



September 14, 2012

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Feature Article - Are We Losing Our- "OH!" ?

We who speak the English language have in that language a most remarkable instrument for the communication of ideas.

Emerson said of Shakespeare that he more than any other man had the ability to say anything he wanted to say; any idea his mind could entertain his mouth could utter. What Emerson did not remember to say (if my memory serves me) was that Shakespeare's genius was indebted greatly to the fluidity and fullness of the English tongue.

Without such a free and abundant vocabulary as English affords, even the mighty Bard of Avon could not have risen so high nor soared so far. However great his mind, he required a language capable of receiving and expressing what his mind conceived. And that he had in his beloved English.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary lists 550,000 words. And it is a solemn and beautiful thought that in our worship of God there sometimes rush up from the depths of our souls feelings that all this wealth of words is not sufficient to express. To be articulate at certain times we are compelled to fall back upon "Oh!" or "O" - a primitive exclamatory sound that is hardly a word at all and that scarcely admits of a definition.

Vocabularies are formed by many minds over long periods and are capable of expressing whatever the mind is capable of entertaining. But when the heart, on its knees, moves into the awesome Presence and hears with fear and wonder things not lawful to utter, then the mind falls flat, and words, previously its faithful servants, become weak and totally incapable of telling what the heart hears and sees.



In that awful moment the worshiper can only cry "Oh!" And that simple exclamation becomes more eloquent than learned speech and, I have no doubt, is dearer to God than any oratory. It is not by accident that the idiom of the Christian religion abounds with exclamations.

Christianity contemplates things transcendent and seeks to engage the infinite and the absolute. It approaches the Holy of Holies and looks with astonished wonder upon the face of God; then language, no matter how full or how facile, is simply not adequate. "O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Rom. 11:33). The exclamation "O" could not be omitted from that rhapsody. It is the fountain out of which everything else flows.

Many of our Christian hymns reveal this same exclamatory quality, chiefly because they embody an intensity of feeling that rises above rational meanings and definitions. The Moravian Hymnal, for instance, lists about three hundred verse lines that begin with "O." While it would not be wise to press this too far (since literary custom may dictate the use of emotional language where no particular emotion is present) still the fact that there is such a large number of exclamations among the hymns surely does have real meaning for us.

In the inspired Scriptures, where no imperfection is to be found, the exclamatory vocable occurs consistently. Prophets and psalmists continually find themselves on the brink of the infinite gazing into an abyss of divinity that quite overwhelms them and squeezes from their hearts such bursts of feeling as mere words cannot express. It is then that "Oh!" and "Ah!" come spontaneously to their lips, as when Jeremiah, upon hearing the voice of the Lord, responds, "Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child" or when Ezekiel standing in the valley of bones cries out, "O Lord God, thou knowest."

In theology there is no "Oh!" and this is a significant if not an ominous thing. Theology seeks to reduce what may be known of God to intellectual terms, and as long as the intellect can comprehend it can find words to express itself. When God Himself appears before the mind, awesome, vast and incomprehensible, then the mind sinks into silence and the heart cries out "O Lord God" There is the difference between theological knowledge and spiritual experience, the difference between knowing God by hearsay and knowing Him by acquaintance. And the difference is not verbal merely; it is real and serious and vital.

We Christians should watch lest we lose the "Oh!" from our hearts. There is real danger these days that we shall fall victim to the prophets of poise and the purveyors of tranquility, and our Christianity be reduced to a mere evangelical humanism that is never disturbed about anything nor overcome by any "trances of thought and mountings of the mind." When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves.

When the calm, listing of requests and the courteous giving of proper thanks take the place of the burdened prayer that finds utterance difficult we should beware the next step, for our direction is surely down whether we know it or not. Churches and missionary societies should keep always before them the knowledge that progress can be made only by the "Ohs" and "Ahs" of Spirit-filled hearts. These are the pain cries of the fruitful mother about to give birth. For them there is no substitute; not plans nor programs nor techniques can avail without them. They indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit making intercessions with groanings that cannot be uttered.

And this is God's only method in the local church or on the mission field.

from *Born After Midnight* - by A. W. Tozer

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When "Church" and State Join Hands -



JUMAH AT THE 2012 DNC
A MESSAGE TO THE GRASSROOTS - ANSWER THE CALL

Friday, August 31st - Saturday, September 1st
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Jumah Prayer @ Marshall Park (800 EAST 3RD ST.)
Khateeb: Imam Siraj Wahhaj
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 1:00 PM

Islamic Leadership Banquet (FRIDAY 5:00 - 10:00PM)
Keynote Speakers: Sheikh Muhammad Adly & Captain James Yusuf Yee
HILTON HOTEL UNIVERSITY PLACE
8629 JM KEYNES DRIVE

Color Me Muslim Cultural Fun Fest (FRIDAY 5:00PM - 10:00PM)
The Future of Islam in America Conference
Kids Carnival - Games - Bazaar - Vending
PARK EXPO & CONFERENCE CENTER (PREVIOUS MERCHANDISE MART)
2500 E. INDEPENDENCE BLVD.

Town Hall Issues Conference (SATURDAY 10:00AM - 5:00PM)
Islamic Issues Conference & Legal Forum
Kids Carnival - Games - Bazaar - Vending
PARK EXPO & CONFERENCE CENTER (PREVIOUS MERCHANDISE MART)
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Long Live the Deen Show (SATURDAY 6:00 - 10:00PM)
Halal Entertainment
Joshua Salaam of Native Deen
The Voice Box Poetry & Spoken Word Performances
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<http://www.westernjournalism.com/islamists-to-open-dnc-with-prayer-for-sharia-to-replace-us-constitution/>

Islamists To Open DNC With Prayer For Sharia To Replace US Constitution

August 29, 2012 By Derrick Hollenbeck

When the Democrat National Convention/"hate-America" festival gets started, it will begin with a "Jummah" or Muslim prayer group. There will be about 20,000 people gathered for a celebration of the Islamists' plans to eventually overthrow our government and replace our Constitutional government with a Sharia-controlled theocracy. This begs the question: who will be there and what do they represent?

The leaders of the Jummah will be Jibril Hough and Imam Siraj Wahha. Both men have a long track record of hatred for America and our way of life – especially the freedom of women to live productive lives. These two Islamists, both avowed enemies of America, have been invited to celebrate their plans for our demise in return for filling the otherwise empty seats the cameras might accidentally show during the main hate-fest the Democrats themselves will be putting on.



With full knowledge that Siraj Wahhaj is an unindicted co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing that killed six Americans, the Democrats invited him to kick off their hate festival. He is on record as saying it is the duty of all Muslims to replace the US Constitution with Sharia law.

Jibril Hough is a leader of a Charlotte, North Carolina mosque which has helped funnel millions of dollars to terrorist groups that are fighting and killing American troops. The North American Islamic Trust (NAIT) owns

the mosque building. The NAIT, which is a front for Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood, was also an unindicted co-conspirator of the 1993 WTC bombing.

As has been the case with other Jummahs led by Siraj Wahhaj, this one will be devoted to asking Allah to overthrow the Patriot Act and stop the New York Police Department's surveillance of our Islamist enemies.

Another attendee at the Mulim/Democrat hate-America gathering will be former military Chaplin James Yusuf Yee, a virulent anti-American who was charged with sedition for aiding the enemy and was only released when the government concluded its presentation of the evidence against him would expose national security secrets endangering Americans.

Also kneeling in prayer with Wahhaj Hough and Yee will be Hassen Abdellah, a lead defense attorney for several 9/11 terrorists who later proudly admitted they were guilty. The notation on the Jummah flyer calls Abdellah: "A Lead Defense Attorney For First 1993 World Trade Bombing Suspects Hassen Abdellah Has Etched His Name In Islamic History As It Is Being Written Right Here In America."

Prominent among the Democrats who are cheering the Islamists' drive to force sharia law on us is Congresswoman Maxine Waters, who claims that Republican resistance to Sharia law is fear mongering and bigotry. By backing Sharia law, Democrats are as dangerous to us as any America- hating Islamist. We cannot forget this in November.

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Archaeological Evidence of Samson? -

<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=38576>

Unearthed stone seal may depict Old Testament judge Samson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- A small stone seal unearthed in Israel is likely the first archaeological evidence of the Old Testament judge Samson, say the co-directors of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Center for Archaeological Research.



While not involved in the excavation that led to the discovery, center co-directors Daniel Warner and Dennis Cole said evidence characterizing the find makes it plausible that the seal supports a story of a young boy killing a lion with his bare hands.

"My initial assessment based upon what has been published to date would be that once again we have an artifact that does not contradict the biblical text, but in fact affirms it."

About half an inch in diameter, the seal depicts a human figure -- perhaps with long hair -- fighting what appears to be a lion-like animal with a feline tail. The seal dates to the 12th century B.C. and was excavated at the Beth Shemesh site in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem. Archeologists found the seal with other items on the floor of an excavated house near the Sorek River, the ancient border between Israelite and Philistine territories. Seals were used in biblical times by those of wealth and influence as proof of authenticity.

"My initial assessment based upon what has been published to date would be that once again we have an artifact that does not contradict the biblical text, but in fact affirms it," said Warner, New Orleans Seminary associate professor of Old Testament and archaeology.

Excavation directors Shlomo Bunimovitz and Zvi Lederman of Tel Aviv University do not claim that the figure on the seal is of the actual biblical Samson. Rather, they believe the seal probably indicates that a story was being told in 12th century B.C. of a hero who fought a lion.

Judges 14:6 records Samson killing a lion with his bare hands. Samson lived near the end of the biblical era of judges, which scholars have estimated began as early as 1400 B.C. and ended around 1050 B.C. The date of the seal falls within that range.

Warner, on staff at New Orleans Seminary's Orlando Hub in Florida, has been on archaeological expeditions with Bunimovitz and Lederman.

"According to the excavators, whom I have dug with in the past, the evidence places the find in close proximity of Samson's hometown of Zorah. Beth Shemesh is just across the Sorek Valley to the south of Zorah, in fact you can see it from Beth Shemesh," Warner said. "The date of the find appears to be in a solid context of the 12th century B.C., certainly within the time frame of Samson."

Cole, New Orleans Seminary's professor of Old Testament and archaeology, and the chair of the division of biblical studies, said the location of the find is significant.

"The interesting fact is that [the seal] was discovered in the shadows of Samson's hometown area of Zorah, located on the top of the hill immediately to the north of the [location] where the seal was found," Cole said. "The late 12th/early 11th century B.C. date would approximately date it to the judges period, and hence Samson."

Like Bunimovitz and Lederman, Cole said there's no clear evidence that the drawing on the seal depicts Samson himself.

"The geographical, chronological, and motif aspects fit the Samson context from Judges, but only textual data could fully confirm a direct relationship between the artifact and the biblical account," Cole said.

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Poems That Preach -

THE UNCHANGING WORD

*Feelings come and feelings go,
And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God -
Naught else is worth believing.*

*Though all my heart should feel condemned
For want of some sweet token,
There is One greater than my heart
Whose Word cannot be broken.*

*I'll trust in God's unchanging Word
Till soul and body sever,
For, though all things shall pass away,
HIS WORD SHALL STAND FOREVER!*

*Copied from Echoes of Grace,
Bible Truth Publishers*

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Blinded Minds -

What Happens When Megachurch Pastors Amuse Goats Instead of Feeding Sheep -

<http://www.alittleleaven.com/2012/08/ed-youngs-shark-song.html>

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- The word of God is His perfect message to men. If that be spurned, He has nothing more to say to them until they meet Him in judgment. Wherever that word is proclaimed, it puts those who hear it in the place of responsibility such as they never knew before. The light shines from the word. If they refuse its testimony, they prove that they love darkness rather than light. That word contains all that is necessary to show the way of life. Moses and the prophets all spake of Him. But in the New Testament we have the full-orbed revelation of Him who has come in grace to seek and to save the lost. He who believes finds deliverance. He who turns away will perish in his sins. --*H. A. Ironside*
- Be of good comfort, Mr. Ridley, and play the man. We shall this day light such a candle by God's grace in England, As (I trust) shall never be put out. - *Hugh Latimer*, prior to being burned for heresy, 16th October, 1555

- The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance: which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime, and the punishment of his guilt. - *John Philpot Curran*, Irish judge

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One of the Best Investments Preachers Can Make -

THE TREASURY OF RARE DISPENSATIONAL COMMENTARIES

AUGUST 29, 2012

(first published December 11, 2010) *David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service*

P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143

fbns@wayoflife.org

The Treasury of Rare Dispensational Commentaries is a collection of 100 rare old commentaries that are written from a Dispensational and Premillennial position. The majority of commentaries that are readily available today are Reformed and Amillennial. They interpret prophecy by the false allegorical methodology and erroneously view the Church as Israel. Many of the best Dispensational and Premillennial commentaries are out of print.

I decided to create this collection when I realized that very few Premillennial commentaries are available in electronic edition for the computer. As a missionary who lives overseas and travels extensively, almost all of the commentaries I regularly use are on my computer.

The following is a description of the contents of the material in this collection:

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The following 21 volumes are by the popular Brethren preacher H. A. Ironside (1876-1951) -- Joshua, Ezra, Nehemiah, Psalms, Proverbs, S. Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets, Matthew, Mark, John, Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2 and 3 John, Jude, Revelation

THE NUMERICAL BIBLE

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THE ANNOTATED BIBLE - GAEBELEIN COLLECTION

This collection consists of works by Arno C. Gaebelin (1880-1950). There is the 9-volume Annotated Bible, plus the following single volumes: As It Was--So Shall It Be, Conflict of the Ages, Daniel, Ezekiel, Gabriel and Michael the Archangel, Harmony of the Prophetic Word, Our Age and Its End, World Prospects.

THE DARBY/ KELLY/ SCROGGIE COLLECTION

This collection consists of books by John Darby (1800-1882), William Kelly (1821-1906), and W. Graham Scroggie (1877-1958). It includes Darby's 5-volume Synopsis of the Bible with index, plus the single volume Lectures on the Addresses of the Seven Churches

The volumes by William Kelly are Chronicles, Judges, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Matthew, John, Acts, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians and Colossians, 1-2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon, Hebrews, James, Epistles of John, Revelation, Light for the Pilgrim Pathway, Pamphlets (Creation, Second Coming, etc.)

The volumes by W. Graham Scroggie are Commentary on Revelation, The Lord's Return, Prophecy and History, and The Unfolding Drama of Redemption.

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Every article published by the [FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST INFORMATION SERVICE](#) from 1995 to 2009.

Every issue of the [FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES](#) from 2000 to 2009, including the graphical editions.

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Lord Prop Me Up On My Leanin' Side

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old fellow who always prayed, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side.'

After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this....



I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years.

It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit.

So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn.

I've been around a long time.

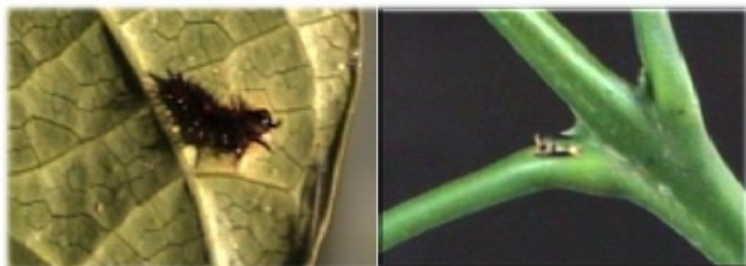
I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.

Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't.

So we need to pray, 'Lord, prop us up on our leaning side' so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord."

contributed by *Fran Carling*

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Critter Sermons - The Butterfly

Left - Two tiny caterpillars have hatched from our eggs.

That's right, the innocent little egg couldn't stay like it was, it had to hatch. The first action of this little caterpillar is to

eat the very eggshell it hatched from. Why? Well first, because of some nutrition it gets from the shell, but most of all to begin hiding it's existence. It is covering it's past. This caterpillar has now gained the knowledge that it is vulnerable to predators, has an existence, and needs to sustain its now growing body.

Wait a minute. What happened to Adam and Eve? God told the man, Genesis 2-17. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil thou shalt not eat of it, for in the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. To keep our story short we know that Eve ate and invited her husband to eat, "And they became wise." First thing that happened, they hid themselves, gaining knowledge of SIN and covered themselves. Not sure where our caterpillar was but seems he learned the same lessons when he hatched and gained wisdom. We see that this knowledge gained by man was because of disobedience that creates a very ugly scene.



Now we have the ugly caterpillar. All he can think of is himself. He eats and eats, destroys the beauty of the plant he is on, wrecks our gardens, and frightens our children. He has no thought of any other creature around him. Both of our caterpillars shown hatch and grow throughout this stage on poisonous food plants. The more pleasant of the two, (Ulysses Caterpillar) hatches and grows on the Corkwood Tree. This tree has a white milk sap that is very poisonous, and it is said that this sap was used on spearheads by our early aboriginals, to aid their killing power.

Our ugly caterpillar, (Cairns Birdwing) lives and grows on a vine found in the north Queensland rain forests, (Aristolochia) common name, Dutchman Pipe. The sap again is very poisonous. Although caterpillars can eat these plants, any bird or spider trying to make a meal of them will end up the worst off. Not until the chrysalis stage do we find a predator. Once again, who told this parent butterfly to lay her egg on those special host plants? Did they just happen to find this out. Might I present to you again another of God's invisible works of creation. Whilst we know it happens we also know that only a great Creator could speak and this would happen. Blesses my heart to observe these things by faith, created by a wonderful God.



Above Left- Eating his own skin. Above Right - Spinning The Cremasta.

Soon will come the time when this ugly, destructive, undesirable critter will make some seemingly rash decisions, but before we look at them let's think. What has SIN done to mankind since the fall of Adam? From that day he became wise, and so the degrading of that wonderful creation, made in the image of God has been dramatic. Sin has taken him to great depths. Like the caterpillar he thinks only of self, eats for his own benefit, does nothing to glorify his maker. Unless something (a miracle) happens both caterpillar and man will end in destruction. I can hear you asking, "But how do we get to the butterfly?" Well folks there has to be a change, a great change, and we'll just touch on it this week.

Only God has put in this critter the instinct to stop eating and start looking for a suitable place to attach himself ready for this massive change. He may crawl around on the vine for up to two days before selecting this spot. Note in our picture he has attached his tail end to a limb and is proceeding to spin a strand or loop in which this change will happen. This loop is called a cremasta, and is made of hundreds of small strands of silk like material bonded together. Would you agree with me that only an all powerful, all knowing God has done this? Again I have to ask, "Where did the caterpillar learn this from?" My wife and I have studied this

process over and over again and it happens the same every time. Over forty years of observing these critters it has happened the exact same way.

Rejoice with us, we have a wonderful God whom we can put ALL our trust in.

In the next issue we will look at this amazing change.

Kevin & Pat Milson

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How Calvinists Manipulate the Sovereignty of God

By Kent Brandenburg

It's ironic, but Calvinists manipulate the sovereignty of God. God is sovereign. He is. But Calvinists argue and write as though they are sovereign over His sovereignty. We can't let God be sovereign. He just is. But in beliefs, we should also allow Him to be sovereign. Since He is sovereign, we should let what He says about His own sovereignty actually be His sovereignty, not fiddle with it.

As sovereign as God is, which also involves His wisdom, power, and love, He can preserve His Word and He can preserve my soul. Many Calvinists today see God has sovereignty over their souls, but not over His Word. They are eclectic textual critics, hoping to still find God's Words. They're the ones who choose. Of course, He chooses them before the foundation of the world, unconditionally and they can't resist receiving Him, but many of them believe and teach that God couldn't or just didn't fulfill what He said He would do with His Words. That unwillingness to believe what God said He would do, but then to believe things that Scripture doesn't say, based on their own logic, is where God isn't God any more to the Calvinist. They've claimed sovereignty over the doctrine of preservation of Scripture. And then there are all the out-and-out Calvinists, who say that salvation is all about God, monergism and all that, but then they are the biggest proponents of many various new measures, humanly derived, for church growth, as if it really did depend on their ingenuity. This is where I say that I'm more Calvinist than Calvinists are. But I digress.

When Calvinists lay out their system and plug the verses in, they can make them make sense, if that were all you were left with. But as they read in their context, they don't have to mean what a Calvinist says they mean. They will only mean that if Calvinism itself were true. As we've done with the rest of this series so far, let me reveal what I'm talking about with Scripture. The verses are what keep me from being a Calvinist anyway.

In Luke 13:23, because of how things were going in Jesus' ministry, someone asked him, "Are there few that be saved?" If the Calvinistic view of total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, and irresistible grace were true, Jesus should say, "There are few because God chose only a few and Christ died for just a few. Men are dead and they are unable to respond unless God first regenerates them to believe." But Jesus didn't. He made it sound like few were saved because men weren't striving (agonizing) to enter the narrow gate (v. 24). If He wanted men to strive, all He needed to do was to regenerate a few more to

do so. And how much actual striving is necessary when grace is irresistible. No resistance doesn't sound like striving. This is just an example of how what Jesus says clashes with a Calvinistic view of salvation.

The points of Calvinism don't glorify God more than how He wants to be glorified. God doesn't get glorified more by misrepresentations of Himself. I contend that Calvinism has become (of course only hypothetically or in a Calvinistic thought experiment) sovereign over God's sovereignty. I want actual sovereignty, not a made-up kind that poses as glorifying God more. Salvation is of the Lord. That, I have no doubt. It can't be more "of the Lord" than the Lord Himself makes it.

excerpted from: http://kentbrandenburg.blogspot.com.au/2012_07_01_archive.html

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What Do College Freshmen Think?

Every year, Beloit College in Beloit, Wis., releases its Mindset List to give a snapshot of how the incoming freshmen class views the world. The list for the Class of 2016:

- They have always lived in cyberspace, addicted to a new generation of "electronic narcotics."
- The Biblical sources of terms such as "forbidden fruit," "the writing on the wall," "good Samaritan," and "the promised land" are unknown to most of them.
- If they miss The Daily Show, they can always get their news on YouTube.
- Bill Clinton is a senior statesman of whose presidency they have little knowledge.
- They have never seen an airplane "ticket."
- On TV and in films, the ditzy dumb blonde female generally has been replaced by a couple of dumb and dumber males.
- For most of their lives, maintaining relations between the U.S. and the rest of the world has been a woman's job in the State Department.
- They can't picture people actually carrying luggage through airports rather than rolling it.
- Having grown up with MP3s and iPods, they never listen to music on the car radio and really have no use for radio at all.
- Their folks have never gazed with pride on a new set of bound encyclopedias on the bookshelf.
- A significant percentage of them will enter college already displaying some hearing loss.
- Probably the most tribal generation in history, they despise being separated from contact with their similar-aged friends.
- Thousands have always been gathering for "million-man" demonstrations in Washington, D.C.
- They watch television everywhere but on a television.

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Idol Shepherds -

There is in Zechariah a curious description of Old Testament priests or prophets who neglected the people under their care. They are called "idol shepherds." When we consider the condition of many local churches today, we wonder if they, too, have idol shepherds as their pastors? - Ed.

Zechariah 11:17 "Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened."

Woe to the idol shepherd - (A shepherd of nothingness, one who hath no quality of a shepherd ;) "who leaveth the flock." The condemnation of the evil shepherd is complete in the abandonment of the sheep; as our Lord says, "He that is an hireling and not the Shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming and leaveth the sheep and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling and careth not for the sheep" Joh 10:12-13.



Or it may equally be, "Shepherd, thou idol," including the original meaning of nothingness, such as antichrist will be, (Jerome), "while he calleth himself God, and willeth to be worshiped." Jerome: "This shepherd shall therefore arise in Israel, because the true Shepherd had said, 'I will not feed you.' He is prophesied of by another name in Daniel the prophet Dan. 9, and in the Gospel Mark 13, and in the Epistle of Paul to the Thessalonians 2 Thes 2, as 'the abomination of desolation,' who shall sit in the temple of the Lord, and make himself as God. He cometh not to heal but to destroy the flock of Israel. This shepherd the Jews shall receive, whom the 'Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of His mouth; and destroy with the brightness of His coming?'"

The sword shall be upon - (against) his arm and right eye. His boast shall be of intelligence, and might. The punishment and destruction shall be directed against the instrument of each, the eye and the arm. Jerome: "The eye, whereby he shall boast to behold acutely the mysteries of God, and to see more than all prophets heretofore, so that he shall call himself son of God. But the word of the Lord shall be upon his arm and upon his right eye, so that his strength and all his boast of might shall be dried up, and the knowledge which he promised himself falsely, shall be obscured in everlasting darkness." (Dionysius: "Above and against the power of antichrist, shall be the virtue and vengeance and sentence of Christ, who shall 'slay' him 'with the breath of His mouth.' The right arm, the symbol of might, and the right eye which was to direct its aim, should fail together, through the judgment of God against him. He, lately boastful and persecuting shall become blind and powerless, bereft alike of wisdom and strength.

The "right" in Holy Scripture being so often a symbol of what is good, the left of what is evil, it may be also imagined, that (Osorius), "the left eye, that is, the acumen and cunning to devise deadly frauds, will remain uninjured: while the 'right eye,' that is, counsel to guard against evil, will be sunk in thick darkness. And so, the more he employs his ability to evil, the more frantically will he bring to bear destruction upon himself:"

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Therapy For The Funny Bone -

- A priest was invited to attend a house party. Naturally, he was properly dressed and wearing his Priest's Collar. A little boy kept staring at him the entire evening. Finally, the priest asked the little boy what he was staring at. The little boy pointed to the priest's neck. When the priest finally realized what the boy was pointing at, He asked the boy, "Do you know why I am wearing that?" The boy nodded his head yes, and replied, "It kills fleas and ticks for up to three months".
- Every time I say the word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

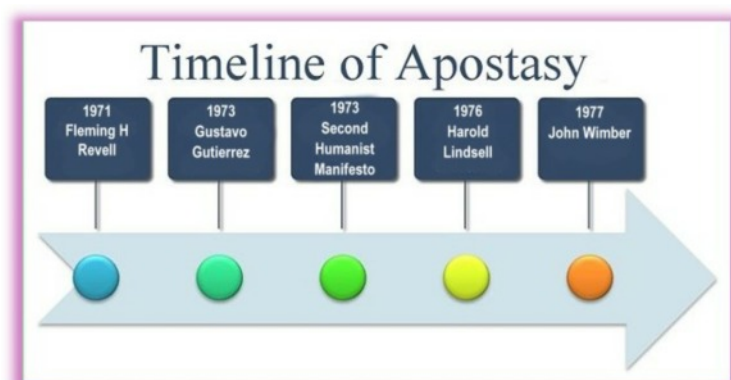
- A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, and the birds are singing, and the breeze is blowing, and the fish are biting, and the lawnmower is broken.

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Deacon True Sez -

Old Jake, our next door neighbour, is one of them predestination and election Primitive Baptists. He's always quotin' "many are called, but few are chosen" to me. So one day I asked him how he came to know the Lord, and he told me that a Methodist Sunday School teacher led him to the Lord when he was just a little nipper. So I asked him if he didn't think that maybe the Lord has a sense of humour. After all, it looks to me like the Lord uses a lot of free-will folks to evangelize most of them folks that don't believe in free will a-tall.

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Decades of Decadence - A Timeline of Apostasy

Updated ----- September 30, 2009
 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; www.wayoflife.org)

1971--Fleming H. Revell published *A Prejudiced Protestant Takes a New Look at the Catholic Church* by James Hefley, a Southern Baptist pastor who described how his "prejudice" against the Roman Catholic Church had dissolved since Vatican II.

----- Seven thousand people jammed into New York City's Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine for a Hair Mass, a service commemorating the third anniversary of the Broadway opening of the hippy musical. The event featured braless women, hot pants, a rock band, and balloons ("Troubadours for God," Time, May 24, 1971).

----- At New York City's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church a minister baptized a baby "in the name of the Father, the Holy Ghost, and Jesus Christ Superstar," a reference to the blasphemous musical that depicted the Lord Jesus as a common sinner ("The New Rebel Cry: Jesus Is Coming!" Time, June 21, 1971).

----- In *The Gospel Sound*, Anthony Heilbut testified that contemporary Christian music is permeated with homosexuality. "The gospel church has long been a refuge for gays and lesbians, some of whom grew up to be among the greatest singers and musicians."

1972--Cecil Williams, pastor of the Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco, said, "I don't want to go to no heaven ... I don't believe in that stuff. I think it's a lot of - - - ." (We have deleted his expletive.)

----- William Johnson of the Northern California Golden Gate Association of the United Church of Christ became the first openly homosexual person to be ordained by a mainline denomination. When asked if he could be a good minister without a wife, Johnson replied, "I don't really feel I need a wife. I hope some day to share a deep love relationship with another man" (New York Times, May 2, 1972).

----- Fuller Theological Seminary formally changed its doctrinal statement to reflect the heresy that had been taught there since the early 1960s. The original statement said that the Bible is "plenarily inspired and free from all error in the whole and in the part." The new statement eliminated "free from all error in the whole and in the part," leaving room for the heretical view held by Fuller President David Hubbard and many Fuller professors that the Bible contains errors.

----- At St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Manhattan in 1972, "an environmental theater baptism service featured photos of the Kennedy brothers and Martin Luther King Jr., a man shaving in an open bathroom singing 'We Shall Overcome,' three nude young people playing kazoos and splashing in a plastic wading pool, an actor performing a bathtub scene from a play, and incense" (Thomas Reeves, *The Empty Church: The Suicide of Liberal Christianity*, 1996, p. 154).

----- At its 1972 Quadrennial Conference, the United Methodist Church formally approved a policy of doctrinal pluralism founded upon the four-fold authority of Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason.

----- Charles Dullea, Superior of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, explained why Romanists and Modernists accept Billy Graham: "Because he is preaching basic Christianity, he does not enter into matters which today divide Christians. He does not touch on Sacraments or Church in any detail. ... The Catholic will hear no slighting of his Church's teaching authority, nor of Papal or Episcopal Prerogatives, no word against the mass or sacraments or Catholic practices. Graham HAS NO TIME FOR THAT; he is preaching only Christ and a personal commitment to Him. The Catholic, in my opinion will hear little, if anything, he cannot agree with" (Dullea, "A Catholic Looks at Billy Graham," *Homiletic & Pastoral Review*, Jan. 1972).

----- Harvard scientist Ernst Mayr called "the Darwinian revolution of 1859, perhaps the most fundamental of all intellectual revolutions in the history of mankind," because "it affected every metaphysical and ethical concept" ("The Nature of the Darwinian Revolution," *Science*, June 2, 1972).

1973--Gustavo Gutierrez published *A Theology of Liberation*, becoming a prominent voice for Liberation Theology, which sees salvation in terms of the liberation of society from social and economic injustice. It is a Marxist approach to Christianity.

----- In Milwaukee on October 21, Billy Graham said, "This past week I preached in a great Catholic Cathedral a funeral sermon for a close friend of mine who was a Catholic [publisher James Strohn Copley], and they had several bishops and archbishops to participate, and as I sat there going through THE FUNERAL MASS THAT WAS A VERY BEAUTIFUL THING AND CERTAINLY STRAIGHT AND CLEAR IN THE GOSPEL, I believe..." (Billy Graham, *Church League of America*, p. 84).

----- J. Kincaid Smith testified that when he graduated this year from Hamma School of Theology, a Lutheran Church in America seminary, the following conditions prevailed: "To the best of my knowledge, none of my classmates, nor I, believed in any of the miraculous elements in the Bible, in anything supernatural, no six day creation, that Adam and Eve were real historical people, that God really spoke to people, the flood with Noah and the Ark, the Red Sea parting. We believed that no Old Testament Scriptures foretold of Jesus of Nazareth, that Jesus was not anticipated in the Old Testament. No virgin birth. One of my New Testament profs. was moved to write a poem for the occasion of his receiving tenure. It was read at the service at Wittenberg University Chapel. In it he speculated that Jesus' father was an itinerant Roman soldier. He flatly denied the real deity of Christ" (reported in *Christian News*, April 29, 1985).

----- [Margaret Mead](#) became the darling of the sexual revolution with the publication of *Coming of Age in Samoa*, a supposed scientific study proving that the people of Samoa had no code of ethics, participated in casual sex, and as a consequence suffered no guilt or stress, which were alleged to be the result of Christianity's restrictive morality. It turned out that Mead's work was based on a lie and that the Samoans have a strict moral code and commitment to monogamy and fidelity in marriage. After three failed marriages, Mead died in 1978 in the arms of a psychic faith healer.

----- [The Second Humanist Manifesto](#) was signed by 120 influential men and women, including Isaac Asimov, Francis Crick, and B.F. Skinner. It criticized Theism, claiming that "faith in a prayer-hearing God is an unproved and outmoded faith," and condemned the religious teaching of salvation, calling it "harmful, diverting people with false hopes of heaven hereafter."

1974--[The March issue of Eternity magazine](#) contained an article by Bernard Ramm entitled "Welcome, Green-Grass Evangelicals." After listing five characteristics (they are not interested in doctrinal questions or the controversy over evolution or the details of Bible prophecy or in debates over biblical infallibility and they put more premium on psychological wholeness than doctrinal correctness), Ramm said he welcomed these "evangelicals."

1975--[In May, 10,000 Catholic charismatics](#) gathered in St. Peter's in Rome for the feast of Pentecost and received the blessing of Pope Paul VI.

----- [In his biography of prominent names](#) in the field of psychology, Leonard Zusne praised Charles Darwin and said that his books "spell out the basic assumption underlying psychology, namely that man is on a continuum with the rest of the animal world ... The evolutionary method ... is now the accepted and pervasive point of view in psychology" (*Names in the History of Psychology*, p. 112).

1976--[Harold Lindsell](#) testified: "It is not unfair to allege that among denominations like Episcopal, United Methodist, United Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, the Lutheran Church in America, and the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. there is not a single theological seminary that takes a stand in favor of biblical infallibility. And there is not a single seminary where there are not faculty members who disavow one or more of the major teachings of the Christian faith" (*Lindsell, The Battle for the Bible*).

----- [Carl Henry](#) warned, "A growing vanguard of young graduates of evangelical colleges who hold doctorates from non-evangelical divinity centers now question or disown inerrancy" ("*Conflict Over Biblical Inerrancy*," *Christianity Today*, May 7, 1976).

----- [Cardinal Manning](#) of Los Angeles said, "Anyone who has become a genuine Charismatic, to my knowledge, has become a better Catholic" (*Charismatic Renewal for Catholics*, 1976, p. 48).

----- [Bishop James Thomas](#), of the United Methodist Church, told the UMC Quadrennial General Conference, "We do not believe ... in rigid doctrinal concepts to hold us steady in a wavering world" (*F.E.A. News & Views*, May-June 1976).

1977--[Anne Holmes](#) of the United Church of Christ became the first openly lesbian woman ordained by a mainline Protestant denomination. Later in the year, Ellen Barrett became the first openly homosexual priest to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. She said that her relationship with her lesbian lover "is what feeds the strength and compassion I bring to the ministry" ("*The Lesbian Priest*," *Time magazine*, January 24, 1977).

----- [John Wimber](#) began pastoring a church in Anaheim, California, that would grow to 6,000 members and become the mother church of the Vineyard Association, comprised today of more than 700 churches worldwide and prominent in the contemporary worship movement.

----- A massive ecumenical conference was held in Kansas City in July, with the 50,000 participants (45% Roman Catholic) gathering under the banner of "Unity in the Lordship of Jesus." Catholic Kevin Ranaghan declared that the streams of Christianity are coming together, "God has dug some canals between the streams. Tonight they are coming together and will flow forth from this stadium and this conference and will burst upon the nation as we go forth a newly-united people." Jamie Buckingham said, "We cannot have unity based on doctrine. Doctrine will always separate the body of Christ."

----- The second National Evangelical Anglican Congress, meeting in Nottingham, England, stated: "Seeing ourselves and Roman Catholics as fellow-Christians, we repent of attitudes that have seemed to deny it ... We believe that the visible unity of all professing Christians should be our goal."

1978--In his book *The Worldly Evangelicals*, Richard Quebedeaux stated: "... it is a well-known fact that a large number, if not most, of the colleges and seminaries in question now have faculty who no longer believe in total inerrancy, even in situations where their employers still require them to sign the traditional declaration that the Bible is 'verbally inspired,' 'inerrant,' or 'infallible in the whole and in the part,' or to affirm in other clearly defined words the doctrine of inerrancy..."

----- In August, Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke of his hope for reunion with Rome: "Only a few more divine miracles will bring us to that day of unity in truth and holiness, total unity in the Mass given to us by Jesus" (quoted by Adrian Hastings, *English Christianity*, p. 629).

----- In October, Billy Graham held a crusade in Catholic Poland. Upon being met at the airport by Bishop Wladyslaw Miziolek, chairman of the Committee on Ecumenism of the Polish Catholic Church, Graham said that this adventure represented a new spirit of cooperation that was a constructive example for Christians in other nations (John Pollock, *Billy Graham*, p. 308). Four of the rallies were held in Catholic churches, with priests participating on the platform with Graham. Cardinal Karol Wojtyla had offered the 700-year-old St. Anne's Church in Cracow to Graham, but just before the evangelist's arrival in Poland, Wojtyla was unexpectedly called away to the conclave in Rome to meet with the College of Cardinals and a few days later he was elected Pope John Paul II. While in Poland, Graham visited the Marian shrine of Jasna Gora (featuring an icon of the Black Madonna) in Czestochowa. A picture in *Decision* magazine for February 1979 showed Graham welcoming pilgrims to the shrine. In the minds of his Catholic observers, this ill-advised visit doubtless put Graham's stamp of approval upon the idolatrous Mary veneration that is featured at this influential shrine. In his book *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, Pope John Paul II testified that his personal devotion to Mary was developed at Marian sites such as "at Jasna Gora" (p. 220).

1979--Two books appeared this year to promote ecumenical unity between Protestants, Charismatics, and the Roman Catholic Church. *The Three Sisters* (Tyndale House Publishers) by Michael Harper proclaimed that Roma, Charisma, and Evangeline were merely sisters in the same family. In *That They May Be One* (Logos Press) Thomas Twitchell expressed his hope that Charismatic-Roman Catholic unity would soon be realized.

----- The National Capitol Union Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) voted by a margin of 165-59 to ordain Mansfield Kaseman as a pastor even though he openly denied the deity, virgin birth, sinlessness, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. When asked, "Is Jesus God," Kaseman replied, "No, God is God." Upon appeal, the denomination's highest court vindicated Kaseman.

----- When Cardinal Fulton Sheen died on December 9, Billy Graham praised him for breaking down the walls between Catholics and Protestants and said: "I count it a privilege to have known him as a friend for over 35 years. I mourn his death and look forward to our reunion in Heaven" (*Religious News Service*, Dec. 11, 1979). Yet Sheen's hope for Heaven was Mary. He devoted an entire chapter of his autobiography to Mary, "The Woman I Love," saying: "When I was ordained, I took a resolution to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Eucharist every Saturday to the Blessed Mother ... All this makes me very certain that when I go before

the Judgment Seat of Christ, He will say to me in His Mercy: 'I heard My Mother speak of you'" (Fulton J. Sheen, *Treasure in Clay*, p. 317).

----- [Marsha Stevens](#), who has been called "the mother of contemporary Christian Music, broke her sacred marriage vows and divorced her husband of seven years, because she had "fallen in love with a woman." In the 1980s she joined the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches and founded Born Again Lesbian Music (BALM). Her first song was "Free to Be," which proclaims the heresy that God doesn't condemn homosexuality as sin and that you are free to be whatever you want in Christ.

[1980--The ordination of Robert Runcie as Archbishop of Canterbury](#) was another step toward unification with Rome. Prior to Runcie's selection, Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England, was consulted as to the Vatican's will in the matter. This paved the way for the appointment of the pro-Romanist Runcie. At the ordination, several Catholic cardinals were given prominent seats near Runcie, a hymn was sung in praise to Mary, and Cardinal Hume read a Scripture lesson. Billy Graham was a guest and gave a warm greeting to the new archbishop.

----- [The Assemblies of God](#) reinstated the ministerial credentials that it had revoked from David du Plessis 18 years earlier for his ecumenical relationships with the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches. Du Plessis had advised Catholics to remain in the Catholic Church after they had experienced "Spirit baptism."

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Eddy-Torial - The Missing Evidences of Life

It is about 30 years since I read Tozer's editorial "Are We Losing Our 'OH!' ?". It was at that time we were learning the nature of worship, true worship, real, biblical worship. In those days, at least in fundamental churches, worship had nothing to do with rock musicians smooching microphones on church platforms and pretending to praise God. In those days worship had to do with the adoration of God. It involved

a sense of amazement and wonder and of being totally out of our depth as we contemplated His works, and words, and will and ways. Worship was not a religious mosh pit with smoke and mirrors and laser shows and mega-amplifiers and long haired lovers of the Beatles.

Worship called to mind scenes from Scripture where Daniel and John fell on their faces before the Lord because of His Majesty and Glory. It had to do with Isaiah lamenting the uncleanness of his lips when he beheld the LORD upon His throne, high and lifted up. It had to do with Saul lying prostrate on a dusty road, not just pricked, but pierced through and through with conviction, and in brokenness, yielding up his will to the will of His Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I suggest that the present day deadness of the churches has to do with the loss of our "OH!" The ability to worship God in amazement and adoration and of being overwhelmed totally by the magnificence of Jehovah has all but disappeared from our churches. It has been leached out of our liturgy.

Medical experts tell us that the human race is losing its virility. Men are less and less able to reproduce. But if this is true, it is nowhere near as serious as the churches losing the vitality of their worship.

How do we know this to be accurate? The anemia of our churches is so patently obvious that Blind Freddy can see it with both eyes closed. You see, true worship is accompanied by all the other graces of Christ. Joy and Love and Mercy and Courage and Faith and Discernment and Perseverance and Compassion and Zeal have become the endangered species in most of our churches. Are you pastors willing to put it to the test? Check and see how many Amens you hear in a Sunday morning service, and what they are for? Check the smile index at your church and see how many of your people still have any joy in their hearts and whether it is real or fake. If you do find someone smiling, ask them why. And why not try calling for testimonies at church on a Sunday night, and if someone is actually willing to testify, then assay their testimony and see whether it has to do with their cat's ingrown toenail getting better or if it is true praise to God for His goodness to the sons of men?

And what about the Prayer Meeting? Is it dying or thriving? Is there a sense of wonder and gratitude or is it almost impossible to get anyone to even mumble out a prayer request? And when there are requests made, do they sound like a Who's Who In The Hospital? True worship stirs up the souls of the saints so that they weep for the lost and cry to God for mercy to be shown to sinners.

It's about time somebody did an autopsy on the local church. We need to know what turns living assemblies into corpses.

The loss of true worship, personally and collectively, is one answer.

So who stole the worshipful spirit we once enjoyed? What displaced it? Or replaced it?

Was it the idol shepherds who filled our pulpits with dull sermons, sermons that had somehow lost the wonder of worship? Was it because the pastor no longer preached as a dying man to dying men? Was it because pastor was too busy jetting around the world to care for the sheep committed to his care? Was it because he'd lost the sense of amazement and wonder as he read his Bible? Was it because he no longer stained the walls of his study with the breath of his prayers?

Was it the loss of the worshipful hymns when they were replaced by the cheap little semi-religious ditties downloaded off the internet? Was it the importing of crossover music and the ferals that sang it in our churches?

Was it the shift from giving glory to God through Amens and Hallelujahs and Praise the Lord to giving honour to men through applauding their performances? Was it the honouring of men as they sat in their high seats? Or when they gave and received their doctors' degrees? Was it their increasing dependence on educational attainments and their loss of true godliness?

Was it the move from local churches being "little flocks" whose existence depended on the daily watchcare of the Good Shepherd to being big business empires with CEO's behind football field sized desks?

Was it the birth and growth and nurture and feeding of the elitism that we now see in all denominational hierarchy?

Was it the chill of the New Calvinism that introduced Augustine's fatalism into our churches?

Whatever the cause, we need the hands that hang down to be placed together and lifted up in prayer. We need the feeble knees to be lifted up just long enough to get to the place of prayer and then bent for long

sessions of adoring, confessing, gratitude, and intercessory praying. We need straight paths made for our feet and feet willing to walk in them.

We need to read our Bibles on our knees once again. We need to praise our Creator and marvel at His Wisdom and Power. We need to stand with trembling Israel at Mt. Sinai and hear the Voice of God giving His righteous laws and then see ourselves to be guilty of every one. We need to stand with Isaiah on the mount of prophecy and behold afar the Suffering Servant of Jehovah, bearing our sins upon the tree. We need to hear Isaac ask, "My father, where is the Lamb?" and then hear John answer, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." We need to enter the empty tomb with Peter and John and touch the nailprints with Thomas. We need to prostrate ourselves in the dust with Saul of Tarsus and then with Silas sing praises to God in prison until we feel the earth shake beneath us.

When we have done these things and tarried until our hearts are broken, until we tremble at the word of God, and until our lips are once more filled with praise, then we can stand behind the sacred desk and worshipfully preach the glorious gospel of Christ as we should.

Until our people become worshippers again.

And the life of the church is renewed.

When we have recovered our "Oh!"

Bro. Buddy Smith

PS The reference to "idol shepherds is found here:

Zechariah 11:17, "Woe to the idol shepherd that leaveth the flock! the sword shall be upon his arm, and upon his right eye: his arm shall be clean dried up, and his right eye shall be utterly darkened."

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

Grace
Baptist Church
MALANDA

On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia

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