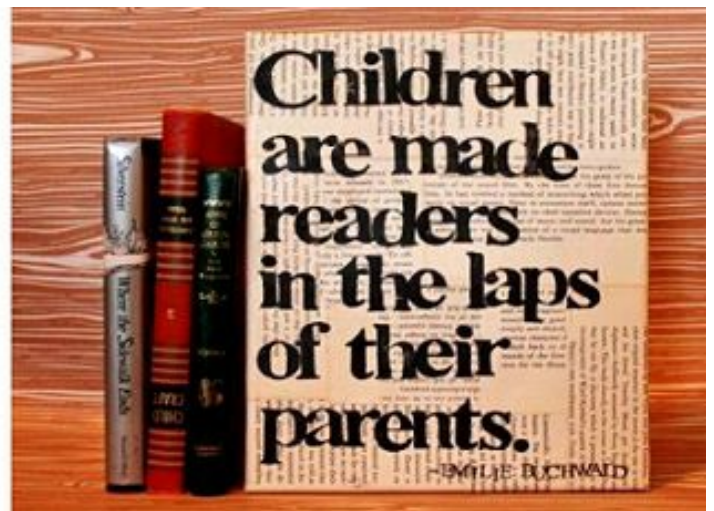
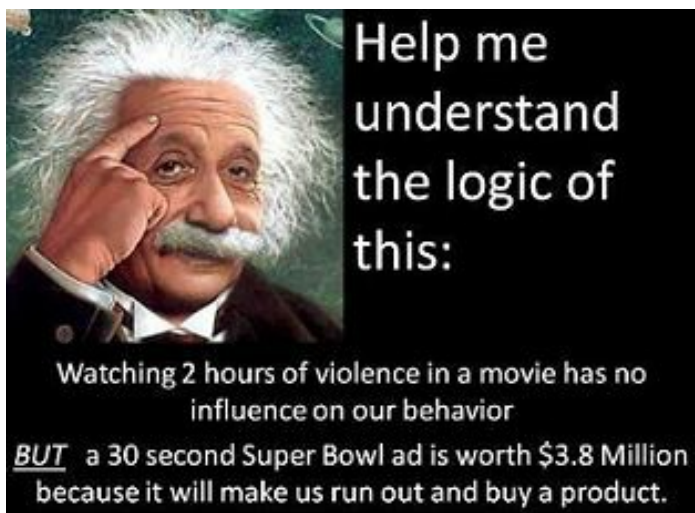
"O Lord, in thy mercy, grant us rain and by that we don't mean a shower. We want to go out and watch the lightning rip across the southwest sky in hot blue forks as the fat clouds roll in on us. We want to scramble all over the house, just as the first sheets descend, frantically slamming down the windows.

"O Lord of Hosts, we want to look out of the windows and watch the regiments of close-packed raindrops march diagonally down. We want to hear the gurgle of gutters under the eaves, and then the spatter of the downpour.

"O God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, let it come down so hard, let the drops dance so high that the streets and sidewalks seem covered with a 6-inch fog of spatter drops, then let it just keep up for a while, and then begin to taper off and then turn right around and get a lot worse: swishing, pounding, splattering, pouring, drenching, the thunder coming Crackity-BAM! And the lightning flashing so fast and furious that you can't tell which flash goes with which peel of thunder – so that all the women will get scared and climb on top of the beds and scream at you not to get too close to that window. And then, O God, repeat the whole act about three times and in the middle of the second time we will climb the attic stairs and put a wash tub under that tiny leak in the roof which you don't usually notice in an ordinary rain. After a couple of hours, kinda taper it on down, O Lord, to a good steady rain...not a drizzle, but a business-like one that keeps on until just about dawn and then spits a few drops occasionally during the morning from a gray sky.

"Texas is indeed the promised Land, O Lord, and if it gets a break, it will flow with milk and honey, but we can't live much longer on promises. So in Thine own way and Thine own time, make up Thy mind, O Lord, and we will bow before Thy judgment and praise Thine everlasting name. Amen." ~ Author unknown.

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Matthew 23:15 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

This is never a text taught to aspiring soulwinners, but there is a lesson to be learned in it, for good or bad. It goes like this,

"What the teacher/parent/pastor does in moderation, his student/child/disciple will (almost without fail) do to excess."

PROSELYTING THE GENTILES -

Commentators occasionally hit the nail on the head.

Albert Barnes wrote - "Twofold more the child of hell. That is, twice as bad. To be a child of hell was a Hebrew phrase, signifying to be deserving of hell, to be awfully wicked.... The Pharisees gained them either to swell their numbers, or to make gain by extorting their money under various pretences; and when they had accomplished that, they took no pains to instruct them, or to restrain them. They had renounced their superstitions, which had before somewhat restrained them. The Pharisees had given them no religion in its place to restrain them, and they were consequently left to the full indulgence of their vices."

John Gill - "...and when he is made, ye make him two fold more the child of hell than yourselves; for to their former errors in heathenism, some of which they might still retain, they added new ones, they received from them, equally as bad, and were but more and more deserving of hell, and even more than their masters; and besides, were trained up by them in the most bitter prejudices against Christ, and his Gospel; and many of them proved more violent persecutors of the followers of Christ, than the original Jews themselves.

Matthew Henry - Their cursed impiety in abusing their proselytes when they were made; "Ye make him the disciple of a Pharisee presently, and he sucks in all a Pharisee's notions; and so ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." Note, (1.) Hypocrites, while they fancy themselves heirs of heaven, are, in the judgment of Christ, the children of hell. The rise of their hypocrisy is from hell, for the devil is the father of lies; and the tendency of their hypocrisy is toward hell, that is the country they belong to, the inheritance they are heirs to; they are called children of hell, because of their rooted



enmity to the kingdom of heaven, which was the principle and genius of Pharisaism. (2.) Though all that maliciously oppose the gospel are children of hell, yet some are twofold more so than others, more furious and bigoted and malignant. (3.) Perverted proselytes are commonly the greatest bigots; **the scholars outdid their masters**, [1.] In fondness of ceremony; the Pharisees themselves saw the folly of their own impositions, and in their hearts smiled at the obsequiousness of those that conformed to them; but their proselytes were eager for them. Note, Weak heads commonly admire those shows and ceremonies which wise men (however for public ends they countenance them) cannot but think meanly of. [2.] In fury against Christianity; the proselytes readily imbibed the principles which their crafty leaders were not wanting to possess them with, and so became extremely hot against the truth. The most bitter enemies the apostles met with in all places were the Hellenist Jews, who were mostly proselytes, Ac 13:45; 14:2-19; 17:5; 18:6. Paul, a disciple of the Pharisees, was exceedingly mad against the Christians (Ac 26:11), when his master, Gamaliel, seems to have been more moderate.

THERE IS A "MUTATION" THAT IS BECOMING APPARENT IN THE TRAINING OF SOULWINNERS. -

You noticed the words highlighted in red in Matthew Henry's comments, "the scholars outdid their masters." It seems to be a badge of honour for a student to delve deeper, to implement more boldly, to speak more forcefully, to pontificate more "popishly" than his professor ever did. Saul of Tarsus, as Matthew Henry points out was "exceedingly mad against the Christians". (Ac 26:11 *And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange*

cities.) He himself spoke of his "hubris" (1Ti 1:13 *Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief*) Hubris is the word behind "*injurious*" and is defined as "arrogance, conceit, haughtiness, pride, vanity, self-importance, self-conceit, pomposity, superciliousness, feeling of superiority"

That is a description of Saul being two fold more the child of hell than Gamaliel ever was. *The Scholars outdo their masters.*

As it was in old times, so it is today.

THE MUTANT CHRISTIANITY OF THE 21ST CENTURY AND ITS OFFSPRING -

One of the most difficult lessons to learn in the ministry is that the traditions handed down to us by our spiritual forefathers mutated on their way. They are not the pure strains of "the faith once delivered to the saints." (I know, I know, I just lost the last two friends I had!) But the simple fact is, that fundamentalism is not the same thing as biblicism.

Biblicism was the faith delivered by Christ to the apostles. They were commissioned to teach their disciples "all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Almost immediately, mutations began to appear. Twenty centuries later, the mutated (three-eyed, twelve legged, shark toothed, ego-centred, hubristic, wealth-focused, parachurch-ised, LGBT tolerant) pastor is the norm, and of course, any pastor or church who strives to be even one percent more biblical is considered a threat to the evangelical gene pool.

EXAMPLES? WELL, TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE -

Liberty University's dialogue with Benny Hinn recently over cooperating with him to give his followers degrees in theological studies. Or maybe you would be willing to consider Liberty's welcome given to Mormon Glenn Beck, and their winking at his open heresies (see the article

above in the Nailing It column). Or maybe you should consider their acceptance of the Harlem Shake, as performed by their students and viewed on YouTube (for a page of links see:

https://www.google.com.au/search?q=youtube%2Fliberty%2F+harlem+shake&rlz=1C1CHMO_en-GBAU579AU579&oq=youtube%2Fliberty%2F+harlem+shake&aqs=chrome..69i57j69i58.19791j0j1&sourceid=chrome&es_sm=122&ie=UTF-8)

How did Liberty get there? The same way Bob Jones University left fundamentalism and became evangelical, reformed, and committed to modern textual criticism. The same way Tennessee Temple took ten steps toward Emergent (pseudo) Christianity, one at a time. The same way Clarence Sexton softened his stand on ecumenical ties with errant groups.

The same way Paul Chappell led LBC and WCBC into CCM. The same way IB pastors in Australia are now openly using Hillsong and secular music (You Raise Me Up) in their churches. They did it one mutation at a time.

I once heard A. W. Tozer preach a sermon in which he said, "When a diseased Christianity become evangelistic, it merely spreads the area of infection." Today, we can paraphrase that to say, "When a mutated Christianity mutates further and further and does not repent, the question eventually arises whether it is still Christian."

THE MUTATED SOULWINNER'S MUTATED DISCIPLES -

There are many areas of church doctrine and practice which have changed over the half century since we came to know Christ. Preaching on sin and the judgment of God, or on repentance from sin has all but disappeared. Holiness and separation have dropped off the radar. And the biblical doctrine of personal evangelism has mutated into a cheap and shoddy sales program. The clear presentation of the gospel of Christ, the use of the Law to bring the knowledge of sin (Romans 3:20), waiting on the Spirit of God to do a deep and thorough work of conviction, and the expectation of a changed life in a new



convert, these have been all but bred out of the churches. It didn't happen last week. It has been going on for centuries. In my lifetime I have heard one of the most influential IB preachers boast that "he could win ten men to Christ while you are waiting for them to be convicted of sin." and that "insurance companies use his soulwinning method to sell insurance policies."

We should have spoken up when we perceived the mutations beginning, but the "genetic manipulators" in our pulpits were so subtle (and we were so gullible) that the Pipers led the children away to be made two fold the children of hell than their Pipers. And we never said a word. We were too busy riding on the bandwagon, cheering their parade.

Now we hear from our missionaries that the biggest problem they face on the field is not from the pagan idolators they preach to, but from the new missionaries bringing in a mutated gospel and using mutated, toothless, gutless, spineless methodologies to get professions of faith and pad out their prayer letters and enlarge their support base. Many times we wonder if they have a mutated Saviour to offer to their hearers, like the Roman Catholic false Christ of Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ*, or the latest Jesus of Hollywood.

SO WHERE DO THE MUTATIONS STOP?

They stop where Christians start reading their Bibles again and taking them seriously. They stop when we "tremble at the word of God." (Isa 66:2,5) They stop when we come to love God's Ways and God's Thoughts and God's Words and God's Works more than man's. (Isa. 55:6-11) They stop when we realize that God included in the genetic structure of the churches a "repair gene" to correct the mutations that have accumulated over the millennia. That repair gene is called the Holy Spirit.

He uses the scalpel of the Word of God to correct the damage done through compromise, and then rebuilds the body cell by cell, member by member to bring it to good health again.

I once knew a pilot who bought a plane overseas and flew it to Australia. He had a new ADF (automatic direction finder) installed to help him navigate across the Pacific. An ADF is a radio receiver connected to the gyrocompass and has an antenna mounted above or below the cockpit to locate and home in on a distant radio transmitter. If it is working correctly it indicates if he is on course, and if not, which way to turn. He asked for it to be mounted under the nose of the aircraft. That was easy enough to

do, BUT there was a mutation allowed, a mistake made, a change at that point that almost cost him his life. You see, they accidentally wired it as though it were mounted above the cockpit, reversing the two wires that ran from the antenna to the radio receiver so that when he turned left, the ADF indicated that he was too far to the right, and needed to turn further to the left.

The farther he went off course, the further he was instructed to go in that direction.

Well, it didn't take him long to realize that the ADF was malfunctioning. It was mutated and mutating more and more with every correction.

So what did he do? He turned the ADF off and flew by his other instruments, with help from other pilots and ground control.

All the way home.

MUTATIONS ARE DEADLY! -

I am persuaded that this is a major reason why churches are dying all over the world. They have permitted their message, their motive, their methods, and their morality to mutate and have not corrected it. Each generation of believers has accumulated the previous generation's mutations and added their own. If there was ever a time for us to remember that there are NO helpful mutations, neither in science, nor in theology, nor in the laboratory, nor in our churches!!!

This is why the apostle Paul was so bold in warning against altering the gospel, *Galatians 1:6-9*, "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*"

IS THERE A LESSON FOR BIBLICISTS HERE?

Yes. A pastor who desires to correct the mutations that have crept into his church will have his work cut out for him. He will find that he faces more opposition than he ever has faced in his life. He will often find that the membership prefers the status quo, and even prefers the

increasing of mutations, rather than a return to the biblical pattern in all things.

He will find that his pastor friends (most of them) will not return his calls. He may find that his home church will rescind his ordination and send out slanderous letters about him. If he is a missionary he may receive a letter from his mission board telling him that they have told his supporting churches to cease supporting him (this happened recently here in Australia!) If you are the pianist, you may be asked to stand down, if you are a deacon you may be replaced without explanation. If you are a pastor, you may find yourself out of the ministry. If you are an evangelist you may have meetings cancelled at a minute's notice.

All of these I have observed, some very recently.

Rejoice, brother, sister! You are in good company! All the prophets and apostles, and our Lord Jesus walked the same path. They were all charter members of the Fellowship of the Outsiders. And it was because they were committed to repairing the damage done through mutations.

You need to know that there is good news for every one who is committed to going back to a simple dependence on the Holy Scriptures and the Holy Spirit. The good news is that those you win to Christ and disciple will be more and more Bible oriented, more "biblicist" than you are, if you train them that way.

After all, ***The Scholars outdo their masters! Even biblicist scholars.***

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