



May 18, 2013

SPOILED? WHO'S SPOILED? - PART 2 - By Buddy Smith

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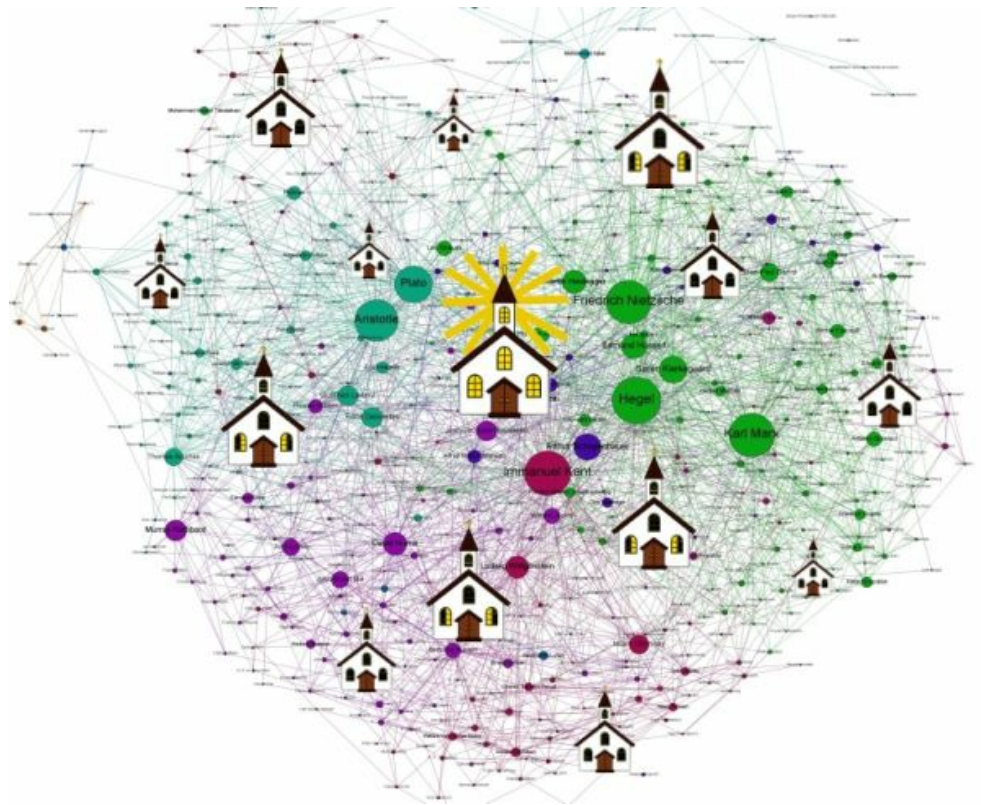
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*"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8*

Our text is so plain, so very clear, isn't it? Christians, churches are warned of being plundered, ravaged, stripped, and spoiled by the wicked. And they do it without breaking a window or picking a lock. They do it through teaching us their worldly wise systems of thought, through trickery, through deeply ingrained traditions of men, after the ABC's of the wicked. So the apostle warns us to beware of their relentless attempts to spoil the saints and their churches.

### **ARE WE IMMUNE?**

As I speak with men in ministry all over the world, I get the impression that most Christians think themselves to be immune to these attacks. We suppose that the charismatics or the modernists or the cults have been led away captive, but not us! Not our denomination! Not MY church! And NOT THIS PREACHER, for sure! Others may be spoiled and stripped of all that is precious, but not ME!

## **Heads Up!**

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Phone: 07 4096 6657  
Email: [smiletex@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smiletex@bigpond.net.au)  
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## THE OTHER GREAT COMMISSION -

It would do us good to ask ourselves which church it was that Paul warned to beware lest any man spoil them? Was it a World Council of Churches congregation? Not at all. It was the church at Colosse. It was a Bible believing church only about ten years old. We wrongly assume that a church has to be a hundred years old before it can fall prey to those who lay siege to her, conquer her, and spoil her. But it is not so. The Devil has his false apostles, his evangelists, his seminarians who have a diabolic Great Commission to go and preach their noxious doctrines in our churches. What gospel do they preach? They preach their sulfurous philosophies, permeated through and through with deceptions, undergirded with the hoary traditions of men, and based upon the earliest errors men ever learned. That is what our text is all about.

## THE FIRST WEAPON -

If we examine only the first of these four weapons used by the spoilers of the churches, that is, philosophy, we bite off almost more than we can chew. Philosophy is the "love of wisdom." In particular, "the love of man's wisdom." In essence, it has to do with deep and abstract thinking about the causes and consequences of the universe we live in, but from the perspective of fallen man.

## THE EXAMPLE OF SOLOMON -

Solomon was a Jewish philosopher; to begin with, a wise man. But when he married his pagan wives and learned to love their "wisdom," then they spoiled his kingdom. It all started with a very basic philosophical blunder. Having married Pharaoh's daughter, he reasoned, *"My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."* 2 Chronicles 8:11. Every time I read this verse I am reminded that Solomon here introduced a simple maxim of philosophy, that is, "Life is composed of two parts, sacred and secular. My worship shall be sacred, and my marriage will be secular." He had forgotten that it is impossible to separate worship and marriage. And he had forgotten the influence of his home upon his worship. God had warned him that his wives would bring from their fathers' palaces every form of subtle wisdom needed to spoil Israel. *"But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love."* (1 Kings 11:1-2)

## THE PHILOSOPHY THAT SPOILS OUR CHURCHES -

In researching the history of philosophy I found the graph depicting the origins and connections of many systems of wisdom. In some ways it resembles a spider's web entangling sleepy saints. In other ways, it reminds us of a galaxy of men's names and learning, filled with black holes swallowing up unwary Christians. All man-centred philosophies are the limbs of the tree of Humanism, which the Devil planted in the Garden of Eden. When he beguiled Eve with "The Lie" that man can become like God through rebellion he planted Humanism in the heart of man. Every other wisdom system except that found in the Holy Scriptures grows out of that Lie. At this moment. Hedonism (the pursuit of pleasure), Intellectualism (a dependence on learning), Utilitarianism (what is most useful), and a hundred other sophisticated philosophies are creeping into our pews and craving our pulpits, but the philosophy that is spoiling our churches more than any other at present is Pragmatism.

## PSALM 119:25- 40

<sup>25</sup> DALETH. *My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.*

<sup>26</sup> *I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.*

<sup>27</sup> *Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.*

<sup>28</sup> *My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.*

<sup>29</sup> *Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.*

<sup>30</sup> *I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.*

<sup>31</sup> *I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.*

<sup>32</sup> *I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.*

<sup>33</sup> HE. *Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.*

<sup>34</sup> *Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.*

<sup>35</sup> *Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.*

<sup>36</sup> *Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.*

<sup>37</sup> *Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.*

<sup>38</sup> *Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.*

<sup>39</sup> *Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.*

<sup>40</sup> *Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.*

## WHO FIRST PROMOTED PRAGMATISM? -

The names of Charles Sanders Peirce (born 1839), William James (born 1842), and John Dewey (born 1859) are often tied to pragmatism, but it existed for at least a century before these men promoted it. It seems to have developed as a part of American culture before it was recognised as a philosophy.

Surprisingly, evangelist Charles Finney (August 29, 1792 – August 16, 1875) openly practiced the principles of pragmatism and defended them in his revival meetings in the early 19th century.

Finney's one question for any given teaching was, "Is it fit to convert sinners with?" (His consistent focus was on "what worked" or "what got results." If it did, it was right to use. If it did not, it was discarded.)

His "New Measures" included the "anxious bench" (precursor to today's altar call, (virtually unknown before Finney), emotional tactics that led to fainting and weeping, and other "excitements," as Finney and his followers called them.

In his fresh introduction to the bicentennial edition of Finney's *Systematic Theology*, Harry Conn commends Finney's pragmatism: "Many servants of our Lord should be diligently searching for a gospel that 'works', and I am happy to state they can find it in this volume."

## THE EFFECTS OF PRAGMATISM ON REVIVALS AND EVANGELISTS -

Every pastor ought to read a biography of Asahel Nettleton. (He) operated in stark contrast to many modern evangelists. He would often move into a community for several weeks or months and study the spiritual condition of the people before attempting any revival work. His preaching was said to be largely doctrinal but always practical. Nettleton often filled the pulpits of churches where there was no pastor present. This allowed him to engage in a pastoral care for the people. This practice is typically absent in modern evangelists' ministries. He also refused to preach in any community where he had not been invited. He witnessed early in ministry the problems that can result from a pastor who feels as though he is competing with an evangelist. He also would sometimes refuse to preach in a church if he believed the request was not sincere. He rejected the idea that he was the cause of any revival and shunned those who looked to him rather than God to bring revival to their community.

Nettleton represented the methods of evangelism used by Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards. He was an older man

## WHAT IS PRAGMATISM?



- "Pragmatism" is derived from Gk. *pragma*, "that which has been done".
- Pragmatism says "if a programme or method works use it".
- "In philosophy, pragmatism is a system which tests the validity of all concepts by their practical results." - (Webster's Unabridged Dictionary)
- Pragmatism says "if a program or method produces visible results that please the user, then use them."
- A religious pragmatist does not particularly desire to know how God wants His work done, but instead he looks around to see how others are doing it, and if they are obtaining visible results, then the methods are acceptable.
- It is a system of thought that is vitally interested in the bottom line on the ledger.
- It defines success, not by objective, impartial, righteous values, but by how impressive or favourable are the results of one's choices or actions.
- One author describes ipragmatism as being slippery casuistry (Jesuit casuistry is best known for the view that "the ends justifies the means.")
- William James, a pragmatist, believed "something is true only insofar as it works". Religious pragmatists eventually come to agree with him.
- Pragmatism is not so much centered on whether something is right or wrong, but does it work?
- The religious pragmatist soon comes to believe that, whatever it takes to achieve the most impressive bottom line (results), is worth it.
- Religious pragmatism is characterised, in its purest form, by an increasing disinterest in doctrine (or objective truth, or revealed truth, as in Holy Scripture) and an increasing interest in results.
- The pragmatist doesn't ask too many questions but just looks at results.
- Because of the focus on results, the doctrines of pragmatists are continually adjusted to agree with its successes.
- It is generally recognised as being originally an American philosophy.



when Finney began preaching, and went to observe his methods and hear his sermons. Finney's focus on results alarmed Nettleton and he cautioned the young evangelist regarding his "new measures." We look back now and see that the "new measures" were simply pragmatism at work in evangelism, before the word was ever coined. Though D. L. Moody, R. A. Torrey, and others were contemporary with Charles Finney, I have never found any mention of them contacting him or seeking counsel from him. But it does appear that they adopted many of his pragmatic methods. One author points out in his articles on Finney that he is admired, not for his doctrines (some of which were VERY suspect), but for his results. Modernists, evangelicals, charismatics, and fundamentalists all love Finney. Why? Because he could get what looked like results. In many cases, they decided to adopt his methods even if it meant they would ultimately need to adjust their doctrine to fit the new methods.

#### WHERE HAS PRAGMATISM TAKEN THE CHURCHES? -

**1. Pragmatists find that they must alter, and sometimes discard entirely, the doctrines they once held.** A belief in Hell, in Repentance, in Holiness, and in Separation comes under pressure and soon gives way to a belief in church growth above all else. Success becomes essential doctrine, but it must be temporal, visible success, and the crowns must be immediately awarded. The ultimate example of this jettisoning of sound doctrine is Rick Warren and his Saddleback church. Warren's pragmatism, as well as Bill Hybels' and Joel Osteen's, has resulted in phenomenal growth numerically, but without sound doctrine. Rick Warren boasts of being mentored by Peter Drucker who determined in the 1950's to invent a new kind of church. We now know it to be the Emergent "church." Rick Warren is probably the most influential supporter of the many heresies of "Emergence."

**2. Pragmatists' desire for visible signs of success makes CEO's out of many pastors.** Their churches soon have the atmosphere of a multi-national company which breeds a class of religious executives. In fundamental circles we are seeing CEO-pastors with associates that resemble "bodyguards", equipped with dark glasses and collar microphones and earpieces. I hear that the arrival (at church or conference) of the CEO-pastor is now very similar to that of a political leader. Recently, on a trip to Tasmania, we saw heavily armed federal police all throughout the airport, looking everybody and everything over because of the imminent arrival of a couple of politicians. If you attend one of the larger conferences among IB's now you will see something similar, only it is the CEO-associates (or mighty men?) that wear the dark glasses, earpieces, and body armour (chuckle). I wonder

what would happen if you or I asked them to show us their badge or their gun?

**3. Pragmatists discovered decades ago that they could draw large crowds and glean large offerings if they implemented entertaining programs in their churches.** I recall the Sunday School contests in fundamental churches sixty years ago, but "funda-pragmatism" goes back at least as far as J. Frank Norris, who used sensationalism to draw large crowds at First Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. And since pragmatists believe that "nothing succeeds like success!!!!", other pastors copied Norris' methods and improved on them. It is a very enlightening research project for biblicists (and totally boring for pragmatists!) to plot the course of pragmatism in our churches. Here are a few of the downward progressions of pragmatism I have observed:

- A pastor riding a bicycle around the auditorium to advertise their soulwinning program and the prize to be given to the child who brought the most friends to Sunday School.
- Competitions between churches, in which the winning pastor was given a new suit by the losing pastor.
- The use of Southern Gospel quartets and concerts on special occasions. Sadly, groups like the Statesmen and the Blackwood Brothers came to be known for their drunkenness and immorality. One of our own family members was propositioned by a singer in a S/G group.
- S/G music soon began to lose its drawing power, so churches then focused on their youth programs, with the result that the music in the churches changed. It showed up first in the use of soft rock ballads, then electric guitars, drum kits, and amplifiers. These made it possible for a nightclub atmosphere to creep into the church. The lighting and seating began to change and the pulpit no longer had first place in the churches.
- The use of CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) was the next step in entertaining the attenders. This step was a giant step, much larger than pastors realised, in that it boldly proclaimed to the world that the secular musical styles of the immoral and ungodly enemies of the gospel are now welcomed, honoured, and invited to teach Christians how to use the music of the Golden Calf to accompany the Ark of the Covenant into the Temple. The music of the fertility cults of Babylon found a new home in Hillsong. And God's people love to have it so.
- Following hard on the heels of CCM, there came into the churches the use of secular pop and rock music. Recently I read that, "CCM musicians love secular rock; they listen to it in their private lives; they perform it in their concerts and record it for their albums. They even become so drunk on the world and so spiritually insane

that they use secular rock in the alleged service and worship of a thrice-holy God. The most recent example is the popularity of the “Harlem Shake” at “evangelical” churches and schools, including Liberty University, Cedarville University, and Rick Warren’s Saddleback high school. The youth ministry of Jacksonville, Florida’s Bethel Baptist Church is using their rendition of the Harlem Shake as an “evangelism” tool with their pastor’s blessing (“Florida Megachurch’s Youth Group Draws Peers with Music, Harlem Shake,” *Christian Post*, Mar. 23, 2013). In 2011, Northpoint Church of Springfield, Missouri, performed “Sympathy for the Devil” by the Rolling Stones and “Thriller” by Michael Jackson; Proclaimers Church in Norwich, England, performed Lady Gaga’s “Telephone”; and The Church by the Glades in Miramar, Florida, performed “Calling All the Monsters.” In 2009, NewSpring Church in Florence, South Carolina, performed “Highway to Hell” by the wicked rock band AC/DC for Easter service. In 2007, Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, featured Beatles Music as their Christmas theme.” ( Friday Church News Notes, April 5, 2013, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)) At least one IFB church in Australia recently used a secular song in a worship service. (If you let the camel’s nose in the tent.....)

**4. Pragmatists tend to ultimately lead their churches into ecumenism.** The false unity (or is it uniformity?) of interdenominational, parachurch religion draws large crowds to Promise Keepers and Franklin Graham crusades, therefore it must be good (?). Before Jack Schaap’s immorality became widely known he proudly recommended Geronimo Aguilar, who pastors “a raunchy emerging rapper church the Richmond Outreach Center. Schaap said Aguilar has been attending Pastor’s School for 10 years and was preceded there by his street biker father, Phil Aguilar, who, according to Schaap, “followed Brother Hyles to a T.” Schaap said that Geronimo sought his counsel when founding the ROC in 2001 and meets with him every year for a day or two of private counsel. “He and I are very dear friends.” Schaap praised the ROC as the “sixth fastest growing church in America, running 4,000 every week.” Schaap told his congregation that Aguilar “**knows where to find how to build a church.**” Aguilar’s web site praises filthy rockers such as Korn, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Prince, Morrissey, and Kid Rock. Another example of this tendency toward ecumenism is Rick Warren’s hiring of Ken Blanchard in 2005. Blanchard is a New Age author who praises Buddha.

**5. Because comedy attracts crowds of people looking for a thrill, and because laughing people tend to come back for a second helping, many churches are using laughter as an “evangelistic” tool.** Funny stories and comedy

video clips and cute little dramas are replacing sober, wise, and convicting sermons in many pulpits. YouTube and Vimeo could, if they liked, devote entire divisions of their entertainment empires to IFB church humour. One of our supporting churches hosted a pastors fellowship meeting some years ago. The program for the day did not have Bible preaching, but had a drama team (straight from performing for Falwell’s Liberty Baptist Church in Virginia). They acted out a combination of tear jerker, soap opera, and comedy religious skits for the pastors. One of the sons of the drama team couple told a deacon that his dad said, “We’ll have a nice car like theirs when we hit the big time!” Out of the mouths of babes..... Here in Australia we are seeing a similar use of comedy. A friend sent me a website address and asked me to tell him what I thought.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIRj13dpOxs>).

I just wonder what our martyred brethren would think, who died under the hands of their persecutors because they revered the ordinance of believers’ baptism? To them it was no laughing matter. But pragmatists never worry about foolish jesting about holy things if it makes lots of people laugh. Whatever it takes.....

**6. Pragmatists become bold when the crowds increase.** It has to do with the success of their successes. At the first level, their methods have produced results that bring great personal satisfaction. On the second level, their peers admire them for their successes, and that is even more gratifying. And on the third level, the gatherings of large groups of pastors in national conferences so the successful pastors can successfully teach others how to be almost as successful as themselves is the ultimate power trip. You don’t think so? Then trace the rise to power of Rick Warren, who has been called America’s Pastor. How did he ascend to that pantheon? By the stairway of pragmatism. And there are many (IFB) pastors who follow in his train. (Incidentally, if there is any religious leader who knows how to surf the waves of modern culture, it is Rick Warren. Maybe that explains why Paul Chappell sends his men to train under Warren’s men?)

**7. Pragmatists tend to develop a level of arrogance that refuses all reproofs.** One of the disastrous effects of being spoiled by philosophy is the level of self confidence it genders in its followers. Jack Hyles refused again and again the offers of help from some of the best friends he ever had. Billy Graham and James Dobson demonstrate this same superiority. Whereas Simon Peter appears to have accepted godly reproofs from his dearly beloved Paul, those spoiled by philosophy cannot do so. (Gal. 2)

## 8. The books written by pragmatists betray their vision.

The apostles of Christ apparently missed the mark when they penned the epistles of the New Testament. Their focus was on the whole counsel of God, on the glorious gospel of Christ, and on the Saviour Himself, not on how to build a big church. In fact, the size of a local church seems not to have been in view in any of their writings. Their desire was not to build a big church but to have a big outreach of the gospel. Luke, as an inspired historian faithfully records the ups and downs of the church at Jerusalem, from its explosive growth at Pentecost to its first diaspora at the time of its first persecution to its regrowth in Acts 21. He does not tell us of its disappearance with the destruction of Jerusalem under Titus. It is noteworthy that no NT writer gives us any details about the sizes of the churches in the book of Acts after the gospel spread from Jerusalem. Their eyes were on the spiritual growth of the believers, not on buildings, budgets, baptisms, and buses. The eyes of the apostles were not on the bottom line, but on the uttermost parts. Let me give an example of a pragmatist's vision, among the hundreds that could be given:

Here is one book written by Paul Chappell, pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church. It demonstrates the influence of pragmatism on IFB churches. I have highlighted the parts of the advertisement as it appears on the website of LBC.

### **Church Still Works - by Paul Chappell**

*Based upon an independent, nationwide survey of independent Baptist churches, this book provides a thought-provoking and encouraging look at local church ministry—a fresh perspective on **how God's plan still works!** Beginning with an unbiased look at comprehensive data, part one of this book examines the*

*present state of independent Baptists across the nation and across many various subsets and fellowship groups. Most **statistics are revealing and encouraging, while others present a great need and challenge us to do better.***

*Part two explores the concept of **positive deviance—what healthy churches are doing that struggling churches are not doing.** You will delight to study **seven biblical principles that healthy churches are practicing and that God is still blessing** in twenty-first century ministry! You will be encouraged by real-time examples of **dynamic local churches.** The **insightful data coupled with practical and biblical application will challenge you to chart a scriptural course for developing a healthy and dynamic local church.***

*Part three concludes the study with a personal call to “strive together”—to help meet the great needs of our nation and our world. We can make a lasting difference without compromising, but to do so, we must labor together to plant more local churches in more places.*

*Local church ministries that practice biblical principles are still effective and blessed of God!*

*With **reliable data** and biblical insight, this book reveals an encouraging untold story that every Christian should know!*

In the next issue of Heads Up we will deal with:

## **WHAT IS GOD'S PROTECTION FROM THE PHILOSOPHIES THAT SPOIL THE CHURCHES?**

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## THE THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

### **HOW TO BECOME A TEXAS RANGER**

A young boy from west Texas grew up wanting to be a Texas Ranger. He grew up big as a mustang, 6' 7" tall, strong as a longhorn, and fast as rattlesnake. He could wrestle a steer, tame a tornado and shoot a beer bottle cap out of the air at 40 paces.

When he finally came of age, he applied to join the Rangers.

After a long series of tests and interviews and psych tests, the head Ranger finally called him into his office to do the last interview. He said, "You're a big strong kid and you can really shoot. Your qualifications all look good, but we

have, what you might call, an "Attitude Suitability Test", that you must pass before you can be accepted. We just don't let anyone carry our badge, son."

Then, sliding a service pistol and a box of ammo across the desk, the Chief said, "Take this pistol and go out and shoot: six illegal aliens, six lawyers, six meth dealers, six Muslim extremists, six Democrats, and a coyote."

"What you got against coyotes?" queried the applicant.

"You pass," said the old Ranger. "Welcome to the Texas Rangers"





## TEXAS APRIL FOOL'S JOKE -

ARE THOSE PESKY DEER DAMAGING YOUR  
FLOWER AND SHRUBS?

TRY THE ECOLOGICAL SOLUTION TO YOUR DEER  
PROBLEMS.

## RENT A MOUNTAIN LION

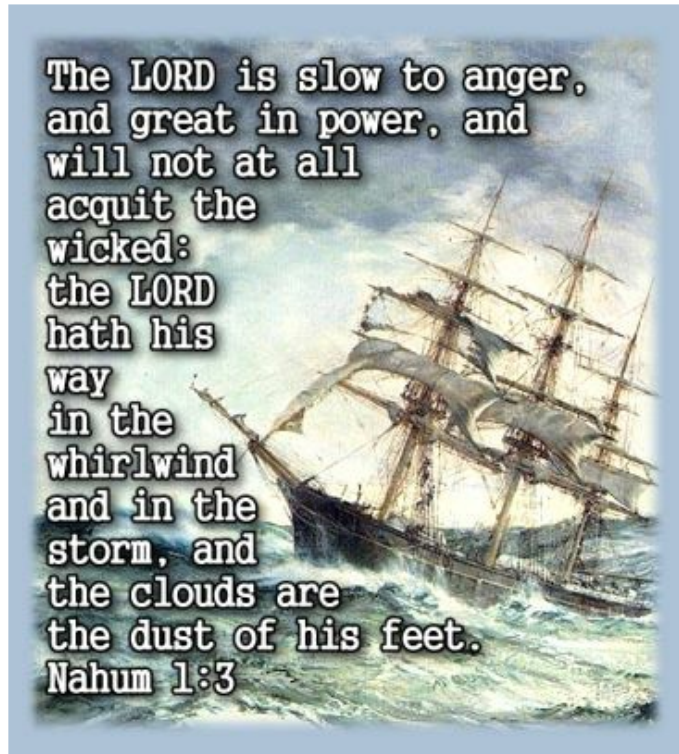
Our Mountain Lions are rabies free and come slightly starved in order to be more aggressive in eradicating deer populations. They are particularly effective inside city limits where the discharge of firearms is prohibited.

We will not rent to anyone living within 1,500 feet of an elementary school. We are not responsible for the disappearance of cats and dogs in the neighborhood.

*April's Fools!*

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The LORD is slow to anger,  
and great in power, and  
will not at all  
acquit the  
wicked:  
the LORD  
hath his  
way  
in the  
whirlwind  
and in the  
storm, and  
the clouds are  
the dust of his feet.  
Nahum 1:3



## BLINDED MINDS - FROM FUNDAMENTAL BAPTIST TO EMERGING - Edited & Contributed by Pastor David C. Bennett



*"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" 1Timothy 4:1.*

*"After pastoring fundamentalist churches for a decade, I was a part of a team that founded Vintage Fellowship, an wonderfully messy **emerging** church in Fayetteville AR,*

*where I have the privilege to serve as Narrator and Directional Leader (emphasis added)."*

*"I graduated from Biblical Theological Seminary in Hatfield PA **and Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit PA** (emphasis added)."*

This young man admits to being in the emerging church movement but also note he is a graduate of BBC of Clarks Summit PA! This school was once a fundamentalist school approved by the GARBC (when it had the approval system) but today BBC seems to be turning out many young men who are leading churches strongly into CCM and here into the emergent church movement.

<http://robbryerse.com/>

*"...Robb Ryerse, a former fundamentalist pastor who has just released a new book about his transformation away from fundamentalism." Robb says "About eight years ago, I was pastoring a fundamental Baptist church where I was preparing to preach through Genesis. I knew all of the answers I had been taught – literal seven-day creationism, a literal walking-talking snake, a literal garden with a literal angel with a literal flaming sword.*

*And I also knew the questions that began to gnaw at me:*

- *Why do Genesis 1 and 2 sound like they were spoken in two different voices?*
- *Where did Cain's wife come from?*
- *What happened to the dinosaurs?*

- *Doesn't a global flood feel like a bit of an over-reaction?*
- *How could God be willingly tied to such a family of scoundrels?"*

*"My fundamorphosis has freed me to embrace grace and mystery like never before. I now have a belief system that is big enough to handle my doubt. I am very comfortable saying, "I don't know." I don't feel the need to convince everyone to agree with me nor to condemn them when they don't. I think I'm a lot more humble, honest, and hopeful. More than anything, my fundamorphosis has been about becoming something fundamentalism never encouraged. I became authentic. I am finally free to be me (Underlining added)." At least this young man said he "think"s he is "more humble, honest, and hopeful" rather than "I am more...."*

We are living out what Paul said to the Ephesian elders in **Acts 20:29** *"For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise,*

*speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."* The danger lies **"without"** and **"within"**. Entering from without the church are evangelists, seminary professors and presidents, college presidents and professors, and missionaries to name just a few that will enter into the local congregation *"not sparing the flock"*. Then there are the pastors "within" who are not either saved or are still a novice (1Ti 3:6 Not a novice...) and are being *"tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness"*. At least so it seems this young man did not lead the church he was in at the time into the emergent movement BUT just by his the position he HELD he HAD to do some damage.

(David Cloud has an excellent e-book on the Emerging Church at: [http://www.wayoflife.org/free\\_ebooks/emerging\\_church.php](http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/emerging_church.php) and as Bro. Cloud says, "... we must deal with the emerging church because its influence is growing.")

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## ASK FOR THE OLD WAYS - by Richard Hester

Jeremiah 6:16, *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk [therein]."*

Jeremiah's days were dark and grim. Judah's apostasy would soon be rewarded with divine judgment. Judah had forsaken the Lord (5:19) and was serving strange gods. They would not say *"Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season; He reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of harvest."* (Jer. 5:24)

God told Jeremiah, *"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so; and what will ye do in the end thereof?"* (5:31) God's man, Jeremiah, seemed so alone. No one stood with him. Much of his time was spent in prison because of his telling the simple truth.

His message on every occasion was rejected. He told them to leave the city and submit to the Babylonians (38:2) and things would be right. He told them to stay in the land, and not to go to Egypt. They rejected it all and put Jeremiah in a dungeon. They said he was unpatriotic, that he *"weakeneth the hands of the men of war (38:4)."* His ministry seemed so ineffective. If ever anyone had cause to doubt the effectiveness of the divine message and search for an alternative method whereby he could see more results, it would be the prophet Jeremiah. Both



prophet and priest had caved in to the pressure to be more like the world.

They didn't like Jeremiah because:

1. His predictions and preaching were too gloomy to suit the tastes of the people. The people liked the utopian lies of the prophets and the novel, new methods of the priests.
2. He never flattered them.
3. They regarded him as old-fashioned, out of date, with his eyes blind. The people had the disease of "Egyptomania" and wanted to form close alliances with Egypt and adopt their way of life, dress, political ideas, etc.



Jeremiah set himself against this craze and protested. His cry in 6:16 was, *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."*

The correlation between Jeremiah's day and ours is not unlike.

I find it quite interesting that in the 1860's Spurgeon said: *"The fact is, that many would like to unite church and stage, cards and prayer, dancing and sacraments."* Spurgeon discerned the beginning of the end of an era that emphasized the exchange of ideas and the beginning of an era where amusement and entertainment would be "king".

In 1955, the year after I started my first church, A.W. Tozer wrote: *"For centuries the church stood solidly against every form of worldly entertainment, recognizing it for what it was - a device for wasting time, and a refuge from the disturbing voice of conscience. But of late the church has given over the struggle. She appears to have decided that if she cannot conquer the great god Entertainment, she may as well join forces with him and make what use she can of his powers. Religious entertainment is in many places rapidly crowding out the serious things of God. Many churches these days have become little more than poor theaters where fifth rate 'producers' peddle their shoddy wares with the full approval of evangelical leaders who can even quote a holy text in defense of their delinquency. Hardly a man dares raise his voice against it."*

At that very time, we independent Baptists used to scorn the liberalism of the main-line churches that was being acted out with "new methodology" - no Sunday night preaching, worldly music (and ultimately dances) for the young people, the demise of hard Bible preaching and a "comfortable" religious life style that was rarely offended by worldliness.

Spurgeon and Tozer were warning of a pervasive philosophy that undergirded the deadly change occurring in the Church of their day. Entertainment was becoming more and more a tool for church growth which would eventually subvert and overthrow biblical priorities. Their fear was that carnal amusements in the church program would finally destroy any appetite for real worship and the preaching of God's Word. The argument of the church-entertainers is that the medium doesn't matter so long as biblical principles are proclaimed. However, we could notice that a demon-possessed girl followed Paul shouting "amen"

to his preaching and declaring him to be a servant of the most high God. The content of her message was completely biblical, but the medium and the method cheapened and corrupted Paul's message.

Should we have a limit in how far we will go to try to entice people who aren't interested in the Word of God? Or shall we buy the ideas being promoted in slick and shiny books on church growth that we must rid our churches of that which would make sinners uncomfortable and fill them with things that would make sinners comfortable?

We were told by one of our pastors this week of a pastor/evangelist from California who was brought to Sydney by a well-known Baptist organization. Those hungry souls in attendance at this seminar for church growth were told to first get rid of the KJV, secondly get rid of hymns and get music like sinners are accustomed to hearing. Then, said he, "your church will grow." One big church paid half a million dollars for a special-effects system that can produce smoke, fire, sparks, and laser lights in the auditorium. Church staff members then went to a large casino to study the use of the system's special effects.

One of Paul's descriptions of the last days was "lovers of pleasure." The focus of many churches is no longer on a pulpit but on a stage. The theme of these church-growth peddlers is one: **We will never win people until we develop alternative forms of entertainment to capture people's attention and love away from what the world offers them.**

How about a verse to prove that the church's business is to offer an alternative to secular entertainment? Paul did not say that we are clowns or comedians, but "ambassadors for Christ." Instead of confronting the world with the claims of Christ, churches are obsessed with promoting entertainment.

The gospel does not entertain, it disturbs, confronts, convicts and offends human pride. It is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to sinful man. If people come to church primarily to be entertained, they will surely leave when they find something more entertaining and accommodating. And before the churches realize it, they are bogged down in this hopeless cycle where they are obliged to concoct a bigger and better spectacle to outdo the previous one.

Donald McGavran is called the father of the modern church growth movement. His philosophy was to discard church theories that do not work and espouse what does work. In his view, if a particular method did not reach the

desired goal, then why use it? Once this philosophy was in place, though it claimed not to compromise the Word of God, it proceeded to push the preaching of the Word of God out of the pulpit and replace it with vaudeville and whatever worked.

George Barna, on page 145 of his first book Marketing The Church, says, *"It is critical that we keep in mind a fundamental principle of Christian communication: the audience, not the message, is sovereign. ...our message has to be adapted to the needs of the audience."* (Ed. - This is what is meant by the term "seeker sensitive!")

Other promoters of this new philosophy claim that Paul (for)ever studied strategy and tactics to identify those that would get the most prospects and gain more conversions. I read the Bible differently: Paul put no faith in fleshly, carnal methods, but in the revealed message and the power of God that brings about conversion.

Note 1 Cor 2:1, 4: *"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power."*

What about 1 Thess 2:3-5: *"For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness."*

Any time we adopt a philosophy of "the end justifies the means", our perception of truth will ultimately be shaped by what is effective or not effective.

It is amazing that the church growth movement studies all growing churches and even cults to see what methods are working, as if God is working through the methods of the cults. Of course, the object of "effectiveness" is always numerical growth - not in itself a biblical goal.

Evangelism is now a "marketing venture". The contemporary pastor is no longer the prophet, preacher, or shepherd, but is fast becoming an executive, a politician, a psychologist, a media expert. Strong, biblical preaching, say they, "doesn't bring the people in," so it has been replaced with programs and entertainment. They say, "You can't argue with success." Or, "It works so it must be good." By designing a message accommodating people who want what they want when they want it, the church-growth movement has corrupted the gospel by appealing to selfish desires. Paul made plain that it is not our clever method nor even our ability in sermons that

brings God's power on us, but our obedience to a holy God and His standard in our daily lives.

I have seen churches that were deceived with this philosophy on "new" methodology. They brought it about by using the standard method of brainstorming and think-tanks which pushed the limits and questioned all the traditional methods. I have never spent time sitting around pushing the limits but doing what I know the Bible says to do, seeking His power and blessing to do it.

How did Jeremiah respond to the temptation to leave the old paths and get a more relevant and effective message and ministry? He believed, against all human hope, even as he sat among the smoking debris of Jerusalem, that *"His compassions fail not, they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."* (Lam. 3:22-23).

Look again at our text in Jer. 6:16: *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."*

Sin is also an old path - there is an old path that wicked men have trodden. It is not the good path. A path may be old but not good.

The old path here is the way of God: It is a path of humility, self denial and implicit dependence upon God.

This generation needs some prophets of God who are not ashamed of the truth and who will follow God's way. These are the kind that will build churches. Jer's last recorded words were about Babylon falling into Euphrates in 51:64

You graduates face a rapidly changing world as the coming of our Lord nears. There will be choices awaiting you. Where you end up will depend upon the choices you make. Let this day be a day of affirmation; affirmation of our thanks to God for the heritage we have; affirmation of our implicit trust and reliance upon the Word of God, the gospel which is the power....., and an affirmation of our steadfastness in the face of all discouragement such as Jeremiah faced. Let this college ever choose to stand firmly in the ways of a biblical ministry, ask for the old, well-worn, well-marked paths. May God give us the clearness of vision to know the old paths and the courage to walk in them. They are the good ways.

The old paths are the paths that gave this college a great and fruitful 20-year ministry. The majority of the alumni say with one voice: ask for the old paths, don't change. Grad wanted to send kids here to SBBC like it used to be.

*"Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follower of the lamb?  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His name?"*

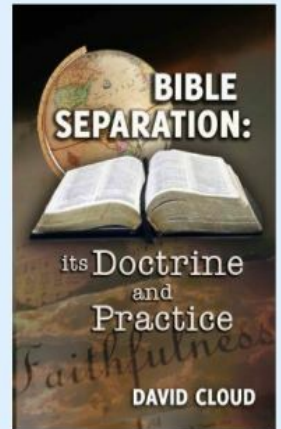
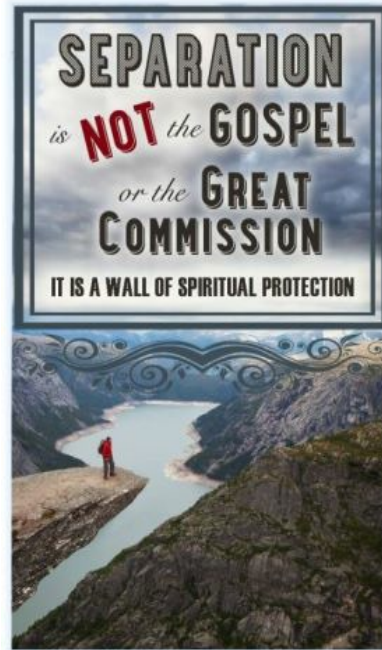
*Must I be carried to the skies  
on flowery beds of ease;  
while others fought to win the prize,  
and sailed through bloody seas?*

*Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?*

*Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage Lord;  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word."*

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## DIARIES OF THE SAINTS - Bro. Buddy Smith



Bobby Glenn was one of the best friends I ever had. He grew up in a Southern Baptist church in south Texas. When we moved from meeting in a home to a rented building in McAllen he and his wife and three daughters came to Maranatha Baptist Church and never left. He was our first deacon and was a great help to his young pastor. He knew evangelist Lester Roloff and supported him for many years. Bro. Bobby and his wife Eleanor witnessed to Harmon and Lois Oxford and saw them come to Christ and then serve for many years as superintendent of one of Bro. Roloff's rescue homes for boys the state considered outlaws. We were blest to have the Oxfords in the church in McAllen and all the boys from the boys' home.

Bro. Bobby Glenn told me once that he had a great place to work. He was second in charge of the electricity generating plant near Mission, Texas. His boss was a Christian as well as the secretary and several of the workers there. Harmon Oxford was one of them for a time. One day, Bro. Bobby was approached by the management to see if he would be interested in a promotion to the hydroelectric plant at Falcon Dam. Bro. Bobby was wise enough to ask some important questions. He asked what the high school was like where he girls would attend, and what the churches were like, and the answers weren't very good. So he said no. The company offered him a \$10,000 raise in salary and a house to live in and a company car, but he said no. He loved his church and the girls had a good school and those things were worth more than what the company offered. A year later, Bro. Bobby came to me and told me his boss at the local power plant near our church had decided to retire and had recommended Bro. Bobby for the job, and he was going to take it. And he said the job included a house and a company car and a \$10,000 raise. I told him God has good things for those who are content with His will. He got everything the other job offered and his church and the girls' school. And a good conscience to go with them.

And we got to keep a godly deacon and a dear friend.

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## DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Our old pastor had a lot of wisdom from the Lord. I loved to watch how he handled the gossips that showed up in the church from time to time.

Sometimes he would listen to just enough of the talebearer's story to find out who they were talking about and then pick up the phone and start dialing that person without saying a word to the gossip. When they answered, he would tell them that he had someone in his office that wanted to talk to them about sump'n mighty important.

Other times he would pull out a little red book and open it to an empty page and say, "Write it all down and sign it, and I'll take it up with them as soon as I can." (He said that book never had a thing wrote in it in forty years.)

One time, he said he was sitting in his study when he heard the front door of the church open and then there was these angry footsteps coming down the aisle of the church ninety to nothin', and a knock at his door, and the church backbiter came in on the boil and without even a howdy they blurted out about half a ton of rubbish on somebody they didn't like, and then asked, "Well, Preacher, what are you going to do about it?"

He said he replied, "I'll tell you what we're goin' to do about it. We're goin' to lay the Bible right on it!"

The gossip looked puzzled at that answer for a second or two and then started out the door and down the aisle, doin' about sixty, and then about forty, and then stopped and turned around and came back and knocked at his door again.

When he said, "Come in." they stuck their head in just far enough to ask, "What did you mean, 'We're gonna lay the Bible right on it?'" He said, "Why we'll lay I Thessalonians 4:11 right on it. Yessireee."

The gossip nodded her head and started out the door again, but didn't even get much past the pulpit this time before she was back again. "Preacher, I'm havin' trouble rememberin' which verse that one is. What does it say again?"

He would always smile, lean back in his chair and quote it to them, "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you."

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## CAPTIVATED - A DVD YOU MUST SEE!



Bro. Nathan Searle recently sent me a DVD titled Captivated. It documents the effects of our generation being captured and captivated by media.

It deals with television, computer addiction, social media, texting, video games, FaceBook, movies and music. It is available freely. Just do a quick search online (I know, that's using media, isn't it?). The cost is about \$15 or so. - Ed

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## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- 'Never make eye contact with a cat while you're eating chicken.' - *Isaac Whitton*
- "The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin." - *Mark Twain*
- "It is better to judge a church by its members' growth than by its numbers' growth" - *Timothy Chapman*
- "It was IMPOSSIBLE that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD, . . ." - (*Simon Greenleaf, AN EXAMINATION OF THE TESTIMONY OF THE FOUR EVANGELISTS BY THE RULES OF EVIDENCE ADMINISTERED IN THE COURTS OF JUSTICE*, p.29).

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## ECCLESIASTES 7:29

<sup>27</sup> Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account:  
<sup>28</sup> Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found.  
<sup>29</sup> Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

*(Bro. Kev Milson has a real burden for souls. He and Pat fan the fires of evangelism at Grace Baptist Church every week, and we love it. His description of a platypus and a cormorant fishing together is unique, and as far as we can tell, unheard of previously. In the last issue of Heads Up we included a report of revival among the aboriginal Christians in western Queensland and the Northern Territory, and we rejoice over them. This work is mostly the fruit of a Brethren missionary to the aboriginals, Hazel Lauridsen, who has worked among them for more than forty years. Though we have had no part in her work, we do appreciate it and thank God for it, and desire to see it prosper in time to come. - Ed)*

#### THE PLATYPUS AND THE CORMORANT



The Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) is one of the most unusual animals we have here in Australia.

- It is a semi-aquatic mammal.
- Along with four species of echidna, it is one of the two local species of animals that lay eggs instead of bearing their young through live birth.
- Platypus live mostly in the water, they dig a burrow to rest in, they incubate eggs, and are able to walk on land.
- They have a bill like a duck, webbed feet like a duck, fur like a possum and a tail something like a beaver.
- A platypus finds its food by the sensitivity of the bill. Their bill is so sensitive that they can actually detect the tiny electrical currents in the muscles of the little crustaceans they feed on. They sift the small creatures from mud on the bottom of waterholes, streams and rivers. They then rise to the surface to crush their food and also breathe. They collect their food into cheek pouches and crush it before swallowing it. Because they have no teeth they use small pebbles and grit to crush their food.
- Folds of skin cover their eyes and ears and their nose closes with a watertight seal. They may stay under water for a minute or two.
- Sharp claws are used to dig a burrow hidden under overhanging banks. This is dry and is lined with grasses to keep warmth in.
- The female seals herself in this burrow to lay her eggs (usually two) and stays there for ten days till they are hatched.

- It is unusual, but she has no nipples and literally excretes milk from little glands on her underside where the baby laps up the milk.
- A baby platypus is 15mm (5/8") long at birth, and stays in its burrow for a long time and when fully grown are about 45cm (16 - 18") long, weigh up to 3kg. and can eat one third of their weight daily.

There's much more could be told of this great creation, what an amazing animal! The photo's used are taken from our verandah overlooking the waterhole very near our home. We have several permanent platypus living in this water, and we enjoy sitting and watching them surface whilst feeding.

I often chuckle at how God made this animal and how confusing it must be to the evolutionist.



This last year God blessed us with letting us see an amazing event. We noted a cormorant, swimming together with our platypus. Now the cormorant is different to our platypus. They are birds, they fly, swim, have feathers, swallow their food whole, nest in a tree, lay eggs and sit on them in a nest. They feed their chicks by catching small fish etc. and carrying them to their young. The platypus and the cormorant are very, very unlike except that they have a similar need to catch food, sustain life and reproduce. Because of what we know about platypus' feeding habits and how they stir up the muddy bottom of our pond, we expect that they also stir up bigger crayfish and fish for his friend, the cormorant. So the cormorant has learned that if he dives with the

platypus he get a feed from what is stirred up and the platypus does not want. The cormorant can't stay submerged for as long as the platypus, so we see him pop up to the surface first. The platypus then appears after a bit and, of course, must crush his food before diving again. The cormorant becomes impatient waiting to dive again and we have seen him swim over and nudge the platypus, as though he is saying "Come on, get down there and stir up some more food for me." As far as we can tell the cormorant is no help to the platypus, but they are content to work together.



For some time I have considered this phenomenon and I think there is a lesson in it for us. As a blood bought, born again believer, pastor, evangelist, or any servant of God, what is your greatest desire? What burdens your heart? I believe if that burden isn't seeing SOULS SAVED, drunkards, druggies, children, mums and dads, and the ordinary man on the street from the North Pole to the South Pole then we have missed the mark.

We Christians are often shooting at a different target than what God saved us for. He didn't save us to have big swanky churches; He didn't save us to be sophisticated members of those churches. He told us to go into ALL the

world and preach the gospel, WHY? That SOULS MIGHT BE SAVED"


Well what do the Platypus and the Cormorant to teach us? THERE IS NO OBSTACLE TO STOP THEM WORKING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON PURPOSE. Over the last 30-40 years just being a simple man wanting to get out and tell people that Jesus Saves, I have read and heard of much criticism of other Christians who are trying to serve the Lord by winning the lost, (and it is on the increase) than ever before. This one does not do it right. This one does not cross his T's right or dot his I's correctly. Lets face it, in many of our fundamental churches, we hear more preaching, (sorry, lecturing) about T's and I's today than we hear gospel preaching. No wonder any of our churches are dying. So many of our congregations have lost their burden. Have we, too, lost our burden for souls? The platypus and the cormorant have one desire, to obtain food to sustain self and reproduce each after its kind.

Is God teaching us a lesson from these two critters? Maybe if other things were not so important to us than winning the lost we would get back on track and have a greater burden for those who are going to hell at a great speed. I believe that if we preached the truth of God's Word, and let His Holy Spirit do the work in people's lives, we too, would get a burden for souls. Yes, the critters have a desire to reproduce after their kind. After what kind are we reproducing today? Good pastors, great church members, or blood washed sinners with a changed life bound for heaven? Well yes God did command us to, GO AND PREACH THE GOSPEL.

Some of you may be mad, some glad, but God created our critters and they work together to do their part in His great plan. What is our burden for 2013?

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# Sharpened Arrows

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



It's not a big story.

Miles wanted a particular wii game, and I told him he couldn't take any of his money out of the bank for it, that he had to earn money to pay for it. So he came up with a few thoughts that weren't going to work, and then I suggested we make doughnuts and sell them at the work sites and offices in our neighbourhood.

He was on it like a terrier onto a rat. Finally came a day when there was enough time without visitors to make it happen. So he got stuck into his schoolwork while the dough rose. When he was done we started frying them, I fried and he iced them. We made 35.

I cut up some squares of baking paper to serve them on, and we were out the door.

Linnet was pretty sure we would be gone for hours, hot and bedraggled on our return, with doughnuts to spare.

We were back in ten minutes with an empty container.

We had looked into the building site but the crane was there and everyone was too busy to see us by the gate, so we moved onto offices. Almost everyone bought some. I thought we would only sell one to a person – hence the squares of paper – but one lady wanted 5! I said I only had pieces of paper, she said that is fine, she had a container. One man said he was gluten intolerant and couldn't eat them, so he only bought 3 to take home and enjoy vicariously – his words. So Miles made \$35 in ten minutes! (Ed. - I don't know anybody that earns \$210/hr!!!!)

Next day was free too, so we did it again but we were more organised and got out on the street earlier. Which was not so good. It was 12:30 and everyone had just had lunch.

It took us an hour to sell 36, and we had to walk a lot further to get a customer. Even an office full of men were able to resist!



We went to one office, which was some branch of local government. Miles did his spiel, which was, "Would you like to buy some warm, fresh doughnuts? They are only a dollar." The lady at the counter said, "Where are they from?" "From our kitchen." I could see where this was going. She had that look on her face and she said, "Do you have a ..." and stopped. Before she could say more, I said to her, "I am teaching him entrepreneurial skills." And she said, "In that case, I'd better have 3!"

She called all the other women, telling me about one or the other, "This lady has children she will buy some!" All the ladies agreed that getting our children to work to pay for things they want is a good idea.

So that is the end of the story thus far.

We may have to do it again, as I keep taking my cut and he hasn't got to his goal yet!"

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Every Christian woman has a favourite female character in the Bible. In most cases the reason for having that favourite biblical character is that there was something in their life that appealed to the said Christian woman and was something that they wanted to implement in their own life. However, I decided that I wanted to find out about a woman whom I would not like to follow after. She is known for everything that I do not want to be known for. She worshipped Baal, never submitted to her husband, ordered many murders, was an adulteress, and much more. This is a woman that no mother wishes to name her daughter after. Her name is Jezebel.

Jezebel was a princess, the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians. From her very first mention in I Kings 16:31, she is known for serving and worshipping Baal. This is where I think that Jezebel's twisted value system in life stemmed from; she served the false god Baal. Anyone who serves a god or idol besides the living and true God is going to have a very twisted outlook on life, no matter how good they might appear to be, but in Jezebel's case it was all too obvious that she was evil. She claimed to be a prophetess of Baal and was known for practicing witchcraft.

Jezebel worshipped other idols as well. She worshipped the idols of wealth and power, which are also prevalent today. Her whole life is a very clear picture of what she valued the most. All of them were selfish and worldly values. As a result of the god that she served and the idols that she worshipped, Jezebel had very few and, some could argue, non-existent morals. She was known for her ruthlessness and cruelty towards the prophets of God. She sent out soldiers to capture and kill as many of them as could be found. She also arranged the murder of a man called Naboth because her husband wanted this man's vineyard and he would not sell it. She had absolutely no qualms about killing anyone that she did not like or that worshipped the true God.

Jezebel was an adulteress. She would offer herself to and seduce anyone that she thought could be of use to her.

Almost anything wicked that you could imagine someone being capable of doing she did. Jezebel was a selfish and vain woman who had a twisted idea of her role as mother, wife and queen. She married Ahab, king of Israel and Samaria. Already one might ask the question, "Wait a minute! How can Jezebel have married Ahab?!" "Wasn't he a worshipper of the Israelites' God Jehovah?!" *"How can two walk together except they be agreed?"* (Amos 3:3) Well, Ahab was a weak king who was not walking with the LORD. He worshipped God after a fashion, but he



also worshipped and built temples to Baal by Jezebel's request. Instead of following her husband and supporting him as king, Jezebel on many occasions usurped Ahab's authority and gave out her own decrees and orders in the kingdom. I Kings 21:8 reads. *"So she (Jezebel) wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city."*

In the Bible, in Ephesians 5:22, wives are commanded to submit to their husbands as unto the Lord, but Jezebel never showed herself to be in submission to her husband.

I wonder what it was like for Jezebel's son, Joram, to grow up with her as his mother. Everyone would have known what she was like and I can't imagine Jezebel to have been a very supportive and loving example of what a mother should be. I try to imagine the sadness and humiliation that Joram must have felt when Jehu, the newly anointed king of Israel, in answer to his question about peace said, *"What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?"* (II Kings 9:22)

Joram's whole life was overshadowed and shamed by his mother's wickedness. He was not able to, *"arise up, and call her blessed"* as the children of the virtuous woman were.

Jezebel did not care about, or follow any commands of God. Jezebel hated God and this is the primary reason why she exemplified everything that a Christian woman



should not be. The Bible doesn't make any mention of what her domestic life was like, but because it does mention everything else that she was involved in outside of the home, such as meddling in the affairs of the kingdom, I don't think that she was what we would exactly call a model housewife! She did not have the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit that is considered of great price to the Lord.

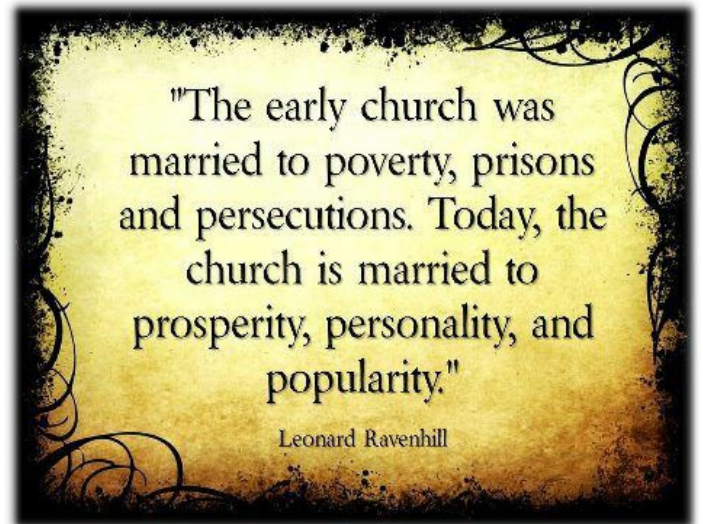
There is much more that can be learnt from Jezebel about how not to be. Especially as a Christian woman, but if there is only one thing taken and remembered from this study it is that it is possible for us to be guilty of any of the wicked things that Jezebel is known for if we turn away from following after the One true God. Before we sit back and think that we could never be like that we need to see that except for the grace of God that could be any one of us.

Jezebel is known as a wicked woman, a wayward wife, and neglectful mother.

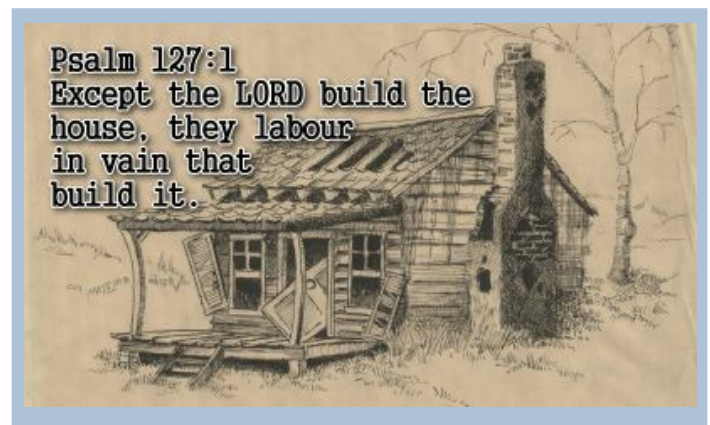
Ladies, may I ask you to consider this one question. **"In the years to come, what kind of woman will you be known as being?"** Ladies, let us be ever seeking and ever learning how to be like that virtuous woman of Proverbs 31 whose price is far above rubies; a woman whom our Lord Jesus Christ values so highly, her husband praises and her children call blessed.

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## POSTERS FOR PASTORS -



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## EDDY-TORIAL - "WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER ATTENDETH MY WAY....." - By Buddy Smith



How well we know the words of H.G. Stafford's hymn (*It Is Well With My Soul*.) It is not that our paths follow the river called Peace. Rather, that the river follows the path of the just. So it is with all those who have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Peace, who by His death and resurrection brought to an end the lifelong hostilities between the sinner and his Creator. He who commanded

the raging sea to be still has sent us a river to flow by our path.

I read recently of two contestants in the World Paragliding Championships here in Australia. Both were sucked up into a large stormcloud. One of them was struck by lightning and died and the other survived after



being pummelled by grapefruit sized hail and suffered frostbite. Surely this tragedy gives an insight into our times. All over the world men are suffering and dying in the storms of life. The turbulent updrafts and downdrafts of life are more violent than ever before. But God gives peace in the midst of the storm for all those who believe on the name of Jesus Christ for eternal salvation.

You may have heard of Frank W. Boreham, the author of many choice books. A friend sent me a copy of his life story. It is now called *A Pathway of Roses*, but was originally titled, *My Pilgrimage*. As I searched high and low for an example of the fruit of peace, I was reminded of FW Boreham. For most of his life he walked beside the river called Peace. It attended his way.

You know, a river is one of God's greatest creations. I am sure God in His wisdom designed rivers to be what they are. He designed their seemingly insignificant sources, their countless tributaries, their many moods, their seasons, their cargoes, and their termini in the seas when He fashioned the rivers that flowed through the Garden. It is a very fitting analogy to describe Peace as a river.

Boreham's river of peace began in his parents' home on March 3, 1871. His parents were believers and attended a dissenters' chapel. They were the spring of life for him. Frank's aunt Rachel became a tributary when she was deeply affected by the visit of DL Moody and began Bible Studies with her nephews. God used her to whet their appetites for eternal things. His grandfather was another of the river's springs of piety and left his mark on young Frank's heart and soul with his love for the Bible. Ah yes, if the springs in our homes flow into the river of Peace, we have made a good start.

What streams converged to give the great river its strength and current? As with all of us, Frank's helpers are too numerous to name. He has told us the names of a few. His friend and chief competitor in school, Gilbert Finch, was the one who introduced him to the wonderful world of books. He took him to a little schoolroom library and taught him to love books. It was in his youth, while employed as a student teacher, that the most important of all the tributaries joined the stream. Her name was Stella. There are times when my heart beats in perfect time with his, so when I read of Stella and of Frank's love for her, I am reminded of the sweetest tributary God ever joined to my river of Peace. What a blessing to be married to the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31! FW and I must have married twins. You will have to read his account of Stella for yourself. I fear I would spoil it for you if I tried to describe it. Other vital streams flowed into FW's life in the form of godly pastors, schoolteachers, and a multitude of the saints of God. Boreham was blest to know CH

Spurgeon, Archibald Brown, FB Meyer, DL Moody, AT Pierson, and Hudson Taylor. All these were men of depth and character who became some of FW's tributaries and gave depth and breadth to his ministry.

What of the river's moods and seasons? There were rapids in the river at times and long quiet pools at others. When they feared they would lose one of their children to poor health, or when FW thought his beloved Stella would precede him to Heaven, the waters were very troubled. Yet, there were also times of great peacefulness and quiet when the Voice of the Lord stilled the waves and life flowed smoothly along. As for seasons, surely the most blessed season was the springtime of the soul, when FW came to trust in Christ.

It was at the end of November, 1879, that young Frank went up to London to work, and realised how badly he needed Something or Someone to fill the void in his heart, and it was at that time, he says, the Lord claimed him for His own. It was his time of salvation and it brought peace with God.

The river has its cargo as well. Soon after he came to London, and before he ever was converted he wrote an article that was printed in a paper called *The Associate*, and soon after his conversion he penned a reply to an article by General Booth, called *Darkest London and the Way In*. Boreham's books became some of the weightiest cargo ever shipped downriver. Altogether he wrote over 50 books and equally as many pamphlets. One of his biographers mentions over 3000 editorials of FWB's. Of all the authors of the twentieth century, FW Boreham's name is renowned for richness of thought combined with worshipfulness of spirit.

But we must not suppose that he withdrew from a needy world to write. Most of what he wrote was penned during the pastorates of three churches. His first charge was in a little town called Mosgiel on the south Island of New Zealand. Twelve years he ministered there before his dear Stella pointed out to him an article in the newspaper telling that the pulpit of the Baptist church in Hobart (Tasmania) was vacant, and that she thought he would soon be called to take the church. And he was! And he did!

It was there he preached the series of sermons that became his best known messages. He initially announced one Sunday night in 1911 that he would begin the next week to preach on *The Texts That Made History*. And so he did, for 125 Sunday nights! These sermons were later printed as *A Bunch of Everlastings*, and are now available as *Life Verses*. It was at Hobart that FW's first book was published, called *The Luggage of Life*. (Ninety five years

later I read it for the first time.) In 1916 he took his family to Armadale, a suburb of Melbourne and pastored there for ten years. After he stepped down from the pastorate there, he filled pulpits all over the world.

And what of the terminus of the river? Does the river of Peace have a final point? Does it come to an end? Most certainly not! Oh, we may lose track of the water of all those springs and tributaries that have combined to give the river its breadth and length and depth, but God's peace never has a terminus. If He is eternal, so are His attributes. Love has no terminus, neither does joy or peace. The pilgrim pathway of the earthly life of FW Boreham ended one day in 1959 at the trackless shore of the sea of eternity, but the river of peace and all its cargo moved onward.

It was only a few years after Christopher Columbus' made his voyage of discovery that one of his seamen, Vincente Pinzon put together his own expedition to explore the east coast of South America. When he and his men were still more than 300 kilometres offshore, they discovered that they were floating in fresh water. To them it was a

great surprise to find fresh water in "the middle of the ocean." So they set their sails and helm to sail to the west and discovered the mouth of the Amazon River.

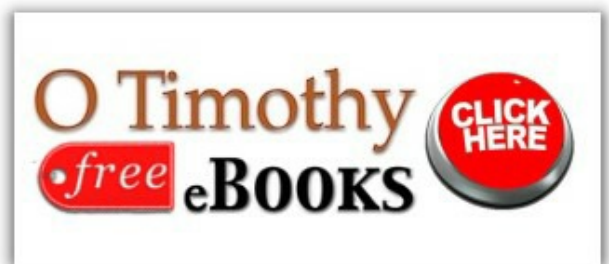
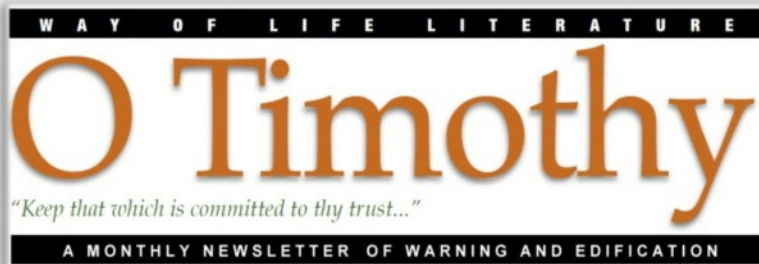
So it is with the fruit of the Spirit. Whether it is love or joy or peace, there is no terminus for the river. It flows on and on and on and refreshes the souls of those who drink of that river.

These are the days when the Lord's people need to see the Holy Spirit bear His fruit in us. The world is dying for want of the river of peace that attends our way. Whether it is peace with God or the peace of God, men urgently need this river to attend their way.

*"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High." Psalm 46:4*

PS - Many of the books of FW Boreham are now available as free e-books. Interested? Look at [Kobo Books](#).

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