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SPOILED? WHO'S SPOILED? - PART 4 - By Buddy Smith

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE

Spoiled? Who's Spoiled? - Pt 4

ISLAM AND ANOTHER JESUS

DEACON TRUE SEZ

LINKS IN THE MEDIA CHAIN

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE

POEMS THAT PREACH

DIARIES OF THE SAINTS

AN ATTACK ON LAW AND ORDER (SPOOF)

NOT TIPTOEING THROUGH THE TULIPS

PART 4

EDDY-TORIAL

Ever Hear of Tenzing Norgay?



Alexander the Great Taking the *Sword* to the Gordian Knot

"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."
Colossians 2:8

The spoiling of our churches is happening right before our eyes.

IT IS HAPPENING THROUGH PHILOSOPHY -

The more we read the strange reasonings of philosophers the more we see that every philosophy is a strand of humanism, a strong cable that reveals man's confidence in man. It is composed of thousands of threads of human wisdom, all opposed to the Wisdom of God that is in Christ, and all designed to draw the entire human race into the Lake of Fire!

How sad it is then to observe in our day the trend in our churches to disregard Holy Scripture and even to coil about ourselves the entangling (and strangling!) wisdom systems of fallen men!

Heads Up!

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;
Phone: 07 4096 6657
Email: smiletex@higpond.net.au
Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au

IT IS HAPPENING THROUGH VAIN DECEIT -

How fitting it is that the Holy Spirit should move the Apostle to place "vain deceit" immediately after "philosophy."

Men's wisdom contains and produces vast amounts of empty trickery. Years ago I read an analysis of the advertising slogans we see everyday. They are catchy little sayings that are cute, designed to entice us to buy useless trivia. What we do not perceive initially is that there is a philosophy behind every one, either hedonism, materialism, intellectualism, pragmatism, existentialism, or any one of a thousand others. Take the popular ad slogan, "You owe it to yourself!" I must admit, there IS a part of me that likes the sound of that, and sometimes causes me to stumble into impulsively buying something I don't need. But there is another part of me that cries out against it, and reminds me to *"Prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good!"* And the verse where my Lord commands me to *"Deny myself, and take up my cross, and follow Him."* The word of God consistently tells me to test everything and to deny self centred lusts.

The Spirit speaketh expressly, *"But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Let no man deceive you with vain words:** for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."* **Ephesians 5:3-6**

This reference to deception by vain words is the only other place in the New Testament where "deceive" and "vain" are used together. The Holy Spirit points out to us the chief means by which the Deceiver does his work of spoiling the churches, that is, through lying words.

CHURCHES ARE SPOILED BY WORDS OF DECEPTION -

He tricks men with his words, as he did Eve in the garden. *"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil."* **Genesis 3:1-5**

In his words,

- He questioned man's dependence upon the words of God - Before he tempted Eve, there was no doubt in their minds that what God said was the final word.
- He questioned the trustworthiness of the words of God - He implied that God had not told them the truth, that they could not implicitly trust every word of God.

PSALM 119:57-72

⁵⁷ CHETH. Thou art my portion,
O LORD: I have said that I
would keep thy words.

⁵⁸ I intreated thy favour with
my whole heart: be merciful
unto me according to thy word.

⁵⁹ I thought on my ways, and
turned my feet unto thy
testimonies.

⁶⁰ I made haste, and delayed
not to keep thy
commandments.

⁶¹ The bands of the wicked
have robbed me: but I have not
forgotten thy law.

⁶² At midnight I will rise to give
thanks unto thee because of
thy righteous judgments.

⁶³ I am a companion of all
them that fear thee, and of
them that keep thy precepts.

⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of
thy mercy: teach me thy
statutes.

⁶⁵ TETH. Thou hast dealt well
with thy servant, O LORD,
according unto thy word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment
and knowledge: for I have
believed thy commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went
astray: but now have I kept thy
word.

⁶⁸ Thou art good, and doest
good; teach me thy statutes.

⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie
against me: but I will keep thy
precepts with my whole heart.

⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as
grease; but I delight in thy law.

⁷¹ It is good for me that I have
been afflicted; that I might
learn thy statutes.

⁷² The law of thy mouth is
better unto me than thousands
of gold and silver.

- He added to what God said to Adam - God did not command Adam to abstain from eating from every tree of the garden, but to avoid eating the fruit of one tree.
- He disputed the simple interpretation of God's words - It is his way to cast doubt upon the plain truths of Holy Scripture.
- He proceeded to slander God by implying that He did not have the best interests at heart for Adam and Eve. Do you not hear the hiss of the Serpent here, "God does not love you?"
- He taught them to trust their observations, and thoughts and desires more than the word of God. Again, the implied statement is, "God does not know what is best for you, so make up your own minds."
- He deceived them into believing that they could exercise their wills in disobedience to God and suffer no harm. "God doesn't want you to know all things, but it is good for you to know them." (Isn't it interesting that the first new thing they knew was that they were naked?)

How similar all this is to the modern ministers in many of our pulpits. They believe what they see on the television above what they read in the Holy Scriptures. They believe Darwin more than the inspired word of God. They add to the Scriptures the footnotes of sceptics. They dispute the meaning of John 3:16 to support Calvin. They slander God and accuse Him of cosmic child abuse. They walk by sight instead of by faith. They walk in wilfull disobedience to God and then defend their right to do so.

VAIN DECEIT COMES IN MANY FORMS -



When I was in Bible college many years ago, there was an upperclassman there named John Avanzini. Yes, it was an independent Baptist college. John Avanzini was in charge of the outreach to soldiers stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, not far away. Every week he would line up a bunch of students to go up to the little town there and witness to the soldiers

on the streets. Then on Sunday night in testimony time he would give a glowing report of all the soldiers who were "saved" the day before.

When I mentioned a few years ago to one of my friends that I had come across Avanzini's name he laughed and commented that he had been one of the students that

went up to Ft. Leonard Wood week after week. He said, "You know, it's strange, but John Avanzini never once went with us. There was always some reason he couldn't go that week."

Another friend told me he pastored in Colorado, near where Avanzini also pastored. When my friend's church needed to buy a larger building, John Avanzini offered to broker a loan for them at a good interest rate, and they could pay him and he would pay the loan company back.

Need I say more? Of course, the owners never got their money because "Brother John" had pocketed the lot and left the country. My friend worked out a means to pay the building off, but "Bro. John" got away.

Oh, did I mention that you can find John Avanzini on the web? He is one of the Word Faith teachers among the Charismatics who has become an expert at separating people from their money. If you want to see what he is like, you might look at the following websites. It is all vain deceit, and we know where he learned it, not at a Baptist Bible college, but from the Serpent in the Garden.

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Avanzini
- <http://john-avanzini.weebly.com/>
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nsy4yfnqJ7A>
- <http://www.faithcenteredresources.com/authors/johnavanzini.asp?gclid=CNez5szP3bcCFcxDpgoduCkA3w>

Phrygia, in what we now call Turkey was the location for a rope puzzle called The Gordian Knot. It was supposedly named after one of their kings. The ends of the rope that made up the knot were tucked into the puzzle and no one had ever figured out how to pull them out. Legend has it that Alexander the Great was there at one time and heard of the knot. He decide to see if he could unravel it, but was unable to do so. In frustration, he drew his sword and cut the knot open, then declared himself the winner.

Now, that may all be a fable, but there is a great truth illustrated in it. No matter what Gordian knot the philosophers tie in all their convoluted reasonings and set for us to puzzle out, we who know Christ have the Sword of the Spirit, the word of God, and it is sharp enough (though we who wield it are not!) to cut all their devious and specious arguments to pieces.

Let us remember that we are commanded to beware of vain deceits. They are not our weapons. They are our enemies, and we must attack them without fear. What

a blessing it is to know that God has given us the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and that it is quick, and powerful and sharp enough to cut through every strand of philosophy.

Our weapons are better than theirs.

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

2 CORINTHIANS 11:18-20

"¹⁸ Seeing that many glory after the flesh, I will glory also. ¹⁹ For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye yourselves are wise. ²⁰ For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour you, if a man take of you, if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face."

ISLAM AND "ANOTHER JESUS" - By Jack Kinsella ~ from The Omega Letter Intelligence Digest

(Ed - It is very interesting that Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, calls Jesus "Isa" when he speaks to Muslims. One cannot help wondering if he is deceived and does not know who this "Isa" is, or if he is wilfully ignorant and refuses to know, or if he knows, but is afflicted with a reprobate mind and is an apostate? How sad that many IB pastors and churches respect him and seek to learn from him and commend his books. Why? Because their pragmatism agrees with his.)



THE ANGEL OF LIGHT -

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." (2nd Corinthians 11:3-4)

Paul knew the churches that he planted, particularly the one in Corinth. He knew of their trials and tribulations, their weaknesses and their strengths -- this was Paul's second epistle (letter) to them.

A fractious bunch, Paul feared that they would fall victim to the first smooth talking religion salesmen to come along. And there was no shortage of them at the time.

"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

As Paul noted here, if Satan can transform himself into an angel of light, then nobody should be surprised if his ministers are similarly deceptive.

"Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." (2nd Corinthians 11:13-15)

Paul was right in that there IS another Jesus and another gospel. The other Jesus is named 'Isa' and the other gospel is called injil. Within Islam, the *injl* is one of five holy books, the others being Suhuf Ibrahim, Zabur, Tawrat and Qur-an (the Koran).

The word *Injl* is derived from Greek word "evangelion", from which we derive the English word, "evangelist".

Muslims generally believe the Gospel or the New Testament to have been corrupted over time. Some also hold the view that the Injl is a lost book, different from the New Testament which was either written by the apostles or people connected to them.

Islam teaches another gospel than the one preached by Paul, and they reverence a different Jesus, (Isa) whom they see, not as the Son of God, but as a wise man, a teacher and a prophet.

Of course, since Jesus went to the Cross rather than deny He was the Son of God, he could not be as He is seen within Islam.

A wise man doesn't allow himself to be executed for making a false claim. If a man is wise, he doesn't make false claims. A teacher that doesn't teach the truth isn't a teacher at all, but is rather a purveyor of mythology.

And a prophet would know who he was before God, if indeed he was a prophet.

So the Isa of the Koran cannot be Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Whose life and times are recorded in the New Testament.

That would seem a no-brainer. The Isa of the Koran has a different history than the Jesus of the New Testament. If it is different, than it cannot simultaneously be the same.

But Islam isn't bound by the rules of either logic or history. History traces Islam to its birth in 622 AD in the Arabian city of Medina.

Islam traces itself back to Abraham. Consequently, it regards itself as the primordial religion from which sprang both Judaism and Christianity.

"O followers of the Book! why do you dispute about Ibrahim, [Abraham] when the Taurat [Torah] and the Injeel [Gospel] were not revealed till after him; do you not then understand? Behold! you are they who disputed about that of which you had knowledge; why then do you dispute about that of which you have no knowledge? And Allah knows while you do not know. Ibrahim was not a Jew nor a Christian but he was (an) upright (man), a Muslim, and he was not one of the polytheists.' - (The Koran, Sura 3.65-67)

The Koran teaches that the first Muslim was Abraham. As a consequence, it is Muslims, and not Christians or Jews, who are the true representatives of the faith of Abraham to the world today.

There are two main sources for Isa, the Muslim Jesus. The Koran gives a history of his life, whilst the Hadith contains recollections of Muhammad's words and deeds and establish his place in the Muslim understanding of the future.

His message was pure Islam, surrender to Allah. (Sura 3:83-84)

Like all the Muslim prophets before him, and like Muhammad after him,

"Isa was a lawgiver, and Christians should submit to his law." (Sura 3:50; 5:48)

"Isa's original disciples were also true Muslims, for they said 'We believe. Bear witness that we have surrendered. We are Muslims.'" (Sura 5:111)

So, the Koran's Jesus was really a Muslim. According to the Koran, "Isa was the Messiah. He was supported by the

Holy Spirit." (Sura 2:87; 5:110) He is also referred to as the "Word of Allah." (Sura 4:171).

Isa's mother Mariam was the daughter of Imran (Sura 3:34,35), the Amram of Exodus 6:20 and the sister of Aaron (and Moses). (Sura 19:28). She was fostered by Zachariah (father of John the Baptist.) (3:36).

While still a virgin (Sura 6:12; 19:19-21) Mariam gave birth to Isa alone in a desolate place under a date palm tree. (Sura 19:22ff) (Not in Bethlehem).

"Isa spoke whilst still a baby in his cradle. (Sura 3:46; 5:110; 19:30) He performed various other miracles, including breathing life into clay birds, healing the blind and lepers, and raising the dead. (Sura 3:49; Sura 5:111)

And of course Isa also foretold the coming of Muhammad. (Sura 61:6)

The Koran also declares the Bible to be a true revelation of God and demands faith in the Bible.

"O children of Israel! call to mind My favour which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I will fulfill (My) covenant with you; and of Me, Me alone, should you be afraid. And believe in what I have revealed, verifying that which is with you, and be not the first to deny it, neither take a mean price in exchange for My communications; and Me, Me alone should you fear." Sura 2:40,41

So, how does the Koran reconcile the inherent contradiction? The New Testament predates the Koran by some 600 years. The Old Testament predates the Koran by 2000 years or more.

Yet the Koran claims the mother of Jesus was the sister of Moses, and the foster child of John the Baptist's father Zachariah. For this to be possible, not only would the Bible have to be wrong, but Mary would have to have been more than a thousand years old at Jesus birth.

In 1064, Ibn-Khazem discovered these inherent contradictions. (It took more than 400 years before anybody caught it.) Believing, by faith that the Koran was true, the only remaining conclusion is that the Bible must be false.

How can one be true, the other false, and still be obedient to Allah? Easy.

Ibn-Khazem reasoned, "Since the Koran must be true it must be the conflicting Gospel texts that are false. But Muhammad tells us to respect the Gospel. Therefore, the

present text must have been falsified by the Christians after the time of Muhammad."

His argument was not based on any evidence or historical facts but only on his personal faith, reasoning and desire to safeguard the Koran. This led him to teach that,

"The Christians lost the revealed Gospel except for a few traces which God has left intact as argument against them."

The Koran draws the same conclusion about the Old Testament. The Jews tampered with their own Scriptures to conceal the fact it was Ishmael that Allah gave the Promise to, and not Isaac, as the forged Scriptures now say.

Although Christians believe Isa died on a cross, and Jews claim they killed him, in reality he was not killed or crucified, and those who said he was crucified lied. (Sura 4:157).

"Isa did not die, but ascended to Allah." (Sura 4:158) "On the day of Resurrection Isa himself will be a witness against Jews and Christians for believing in his death." (Sura 4:159)

Muhammad came bringing the Koran to correct the ignorance of the Christians and Jews. (Sura 98:1). Muhammad was Allah's gift to Christians. They should accept Muhammad as Allah's Messenger, and the Koran as his final revelation. (Sura 5:15; 57:28; 4:47) True Christians will not love Muhammad's enemies. (Sura 58:22)

In other words, anyone who opposes Muhammad is not a true Christian.

Muslims should not take Christians or Jews for friends. (Sura 5:51) They must fight against Christians and Jews who refuse Islam until they surrender, pay the poll-tax and are humiliated. (Sura 9:29)

To this may be added hundreds of Koranic verses on the subject of jihad in the path of Allah, as well as the "Book of Jihad" found in all Hadith collections.

Isa does come back at the end of the world to destroy Christianity. The prophet Isa will have an important role in the end times, establishing Islam and making war until he destroys all religions save Islam.

'He will break the cross, kill pigs, and abolish the poll-tax. Allah will destroy all religions except Islam. He (Isa) will destroy the Evil One and will live on the earth for forty years and then he will die'. (Sunan Abu Dawud, Book 37: 4310)

Jesus will "break the cross", "kill the pigs" (only Christians eat pork) and "abolish the poll tax" -- a reference to jihad.

The Koran claims the Psalms are a single book given by Allah to reveal Islam, not a collection of Jewish songs of worship written by several different writers.

In the Bible Haman is the minister of Ahasuerus in Media and Persia (Esther 3:1-2). Yet the Koran places him over a thousand years earlier, as a minister of Pharaoh in Egypt.

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Me and Junior was out fishin' t'other day and saw a little baby turtle hitch hikin' a free ride across the river by bitin' on to his Pa's tail and coastin' along as Pa did all the swimmin'.

When the local ranger come walkin' by as we was loadin' the boat back on the trailer I told him what we saw. He shook his head, and told me I never saw it. Junior laughed out loud, "Mister, we both saw it, so there's no use denyin' it." The ranger dug his heels in pretty hard and informed us that baby turtles have nothin' to do with their parents after they hatch, so we didn't see it. Me and Junior looked at each other and raised our eyebrows, and let it go at that.

On the way home, Junior said, "Them turtles and that ranger must be in cahoots, Pa."

"Why's that, son?"

"Well, I reckon it's sort of like those new folks at church, you know, the ones that give the preacher such a hard time. They're always lookin' for a free ride, and if you say anythin' to 'em about it, they say it never happened. Sort of sounds like that little turtle and Mr. Ranger."

I have hope for Junior when he says things like that.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

The Koran claims that Christians believe in three Gods -- Father, son Jesus and mother Mary. The Koran is equally inaccurate in its claim that Jews say Ezra was a son of God. (Sura 9:30)

The Koran has a Samaritan making the golden calf, which was worshipped by the Israelites in the wilderness (Sura 20:85) during the Exodus. The Samaritans did not exist until several centuries later. They were descendants of the northern Israelites from centuries after the Exodus.

The story of Jesus being born under a palm tree is also based on a late fable, as is the story of Jesus making clay birds come alive. Everything the Koran says about the life of Jesus which is not found in the Bible can be traced to fables composed more than a hundred years after Jesus' death.

Islam is NOT a 'religion of peace' nor is it simply another way to come to God. But Islam IS found in the Bible. It is 'another' gospel.

So, too, is Isa found in the Bible. Isa is 'another Jesus'. Islam reverences Isa, but Isa is not the Jesus of the Gospel. Allah can also be found in the New Testament.

Paul refers to *him* as "an angel of light."

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

LINKS IN THE MEDIA CHAIN -

- Pizza delivery by RC helicopter - <http://www.flixy.com/pizza-delivery-by-rc-helicopter.htm>
- Sydney Opera House Computer Graphics - *Removed due to sensual content - Ed.*
- Russian man With His Pet Bear - <http://www.dump.com/awesomebear/>
- The New Design For Bicycle Wheels - <http://bayourenaissanceman.blogspot.com.au/2013/05/the-bicycle-wheel-new-and-improved.html>
- The Best Animation Yet - High Diving Giraffes - <http://www.flixy.com/high-diving-giraffes.htm#.UW9J2qJbDTo>
- My Retirement Job - Working in a Steam Powered Box Factory - http://youtube.googleapis.com/v/_mKSKZau9qs?ytsession=jK_5z6XwykUZogfoNtAXEfUpVcVZ_2B8yps5CHEDVRInF1oYcALL47h5ava1mqA48Cy84BeBxzJqBRBCIn0w_5jTG-4fEjOJfjLDTLQW_4uMFbkC-oDd3AKRIUDWFMhWI84klWttqUxEJW2zjYjw

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -



The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline baggage.

FOR THE IRISH -

Paddy... "If you can guess how many chickens I have in my bag, you can have both of them."

"Three,"? ... suggested Mick.

([Back to Table of Contents](#))

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- "A church should not be known for its seating capacity, but for its sending capacity!"
- "A church that does not send will end!"
- "Take missions out of the Bible and only the cover would be left!"
- "Those rare Christians whose very presence incites others to be better Christians. I want to be that rare Christian." ~ A.W. Tozer
- "Therefore, the Christian woman should remember that she cannot buy true attractiveness - that radiance which really shines forth in beauty is of the heart and spirit and not of the body!" ~ A.W. Tozer

([Back to Table of Contents](#))



In one of the prayers Paul records in the Scriptures found in Philippians 1:10, we read the words, *"That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."* In that verse, there is a wonderful word that ought to reflect our lives and the Lord's true churches in this world. That word is the word "sincere." The English dictionary defines "sincere" as "not feigned or affected; genuine; being without hypocrisy or pretense; true; pure; unadulterated." The word has not had that much of a change from the time that the translators translated EILIKRINES (pronounced I-LIK-REE-NACE) into English.

But as with many of the words of the Scriptures, EILIKRINES has a rich background that helps us to understand what it means when Paul prayed this prayer in order that they should be sincere. The word in the New Testament means "pure, sincere, unsullied; to be found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light" (Thayer). It is found only two times in the Scriptures. The other time that it is found is in 2 Peter 3:1, *"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."* Here, it is translated as "pure."

When Paul and Peter used this word, Christians were very aware of its connotation as they had seen this word in the market place and found it stamped upon the better vessels, dishes, and bowls of the day. We might think of it like the phrase found on china wear today. If it is really genuine, the item will say, "Fine China." That means that it is the genuine thing.

The Greek word EILIKRINES actually meant "to be tested or judged by the sun." During the drying process or baking process, cracks would sometimes occur. Those who were the shysters, the unscrupulous merchants or potters, would often fill those cracks in with some sort of filler, which was usually a wax. That would make the vessel or dish what we would call "second rate." If the item was the real thing, without some sort of filler, the word tested by the sun (EILIKRINES) was put on the bottom. That meant that it could be held up to the sun and the sun would expose the filler.

POEMS THAT PREACH —

THE WORLD'S BIBLE

*We are the only Bible
the careless world will read,
We are the sinner's Gospel;
we are the scoffer's creed.
We are the Lord's last message
given in deed and word,
What if the type is crooked?
What if the print is blurred?*

*What if your hands are busy
with other work than His?
What if your feet are walking
where sin's allurements is?
What if our tongues are speaking
of things His lips would spurn?
How can we hope to help Him
and hasten His return?*

*To hasten our Lord's return
we truly need more power.
So let us all be Spirit filled
and awaiting Him each hour.
In an hour that we think not,
He said He should appear.
Then let us walk in Holiness
and meet Him with a cheer.*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



What is Paul saying then to the church at Philippi? He is saying that one of our characteristics as Christians must be that we are as the pottery – TESTED BY THE SUN. In other words, we must be found to be the genuine thing. The opposite of what we are to be were the Pharisees and religious leaders in Israel. They were hypocrites and Jesus continually condemned that hypocrisy. We are tested by God's light, which penetrates deeply into our very person. God knows our hearts and our intents. Paul was concerned that the Philippians all lived a true life, not a faked one, not one full of filler, but one that when it is tested by light, it is found to be genuine. Other believers

and the world should see what is genuine in our lives as God's children. But that fits perfectly with how His churches are to be seen in this world. Too often churches choose to look like the world so as to attract the world. Did Jesus ever seek to look like the world so as to attract anyone? Never! He was genuine. He was tested by the light of the Word and found to be spotless. When we as the Lord's churches and as His children are tested by the light, are there cracks found or are we the real, the true and the genuine?

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

DIARIES OF THE SAINTS - By Elijah Dunstan



I was born into a Christian home 17 years ago, and I asked Christ to come into my life at about four years of age.

I am so thankful to God for the opportunity that I had, as there are many who are less fortunate, but with great privilege comes great responsibility. The Bible warns us about that in Luke 12 middle of v. 48 *"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."*

I can think of many times in my life when God has done things or brought about something, when there was no fluke, chance or coincidence it was just purely God working. One of these times I think I was about six, but the memory is still vividly in my mind.

We lived in Perth and we were on a holiday as a family in a town a few hours south of Perth called Busselton. The jetty they have there is the longest wooden one in the southern hemisphere almost two km's long.

Anyway my dad and I went walking up it one night. I loved fishing as most little boys do. I had brought along a hand reel only to realize at the end of the jetty that we'd left our bait behind. I was so disappointed, so I said to Dad, "Can I throw the line out anyway?" He said "No," telling me that it would be a waste of time. As we walked further down I asked again "Dad, can I please throw it over without the bait?" he said, "No," again, probably thinking in his head, "Elijah doesn't catch anything with bait when he's fishing, let alone without it."

As we got about 3 quarters of the way back I asked one more time, "Dad, please please can I throw the line in, I don't care if I have no bait, I want to do it"

Well my persistence paid off as he finally agreed to let me throw my line in, but told me not to be disappointed when I caught nothing.

As I prepared to throw my line in, I stopped and told dad we needed to pray, I probably said something like, "Lord please help me catch a fish," but I had the humility and faith of a child as Jesus spoke about in Matt. 8:3-4. So I let my line down in the water, with nothing but a empty hook and sinker.

I don't remember how long I had my line in the water (less then five minutes) until I felt a sudden jerk. Thankfully, my line was only just under the water, so it didn't take me long to pull it up.

On my line was a huge herring (it was only about 25cms/ 10 inches, but I thought it was huge.)

The hook had embedded itself in the side of the fish, so basically, as the fish was swimming along, God must have guided its path right along side my hook, causing it to get stuck in its side.

It was so amazing, I had my own amazing fish story like in Luke 5:4,5,6 *"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."*

That incident in my childhood I will never forget, but I'm starting to realize now, that is nothing compared to what God wants to do and will do in my life, as I draw closer to him and grow more in Christ.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



It happened at the donut shop in town the other day. A policeman stopped for a cup of coffee and wasn't able to get back in his patrol car afterward. He had to ask a passerby to reach in and hand him the microphone so he could call for backup. Someone said he reported a code 75, and it wasn't long before the Police Department tow truck pulled up, lights flashing and all. Then three other patrol cars pulled in with sirens and lights.

I noticed the officers were all laughing and none of them pulled a gun. So I wandered over to see if I could hear what they said to the officer who called for backup.

Here's how it went:

Officer #1 - Thanks for coming, boys.

Officer #2 - It's ok, but you shoulda known.

Officer #3 - Yep, we told you last week what was gonna happen if you kept on coming by here three, four times a day!

Officer #1 - Come on, you guys. Lay off.

Officer #4 - We got a big problem. We gotta get your patrol car back to the station, and we gotta think of some way to tell the chief why you came home on the back of the tow truck. Boy, oh boy, I'd hate to be in your shoes.

Officer #2 - You know we're shortstaffed as it is. We may have to put you on the desk and send old Mac out on patrol in your place. He ain't gonna like that.

Officer #3 - Yeh, and Mac's chair ain't strong enough for you to set on. We may have to get you a pile of bricks or sump'n.

Tow Truck Driver - Okay, okay, that's enough talk. I've gotta write up a report on this job or I'll be in trouble. What happened?

Officers #'s 2,3,4 - You might as well tell him. It's gonna come out anyway. We'll try to keep it out of the paper, but.....

Officer #1 - All I did was eat a donut, or two.... Well, maybe it was a few more than one or two.... Okay, so it was one or two dozen.

Officer #2 - A dozen for breakfast, a dozen at coffee break, a dozen at lunch, and then a dozen about 3 o'clock? and dozen on the way home? Is that all?

Officer #1 - Well, sometimes I took a few home for dessert after dinner.

Officer #4 - A few dozen?

Officer #1 nods his head.



Tow truck driver - Okay, Charlie, stand in the sling and I'll lift you up so you can ride on the back of the truck. One thing, though, stand close to the cab so I can keep the front wheels down on the ground on the way downtown. You want me to use the siren and lights? Nah, Didn't think so.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

(This is part 4 of the article by Dr. Don Boys on Calvinism. To read the first three parts, go to the Grace Baptist Church website at the bottom of Heads Up and look at the May 3 issue of Heads Up, under Resources. - Ed)

The “L” in TULIP stands for limited atonement. Calvin said of this: “When it appears that when the doctrine of salvation is offered to all for their effectual benefit, it is a corrupt prostitution of that which is declared to be reserved particularly for the children of the church” (*Institutes*, Book III, chap. 22). The five-pointer tells us that Christ did not die for the world but only for a chosen few. However, I Tim. 2:6 tells us, “Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” Calvinists tell us that “all” does not mean all. It means the elect! However, “all” is a three-letter word meaning all. The context will determine the precise meaning of all. Did Christ heal “all” diseases or various kinds of diseases? Were “all” the sick of a city healed or “all” those who came to Him?



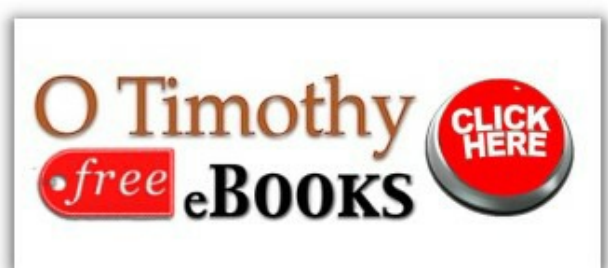
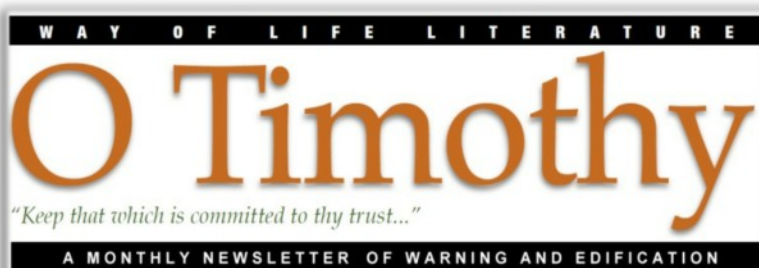
We are told that if God is not willing that any should perish and yet most people do perish then God is a failure in seeing His plan fulfilled. The Calvinist tells us that if Christ’s death was universal then universal salvation must be preached. However, the Passover lamb is a good refutation of this statement. The killing of the lamb was not sufficient since the blood had to be applied as per God’s instructions. A family could have sincerely followed God’s plan in choosing and killing the lamb but if they did not make the blood effectual by the application to the doors, there was no protection and death of the firstborn followed.

We are told that this passage will not suffice because each family member did not apply the blood so it is not valid unless you believe in household salvation. However, like a parable, an analogy cannot be applied in every

point. One must look for the central truth of the analogy or parable.

I could provide scores of verses to disprove limited atonement; but frankly even one is sufficient. Christ died for every person who ever lived and every person who ever lived must exercise faith in His atoning death on the cross to experience personal, eternal salvation. I John 2:2 informs us: “*And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*” That should settle that—but I doubt it will satisfy those who have been planting, cultivating, and manuring TULIPS.

This part of the TULIP is not as bright and attractive as the whole and is not considered by most Calvinists to be essential to their system. After all, if the non-elect have no hope for salvation why even discuss whether Christ’s



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death was limited or not? Most four-point Calvinists reject this point. If Christ died only for a select few, why waste time, money, and energy going into all the world to preach the Gospel since the non-elect have zero chance of being saved and the elect have zero chance of being lost? Calvinists tell us to preach to unbelievers because a gracious God will "save any who believe." **And the "any who believe" are only the elect who can't be lost anyway!**

Calvinists reply that this is a straw man argument, but is it? Look, it is very simple: if it is impossible for a non-elect person to get to Heaven and it is impossible for an elect person to go to Hell then it is not a specious argument. Why go to a group of headhunters or cannibals with your family as one of my oldest friends did and spend your life. You make zero, zilch, impact on anyone going to Heaven!

Calvinists reply that we should go into all the world because God told us to but is it not reasonable to ask, "For what purpose if everything has already been decided?" Their reply? "Because we must be faithful to a holy God's commands." You must decide if that is something a holy God would require, knowing it would have absolutely zero impact on the unelected.

Calvinists tell us that without their ancestors, there would not have been much church history to speak of and they list the various church leaders who taught election. However, almost all those mentioned were leaders of the

Reformation when the Reformation (of the Roman Catholic Church) should have been a Rejection. Our opponents know little or speak little of those churches for the last 2000 years that opposed the Catholic Church and the Reformers and paid with their lives. It must be remembered that the winners always write the histories whether Luther, Calvin, the Puritans, etc., but there were thousands of gallant, brave, holy, often brilliant men who stood against a state church and went to the flames for their biblical stand. Such people were Donatists, Waldenses, Albigenses, Lollards and Anabaptists; however, many Calvinists and other reformers pretend that those people never existed or were inconsequential.

Moreover, when one lists the Calvinist leaders in the past, they are known to have been very talented and intellectual people but not known for holy living! I do not mean to paint all Calvinists with such a broad statement, but all too often it is true. While I do not agree with Wesley's theology, his godly life was an example for everyone.

Look at Augustine, Zwingli, Calvin, Luther, etc., and you will note a huge lack of simple godliness in word and deed. Calvinism seems too often to be accompanied by loose living and intellectual arrogance—not becoming of genuine Christians.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

LILIES OF THE FIELD

Formerly "The Prayer Club Newsletter"

"Building Up Ourselves in the Most Holy Faith"

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Sharpened Arrows

AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.

Psalin 127:4

A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.

Jonathan Neale's book, *Tigers Of The Snow*, lists almost 300 characters in the subject index. **Tenzing Norgay** stands out above all the rest. If you read his story it is not the mists of Reputation you will see. It is the Everest of Character. Remember that thought. Character stands strong. Reputation rises and falls.

THEY NEVER CLIMBED THE MOUNTAINS -

Historically, Sherpas never climbed the tall peaks. They worshipped, feared, and prayed to them, but never climbed them. Oh, they carried heavy packs of trade goods through the passes and brought back what they lacked. But that was the passes, not the peaks. The monks in the monasteries drummed into them the Buddhist dogma that the mountain gods would destroy those who trespassed the highest peaks.

They had no ambition and no need to climb to the tops of the mountains. They had fears and superstitions.

Tenzing carried supplies for climbers from 1935 to 1953, gained experience, seniority, and better pay. But he was still only a porter, a Sherpa, an "easterner". He was a servant and never an equal with the sahibs who paid him.

Then how did Tenzing Norgay, in 1953, have the strength of character to climb with Edmund Hillary to the top of Everest? How did he overcome his fears? How did he slay his superstitions? How did he rise above the criticisms of his peers? How did he come to see through the age old lies of the monks? How did Tenzing grow the character to rise above the crowd? Make no mistake, it wasn't size that drove him. Hillary was a big man (6 feet, 5 inches tall), but Tenzing was a little Sherpa. It was the character of the man that drove him. It was not how much dog was in the fight, but how much fight was in the dog.

THE KEY WAS A MAN -

The key to Tenzing's character was a man named Raymond Lambert. He was a member of the 1952 Swiss climbing team. While a guide in the Alps, he lost his toes through frostbite!!! Tenzing wrote of him, "...with the Swiss and the French I had been treated as a comrade, an equal, in a way that was not possible for the British."

When the climbers were served Tibetan tea with melted butter, the other Swiss climbers refused it, but Lambert drank his and then theirs. He won Tenzing's heart. The



Swiss did another thing that touched the hearts of the Sherpas. They brought the same quality of clothing for the Sherpas that they used themselves. For three weeks they set up a base camp and worked their way through the icefall. Tenzing grew closer to Lambert, who often shared a tent with him. No sahib had done that before. Lambert spoke no Hindi or Nepali and hardly any English. He taught Tenzing the French saying, "Ca va bien!" ("It's going well!") It became their mutual refrain, whether the going was hard or easy. Camp by camp they climbed Everest as the number of porters dwindled until it was just Aubert, Flory, Lambert, Tenzing, and three porters who suffered from altitude sickness. The porters turned back and still the three Europeans and Tenzing climbed higher, until it was just Lambert and Tenzing. They almost made it to the summit. Seven hundred feet below the peak they turned back. The Swiss tried again later in the year, but conditions were worse and the attempt failed.

The year was 1952. One year before Hillary and Tenzing conquered Everest.

There is a place in Neale's book where he addresses this final, possibly the greatest, contributing factor to Tenzing's character. *Neale asked Tenzing's nephew Nawang Gombu why his uncle Tenzing was the first Sherpa to get to the top of a great peak. Why was he driven, in a way other Sherpas were not? I said some*

people told me it was because Tenzing had grown up poor and didn't truly care if he lived or died. Other people said it was ambition.

No, Nawang Gombu said, it was Raymond Lambert. When you work with people of a new kind and become friends with them, it changes your idea of who you are, Gombu said. You say to yourself, I can be a person like that. That's what happened to Tenzing. Raymond Lambert treated him as a friend and an equal, and Tenzing said to himself, I can be Raymond Lambert.

This is not something that Tenzing ever said to Gombu. But all the way up Everest in 1953 Tenzing confided in Gombu, perhaps because he was kin, perhaps because he was only a boy. And later Gombu came to know Tenzing as well as anybody.

I think he's right. And there's no doubt that Tenzing Norgay loved Raymond Lambert." - Page 255, Tigers of the Snow, by Jonathan Neale

THE KEY THAT FITS EVERY LOCK -

There is one key that opens the secret of good character. It fits every lock. It is the influence of a good man's character upon another man. Note that it is not reputation that lifts a man out of the slough of despond. It is not what is apparent about a man, but what is actual that lifts his companion and enables him to do what he cannot do otherwise. It was what was in Lambert that changed what was in Tenzing, and made him a better man.

We are not thinking of some weak kneed neo-evangelical social gospel. Like Rick Warren's PEACE plan. We are thinking of what God begins in us when we come to know the Lord Jesus Christ through repentance of our sins and childlike faith in His death, burial, and resurrection. To know Christ is to have eternal life with all its workings in us.

Every Sunday I go to church with people who tell me that they would be in prison, or dead, and in Hell if they had not met Christ. One and all, they say that He changed their character. That is what is begun at the New Birth!

This glorious work in us is God's work, but it is mostly done through His people by His Spirit with His Word. Where would Saul of Tarsus have been if it had not been for Ananias of Damascus? Or Barnabas at Jerusalem? They were Saul's Lamberts. And what about Simon Peter? If his brother Andrew had not gone looking for him and brought him to the Saviour, where would he have ended up? Apollos must have an Aquila and a Priscilla to

expound unto him the way of God more perfectly. Bunyan must have Gifford! Moody must have Kimble!

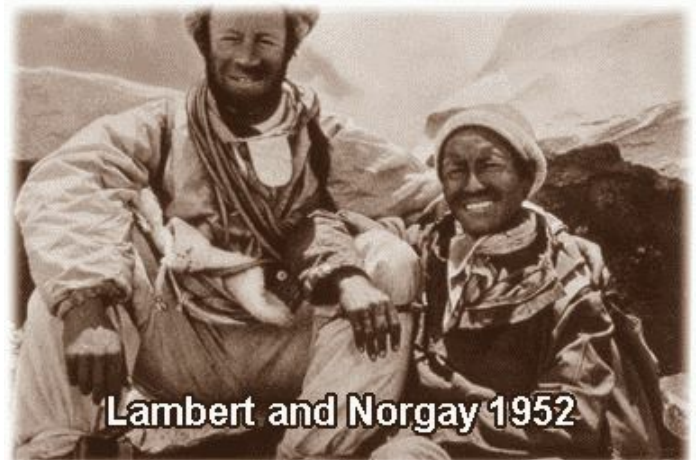
So it is with all of us, God sends us men (and women) with godly character, men like Christ, to edify us, to build us up in the most holy faith. The fruit of the Spirit in them drops its seed in our hearts. It takes root downward and bears fruit upward. Their graces stir in us a longing for a likeness to their Lord. Their gracious speech hushes our crude words to silence and then teaches us to speak with grace. Their modesty and meekness quieten our hearts to sit at Jesus' feet. As I write these words there come flooding into my memory the Lamberts of my life. Oh how numerous they are! Deep calleth unto deep! Character calleth unto character!

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." Proverbs 13:20

Tenzing is renowned for conquering his fears and overcoming his superstitions first, before ever he stepped with Hillary upon the summit of Everest. The greater conquest was his own heart.

And Lambert led him there.

I WONDER WHO YOUR LAMBERTS ARE?



There is in Tenzing's story an even more important question. What will I do with the growth in character that God does in me?

Will I use it to build for myself a reputation?

This is the answer that our godless world embraces. A little smidgen of character can be stretched into an enormous reputation. Someone ought to write out a plan for building one's reputation. It would go something like this: 1) Take a thin membrane of stretchy rubber. 2) Mould it into a shape that will hold a lot of hot air. 3) Then puff and puff and puff until it is full. 4) Hold it up for

all to admire. 5) Warning! Too much hot air will cause your balloon to burst and leave you with a shattered reputation that you cannot repair! 6) One last word, don't let prickly people get too close as this may result in the public disclosure of how little character (and how much hot air) there is in your reputation. This is what we are observing, sadly, in every Christian denomination, all over the world. Character has been delegated to a dusty shelf in a storeroom, while Reputation is put in the spotlight and handed a microphone.

Or will I use my growth in character to build character in others?



When Tenzing and Hillary came down from Everest, three things happened.

First, both men were showered with honours too numerous to list. The one medal that meant the most to Tenzing was the "Tigers of the Snow" medal bestowed by the Himalaya Club (see the photo above). Only about twenty of these were ever given, and then only to the most outstanding Sherpas.

Second, Tenzing came to know who he really was. When he went to Kathmandu, the authorities asked him who he was, and he replied that he was a Sherpa. He could have said he was Tenzing Bhotia (Tenzing of Tibet), but he didn't. He said he was Tenzing Sherpa. In that description of himself he claimed that he was a new man. A Tiger of the Snow. Because of Raymond Lambert.

Third, Both men's character was used to build character in others.

- Edmund Hillary had character enough to know what the Sherpas had done for him so he repaid them by building (often with his own hands) schools and hospitals for them.
- Tenzing was congratulated by India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who challenged Tenzing, saying "Train Indians, and give me hundreds of Tenzings." So he set up, just a bit over a year after scaling Everest, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute in Darjeeling, India.

Tenzing became a Lambert to all those he trained until he died the 9th of May, 1986.

The apostle Paul wrote something similar to Timothy:

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." **2 Timothy 2:2.**

I wonder who my Timothys are?

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

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[Grace Baptist Church](#), Malanda, Qld., 4885, Australia.

To be included to receive copies please contact us by one of the following methods:

Post: P.O. Box 684, Malanda, Qld., 4885;

Phone: 07 4096 6657

Email: smiletex@bigpond.net.au

Website: www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au