



December 14, 2012

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## Feature Article – Counting the Cost – Part 2

by Charles H. Spurgeon

In the last issue of Heads Up we published the first part of a sermon on discipleship by Charles Spurgeon. The sermon began thus,

*“For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not down first, and counts the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.” Luke 14:28-30.*

This passage is peculiar to Luke. He tells us that at the time when our Lord uttered it, great multitudes followed Him. It is observable that when our Lord was forsaken by the crowd, He was not depressed, and when His ministry became popular He was not elated. He was calm and wise in the midst of the excitement of the thronging multitudes. This passage is sufficient evidence of that fact. On this occasion our Lord spoke with a view to the winnowing of the great heap of nominal discipleship which lay before Him, that the chaff might be driven away and only the precious corn might remain.



The second heading is this:

## Wisdom Suggests That We Should Count the Cost

You feel you would like to be a Christian. Dear Friend, give me your hand. I am glad you have such a desire. But as I grasp your hand and would gladly draw you towards Christ, I look you in the face and say, "Do you know what you desire?" Are you sure you desire it? There are men lying on beds of sickness who cry for help, but when they recover and have to go out and battle with the world, the time may come when they will say, "I would just as soon be on the bed of sickness again." I should not like a time to come when any one of you shall say, "I joined the Church, but it was a mistake. I did not weigh the matter rightly. I am now in for it, and I am sorry I am, for I ought not to be where I am." If honest, you ought to give up your profession, if such is the case. If you have no Divine Grace, I hope you will have enough of common honesty not to stick to a practical falsehood. I should grieve, indeed, if that should happen, and therefore this morning, I pray you, count the cost! For mark, if you do not count the cost, you will not be able to carry out your resolves. It is a great building. It is a great war!

No mistake can be greater than the notion that in order to be a Christian there is only needed a measure of emotion during a few days—and the belief of someone decisive hour! If I preached such doctrines I should be deceiving your souls! Faith and repentance are not the work of a week or two, they are a lifework! As long as the Christian is on earth he must repent. And as for faith, it is not saying, "I believe in Jesus, and therefore I am saved," but it is a daily Grace, the trust of a lifetime. The Christian continues, still, to believe and repent until he commences to triumph in eternal Glory. Moreover, faith is continually productive of sanctifying results upon the life of the Believer, or otherwise he is not possessed of the right faith. He who believes in Jesus Christ is saved—but if there were such a thing as a temporary faith there would be such a thing as a temporary salvation. He who truly repents of sin is a renewed man, but if repentance of sin were only a transient thing and were soon over, the life which it indicated would be over, too.

You must not be content with false and fleeting religion! You are beginning to build a tower of which the top stone will never be laid till you are taken up to Heaven—and you are commencing a war which will never end till you exchange the sword for the palm branch.

Remember, also, that to fail in this great enterprise will involve terrible defeat, for what does our Lord say? He says that not to be able to finish will expose you to ridicule. I beg you to notice the form of that ridicule. "All that pass by will begin to mock him, saying one to the other (for that is the force of the expression) this man began to build but was not able to finish." Our Lord does not represent them as saying to the foolish builder, "You began to build and were not able to finish," but as speaking about him as a third person—"This man." Now, half-hearted Christians, half-hearted religious men may not be scoffed at in the public streets to their faces, but they are common butts of ridicule behind their backs. You false professors are universally despised! Worldlings laughingly say, "Ah, these are pretty specimens of Church members!"

The world looks upon a worldly church with utter disdain, and for my part, little do I regret that such derision is poured upon an object which so well deserves it! To be a mere pretender to Christian discipleship is to become an object of scorn in time and in eternity. And such will be the false professor's fate.

Sir, if you mean to be a Christian, resolve that it shall be the right thing, thorough and decided—for then, though men will not go about and praise you to your face, they will honor you—and even those who hate you will know your value. But if you are only half a Christian and not thorough, they may not come to your face and show their contempt, but as they pass by they will sneer and will have more respect for a downright worldling than for you—because he is what he says he is, and makes no pretence of being anything else! But as for you, you began to build and could not finish. What a wretched object is a sham Christian!

We have sometimes seen great buildings which have been commenced and deserted by over-speculative persons. The neighbors have called them "Smithy's Folly," or "Brown's Folly," or "Robinson's Folly," or the like. These are but fleeting causes of derision. But the pretender, the man who, in appearance, commenced to be a Christian and then broke down at it, will be pointed at even by the lost in Hell! The drunkard will cry, "And you? Have you, also, come here? You who were so eloquent about sobriety, and so ready to rebuke the tippler." "Aha!" cries another, "you are the man who lived down our street and made so much show of your religion! You told me I was very wicked, but are you better off than I am?" Behold, I see the openly profane raise themselves up from their racks of remorse to exclaim, "Have you become like one of us? You Church-member, are you, too, in Hell? Is the taste of the sacramental wine still upon your lips? Why, then, do you demand a drop of water to cool your tongue? That sacramental bread which you did swallow so readily, does it not even now stick in your hypocritical throat? You liar before God and man! It is meet and right that you are cast out even as we." Oh, if you must be lost, be lost as anything but hypocrites! If you must perish, perish rather outside the Church than in it!

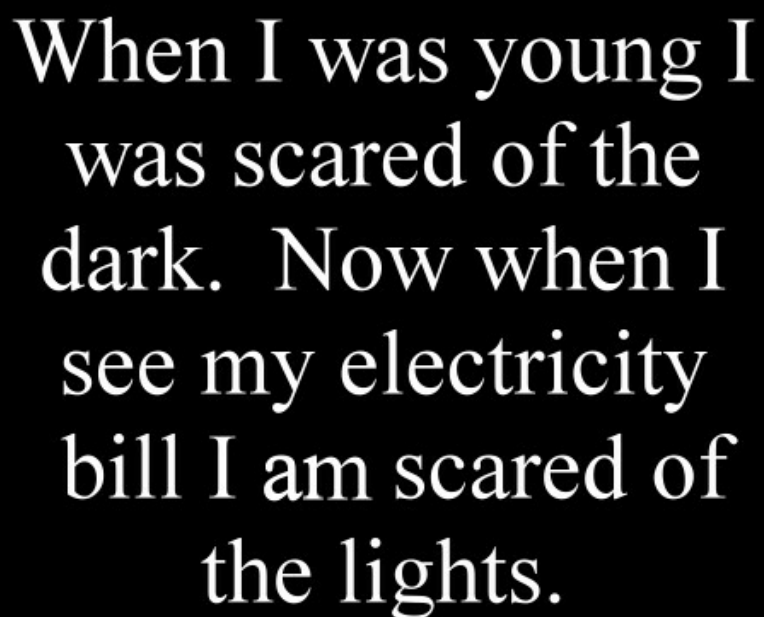
Do not mock the Lord of Glory! I know of no worse act than to mimic the excellences of the Savior with bold imitation of His Graces! What worse offense can you render to the Majesty of His sacred virtue than to travesty His holiness and mock His perfection?

(Part 1 of this sermon by Charles Spurgeon can be read at our website - <http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au/PDF/Heads%20Up%2030-11-12.pdf> )

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## Posters for Posterity



When I was young I  
was scared of the  
dark. Now when I  
see my electricity  
bill I am scared of  
the lights.

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## The Apotheosis of Washington, Oops, I Mean Obama!



It was for many years the practice of pagan, idolatrous nations to worship their rulers. They even called them gods and prayed to them, as was suggested by the presidents in Darius' court (Daniel 6).

Bro. Jesse Smith sent me the following verse, *"And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man."* (Acts 12:22)

Surely the article below is one of the strongest indicators that America has become a nation given over to idolatry and so many of her people openly worship their leaders.

Very few Americans know about the painting titled The Apotheosis of Washington in the Capitol building in Washington. Here is an excerpt from an article by that name:

The Apotheosis of Washington in the eye of the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol was painted in the true fresco technique by Constantino Brumidi in 1865. Brumidi (1805-1880) was born and trained in Rome and had painted in the Vatican and Roman palaces before emigrating to the United States in 1852. A master of creating the illusion of three-dimensional forms and figures on flat walls, Brumidi painted frescoes and murals throughout the Capitol from 1855 until his death.

The Apotheosis of Washington, his most ambitious work at the Capitol, was painted in 11 months at the end of the Civil War, soon after the new dome was completed, for \$40,000. The figures, up to 15 feet tall, were painted to be intelligible from close up as well as from 180 feet below. Some of the groups and figures were inspired by classical and Renaissance images, especially by those of the Italian master Raphael.

In the central group of the fresco, Brumidi depicted George Washington rising to the heavens in glory, flanked by female figures representing Liberty and Victory/Fame. A rainbow arches at his feet, and thirteen maidens symbolizing the original states flank the three central figures. *(The word "apotheosis" in the title means literally the raising of a person to the rank of a god, or the glorification of a person as an ideal; George Washington was honored as a national icon in the nineteenth century.)*

The entire article can be read at: <http://aoc.gov/capitol-hill/murals/apotheosis-washington>

Last week, it came to light that Jamie Foxx had recently spoken of Mr. Obama as "our Lord and Saviour, Barack Obama." [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/27/jamie-foxx-obama-lord-and-savior-furor-soul-train-awards\\_n\\_2199439.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/27/jamie-foxx-obama-lord-and-savior-furor-soul-train-awards_n_2199439.html)

Of course, some of his religiously inclined supporters immediately denied on talk back radio shows that he actually said it, but he did.

If you have any doubt about Mr. Obama's messianic aspirations, have a look at the comments in this blog, <http://obamamessiah.blogspot.com.au/>. The accolades he accepts from his admirers are strong indicators of the narcissism that consumes him.

If Mr. Obama would listen, we who know Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour could and would warn him that God does not share His glory with any man. We could tell him that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. We could read to him the account of Nebuchadnezzar's downfall in Daniel chapter 4.



We could tell him that the acceptable sacrifice to God is a broken and contrite spirit. We could tell him that eternal glory is only found at the feet of Jesus Christ, and that the Lake of Fire awaits all those who rebel against Him.

But Mr. Obama, up to this moment, is not listening to those who know Christ and have the wisdom that only God can give.



*James 3:13-18, "Who is a wise man and endowed with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."*

Let us refuse to follow a multitude to do evil. Let us choose life and truth and the wisdom that God gives, no matter what it costs us.

*Bro. Buddy Smith*

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## Therapy For the Funny Bone –

**Employee:** Well sir, as you know, I have been an employee of this prestigious firm for over ten years.

**Boss:** Yes.

**Employee:** I won't beat around the bush. Sir, I'd like a raise. I currently have four companies after me and so I decided to talk to you first.

**Boss:** A raise? I would love to give you a raise, but this is just not the right time.

**Employee:** I understand your position, and I know that the current economic down turn has had a negative impact on sales, but you must also take into consideration my hard work, pro-activeness and loyalty to this company for over a decade.

**Boss:** Taking into account these factors, and considering I don't want to start a brain drain, I'm willing to offer you a ten percent raise and an extra five days of vacation time. How does that sound?

**Employee:** Great! It's a deal. Thank you, sir!

**Boss:** Before you go, just out of curiosity, what companies are after you?

**Employee:** Oh, the Electric Company, Gas Company, Water Company and the Mortgage Company!

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## The Irish Millionaire

Mick, from Dublin, appeared on 'Who Wants To Be A Millionaire' and towards the end of the program had already won 500,000 euros.

"You've done very well so far," said Chris Tarrant, the show's presenter, "but for a million euros you've only got one life-line left, phone a friend. Everything is riding on this question. Will you go for it?"

"Sure," said Mick. "I'll have a go!"

"Which of the following birds does NOT build its own nest?"

- a) Sparrow
- b) Thrush,
- c) Magpie,
- d) Cuckoo?"

"I haven't got a clue." said Mick, "So I'll use my last lifeline and phone my friend Paddy back home in Dublin ...."

Mick called up his mate, and told him the circumstances and repeated the question to him.

"Well, Mick!" cried Paddy. "Dat's simple, it's a cuckoo."

"Are you sure?"

"I'm truly sure."

Mick hung up the phone and told Chris,

"I'll go with cuckoo as my answer."

"Is that your final answer?" asked Chris.

"Dat it is."

There was a long, long pause and then the presenter screamed,

"Cuckoo is the correct answer! Mick, you've won 1 million euros!"

The next night, Mick invited Paddy out to dinner.

"Tell me, Paddy? How in the world did you know it was da Cuckoo that doesn't build its own nest?"

"Because he lives in a clock, you goose!"

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## Sleeping in the Barn

A lawyer and two friends, a rabbi and a Hindu holy man, had car trouble in the countryside and asked to spend the night with a farmer.

The farmer said, "There might be a problem; you see, I only have room for two to sleep, so one of you must sleep in the barn."

"No problem," chimed the rabbi. "My people wandered in the desert for forty years. I am humble enough to sleep in the barn for an evening." With that, he departed to the barn and the others bedded down for the night.

Moments later, a knock was heard at the door, and the farmer opened it. There stood the rabbi from the barn.

"What's wrong?" asked the farmer.

He replied, "I'm grateful to you, but I can't sleep in the barn. There is a pig in the barn, and my faith believes that is an unclean animal."

His Hindu friend agreed to swap places with him. But a few minutes later, the same scene recurred. There was a knock on the door.

"What's wrong now?" the farmer asked.

The Hindu holy man replied, "I too am grateful for your helping us out, but there is a cow in the barn, and in my country cows are considered sacred. I can't sleep on holy ground!"

Well, that left only the lawyer to make the change. He grumbled and complained, but he went out to the barn.

Moments later, there was another knock on the farmer's door.

Frustrated and tired, the farmer opened the door, and there stood ... the pig and the cow.

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A wife texts her husband on a cold winter's morning: "Windows frozen."

Her husband texts back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

Wife texts back 5 minutes later: "More problems. Now the computer is making funny sounds and smoke is coming out of it"

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## Blinded Minds –

Sweden Bans Mention of Jesus at Kids' Advent Services

**EU's School Diary; No mention of Christmas or Easter.**

Education officials said 'prayer, blessings or declarations of faith' are all banned from Christmas services.

*The Christian Institute 01 December 2012*

Head teachers in Sweden have been told they can take pupils to Christmas services in church – but Jesus cannot be mentioned.

Advent services for children are part of the curriculum, but religious content has been ruled out by education officials. They said “prayer, blessings or declarations of faith” are all banned, yesterday’s Metro newspaper reported.

Last year the Scottish Government came under fire for failing to mention Christmas in its “Winter Festivals” programme. St Andrew’s Day, Hogmanay and Burns Night were all mentioned several times in the press release – but Christmas was excluded.

In January 2011 it emerged that more than three million school diaries with no reference to Christmas or Easter had been issued by the EU Commission.

The diaries made reference to Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Chinese festivities, as well as Europe Day – but December 25th just carried the message: “A true friend is someone who shares your concerns and doubles your joy.”

An EU ombudsman later ruled that a separate sheet correcting the omission was “sufficient” – and a reprint was not needed.

In 2009 Christmas carollers were banned from the Houses of Parliament in case they inconvenienced MPs having lunch.

And in the same year Rochdale Borough Council put up Christmas lights in August in order to celebrate the religious festivals of several faiths. The move was described as “absolutely ludicrous” by one local resident.



### Words ‘Husband’ and ‘Wife’ Axed from Marriage Certificates

**“We are proposing a change where it will say something like ‘Spouse A’ and ‘Spouse B’.”**

Source; *Washington Post* 03 December 2012

The health department in the US state of Washington is to remove the words “husband” and “wife” from marriage and divorce certificates, after same-sex marriage was approved in a recent referendum.

The state began changing the legal document wording before the public vote even happened, according to a spokesman.

Tim Church, from the health department, said spaces once reserved for a “bride” and “groom” will become more gender-neutral.

He said: “We are proposing a change where it will say something like ‘Spouse A’ and ‘Spouse B’.” The law comes into effect on 6 December.

Over 30 states have voted against redefining marriage, just three have voted in favour.

The UK Government has said the words “husband” and “wife” will have to be removed from official documents if marriage is redefined. And in France, the words “mother” and “father” are set to be stripped from official documents, under its plans to redefine marriage.



The move would see the word “parents” used in identical marriage ceremonies for both heterosexual and homosexual weddings. François Hollande, the French President, pledged to introduce same-sex marriage in his manifesto.

In Spain, terms such as “mother” and “father” have become “Progenitor A” and “Progenitor B” on birth certificates.

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## **Rick Warren Condemns Uganda Anti-Gay Bill After Faith, LGBT Groups Call for Response Warren; bill is "unjust, extreme and un-Christian toward homosexuals."**

*By Stoyan Zaimov* Christian Post Reporter December 7, 2012



A number of organisations are raising international awareness on the debate concerning Uganda's proposed death penalty for homosexuals, and have called on Saddleback Church pastor Rick Warren to once again speak out on the issue – which he did on Friday via Twitter.

It read: "An unjust law in Uganda is back in the news. I opposed it 3 yrs ago and I still do," which was also shared with The Christian Post by Kristin Cole, a spokesperson for Warren.

In his statement three years ago, Warren stated that it was not his role to interfere with the politics of other countries, but that he still has a duty to speak out on moral issues. He said the bill was "unjust, extreme and un-Christian toward homosexuals."

As to why he hadn't made the statement when the bill first started making rounds in Uganda's parliament, he said that "some erroneously concluded that I supported this terrible bill, and some even claimed I was a sponsor of the bill". He added, "I oppose the criminalisation of homosexuality."

Faithful America, an online community of citizens motivated by various faiths who speak up on social and political issues, shared with us that over 13,000 people have signed an online petition calling for Pastor Warren to take a more prominent stand against the proposed death penalty provision tied to Uganda's anti-gay bill.

GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) also shared a blog post where it addressed the danger of the anti-gay bill passing in Uganda, and although the organisation acknowledged that Warren spoke out against it in 2009, it asked that he and other evangelical Christian leaders talk to their followers about the issue once more.

"Why have Rick Warren and other evangelical leaders remained silent? As the bill awaits an imminent parliamentary vote, there is no time for contemplation; direct and decided speech against this bill is the only option as the international community looks to safeguard the LGBT community in Uganda," GLAAD wrote.

Uganda is expected to make a final decision on the anti-gay bill and the proposed death penalty by the end of the year, although no firm date has been set as of yet.

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## Deacon True Sez –

Our little country church never has had a big crowd. Sometimes we hit a hundred and sometimes we have thirty or forty there on a Sunday mornin'.

I was down to town last Saturday to buy some chicken feed and ran across the young preacher that is pastorin' that great big church up on the hill above town. He was all smiles and shiny teeth and pretty hair and recognised me as being from Valley View Baptist Church.



He wanted to know how many we have at church these days, so I told him. I suspect he wasn't real interested in knowing, but was just looking for an opportunity to tell me that they had 2436 at his church last Sunday. Then he proceeded to tell me that we could build a large church like theirs, if our preacher would just tone down the preachin' a bit and start goin' to the big Leadership Conferences out in California to learn how to do it.

I listened to him for about half an hour (till he took a breath) and then I looked him in the eye and said,

"I've heard tell that everybody wants a big church these days, and that they reckon that numbers is how you can tell if a church is bein' blest by the Lord. Of course, if that is right it would mean that the big crowd what demanded the Lord's crucifixion wuz mighty spiritual, as wuz the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, and so wuz the 400 prophets who supported Ahab's fatal military campaign. After all, they wuz in the majority. And it woulda meant that Gideon's band of 300 was wicked, being so few in number and them Midianites wuz the good guys. Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego wuz in the minority when they didn't bow down, so they must have been wrong. Noah's eight man crew in the ark just had to be awful vile sinners and the millions of scoffers what perished in the flood wuz ever' one of 'em good men if we measure the value of a thing by how many people wuz in it."

I actually had a few more facts and figgers to tell him, but he sorta got a funny look in his eye and wandered off.

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**The ancient papyrus that was said to prove that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene**

## Mormons and Christ –

### Who Is Jesus? - Correcting Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Fallacies

*by Dennis & Rauni Higley*

When an LDS person is asked the question, "Do you know Jesus?", many will say, "Of course I know Jesus, I have read stories about Him, I have heard talks about Him, I pray in His name, and I belong to a church that has His name on our buildings." When they say this, the next question to ask is, "Does He know you?" More often than not they then tell about the preexistence, heavenly parents, and how Jesus is our elder

brother and that we grew up there with Him - and thus we know Him and He knows us as His siblings, for we all came from heaven. This answer gives an opening to ask how this could be, for the Bible tells us that Jesus alone came from heaven--we did not (John 8:23; 3:13, 31; 6:62; 1 Corinthians 15:46-47). The Bible teaches of Jesus who is God who became a man to save us from our sin (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14, 29; 3:16).

When Adam sinned and death entered the human race, God promised to send a Redeemer, "the seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah. 7:14). Jesus of the Bible is that Virgin-born Son of God; God, who is Spirit (John 4:24; Luke 1:26-31). Jesus is indeed Immanuel, God with us. (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Galatians 4:4). He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Jesus compared knowing Him to having eternal life (John 17:3). In other words, just knowing about Him without knowing WHO HE IS will not give us eternal life. We have to have a personal relationship with Him.

The Bible warns about false prophets and teachers who teach of another Jesus (same name but a different person - 2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15). Jesus himself said "Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven." Knowing His name and even having done "wonderful works" in His name but not having personal relationship with Him will not do. "On that day," Judgment Day, He will have to say, "I never knew you: depart from Me" (Matthew 7:21-23). Jesus is God who came to save us from our sins, but if we do not know and acknowledge who He is, the Great I AM, we will die in our sins and therefore cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (John 8:24; 58-59). Only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:7). Jesus is 100 percent God and 100 percent man. "In Him dwells all fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9). He is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15). He came to fulfill all that the prophets of the Old Testament had foretold about Him. Every book of the Bible is about Him (Luke 24:25-27, 44-47). His life, death, and resurrection is for all who in faith accept Him (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9). When we receive Him, we BECOME children of God (John 1:12-13; 3:7) and are born again of the Spirit of God.

The Mormon Church and its leaders have taught that Jesus was married and a polygamist--as their God the Father also is married and a polygamist--and that all mankind were born as spirit children to him and his many wives in the preexistence, Jesus being the eldest of all of them/us. They teach that since marriage is a requirement for gaining exaltation and godhood in the celestial kingdom, Jesus likewise had to be married in order to become fully a god.

It is amazing how many different ways the enemy of our souls tries to confuse people's minds of the purpose of God becoming a man in Jesus; namely that He became a man to die for our sins, and through faith in Him as our substitute to provide the way for us to go to heaven.

A few years ago, there was Dan Brown's popular novel, The Da Vinci Code, which many, many Mormons and others took as a sure confirmation that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene and that they had at least one child....This same confusion, and even excitement is up again among Mormons because some fourth century "faded papyrus fragment, only 1.5 inches by 3 inches, likened to the size of a business card or small cell phone has been found-suggesting that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was actually married." This fragment was brought to light a couple of weeks ago by Harvard Divinity School professor, Karen King, who also says "the papyrus fragment, even if it's determined to be authentic, does not provide evidence that Jesus was married, but merely that hundreds of years after Jesus' death and resurrection, some believed He had a wife....The Bible never even hints that Jesus was married." Wolf-Peter Funk, a Coptic linguist, (among others) doubts the authenticity (of this fragment), calling its form "suspicious." He told the AP "there's no way to evaluate the significance of the fragment because it has no context. There are thousands of scraps of papyrus where you find crazy things," said Funk, (co-director of a project editing the Nag Hammadi Coptic library at Laval University in Quebec). "It can be anything," he said. "Part of the mystery of the fragment is that no one seems to be sure of its origin and provenance, a history of where it has been. Plus, its owner has asked to remain anonymous. This is now being labeled by experts as fraudulent...." (Copied from WND report of 9/19/12, emphasis added.)

It is amazing to see how gullible people indeed are. The New Testament, written during the First Century A.D. by eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension to heaven, does not say anything about Jesus being married, but a tiny fragment by an anonymous writer, without context to anything, written about 350 years after Jesus' life, is all of a sudden taken as "proof" that He was married! It is incredible that people are so eager to believe something like this, and by so doing they discredit God's purposes and Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

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## How Can I tell If The Church I Attend Is Becoming Emergent/Emerging?

*(We often point out the use of CCM as an indicator of a church's slide toward Emerging/Emergent practices. The preaching of self-love, the acceptance of weak modern translations of the Bible, the repudiation of separation, a weak gospel, the absence of repentance and church discipline, the toleration of Rome's false gospel and acceptance of the cults, all these and more are marks of spiritual decline. One of the marks of*

*Emergent thought is their love for New Agey, semi-occultic forms of "worship." Below is a list of terms used by emergent church leaders and definitions we should know. - Ed)*



## Some Contemplative Terms and What they Mean

In order to help others who might be involved with some form of mysticism, it is important to be aware of these terms and understand their basic meanings:

### Altered State of Consciousness

A meditative or drug induced non-ordinary state of mind.



## Ancient Wisdom

The supposed laws of the Universe that, when mastered, enable one to see one's own divinity—another word for metaphysics or occultism.

## Aquarius/Aquarian Age

Sign of the Zodiac represented by the water carrier, Earth Age, associated with this astrological sign. The term New Age refers to the coming Aquarian age which is in the process of replacing the Pisces age. According to astrologers, every 2,000 years constitutes an age. New Agers predict this Aquarian age will be a time of utopia.

## Centering/Centering Prayer

Another term for contemplative meditation (going deep within your center). A type of meditation being promoted in many mainline churches under the guise of prayer.

## Chakras

Believed by New Agers to be the seven energy centers in man which open up during the kundalini effect in meditation.

## Christ consciousness

Taught by New Agers to be the state of awareness, reached in meditation, in which one realizes that one is divine and one with God and thereby becoming a Christ or an enlightened being.

## Contemplative Prayer

Going beyond thought by the use of repeated words or phrases.

## Creative Visualization

Imaging in the mind, during meditation, what you want to occur and then expecting it to happen. In simple terms, you are creating your own reality. Desert Fathers Monks who lived as hermits beginning around the third century who first taught the practice of contemplative prayer.

## Ecstasy (or Bliss)

The hoped for outcome of contemplative prayer or mediation

## False Self

The false self is the ego or personality that is observable by others. One rids oneself of the false self to find the true self through mantra-meditation. New Agers would consider people like Buddha, Gandhi, and even Jesus Christ as examples of people who found their true self.

## Higher Self

Supposed God-self within that New Agers seek to connect with through meditation. Also called the Christ-self or True-self.

## Interspirituality

The view that all the world's religions are identical at the mystical level and therefore there should be solidarity among them.

## Jesus Prayer

A popular version of this prayer is Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner, often abbreviated to Jesus.

## Kundalini

Powerful energy that is brought on through meditation, associated with the Chakras.

## Lectio Divina

Means sacred reading. In today's contemplative movement, it often involves taking a single word or small phrase from Scripture and repeating the words over and over again.

## Mantra

Word or words repeated either silently or verbally to induce an altered state of consciousness.

## Meditation

Meditation is practiced by all major world religions and is often described as an essential discipline for spiritual growth. Yet, like mysticism, there is great diversity in the practice of meditation. While some see meditation as simply spending time thinking quietly about life or about God, others use meditation techniques to experience altered states of consciousness that allow them to have esoteric experiences.



In addition, meditation is promoted in secular society for the personal benefits of health, relaxation, and improved productivity.

### Metaphysical

Beyond the physical realm or pertaining to the supernatural.

### Mysticism

A direct experience of the supernatural realm.

### New Age

The Age of Aquarius, supposedly the Golden Age, when man becomes aware of his power and divinity.

### New Thought

A movement that tries to merge classic occult concepts with Christian terminology.

### Pantheism

God is all things. The universe and all life are connected in a sum. This sum is the total reality of God. Thus, man, animals, plants, and all physical matter are seen as equal. The assumption - all is one, therefore all is deity.

### Panentheism

God is in all things. In panentheism God is both personal and is also in all of creation. It is a universal view that believes God is in all people and that someday all of God's creation will be saved and be one with Him.

### Reiki

Spiritual energy that is channeled by one attuned to the Reiki power. Literally translated God energy.

### Sacred Space

Either a physical spot where one goes to engage in a mystical practice or the actual silence or the state of being during the mystical experience.

### Spiritual Formation

The teaching and application of the spiritual disciplines; a vehicle for contemplative prayer

### The silence

Absence of normal thought.

### Spiritual Director

One who promotes or trains people in the spiritual disciplines including the silence.

### Universalism

The belief that all humanity has or will ultimately have a positive connection and relationship with God.

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## Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes –

- "Do not blame Caesar, blame the people of Rome who have so enthusiastically acclaimed and adored him and rejoiced in their loss of freedom and danced in his path and gave him triumphal processions. Blame the people who hail him when he speaks in the Forum of the 'new, wonderful, good society' which shall now be Rome's, interpreted to mean: more money, more ease, more security, more living fatly at the expense of the industrious." -- *Marcus Tullius Cicero*
- I have noticed that people are satisfied when you preach about the sins of the patriarchs, but they don't like it when you touch upon the sins of today. - *Dwight L Moody*
- The study of history is a powerful antidote to contemporary arrogance. It is humbling to discover how many of our glib assumptions, which seem to us novel and plausible, have been tested before, not once

but many times and in innumerable guises; and discovered to be, at great human cost, wholly false. -  
*Paul Johnson2*

- A good hostess is like a swan swimming along peacefully on the surface and paddling like fury under the surface - *Jim Watt* (told to Susan Smith years ago)

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## Does the Bible Contain Any Non-Essentials?

I.M. HALDEMAN ON "NON-ESSENTIALS" (Friday Church News Notes, December 7, 2012, [www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) - The following is from a series of sermons on the Second Coming preached in 1916 by I.M. Haldeman, First Baptist Church, New York City: "I desire to speak parenthetically and say to you that of all foolish, absurd and actually stupid things uttered by the tongue of Christians or written by pen, nothing is more excuse less than this attempted arraignment of 'non-essentials.'"

If the Bible be the revelation of God, as He is the great economist and never wastes or does anything that is unnecessary, it is evident He could not and would not introduce into His infallible Book anything that was not essential. Whatever statement or doctrine therefore may be in the Bible, however apparently inconsequential and insignificant, is, nevertheless, essential. Since this doctrine of the Second Coming is very manifestly in, and a remarkable part of, the Bible it ought to be evident, to say the least, that the term 'non-essential' cannot in any wise be applied to it" (*I.M. Haldeman, Ten Sermons on the Second Coming, 1916*).

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## Critter Sermons – A Christmas Poem

*By Kevin Milson*

Pat and I have had a wonderful time preparing the CRITTER SERMONS this year, almost past now. We so much enjoy traveling across Australia looking for different birds and seeing the wonders of God's creation. It is incredible how many things out there in the bush lands, deserts, and on the waters there are, that show God's handiwork. But then why should we be amazed as God is the great Creator who has made it all, and why should we not see Him in His Creation.

As we come to another year's end and Christmas draws near we wanted to share a few thoughts with you in the lines of the poem below. Many of us may have different views on Christmas, but all will agree that the traditions of Christmas have never seen a soul saved and on their way to heaven. But regardless of all that it is a tremendous blessing to think again of how God the powerful Creator, placed Himself into human flesh and came in the form of man, and as the sinless Son of God died for our sins on the cross that He might redeem sinners such as you and me. Whether His birth date was on the twenty-fifth of December, or

the twenty-fifth of June, it does not matter. The glorious thing for us is that He came, lived that sinless life, loved us so much that He was willing purchase our salvation by shedding His blood that we might believe and be saved. "Hallelujah, what a Saviour!"

The careless, godless world promote their idea of giving gifts for commercial gain, but the greatest gift ever given was God's gift to a sinful lost world, bound for eternity in hell. Remember the wise men gave their gifts to Jesus, what have we given to Him. he gave His all, would anything else be sufficient from us?

Keep your "Heads Up" looking for Jesus to come, 2013 may well be the year. If we don't see you on this earth our prayer is that we will meet you in the air on that glorious day. God's blessing to all as you endeavor to serve Him this new year.

We love our little adopted grandchildren. God has blessed us with dozens of them.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 19:14 KJV)

## A Christmas with Hope and Peace - 2012.

By Kevin Milson

*"What a year it has been!" I hear you say. "It has nearly passed me by.  
The rush and bustle of everyday life has stranded me high and dry.  
I haven't finished today yet, and tomorrow is well on its way,  
Oh, what will I do this Christmas? Could it steady a little, I pray?"*

*It would seem that our country's in turmoil, no peace in the heart of mankind,  
Our government's bent on destruction, nothing good seems to be on their mind.  
We hear so much about peace, but seems that no good will has been planned.  
Our dollar, though worthless when buying, on our lives has so much demand.*

*So where have we missed the great message, "Peace and good will toward man,"  
Let me take you to Bethlehem's stable, share with you a truth if I can.  
In a manger, most humble of places, midst the cattle, this true story began,  
'Twas there that baby called Jesus was born, midst the hay, the chaff, and the bran.*

*Yes, peace and good will toward man, was God's message to all who would hear;  
When He sent his own Son in the form of a man, a gift of great value, it's clear;  
'Twould seem that the Christmas we celebrate has had this message left out,  
And the peace and the joy that Jesus can give, in our lives is missing, no doubt.*

*The careless throng simply makes it an X, no sign of the Christ can be seen,  
And maybe your life's in a spin, with an X where Christ should have been.  
Will you take just a moment this Christmas, let Christ on this day come in;  
Give Him room in your heart, your burdens depart, let the peace of God begin.*

### THE BIBLE GOD'S WORD SAYS,

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall  
save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21 KJV) And she brought forth  
her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him  
in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ( Luke 2:7 KJV)*

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## Independent Baptist Churches Adrift! –

I have never been much of a lover for organized church fellowships or associations. One reason is that I have seen for years the various independent Baptist fellowships and associations drifting further and further from their once supposed position on ecclesiastical separation. The problems with "belonging" to a fellowship is when one or several men and their churches begin to drift you either (1) continue on without question (2) question the pastors and take the consequence which usually means shut up or (3) simply get out.

In the independent Baptist's it usually means leaving the King James Bible for a version such as the ESV, adopting softness toward new evangelicals, adopting CCM music, closer association with the Southern Baptist Convention, adopting Reformed theology and departing from dispensational teaching.

This drift is seen in the following articles. The General Association of Regular Baptist churches (GARBC) many years ago was a separatist group of churches but today that is not so. Many churches in the GARBC have drifted into compromise and this drift was helped along by the schools. For instance Cedarville University was an approved school of the GARBC but because it and the other approved schools were moving into new evangelicalism the GARBC ceased their approval programme. Today at least two of the former approved GARBC schools are approved by the Southern Baptist Convention. The following articles are an indication of where the drift in Biblical separation will take a church, school and a fellowship.



<http://www.cedarville.edu/Offices/Public-Relations/CampusNews/2012/Music-and-Worship-Program-Named-Best-of-the-Best.aspx>

MUSIC AND WORSHIP PROGRAM NAMED "BEST OF THE BEST" October 16, 2012 \_ (Edited by DCB)  
...student body in worship at chapel.

It shouldn't come as any surprise that "Worship Leader magazine has selected Cedarville University's department of music and worship as 'Best of the Best' in the higher education category for 2012." "The worship program is one of Cedarville's fastest growing majors because of its... contemporary emphasis. There are currently 54 worship students, and enrollment has increased by an average of 37 percent each year since 2009, when the program was first offered." The students working on the worship degree "...have opportunities for practical experience through music department ensembles, chapel bands, touring teams, worship bands, on-campus concerts and worship events." The churches in the Cedarville surrounding area "...use students to lead worship and play in their praise bands..." The "Worship leader" is the second most requested position in the University's career services office." Wonder what the number one position is?

One of the churches in which one Cedarville student works as worship leader is "University Baptist Church in Beaver Creek..." This church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The associate professor of music "...said students also benefit from interacting with guest artists like Bob Kauflin, Lincoln Brewster and Aaron Keyes (underlining added). This fall, Keith Getty and Phil Wickham (underlining added) worked with worship students during their visits to Cedarville." Where will it stop?

<http://sbc.net/churchsearch/listchurch2.asp?Key=university+baptist&City=beavercreek&State=OH&Zip=&Submit=Search>

As stated above University Baptist is listed in the Southern Baptist Convention. Another avenue in which this drift in ecclesiastical separation has taken place is through Awana, which University Baptist uses; <http://www.universitybaptistchurch.com/Staff> . Sadly many independent Baptist churches do not see this as compromise and continue to use Awana.

<http://www.keithgetty.com/>

Keith Getty is mentioned in the above article on Cedarville. This editor does not know the heart of any of the musicians mentioned but looking at their web sites the two common denominators are CCM and ECUMENISM. "Keith & Kristyn have shared their music at Franklin Graham crusades, the GMA Dove Awards, The Third Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization, as well as feature performances at London's Royal Albert Hall and the legendary Grand Ole Opry, among many other noted platforms. "

[http://www.sovereigngracemusic.org/artists/bob\\_kaufin](http://www.sovereigngracemusic.org/artists/bob_kaufin)

Bob Kauflin "...currently is involved ...with CJ Mahaney." Now CJ Mahaney is under a cloud for cover-up of child sex abuse within his organization Sovereign Grace and holds to a Reformed theology. He also believes speaking in tongues is for today and is heavily involved with Together 4the Gospel.

<http://www.lincolnbrewster.com/tour/>

Lincoln Brewster displays his ecumenism at his web site. Of course this doesn't bother Cedarville or those Baptist churches that will send their young people to Cedarville.

<http://aaronkeyes.com/home/#!/ss:facebook>

Aaron Keyes states that "For the last several months, I've been learning about the power of Blessing. There's been no more helpful aid than a book by the late Irish priest, John O'Donohue (underlining added). I discovered his book To Bless the Space Between Us a few years ago, and it's been simmering in my soul ever since."

<http://www.johnodonohue.com/about>

John Donohue was a Catholic Priest who "was ordained to the priesthood in 1982..." Donohue "...developed a new concept of Person through a re-interpretation of the philosophy of Hegel. The prestigious Review of Metaphysics commended him for "breaking new ground in our thinking about consciousness . . . [with] a richer and deeper notion of Personhood."

[http://www.cedarville.edu/~media/Files/PDF/Publications/Torch/torch\\_s12.pdf](http://www.cedarville.edu/~media/Files/PDF/Publications/Torch/torch_s12.pdf)

FRANKLIN GRAHAM SPEAKS AT COMMENCEMENT – Once the doctrine of ecclesiastical separation is watered down there is usually no stopping. Sadly many are not discerning enough to see it or even care.

Because of Calvary,

*David C. Bennett, D. Min.*

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## Manna In The Wilderness –

*(In every issue of Heads Up we include a website address where you can hear good, sound, Bible preaching. Many of the Lord's disciples are stranded in churches which are compromising with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Some of our readers live in remote areas where there are no churches at all. Bro. David Cloud is one of the most prolific authors and a very thorough researcher. No one can listen to his sermons and remain uninformed. - Ed)*

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/search.asp?SpeakerOnly=true&currSection=sermonsspeaker&keyword=David%5ECloud>



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## The Diaries of the Saints –

*(A dear brother in the Lord told me last week of a saying of Thomas Watson's in which he said, "Providence is a Christian's diary, but not his Bible.")*

*Though we are often blind to the Lord's hand at work in our daily circumstances, He IS at work. We would be very unwise to ignore the teachings of Scripture and depend on our faulty understanding of our circumstances, but we*

*would do well to take heed to what He is doing in the ups and downs of life. I hope to publish from time to time examples of Divine Providence that are evidences of our Father's kind watchcare over His own. - Ed)*

The Van Ryn family was living in Florida at the time while the father, August, was ministering the Word in Michigan. He thought he had mailed a check to his wife for household expenses, but actually he had put the letter in a coat pocket, then changed suits.

In the meantime, the family till was empty. Mrs Van Ryn had enough food for the children's breakfast one day but had nothing for their lunch. Without a phone she could not contact August. So she did what she always did; she prayed for the needs of the day.

When the mail came, there was nothing in it to meet the need. So she prayed again, more desperately. At 11 a.m. there was a knock at the door. The delivery man from the local grocery store entered and placed four large bags on the kitchen table.

"What's this?" she asked. "I didn't order any groceries." She didn't explain that she was penniless.

"Well, all I know is that a man came in and bought them for you. They are all paid for."

"Who was the man?"

"I have no idea. I never saw him before."

After feeding the kids lunch, she made a beeline to the store. The grocer would know. He knew everyone in the neighbourhood, and all the people in the local assembly. But when she asked, he assured her he didn't know the man. He could not describe him at all.

So that left Mrs. Van Ryn not knowing who bought them, but knowing very well Who had sent them. The Lord had sent them. When she unpacked the groceries she was amazed. Everyone was something that she would have ordered - the same food, the same sizes, and the same brands. What are the odds of some stranger supplying you with the exact same items that you customarily use - the same cereal, cheese, beans, peaches, flour and butter?

*From The Wonders of God by William MacDonald*

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## Eddy-Torial – Prosthetics in the Body of Christ –

Artificial limbs are becoming the norm in our churches, the body of Christ. And we are more and more accustomed to these innovations. In almost every church we visit we see people who don't belong. Oh, they may be members, and even be in leadership positions, but there is no grace, no joy, no love for the brethren, and no heart for souls.

There is a certain mechanical mobility and sometimes we observe that they have a clockwork regularity in attendance. When they sing we hear, not the praises of our God and Saviour, but the precise semi-demi-hemi quavers of trained performers instead of enraptured worshippers. Even in our pulpits we are hearing men who are polished to a fare thee well, but there is no more substance to their messages than a spider's web.



In apostolic times the churches were eyewitnesses of "God set(ing) the members every one of them in the body as it pleased Him." (I Cor. 12:18). There was none of the foolishness of the charismatics saying that men needed to seek the gift of tongues or healing. They knew that it was the Spirit's work to divide (the gifts) severally to every man as He would (I Cor. 12:11). And when the apostles perceived a wooden leg trying to attach itself to the body of Christ, they confronted him with his sin and called on him to repent (Acts 8:20-23). If need be they delivered the glass eye members to Satan that they might learn not to blaspheme (I Tim. 1:20) Some who professed to be true members of the body became gangrenous and were amputated lest they poison every other member and destroy the body (Acts 5:1-11 & I Cor. 5:1-13)

The apostles knew better than to worry about political correctness and avoiding ever offending pretend Christians. Rather, they chose to do all that was in their power to maintain the health of the Body.

This was the pattern revealed to the apostle Paul as the mystery of the church. If we were to read again the 3rd and 4th chapters of Ephesians we would see that local churches were bodies of believers, both of Jews and Gentiles, and that they were strong bodies (Eph. 3:16). They were lively and gifted and greatly graced (Eph. 4:1-11). They were growing bodies (4:12, 13) and increasingly resistant to error (4:14). They were more and more like their Head, who is Christ (4:15).

And the members each contributed to the growth of the body! "From whom the whole body, fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

Eph. 4:16 This great truth has become a forgotten precept in our churches.

The most we can hope for from the prosthetic members of the church is that they will come and be spectators. Any hope that they will be participants is long gone. Pray fervently for God's blessing on the church's ministries? Teach a Sunday School class? Witness to the lost? Greet a visitor and show them the love of Christ? Bro. Wooden Legg and sister Glass Eye are not interested. Don't ask.

We can't help wondering where is that factory that is producing prosthetic legs and arms, bionic ears, and digital eyes for the body of Christ?

Our old pastor, Bro. A.V. Henderson, once told us of the pastor of a large church near Baylor seminary, and of his experience with lifeless church members. He preached the Word of God faithfully, but perceived that his church was filled with prosthetic toes and ears and feet and hands. He observed that his people were bored with the saving gospel of Christ. He watched them doze off to sleep Sunday after Sunday under the preaching of the word of God.

So one Sunday, in the middle of his sermon, he departed from his outline and from his imagination he wove a tale about a sheepdog, a sheepdog in Scotland long ago. The tale he told had no basis in fact. It was a fairy tale he made up as he went along. His powers of description were such that he woke up the sleepy saints and wooed them into the web he wove. He told of the sheep that grazed safely on the moors, completely unaware of the storm clouds on the horizon. Not even the shepherd in his cottage knew that the clouds were full of moisture or that it would soon fall as snow, driven by fierce winds.

Suddenly, the storm struck and the sheep were pushed before it, blinded by the snow, their fleeces soaked and cold and heavy. The poor worried old shepherd watched as the flurries blotted out the sheep of his flock, and he feared the loss every one of them. He called his faithful old sheepdog to his side and pointed him out into the storm with a command to bring the sheep to the fold.

Bring them in, Shep! Bring them all in!

And away flew the old dog, into the teeth of the storm, snow blinded, running by memory, with his nose high, sniffing for the sheep and his ears up, hoping to hear them bleating for help.

(As he told his tale the old pastor saw that every eye was upon him now and every ear attentive, and still he led them on into the snare he laid for them...)

Shep raced down the lane and leapt over the fence expecting to find the flock waiting at the gate, but the wind had driven them away. Quivering back and forth he searched the paddock until he came to the gate that was left open to the moors. He paused to look back at the house, but it was lost to view. He barked

once and again and then bolted through the gate and across the moor, searching, searching, searching, and then the wind shifted and even the faithful old dog lost his bearings. He wandered nearer and nearer the cliff. His head was coated with icicles and his feet bleeding from the cold.

Still he sought the sheep, but in vain. He could no longer see because of the snow, but he would not give up the search. Had not his master commanded him to bring them home? He knew not that he had lost his way or that the cliff was near until suddenly the ground fell away beneath him and he fell. Down, down into the darkness, on to the rocks, with his back broken and his legs now crippled. The snow covered his form, and... But wait, his head moves, and his eyes open, and he whines and tries to walk. He drags his body forward a pace and whines. He must find the sheep. His master sent him to bring them home. He must find the sheep....

And here the old pastor pauses and sweeps his eyes across the congregation. Every eye is on him, the people wait to hear how the tale will end.

But instead of the fable of the sheepdog, the people are stunned to hear their pastor shout, "You hypocrites! You despise the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation! You sleep through the truth, and love fables! I tell you a fairy tale that had not a word of truth in it, and you weep and sigh for a sheepdog that never lived! Depart! Come not again to this place of worship until your hearts are repentant and broken before God!"

And the old pastor left the pulpit and went home.

Bro. Henderson told us that many in that church confessed their sins to God and sought His face and that it was the beginning of revival in that church.

We must ask the Great Physician to do surgery on the prosthetic members in our churches. His word is the scalpel. We must ask if ours are the hands that hold it?

*Pastor Buddy Smith*

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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

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

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