



April 19, 2013

THE CULTURED PIG - Submitted by Matt Costella on Mar, 13, 2013

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A young boy, on a certain occasion, was walking with his father through the streets of Manchester, England. His attention was suddenly drawn to a man standing before the door of a building, announcing loudly, "Come in, ladies and gentlemen, and see the great American pig." Having his curiosity aroused, he paid his penny and entered the building. There, sure enough, was an amazing pig performing feats and giving evidence of an intelligence no pig had ever before exhibited. At the command of his trainer, he would pick out, from the alphabet lying on the floor, the letters "G-O-O-D P-I-G." He would also walk about on his



hind legs and shake hands with those who stepped up to greet him. This pig had been washed and scrubbed until he was perfectly clean and he was dressed in a beautiful garment. Of course, he commanded the highest admiration and no one could deny that he was well-educated and well-behaved in every respect. But in spite of his remarkable culture and his attractive appearance, he was still a pig—better off, perhaps, than most other pigs—and yet, after all, only a pig and a pig to remain, however advanced his learning.

CULTURE IS NOT THE ANSWER - There is no error in these days more dangerous (and none more shallow and silly) than the idea taught and accepted by many that CULTURE is the way of salvation. Many, by the reading of magazines or the study of books, acquire a smattering of science or culture and then, like the pig walking on his hind legs, strut around in the conceit and self-assurance of their "superior intelligence" that places them, they believe, beyond the need of regeneration by the Holy Spirit and of the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Others imagine that courtesy, refinement, acquaintance with the arts or regard for the rules of good morals will put them on a different footing before God—a position above the uneducated and the common man.

CULTURE DOESN'T CHANGE THE HEART - A moment's observation will convince us that the deep-seated enmity against God—through the mind of the flesh and the desperate wickedness of the heart—is often most fully manifested by those who are most highly “cultivated.” The history of the human race since the death and resurrection of God's Son proves that a far more bitter opposition and contemptuous indifference to the gospel of God's grace has generally been shown by the wealthy and educated than by the poor and ignorant. The wealthy and educated are more prone to be puffed up with pride—pride that refuses to humble itself beneath the mighty hand of God. A moment's observation will also convince us that any degree of culture—mental or moral—must utterly fail to change man's nature. An educated pig is still a pig; a conquered tiger is still a tiger. *“Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”* **Matthew 7:16.** No! The diligent cultivation of thorns and thistles for a life-time or for a thousand years could not produce grapes and figs. Whatever is done with human nature, it will remain human nature, whether in the palace of a king or in the cell of a convict; whether in the retreats of philosophy or in the huts of uneducated savages.

EVEN THE CULTURED MUST BE BORN AGAIN - It was to a cultivated, refined, moral and even religious inquirer that Jesus said: *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”* John 3:5-7

It was to those no less accomplished than the society of the present-day that the Apostle Paul wrote: *“And you hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”* Ephesians 2:1-3

CULTURED PEOPLE WHO ARE YET UNCONVERTED ARE UNDER THE JUDGMENT OF GOD - The desires of the mind are just as offensive to God as the coarser desires of the flesh. The most cultivated are, by nature, the objects of God's displeasure even as others.

CULTURED PEOPLE WHO ARE UNREGENERATE ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM A PIG OR A DOG - How does God view man's nature? The Lord Jesus, speaking of the unregenerate, said to His disciples: *“Give not that which is*

holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine....” Matthew 7:6

CULTURED PEOPLE WHO ARE UNSAVED ULTIMATELY RETURN TO THEIR OLD WAYS - So the Holy Spirit, describing some who have received culture but not the new nature, tells us: *“...The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”* 2 Peter 2:22

CULTURED PEOPLE NEED A NEW NATURE - The pig may be washed. But unless a lamb's nature is imparted to it—a nature which will reign supreme—it will still be a pig and at the first convenient opportunity, will go back to its old ways. *“For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord God.”* Jeremiah 2:22

EVEN FOR CHRISTIANS, CULTURE IS NOT THE ANSWER - May God deliver people from the folly of thinking that human culture and external appliances can take the place of His glorious gospel in the work of redemption! May God impress upon each Christian that solemn admonition of His Word: *“Keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings and oppositions of science falsely so-called; which some professing have erred concerning the faith.”* 1 Timothy 6:20-21

THOSE WHO ARE OUTSIDE OF CHRIST DARE NOT TRUST IN CULTURAL REFINEMENT - May God also speak to each unsaved person through His grace that sweet message of salvation through Christ alone: *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; that being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”* Titus 3:5-7 *“...Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* 1 Peter 1:18-19

Author Unknown

http://www.feasite.org/the_cultured_pig

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(How strange is this, that communist China is now publishing more Bibles than those nations that consider themselves to be Christian? Does this not indicate to us how little we, the citizens of "Christian" nations revere and treasure the word of God? Does it not reveal to our eyes that Mammon has become our god, and that we worship monetary gain as seen in our willingness to economize by purchasing our Bibles from the lowest bidder? Should it not concern us that we value the Holy Scriptures so cheaply? This old

preacher cannot help wondering what gadgets and trinkets we lust after and waste our money on when we economize on our Bibles? - Ed)

China, the world's largest producer of textiles and manufactured goods, is now also the largest producer of Bibles. In 2012, the country's sole Bible printer, Amity Printing, produced 12 million Bibles and New Testaments. Although the increased availability of Bibles is a big step forward from China's strictly Communist days, a closer inspection reveals the country continues to control how many Bibles are printed and who can get them.

Amity Printing started in 1988 as a joint effort between the British United Bible Societies (UBS) and Amity Foundation, the charity arm of the Three Self Church. Bible production increased from 500,000 the first year to 12 million last year. But many of the Bibles aren't going to Chinese Christians, as Amity Printing has found it can turn a profit by exporting its goods. Bibles are printed in more than 90 different languages, and of the 88.9 million Bibles printed between 1988 and late 2011, 33.2 million were exported. And the number of exported Bibles is increasing. In 2011, about two-thirds of the Bibles printed went out of the country, with only about 4 million copies remaining in China's borders. Not only is the number of Bibles printed by Amity unable to keep up with the growth of Chinese Christians, the 50 million believers in unregistered house churches do not have direct access to them, said Paul Hattaway of Asia Harvest.

The Bibles are distributed to the 55,000 registered churches, and anyone can purchase them there for an affordable 9.50 Yuan (\$1.50). Christians found owning an Amity-printed Bible do not face punishment. But Christians in rural house churches far from registered congregations have a difficult time getting Bibles. Christians who ask for more than a few Bibles at a time raise suspicion. "There is a growing emergency in China because of the lack of God's Word among the rural house churches," Hattaway said in an interview in Asia Harvest's 2011 newsletter. "If this need is not rebalanced soon, I fear it will have dire consequences for the revival that has been burning so brightly in China for the last 30 years." Hattaway said the government's claims that Bibles are no longer needed in China is propaganda, and through speaking with the leaders of house church networks, he found they still need 34 million Bibles to give one to all their members. Asian Harvest has so far printed and distributed more than 6 million Bibles to these house churches. "More than 60 years of atheistic Communist teaching in China has

DEACON TRUE SEZ



Saw a sign t'other day that said, "One good turn gets most of the blanket." Goes with the other one I heard last week, "If you think women are the weaker sex, try pulling the blanket back to your side of the bed."

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PSALM 119:1-7

¹ ALEPH. *Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD.*

² *Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.*

³ *They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.*

⁴ *Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.*

⁵ *O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!*

⁶ *Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.*

⁷ *I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments.*

⁸ *I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.*

resulted in a large spiritual void in the lives of a billion people, which creates a hunger for truth,” Hattaway said. “When many people hear truth, they are eager to embrace and wholeheartedly live for God.”

<http://www.billionbibles.org/china/amity-printing.html>

Additional information: Please see information provided here. My understanding is that the Three Self church approved “bible” is based on the 1881 Wescott-Hort text.
- Jeff Royal

CHINESE BIBLE

More pressing today than the need for more Chinese Bibles is the need for an accurate Chinese Bible. Presently, there is no Chinese Bible that uses modern Chinese to accurately translate the original Bible, written in Hebrew and Aramaic for the Old Testament and in *Textus Receptus* Greek for the New Testament.

The Chinese Union Version (CUV), by far the most widely read Chinese Bible today, serves as an example. Published in 1919 using vocabulary now considered archaic, the Chinese Union Version translates into Chinese the B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort's 1881 English translation of the *Codex Sinaiticus*.

In recent years, Westcott and Hort have been exposed as 19th century New Age occultists who together founded four occult groups, including those that used séances and mediums to contact the dead. And the ancient Sinai region of Egypt, where the *Codex Sinaiticus* was discovered, is recognized as the original hotbed of Gnosticism, the first pseudo-Christian cult that denied Jesus' incarnation, death and resurrection.

The only group that still uses Westcott & Hort's 1881 English translation that was translated into the Chinese Union Version is the Jehovah's Witnesses.

There is an urgent need for a Chinese Bible whose New Testament translates the original *Textus Receptus* into easily understood modern Chinese, or one that at least translates into modern Chinese either the New King James Version (NKJV) or the King James Version (KJV), both of whose New Testaments are the English translations of *Textus Receptus*.

This work should be done by born-again Christians who are experts of the Chinese language and the original texts, and who will be controlled by the Holy Spirit, not the Chinese Communist Party or the desire to profiteer from the world's largest and the fastest growing Bible market.

<http://www.billionbibles.org/china/chinese-bible.html>

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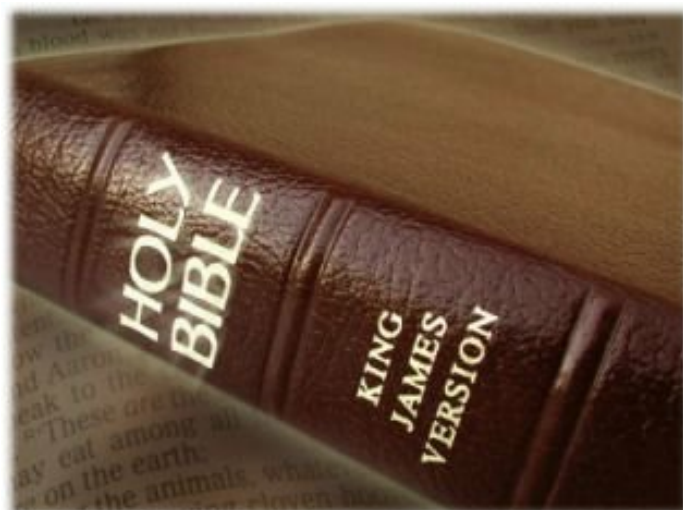
WHY KING JAMES ONLY? - Selected

SOME THOUGHTS ON WHY I ONLY USE THE OLDE BOOKE

After having been made aware of and learning ever more about this issue for the past several years, I have come to the conclusion that the King James Only viewpoint is one of the most misunderstood positions in Christianity, especially in Fundamentalist and conservative Evangelical circles. Time and time again, I've come across pamphlets, books, websites, and other venues which purport to have the goods on those poor, benighted KJV-Onlyists, showing how their stand for the Authorised Version is either:

- a. intellectually devoid
- b. purposeful obscurantism
- c. dishonest skulduggery
- d. heresy of the worst sort
- e. all of the above

There are, however, several problems with nearly all of the challenges which I have seen to date (including some of the so-called "scholarly" refutations that are found in several books like *From the Mind of God to the Mind of*



Man and The King James Only Controversy). Usually, the anti-KJVOnlyist will begin by proclaiming his desire to gently correct and return his erring KJVOnly brother to the fold of decency. Then, after this brief and perfunctory statement, this Corrupt Text man will bring out the hot knives and engage in every sort of underhanded rhetorical and polemical tactic known to man. Name-

calling, charges of heresy (funny, and I thought you had to **reject foundational Biblical doctrine** to be a heretic!), the building up and knocking down of strawmen, you name it.

One of the common tactics is to try to paint all KJV-Onlyists as Ruckmanites. For those out of the loop, Ruckmanism is a viewpoint (primarily espoused by Peter Ruckman and his disciples) which holds that the King James Bible is the **ONLY** inspired Word of God. The original autographs and the original languages? The King James Version supercedes them. The King James can be used to **correct** the original languages. Many Ruckmanites believe that the King James translators themselves were divinely inspired, and will even contend that **only** the English translation of the *textus receptus* and Hebrew Masoretic, the King James Version of 1611, is the inspired Word of God - foreign-language Bibles and even later editions of the King James don't make the grade.

Of course, the fact that this is **not** the position taught and espoused by the vast majority of those who label themselves as "King James Only" (myself included) is conveniently swept under the rug. This is because the Critical Text people, relying uncritically on the partial information provided by Bruce Metzger and Co., have a much more difficult time arguing the actual merits of the competing textual sets, than they do setting fire to Ruckmanite scarecrows.

So, what does this all have to do with **me** and my preferential and **sole** use of the King James Version? I'll explain below through the use of a dialogical format to elucidate my own positions. I write this because I want to head off as much angry mail from Corrupt Text supporters about my "lack of education" as possible, who write to me proclaiming their shock and dismay that I would take such an "ignorant" position without "investigating the facts".

Q. - Do I believe that the King James Bible is the Word of God?: Of course I do!

Q. - Do I believe that the King James Bible is the ONLY Word of God?: No. I believe that any Bible translated in a God-fearing, diligent, and scholarly manner from the *Textus Receptus* and the Bomberg Masoretic Hebrew, in whatever language, even a superceding English translation, is or could be the Word of God.

Q. - Do I believe that the modern versions of the Bible (NIV, NASB, Good News Bible, pick your poison) are the Word of God?: Yes and No. I believe that they many CONTAIN some, even most, of the words of God. But, due to the corrupt nature of the textual sets used to translate them, they do not fully and faithfully

transmit to English-speaking Christians the full and complete divine revelation of God's Word.

Q. - Do I cling to the King James out of obscurantism, the force of tradition, etc.?: No. I grew up reading the NIV, and still have that Bible on my shelf for use in comparative referencing. I use the King James Bible because I understand it to be a superior translation, based off of superior original language texts, and presenting the complete revelation to man as God intended to give.

Q. - Do I view all other Bible versions as untrustworthy?: Yes. They are so to varying degrees. This is because of several factors. They are all uniformly translated from corrupt textual sets which alter the words and doctrine of the Bible in many places. They are also of variable quality as far as the methods of translation are concerned. Some are more grammatical-literal in their method (such as the NASB, the "conservatives" version) while others are much looser in their willingness to paraphrase (such as the Living Bible, which makes me want to gag). Further, given the somewhat dubious nature of the translating committees of certain of these versions (such as a homosexual on the NIV committee), I view it as advisable to steer clear of them.

Q. - Do I view the Textus Receptus and the Bomberg Hebrew Masoretic as the best original language texts available to us today?: Yes. I believe that they most faithfully represent the original wording of the original autographs.

Q. - Do I view them as being preserved for us intact and uncorrupted from the original autographs?: Yes. I wholly support the doctrine of preservation of Scripture (Psalm 12:7, Isaiah 40:8, Matthew 5:18, Luke 16:17, John 10:35, I Peter 1:25). Let me clarify my answer from right above. When I say that the texts behind the King James "most faithfully represent the original wording of the original autographs", I mean that through the process of textual criticism **correctly applied** in a manner which does **not** rely upon the demonstrably incorrect assumptive methodology of the Westcott-Hort school, the correlation of the varying wordings found across all the different NT manuscripts (and much less so the OT manuscripts) which make up the Majority Text and the Bomberg, with the contingent information provided by external sources (other ancient versions, patristic quotations, etc.), combine to yield at every point the original wording, which we can then translate from. Hence, even though any two particular individual original language texts may have

different wording, when all these dozens or hundreds or thousands (depending on how many contain a particular passage) are taken in aggregate, and the wordings for each particular passage are compared and minority outliers dismissed (with extenuating external evidence taken into account), we can arrive at the original reading which has been preserved for us, providentially by God, throughout the history of man's treatment with His Word.

Q. - Do I believe that the King James can be used to correct the original language texts?: No. While the King James is based off of the preserved textual sets which yield to us fully God's words, the fact that our conception of the English language can change over time disallows us from trying to correct the original languages with modern meanings of English words and phrases which we might be tempted to eisegete into them.

Q. - Do I believe that proper exegesis of the King James Bible involves merely reading the words on the page and deriving doctrine to believe and teach?: Yes and No. I believe that, being the fully preserved Word of God, the King James is all one would need to gain a grasp of Christian doctrine, faith, and practice. However, I realise that the English language has changed over the last four centuries, and that there are many words and phrases which **are** archaic and difficult to understand for us moderns. I also realise that no translation from one language to another will ever be completely perfect in RELAYING the information (even if it does perfectly CONTAIN said information) it provides (because of peculiarities of idiom and so forth) without the use of diligent study and prayerful seeking of guidance from God. Can you pop open your King James Version to any old page, read a passage, and give a perfect exegesis of said passage, no matter what difficult language or idiomatic phraseology it contains, without the aid of cross-referential and original language study? If you can, you're a better man than I.

Q. - Do I oppose the practice of preachers and laymen using elucidatory paraphrasing of difficult passages, or of "going back to the Greek", to delve

the fuller meaning of a passage?: No, of course not. The Bible is a book unlike any other, and cannot be approached in a flippant or superficial manner. It is a deep book, with a deep message, and covers deep subjects. I fully approve of going back to the original languages to delve the meaning of difficult passages (and even some not so difficult). In fact, I do it myself. I also do not oppose a preacher putting some difficult language in the King James into more modern expression, provided he remains true to the meaning and does not eisegete his own views into his paraphrasing.

Q. - Do I find it a challenge to my belief in the superiority of the King James Bible when I am confronted with lists of so-called "mistranslations" and "changes" between early editions of the King James?: Not at all. I am often amused by the notion which many Corrupt Text people hold that merely sticking a list of "ye to he"-type corrections from original printing errors in front of me, or asking about "dragons" and "unicorns", is going to cause me to ditch my King James and start reading one of the Monopoly-money Bibles. Printing errors were a common occurrence in the early years of the printing press, especially on very long works like the Bible. A printing error in no wise negates the authenticity of the work being printed. The error is merely noted as an error because it conflicts with the original languages and the translators' intentions at that point. Likewise, the King James translators used conceptions and word-associations which befit their time and place. The appearance of unicorns, dragons, and ostriches in Palestine relays this, and the King James sceptics who try to use these to attack the King James only demonstrate their own ignorance about this subject.

Well, that about covers it.

Are there any more questions? No?

Good.

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(Will) Durant wrote, “It is remarkable how much of Roman Catholic tradition and theory survived in Calvin’s theology.” Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization, “The Reformation,”* P. 465

Without Augustine there would be no Calvin, in my humble opinion. Charles Spurgeon plainly says that Calvin “got his Calvinism from Augustine.” Augustine was born in 354 in North Africa and was converted in 386 and was later baptized again by the bishop of Hippo. It is interesting that he did not become a priest in the quickly developing Roman Catholic Church until he was age 37. I have believed for many years that Augustine was responsible for the curse of the ages—The Roman Catholic Church. In fact, I have recently seen him called the “first real Roman Catholic.” Warfield said Augustine was “in a true sense the founder of Roman Catholicism.” Benjamin Warfield, *Calvin and Augustine*, p. 313. But then running a close second to Augustine was Constantine and he may have been more responsible since he preceded Augustine.

Augustine maintained, “Through a woman (Eve) we were sent to destruction; through a woman (Mary) salvation was restored to us.” Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization, “The Age of Faith,”* p. 69. He taught that the fall of Adam and Eve resulted from their having sex! Sex was always wrong unless the motive was to have children. He was the father of a-millennialism. He believed in Purgatory and taught that salvation came via the “sacraments.” He did not believe that God created the world in six days and got around Genesis by skulking, like Origin, into allegories. He was not sure that women would retain their sex in heaven, and was not sure how those eaten by others in time of famine would be restored in heaven.

Laurence Vance asks a penetrating question about Augustine: If he was wrong about so many other things, why would anyone think he would be right on election and predestination? *The Other Side of Calvinism*, p. 25.

It is at Augustine’s feet we lay the false doctrine of infant baptism; he was unsure about the thief on the cross going to heaven without baptism, however, he opined that no one knew that he had not been baptized before his crucifixion! Sounds desperate to me. Thomas Aquinas really reached for the stars when he argued that the thief had a **desire** to be baptized and that was sufficient! Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, p 564. That comes from one who believed baptism is essential for salvation! Sweet consistency.

Calvin admitted that immersion was the biblical way to baptize yet refused to do so! He wrote: “The word baptize means to immerse, and it is clear that the rite of immersion was observed in the ancient churches.” John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, p. 1320. Moreover, I documented in my book dealing with colonial history that immersion was the norm until the 1600s. Don Boys, *Pilgrims, Puritans, & Patriots*, p. 209, 211-212.

Calvinist Charles Spurgeon said of infant baptism: “A human and carnal invention, an addition to the word of God, and therefore wicked and injurious.” Charles H. Spurgeon, *Infant Salvation*, p. 3.

Augustine also gave the Roman Church its ridiculous doctrine of Purgatory for those who sin after their baptism. Would that not be everyone? Moreover, salvation is possible only to those in the Roman Catholic Church. As one bigot wrote, “If the Church is not your mother, than God is not your Father.”

Augustine was “on a roll” of error and he rolled on into the TULIP patch.

Calvinist theology can be broken down into the acronym, TULIP, representing the five major points of Calvin. While Calvin did not originate the TULIP acronym, his followers did in the 1700s to counter the teachings of Jacob Arminius.

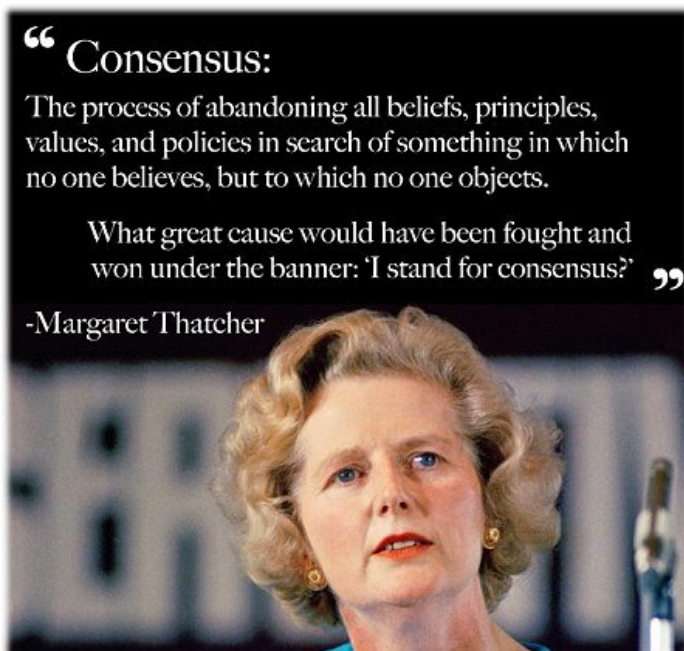
Augustine taught the five points of Calvinism without identifying the TULIP system, more than a thousand years before Calvin. Augustine taught the Total depravity (the T of TULIP) of man although his first book was *On Free Will* where he argued that evil is the result of free will. God could not leave man free without giving him the

possibility of doing wrong as well as right. He later changed his mind (Oh the dangers of putting what you believe in print!) and he went from total depravity to total inability. This is what Calvinist's mean when they speak of Total Depravity. As Vance so eloquently said about the Calvinist's absurd view of Total Depravity (or Total Inability), "Man is unable to repent and believe the Gospel which God commands him to do." Laurence M. Vance, *The Other Side of Calvinism*, p.68. What folly!

Calvinists tell us that is true until a merciful God enables the lost sinner to believe; however, my question is "Can any lost sinner appeal to God's mercy and believe?" He cannot according to Calvinism since God back in the eons of time chose the mass of humanity to spend eternity in Hell (which they deserve) and chose a few to go to Heaven. In fact, it is impossible for those few to NOT go to Heaven!

One of Calvinism's brightest lights is Arthur Pink who wrote: "Faith is not the cause of the new birth, but the consequence of it. This ought not to need arguing. ... Faith is a spiritual grace, the fruit of the spiritual nature, and because the unregenerate are spiritually dead—'dead in trespasses and sins'—then it follows that faith from them is impossible, for a dead man cannot believe anything." Arthur Pink, *The Sovereignty of God*, p. 73. However, faith is the gift of God that is made available to anyone who believes and the Bible does not teach that a depraved man cannot believe. In fact, he is commanded to do so. Would a loving, sovereign God command a person to do what He had made impossible for him to do, then consign him to hell for not obeying Him? Not the God of the Bible.

GOOD QUOTE FROM MARGARET THATCHER -



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Every conversation I have had with Calvinists they have always compared the condition of men (totally depraved) to those who are physically dead but they overlook the pertinent fact that those totally depraved people are still very much alive! Those spiritually dead can still think, argue, discuss, reflect, feel pain, etc. The rich man in hell in Luke 16 was double dead in that he was dead in sins and physically dead in hell yet he could talk, thirst, feel, think, etc. Vance wrote, "Being dead in sin does not mean to be unconscious....A dead man cannot believe on Jesus Christ, but a dead sinner can." *The Other Side of Calvinism*, p. 93.

Vance wrote, "*Being dead in sin does not mean to be unconscious...*"

Calvinists poke around Rom 3 for support of their position especially verse 11; however, they read what they **want** to be there. Furthermore, it is not said that a man does not have the ability to seek after God. He simply doesn't seek after Him. Big difference. Isaiah 55:6 clearly commands, "Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." In Heb. 11:6, He even promises a reward to those who "diligently seek him." One must realize that it is one thing to establish the fact of total depravity and another thing to deal with individuals and their sin. After all, many (most?) unregenerate men do some good. Some fear God while some go to church, help the poor, etc., in their unsaved state.

You will note that the Romans 3 passage doesn't say anything about man's ability to believe. Calvinists place their doctrinal template over those passages to make them fit their system. In other words, they are reading into the Scripture what is not there. It seems they erected their system then "discovered" Scripture to support it.

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WHAT MODERN MEDICINE HAS DONE TO LAB RATS



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I Corinthians 14:40, *"Let all things be done decently and in order."*

Some weeks ago, I picked up a church bulletin in which was a poem, written by one of the ladies of that church. She was lauding the bus ministry of the church with a contemporary version of the poem, "The Night Before Christmas." I believe it started, "Twas the night before Sunday." In any event where the original poem read, "visions of sugar plums danced in their heads," her poem read, "visions of bubble gum danced in their heads." My first thought was "how cute!," but as I dwelt upon the truth within this poem and the shame within this truth; my spirit was moved and I have been determined ever since to speak out. **"Visions of bubble gum"** indeed! Have we reduced childrens' opinions of churchgoing to this?

Please do not imagine that I am critical of this lady's enthusiasm. I wish more people were excited about the activities of their church. I am critical of the cheap tactics of show business, lotteries, etc., that are being implemented in the bus ministry today. I am extremely concerned that Baptist churches have reduced the forgotten child's opinion of church attendance to **"Visions of bubble gum."** It might be noted that most of these shenanigans I shall mention have been used to increase Sunday School attendance in general. I believe they have produced and shall increasingly produce bad effects in the minds of children and adults alike. I have no doubt that they grieve the Spirit of God. I fear that already many people unconsciously determine which church they will attend, by seeing which one will give away the "biggest wad of bubble gum." And meanwhile, sound doctrine occupies second place, or no place at all. This is contrary to the instruction of I Timothy 4:15 and 16. *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine: continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."*

According to scripture, sound doctrine should be the acid test and guideline to all our actions. Regardless how noble or productive a method may seem, if that method or its user disregards doctrine, it is finally both in spirit and in effect, ungodly. The common denominator that I seem to see in all fervent users of cheap tactics is that they rate doctrine after **"results,"** and sometimes belittle doctrine altogether. I am not taking a stand against the bus ministry, nor am I being critical of any church or pastor simply because of his emphasis upon the bus ministry, but I do see evils and problems, some of which I should like to deal with. I will not deal with the unfaced and unanswered inconsistencies of no bus service on Sunday night and Wednesday night or the drawing of children



from a neighborhood church of the same faith, for one service per week instead of two or three; but will confine my complaint to the gimmicks, prizes, contests, trickery, lotteries and blasphemous entertainments that accompany the modern "bus ministry."

SOME MODERN BUS PROMOTIONS TACTICS

The list is endless and would exhaust your imagination, but suffer me to name a few that I have read and heard of.

1ST. THERE IS THE "CHEAP GIFT TACTIC:" You simply entice the children to come to God's house with candy, bubble gum, pennies, dimes, kite strings, kites, flags, paper hats, straw hats and onward and upward to "success." These things cost relatively little. Even the small church can afford this kind of promotion; for the nickels, dimes and quarters the children drop in the plate will help to pay the bill. Even though this is cheap, it will give you an edge over any other church who gives away nothing but the gospel. If the church is more prosperous, hamburgers or malts will "sweeten the pot" and increase the edge. You can easily undermine any neighborhood church who has no bus ministry, or who gives nothing away.

2ND. THERE ARE THOSE ENTERPRISING MASTERS OF CHANCE, who simply put a five dollar bill under some seat in the bus. The child who sits in this seat wins the five. Now this is not really gambling?, because instead of putting a quarter into a five dollar football pot, the child only invests three hours on his time, going to this five dollar church instead of that old two dollar one down the street.

This is a new kind of crap game where you just sit and the bus does the rolling.

3RD. THERE IS THE GIVING OF THE LARGER PRIZE FOR THE CONTEST WINNER. It can be a Bible, a bicycle, a pony, a chicken that lays golden eggs, a rabbit that glows on Easter and quotes I Corinthians 15, a trip to Six Flags, or a ski trip to the slopes of Colorado. As far as I know, Las Vegas and Bourbon street have not been included yet. This also is relatively easy to finance because instead of all the “enterprising converts,” I mean “contestants,” sharing in the loot, it’s a winner take all type of lottery. Once again, all the contestants invest is their time, unless you include the danger of flirting with spiritual things and thus the danger of a subverted soul. Back to the finance problem now. Since the prize is larger, junior can be counted upon to call Aunt Across-town and Uncle Loafalot and cry until they leave their Sunday School and come over with their six children out of another Sunday School. Though they may not ride the bus, they can count for the contest. So where you only had 303 last week, this week you had 909. “Boy, that church surely is growing!” What undiscerning church member would not dig down and give a little more to finance such a noble cause as this? “Boy, next time we’ll give away a boat and a bikini and some skis and we’ll have ten-o-ten and can’t we crow then?”

4TH. THERE IS THE “FUN THING” TACTIC. This resource is boundless. Money is seldom the object here. You are limited only by your imagination and your modesty. I could never mention all these sacred endeavors but to name a few: There is the “flood the bus Sunday.” Here the children reverence God’s property and His servants by squirting the bus captain and the bus minister with water pistols. Of course, this is done with water pistols furnished by church “mission money?,” and it is done after church. During church, it would get a little slick, but I’m sure the children can hardly wait until the invitation is over and the last broken hearted sinner has been saved so that they can get on with the feature of the day. Then there is the egg Sunday. On this day the shining examples of youthful triumph get to throw eggs at the bus minister or captain. If they miss, he is standing against the bus so all is not lost. I’ve heard also of one grand prize for success where the pastor’s wife was honeyed and feathered. I’ve often wondered about what she wore for this glorious occasion and what the mode of honey application was. Was it immersion, pouring, sprinkling or rubbing? Consider I Corinthians 11:17: *“Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.”* Verse 17 refers to those things which Paul is to criticize in verses 20 through 22: *“When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord’s supper. For in eating every one*

taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken. What? Have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? Or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.” There was revelling in the church in the stead of sacred things. Paul said because of this, that their assembling was neither beneficial to the participators nor glorifying to God, but was the opposite; *“not for the better, but for the worse.”* This, to say the least, would teach us that it is error to teach that you should “get them there” any way, and by any motive you can, so long as they hear the gospel, after they come. It does make a difference why they come and with what spirit they assemble.

EFFECTS OF SUCH METHODS

The sad victims of this hypocritical exploitation are the children. They have been neglected in the home spiritually, and many times told that church is of no importance. They need someone to come and tell them that Jesus Christ is their only hope and that in church they can learn about Him. They need to be told He is to have glory and reverence in the church and that their presence and conduct there may affect the destiny of their souls. Or, will “visions of bubble gum” do just as well? Is it the child these people are interested in, or just a larger number?

LET’S EXAMINE OUR MOTIVES AND THE SIDE EFFECTS OF OUR METHODS. To illustrate what my heart longs to say, let me cite for you the account of four children from one family who started riding one of our buses to church some years ago. Within a few weeks, two of them had made professions of faith. Their level of learning ability was low and they were in desperate need of teaching. Then they were lured away by another church, which was giving away kites. Soon after this, the mother called and asked us to send our bus by once again. Cold as she was, she could see a great difference in what they were getting in the two churches. We started picking them up once again, but alas, another church soon had another “shindig” and away they were hauled. Once again they returned, but another church with different flavors of bubble gum soon liberated them from a church with Bible without baloney. Each of these times these children were led away, not by difference in doctrine, but with “visions of bubble gum.” Now the children are disillusioned and the parents are disgusted, partly with their undecided children and partly by the proselyting churches. So they won’t let them go anywhere “until we start going.”

ANOTHER BAD EFFECT IS PROSELYTING. Preachers who never would practice it themselves, allow it to be done on their bus ministry work, day after day. It seems that this

unworthy practice goes hand in hand with the give-away competition, not in bus work alone but throughout the Sunday School.

ANOTHER SIDE EFFECT IS THE IRREVERENCE FOR GOD'S HOUSE AND HIS MESSENGER. A child's motive in going to church should be a high one. I do not suggest that we should wait until we can generate high motives before we encourage the neglected child to come. We should, however, take care that in our witnessing zeal, we do not contribute to the degeneration of those motives. If we do, we shall reduce the possibility (humanly speaking) of getting that child saved. **Anyone** who can be brought to a **knowledge of Christ** by cheap, worldly, carnival like tactics, can be brought without those methods, through patient witnessing and prayer. *Galatians 6:9: "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* When you "convert" a child (or an adult) by the process of cheap methods, you do not convert him to Christ, but to a circus, or at best to a movement. This type of convert will return to his "wallowing in the mire" as soon as the circus tent is taken away. Most of you can think of "great churches" that have split and splintered and splattered, just because their entertainer went astray, or went away, or was called to another pulpit. If we, by pure gospel, convert them to Christ they will serve Him when the circus has left the town.

SOME WILL ANSWER: "I'LL DO ANYTHING TO WIN MEN TO CHRIST." Shame on you! You have no such commission from God. We are told to preach the gospel everywhere. *Matthew 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"* And we are promised that it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth. *Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."* If God had ordained give-away tactics, they would be taught, or at least implemented in the Bible. I've heard and read such statements as, "Christ motivated with earthly rewards." That simply is not so. Every such thesis I have read is either a deliberate or an ignorant perversion of the scripture. A classic example is *Matthew 10:42: "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."* It is said, that here Jesus motivated with reward. That is Satanic perversion of scripture. He spoke of giving a cup of cold water, not in the name of reward, but in the name of a disciple. Can you not look back to verse 40 ("He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.") and easily see that it was love, respect and acceptance of Jesus Christ, that was to motivate this, and not reward.

Jesus did set before men both heavenly and earthly rewards but in no place are the rewards held forth as motives. Love for God is the only worthy or Godly motive; and service done for reward, has no reward. Consider I Corinthians 3:12-15: *"Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* The thing condemned is the **wrong foundation** and **carnality**. I don't see how anyone can fail to see that this passage teaches, that wrong motives categorize apparently good work, as wood, hay and stubble.

Consider *Matthew 5:43 - Matthew 6:4: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."*

Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them; otherwise ye have no reward of your father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward. But when thou doest thine alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." These verses would plainly teach us of the danger of doing or leading men (or children) to do good works for the sake of earthly reward or notoriety. There are two main motives that are branded upon the hearts of children through this type of promotion: earthly reward and emulation. To get them to labor for earthly reward is to rob them of reward at the judgment seat, I Corinthians 3:13: *"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."* Emulation is clearly categorized as a **"work of the flesh."** *Galatians 5:19-20: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies."* The Bible plainly teaches that our

motive for labor is to be love and that alone, but these cheap tactics distort and destroy this godly motive.

I am furthermore persuaded that these tactics never actually increase the number of converts. I know that many powerful preachers using these tactics have great numbers of converts. I believe though, that these men would have great numbers of converts without the cheap methods. I think also that if these men could compute the increase of number they "win" by these tactics they would know the number of false professions they will accumulate during their life.

WHERE THERE IS NO VISION: Scripture states that where there is no vision the people perish. I believe this with all my heart, and I believe there is a constant need for continual increase in the vision of every Christian. I need this and sincerely ask that every Christian who reads this tract, pray for me, that my vision may be increased. **I believe though just as strongly that where the vision is wrong the people perish. May God get our eyes off visions of bubble gum, balloon dancers, bicycles, and other sundry garbage. Then give us a vision of the day when attendance to God's house is coupled with godly fear and true visitation of the Holy Spirit.**

"GIMMICKS"

It seems that churches everywhere
are doing things today
To try to bring their attendance up
by giving things away.

They're running buses all over town
in a way they think is dandy
Giving all the boys and girls that ride
some bubble gum or candy.

And maybe they'll have a contest,
give the winner a free plane ride
Or offer them a ten-speed bike that
would make one swell with pride.

God does not use this kind of plan
to save one from his sin
But uses visitation
to bring the sinner in.

So if you're using this unscriptural plan
perhaps you had better stop
Or your rewards in heaven
might be just a lollipop.

Gene Sutton

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THE THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

Last night I was sitting with my wife and kids and decided to tell them about my Living

Will and last wishes. I told them sincerely that "I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that happens, please just do me a favor and pull the plug."

So do you know what they did? They got up, unplugged my computer, turned off my cell phone and my iPad and tipped out my coffee.

You've heard of Lateral Thinking? One of my friends sent me some samples:

(If you're not familiar with the work of Steven Wright, he's the famous erudite (comic) scientist who once said: "I woke up one morning, and all of my stuff had been stolen and replaced by exact duplicates." He sees things differently than most of us.) Here are some of his gems:

1. I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
2. Borrow money from pessimists -- they don't expect it back.
3. Half the people you know are below average.
4. 99% of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.
6. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
7. If you want the rainbow, you have got to put up with the rain.
8. All those who believe in psycho-kinesis, raise my right hand.
9. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.
10. I almost had a psychic girlfriend, But she left me before we met.
11. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
12. How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?
13. If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.
14. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
15. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
16. Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.
17. Hard work pays off in the future; laziness pays off now.
18. I intend to live forever... So far, so good.
19. Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.
20. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
21. My mechanic told me, "I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder."
22. Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

(These might qualify as one liners to tell to blondes. In fact, you can stump most brunettes, redheads, and quite a few people with no hair at all with these. - Ed.)

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Smoking "rots" the brain by damaging memory, learning and reasoning, according to researchers at King's College London.

A study of 8,800 people over 50 showed high blood pressure and being overweight also seemed to affect the brain, but to a lesser extent.

Scientists involved said people needed to be aware that lifestyles could damage the mind as well as the body. Their study was published in the journal *Age and Ageing*.

Researchers at King's were investigating links between the likelihood of a heart attack or stroke and the state of the brain.

Data about the health and lifestyle of a group of over-50s was collected and brain tests, such as making participants learn new words or name as many animals as they could in a minute, were also performed. They were all tested again after four and then eight years.

DECLINE

The results showed that the overall risk of a heart attack or stroke was "significantly associated with cognitive decline" with those at the highest risk showing the greatest decline.

It also said there was a "consistent association" between smoking and lower scores in the tests.

One of the researchers, Dr Alex Dregan, said: "Cognitive decline becomes more common with ageing and for an increasing number of people interferes with daily functioning and well-being.

"We have identified a number of risk factors which could be associated with accelerated cognitive decline, all of which, could be modifiable."

He added: "We need to make people aware of the need to do some lifestyle changes because of the risk of cognitive decline."

The researchers do not know how such a decline could affect people going about their daily life. They are also



unsure whether the early drop in brain function could lead to conditions such as dementia.

HEART AND BRAIN

Dr Simon Ridley, from Alzheimer's Research UK, said: "Research has repeatedly linked smoking and high blood pressure to a greater risk of cognitive decline and dementia, and this study adds further weight to that evidence.

"Cognitive decline as we age can develop into dementia, and unravelling the factors that are linked to this decline could be crucial for finding ways to prevent the condition.

"These results underline the importance of looking after your cardiovascular health from mid-life."

The Alzheimer's Society said: "We all know smoking, a high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels and a high BMI [Body Mass Index] is bad for our heart. This research adds to the huge amount of evidence that also suggests they can be bad for our head too.

"One in three people over 65 will develop dementia but there are things people can do to reduce their risk.

"Eating a balanced diet, maintaining a healthy weight, exercising regularly, getting your blood pressure and cholesterol checked and not smoking can all make a difference."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-20463363>

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2 PETER 2:20

"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."

(There are books that break the stony heart within me. Almost everything written by Frank W. Boreham has that effect. Over and over I urge my brethren to read Boreham. Here is an excerpt from a chapter called Dean Stanley's Text. When I read it last week I felt I had to ring two of my favourite people and tell them that I am going to learn Gaelic, at least 50 words in that ancient British tongue. There's one English word I simply must be able to translate into Gaelic and then speak it to my darlings over and over. - Ed)



"I am glad that that 'other book' that John saw opened was the Book of Life. Westminster Abbey enshrines the names of the illustrious dead: that other book—the last and the best that John saw opened—contains only the names of those who are alive—and alive for evermore. 'I am come that ye might have life,' said Jesus, in one of His historic manifestoes, 'I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly.' 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.' The Saviour is the Fountain of Life; the Gospel is a Message of Life; the Volume that John saw opened in heaven was the Book of Life. There is infinite comfort in that.

I am glad, too, that it is the Lamb's book. My heart would fail me if that awful volume had been inscribed by any hand but His. Lachlan Campbell was a good man; he was the strictest and the sternest of the elders of Drumtochty; and he loved Flora, his erring daughter, dearly. But he was over-hasty in striking her name out of the family Bible. We all remember the rebuke that Marget Howe administered to him, when she saw the book, its ink all blurred by tears.

'This is what ye hev dune,' she cried, 'and ye let a woman see yir wark. Ye are an auld man, and in sore travail, but a' tell ye before God, ye hae the greater shame. Juist twenty years o' age this spring, and her mither dead. Nae woman to watch over her, and she wandered frae the fold, and a' ye can dae is to take her oot o' yir Bible! Wae's me if oor Father had blotted oor names frae the Book O' Life when we left His hoose. But He sent His ain Son to seek us, an' a weary road He cam. Puir Flora, tae hae sic a father!'

Thanks to Marget's gracious intervention. Flora came home again; she was welcomed with endless tears and caresses; *the Gaelic—'the best of all languages for loving'—contains fifty words for darling, and Lachlan used them all that night!* The name had to be re-entered in the Bible, and Lachlan had to ask Flora's forgiveness for erasing it. I am glad that the book on which my eternal destiny depends is the Lamb's Book—the Lamb's Book of Life!" - *Frank W. Boreham (A Bunch of Everlastings)*

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Thackeray tells us that when good old Colonel Newcome—the greatest gentleman in literature—lay dying, the watchers noticed that his mind was moving backwards across the pageant of the years. (For a moment) he is in India, addressing his regiment on parade! (Now) he is in Paris, living through the days of auld lang syne! And then! At the usual evening hour the chapel bell began to toll, and Thomas Newcome's hands outside the bed feebly beat time. Then, just as the last bell struck, a peculiar sweet smile shone over his face, and he lifted up his head a little, and quickly said "Adsum!" and fell back. It was the word we used at school, when names were called; and lo, he whose heart was as that of a little child, had answered to his name, and stood in the presence of The Master!" - *FW Boreham*

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ECCLESIASTES 5:1-3

¹ Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

² Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

³ For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

I was in a barber's shop, sitting in a chair, when I became aware that a personality had entered the room. A man had come quietly in upon the same errand as myself and sat in the next chair to me. Every word he uttered, though it was not in the least didactic, showed a personal and vital interest in the man who was serving him; and before I got through with what was being done to me, I was aware that I had attended an evangelistic service, because Mr Moody was in the next chair. I purposely lingered in the room after he left and noted the singular effect his visit had upon the barbers in that shop. They talked in undertones. They did not know his name, but they knew that something had elevated their thought. And I felt that I left that place as I should have left a place of worship." - [Woodrow Wilson](#)

I had feelings of fear about the future...The devil kept on whispering, "It's all right now, but what about afterward? You are going to be very lonely"....And I turned to my God in a kind of desperation and said "Lord, what can I do? How can I go on to the end?" And He said, "None of them that trust in Me shall be desolate." That word has been with me ever since. - [Amy Carmichael](#) - On 'weighing the cost' of full time missionary work

The Church that does not evangelize will fossilize. - [Oswald J. Smith](#)

Seducers are more dangerous enemies to the church than persecutors. - [Matthew Henry](#)

Why does the Church stay indoors? They have a theology that has dwindled into a philosophy, in which there is no thrill of faith, no terror of doom and no concern for souls. Unbelief has put out the fires of passion, and worldliness garlands the altar of sacrifice with the tawdry glitter of unreality. The Holy Spirit cannot conquer the world with unbelief, nor can He save the world with a worldly Church. He calls for a crusade, a campaign, and an adventure of saving passion. For this enterprise He wants a separated, sanctified and sacrificial people. - [Samuel Chadwick](#)

Dating without the thought of marriage is like going to a store with no money, you either leave disappointed or take something that isn't yours. - [From Lije Dunstan](#)

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DINOSAUR PROTEIN FOUND PRESERVED IN BONES -



A new study from North Carolina State University (NCSU) and the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC) reveals new evidence for the preservation of ancient dinosaur proteins.

This new evidence includes reactivity to antibodies that target specific proteins that are normally found in bone cells of vertebrates.

Further, the study findings rule out sample contamination, and solidify the case for the preservation of cells and possibly DNA in ancient remains.

The first discovery, in 2005, of what appeared to be preserved soft tissue in a T. Rex was made by Dr. Mary Schweitzer, professor of marine, earth and atmospheric sciences with a joint appointment at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

Similar preservation in an even older *Brachyophosaurus canadensis* was revealed by subsequent research.

Schweitzer and her team used chemical and molecular analyses in 2007 and 2009 to confirm that the fibrous material collected from the specimens was collagen. - [Red Orbit](#) - October 24, 2012

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They have been with us from the beginning. Even among the twelve, there was Judas, the son of perdition.

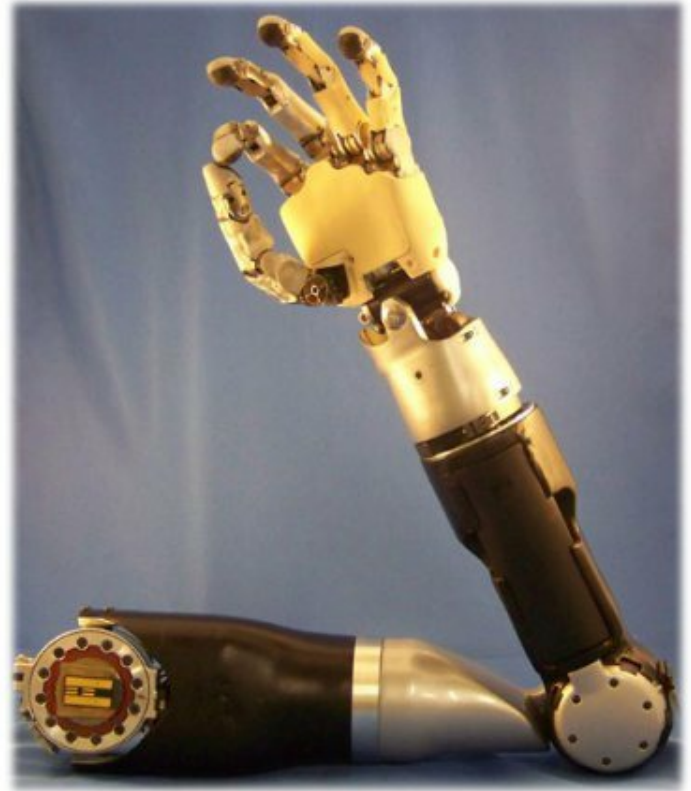
Very little is said about Judas these days. In fact, I have never heard even one sermon on the betrayer of our dear Lord Jesus. Not one sermon in sixty five years of attending Bible preaching churches.

Judas was the only Judean disciple. From Kerioth, the little desert outpost just before you enter the waste howling wilderness far to the southeast of Jerusalem.

John twice records the name of Judas' father, Simon (12:4 & 13:2). It appears from Matthew's gospel and Mark's, that Simon had been a leper (Matt. 26:6 and Mark 14:3). This is that Simon who hosted the dinner for Christ and His disciples after the resurrection of Lazarus. We gather that he had been healed and was also a disciple of Christ. I often wonder if Judas was drawn to follow Jesus when he saw his father healed of leprosy, and if he may have displayed so much interest, at least outwardly, that the Lord permitted him to stay. We suppose that he volunteered to carry the bag, and maybe even had a head for figures. But he was a thief. Judas was not truly a member of the body of Christ. He was a prosthetic Christian. He was a wooden leg, or a glass eye, or a hook (a crooked hook!) instead of a hand. But he was not truly a member of the body. He was an artificial Christian, a pretend disciple, a wolf in sheep's clothing. How sad!

PROSTHETIC CHRISTIANS

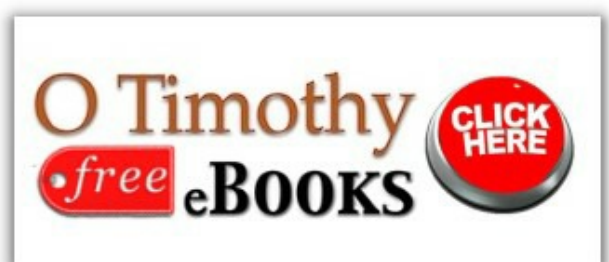
Some times they came in groups, as in **John chapter 6:24-27**, *"When the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there, neither his disciples, they also took shipping, and came to Capernaum, seeking for Jesus. And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which*



perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." They attached themselves for a season to the body of believers because they liked the menu, free bread. So the Saviour tested their appetites to see if they had tasted the Bread of Life.

John 6:53 *"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."* And so the prosthetics detached themselves and departed. **John 6:66** *"From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."*

Sometimes they came seeking power in order to gain position or prominence, like Simon Magos. His request was not for bread, but for the gift of bestowing the Holy Spirit upon men. And he was willing to pay. Like suckers



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pay the televangelist hucksters of our day, hoping to get a bargain miracle of some sort. But Simon Peter saw through him and sent him packing. **Acts 8:18-20** *"And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money."*

Sometimes they come creeping in, as Jude describes the apostates of his day (and ours.) **Jude 1:4** *"For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."*

YOU CAN'T ALWAYS SPOT THEM

Have you noticed how good they look? They are often much prettier than the true members of the body of Christ, but they lack the living relationship with the Head of the body, who is Christ. And they do not share the Blood that supplies the life of the body. They have not the mind of Christ. They know nothing of loving obedience to the Head. And they have never heard the heart of a loving Saviour. John, the beloved disciple leaned his head on Jesus bosom and heard the heartbeat of the Son of God, but the empty heads of religious mannequins know nothing of it.

You can tell because they have no love for the other members of the body. Paul knew what it means to be part of the body of Christ. He described it well in **Ephesians 4:16**, *"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."* And in **1 Corinthians 12:25-27**, *"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one*

member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Ah, it is a glorious truth that every true member loves every other true member of the Body of Christ. It is the wooden legs and the glass eyes that care not a whit for an ear or a foot that truly belongs to the body of Christ.

WHO INVITED THEM ALONG?

It frightens me to say it, but I think we pastors often mistakenly invite those who are wooden legs and plastic ears to wrongly join themselves to the body of Christ.

So eager are we to appear successful and to maintain our standing among our peers that we welcome them into our churches when there is not even a trace of grace about them at all. If they are sober enough to stagger down the aisle, we'll vote them in, no questions asked.

LEARNING TO WALK WITH A LIMP

The most tragic fact about the prosthetics among us is that the body has become quite used to walking with a limp, and we learned not to mind at all seeing with only one eye or being half deaf. Wooden legs can't run the race nor do plastic arms fight the fight, but we've gotten used to it. The churches are now accustomed to sitting in their rocking chairs on their verandas. You see, the wooden legs and glass eyes in the membership of the church make it impossible for us to obey the Great Commission. So we'll just watch the world go by.

ON ITS WAY TO A CHRISTLESS ETERNITY

I wonder what would happen if our churches began again to practice biblical church discipline, no matter what it cost? What would happen if we did test the spirits to see who are those among us who do truly know Christ, and who do truly belong to the body of Christ? What would happen in our churches if those wooden legs, the prosthetics, among us were removed and we no longer encouraged them to pretend that they were saved?



Sharpened Arrows

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

And what would happen if we started at the top? Not at the Head, for that is Christ, but at the ones who pretend to be the head, (you know, the empty talking heads in our pulpits), the pastors who lifelessly pontificate to us week after week. What if the adulterers and fornicators, the liars and thieves among us were to be removed and expelled?

Do I hear you saying that the churches would be crippled? Or that we would no longer be aesthetically appealing to the world? That we might even lose the "Wow! Factor" we are told we just have to have to draw the crowds? Would that be so bad? I might even drive us to our knees, or if we have lost our knees, it might put us on our faces

before God. And if we cry mightily unto Him, He may hear us and add to the body such as be saved! He may even set the members in the body as it pleases Him!

I seem to remember hearing an old preacher who knew firsthand what revival is say that blessing comes when the churches get desperate.

But are we courageous enough to cast away our prosthetics in order to find that place of helpless desperation?

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