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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### FEATURE ARTICLE

*Did God Forget Something?*

### DEACON TRUE SEZ

### GOLD FROM OPHIR

### THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

### WHAT IS LEGALISM

### NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

### DIARIES OF THE SAINTS

*Though We With Giants Fight*

### WHAT SDAS BELIEVE ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

### ACUPUNCTURE PROVEN TO BE PSEUDOSCIENCE

### THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE

### TO SPANK OR NOT TO SPANK

### BLOOD-RED MOON THEORY EXPLODED

### EDDY-TORIAL

*Ruining the Rosebuds - Part 2*



"But the path of the just is as the shining light,  
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
Proverbs 4:18

## **Heads Up!**

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

Phone: 07 4096 6657

Email: [smiletex@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smiletex@bigpond.net.au)

Website: [www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au](http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au)

FEATURE ARTICLE - DID GOD FORGET SOMETHING ~ By Hughie Seaborn



*The following is adapted from an article I wrote some twelve or fifteen years ago after my transition out from Pentecostalism. It was written specifically in answer to a terrible error, the "Jesus Died Spiritually" doctrine, which was being promoted by many teachers who also endorsed the heretical "Word of Faith" movement.*

**I**s not our God a God of details, taking into account even the most minute matter? Is not our God perfect in every way? **Ecclesiastes 3:14** assures us,

*"I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him."*

Surely our God would not inadvertently overlook something important in His teachings to us through His Word, would He? Surely not! But there are some who are, by inference, through their teachings, suggesting that God *would* forget something, and therefore, they presume that it is up to them, as wise and knowledgeable teachers of God's Word to fill in any gaps in the Bible where God has omitted some important detail. But God's Word is *Truth* and distinctly teaches us that our God is not the author of confusion.

God has given us His Word as a lamp to shine before us and show us the way safely, both physically and spiritually, through this precarious and dangerous journey called life. The Word of God goes before us and lights the way so that we are able to place each of our steps surely and firmly upon the path that God has set before us.

In **Jeremiah 23** we are told that God's people had gone astray from His path by listening to wicked and profane priests and prophets. Verse 12 very graphically portrays to us that,

*"...their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein..."*

### ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION

The situation of God's implied forgetfulness comes about by men (and women) not faithfully adhering to God's Word, but who subtly alter words here and there, or change their intended meanings to satisfy their own aspirations, agendas or belief systems.

God solemnly warns us in His Word of the grave consequences of not steadfastly abiding in what He has written, or changing what He has written in some way, in order to convince ourselves that we have His approval to proceed along a particular path to fulfil some deluded desire of our own imagination. This not only causes confusion, but brings a curse upon the person who twists the meaning of God's Word, or changes it in some way, and upon anyone else who foolishly accepts the changed version of what God has so clearly warned we should not tamper with.

For instance, in the Book of **Revelation, chapter 22, verses 18 and 19**, there is a warning that goes like this;

*"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

That's a pretty serious warning, I think. In my simple understanding it seems to me that the warning concerns our eternal destiny. But there are those who have risen as 'teachers' within our midst who think nothing of a warning like that - a warning that John, at the insistence of Jesus, purposefully wrote down in Scripture for our instruction. If this warning was coming only from a mere man I would perhaps understand their behaviour, but it is coming from the mouth of the glorified Jesus Himself, the

words of whom these same group of people allege to love and obey with all of their hearts.

Some try to justify their neglect to heed this solemn warning by claiming that they don't understand the Book of Revelation anyway, and besides, the warning only pertains to the prophecies therein. However, they fail to see that the same warning is not only at the end of the Bible, but also at the beginning in the Book of **Deuteronomy, chapter 4, verses 1 to 4**, where we read,

*"Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you. Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you. Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baalpeor: for all the men that followed Baalpeor, the LORD thy God hath destroyed them from among you. But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day."*

Just in case we were not paying attention in chapter 4, it is repeated again, in **Deuteronomy 12:32** where we read,

*"What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it."*

By now, it should be plainly obvious to even the most stiff necked and rebellious dissenter that the issue of *adding to or taking away from* what God has said in His Word must be important. However, if we keep reading through our Bible, eventually we will find that God gives warning not only at the beginning and the end of the Bible, but also in the middle. For we read in **Proverbs 30:6** an interesting promise.

*"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."*

This is a warning to us that we are not to change the words of the Bible, and it promises that if someone does tamper with God's *words*, God Himself will reprove him and, to the foolish person's embarrassment, He will expose the person as a liar in plain view of everyone.

This is exactly what happens when people omit, add to, or change God's words to support what they want to promote. They get found out and exposed according to God's promise above, in the following way. Changing even the smallest part of what God has had written causes what has been changed to be out of harmony and context with the rest of Scripture. Somewhere, the rest of

the Bible will contradict the erroneous teaching and disclose what has been changed. God has His checks and balances for the purpose of confounding the false teachers and also to protect those who want to serve and obey Him.

In **Psalm 12:6-7** we are informed,

"The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

God has assured us that the purity of *His words* will be preserved, by Him, for ever, and so, the warning found in **Proverbs 30:6** comes to pass upon the person who would tamper with them. The rest of Scripture proves their lies and embarrasses them in front of those they love to impress with their great knowledge.

### TYPES AND SYMBOLS IN SCRIPTURE

We now need to come back to my original question, "Did God forget something?"

According to the ridiculous theology of some of the most influential, so called 'Bible teachers' in the world today, who have access into the homes of literally millions of people worldwide via their multi-million dollar TV networks, it appears that God did forget to include something in His Word to us.

As an example to prove that these teachers are, by inference, accusing God of forgetting something, let me explain. Many of the things that took place in Old Testament times were looking forward symbolically, or in type, to events in New Testament times, the age in which we now live.

The study of Typology is a Biblical method of interpreting some parts of Scripture by seeing a pattern which an earlier event or object sets up, and by which a later event or object is explained.

Of course, this method of interpreting Scripture can be overdone, as so frequently has been the case, but never-the-less it is a valid and Scriptural method of understanding some puzzling passages in the Bible. Typology helps us to see the New Testament person, event, or institution as the fulfilment of that which was only alluded to in the Old Testament by symbolism.

For example, in the Old Testament we read about that wonderful account of a God who protected His own people during a terrible night of judgement upon their oppressors, a God who then 'led them by the hand' through a wilderness, with full provision, eventually leading them into their promised land.

To commemorate this major event in the history of mankind, God instituted the feast called the Passover which the Jewish people were commanded to observe each year as a memorial of the final plague upon the nation of Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians,

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Somebody in our little country church is causin' trouble. I mean BIG TROUBLE!

Oh, they haven't been gossipin' or anything like that. They've been usin' their 'lectronic phone to embarrass the Baptist "lead foots" in the congregation. Some of our folks like to speed and they're pretty good at it. Well, whoever the prankster is, he decided to spook 'em whenever he saw them breakin' the law thataway. He got him a new little phone and a new number and put in all the church members' phone numbers, and when he catches them speedin', he rings them up and when they answer, he just whistles the sound of a police siren, and hangs up. He's caught a good dozen of 'em this week, at least that's how many red faced admissions we've had so far.

Can't help wonderin' if he'll buy some red and blue lights for the top of his car, too?

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

man and beast, died, and the Israelites were spared because of the blood smeared on their door posts. The Passover feast is a memorial of God's great act of redemption, protection and provision. In **Exodus 12:14** we read,

"So this day shall be to you a memorial; and you shall keep it as a feast to the Lord throughout your generations. You shall keep it as a feast by an everlasting ordinance."

All of the instructions regarding the feast, that were given to Moses by the Lord - the blood on the door posts, the time at which the Passover meal was to be eaten, the requirement not to put leaven in the bread, etc., - all had symbolic meanings pointing forward to another event which took place on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem.

### THE PASSOVER TYPE FULFILLED IN CHRIST

As Christians, we all know that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was crucified for us, having His body broken and His blood shed upon the cross of Calvary on our behalf. In our unsaved and unredeemed state we were under the oppression of a cruel spiritual master who kept us in bondage, in the same way that Pharaoh did to the Hebrew slaves in Egypt.

We were slaves to sin and corruption and under bondage to Satan. But, by the terrible suffering that Christ experienced on our behalf in the events leading up to, and during His crucifixion, we are redeemed to God and set free from the hold that our enemy had upon our lives. Christ, by His crucifixion, became our Passover Lamb.

To commemorate this major event that was about to take place in the history of mankind, Christ, on the night before His crucifixion, instituted the feast that we partake of called the Lord's Supper.

The symbolic types portrayed in the first Passover feast were looking forward to the coming Saviour and His crucifixion, whereas the Lord's Supper, instituted by Christ Himself, looks back as a symbolic reminder of His crucifixion in which He redeemed mankind, fulfilling the types, or symbols, represented in the first Passover feast.

In **Matthew 26:26-28** we read,

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; *this is my body*. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For *this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins*."

In **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**, Paul wrote to the Corinthian church,

"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: *this is my body*, which is broken for you: *this do in remembrance of me*."

After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament *in my blood*: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, *in remembrance of me*. For as often as ye *eat this bread*, and *drink this cup*, ye do show the Lord's death till he comes."

In instituting the Lord's Supper during the Passover feast with His disciples we see that Jesus took *the bread*, representing *His body* and then He took *the cup*, representing *His blood*.

These two items symbolically represent the two components of our redemption. Christ's body and His blood.

These are the two elements that we are taught by Christ Himself, and which are consequently confirmed by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians, that represent what Christ offered on our behalf to God as our Passover Lamb.

*His body and His blood* supersede the lamb of the Passover of the old covenant, "*for even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us*." (**1 Corinthians 5:7**)

Paul reiterates that the blood and the body of Christ are the two components required for our redemption in **1 Corinthians 10:16** where he asks,

"*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*"

Try to keep in mind the above Scripture as we proceed in this article. It is pertinent to the case that we are progressively building to refute the dangerous heresy promoted by the Word of Faith Movement that is becoming more accepted within Christendom.

### A NEW THEOLOGY

In this day of increasing apostasy, we find a new theology of the Redemption taking hold of unsuspecting and gullible church goers. It is being taught by some influential 'teachers' that *Christ had to sacrifice His Spirit to secure our redemption*. These self acclaimed and deluded 'teachers' are actually proclaiming that *the blood*

of Christ and His broken body were insufficient to pay the price that God required for the sins of mankind.

In their gross ignorance of the deity of Christ, they teach that if it was only required for a man to die on a cross to pay the Redemption price, then *either of the two thieves, or even Abel*, who was a righteous man, could have redeemed us. One of these teachers even suggests that *he could have paid the price of Redemption himself*, had he been as knowledgeable of the Scriptures as Jesus was.

Their teaching says that although Jesus died in His physical body on the cross *He also had to die spiritually to secure our redemption*. They teach that Satan and his demons actually *defeated Christ on the cross* and *forcibly* took His Spirit into Hell for three days and nights where they victoriously subjected Him to every evil and despicable act of torture imaginable, at the end of which He became *the first 'born-again' man*, thus securing our redemption. Therefore, our redemption was not completed upon the Cross of Calvary by the physical death of Christ, as the Bible clearly teaches, but by His spiritual death in the very depths of Hell! According to these misguided men and women, who have taken it upon themselves to be teachers in Christendom, *mankind was redeemed in Hell!!!*

Pointing out that Jesus said to one of the thieves that He would be with the thief *in Paradise* that very same day seems to have no effect upon the people who love these false teachers.

Pointing out that Jesus, in His dying breath, said to God, *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* holds no weight in the debate of whether Jesus' Spirit went to the Father in Paradise or forcefully to Satan in Hell.

Pointing out that no one had to *force* Jesus to do anything in His obedience to God as the Redeemer of all mankind seems not to worry them that something could be wrong in their support of these liars. They forget the verse in their Bible in John **10:17-18** where Jesus Himself proclaims,

*"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I*

*have power to take it again."*

Also pointing out that the Bible tells us that, *on the Cross* Jesus was *victorious* over Satan and his demons does not seem to cause the followers of these false teachers to waver in the least little bit. **Colossians 2:15** says very plainly about the Cross that Jesus,

*"...having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."*

During the last days of the church age, the Bible warns us again and again that false teachers will come with fancy new theologies that will have not one scrap of relevance to the message of the Gospel, as it was delivered to the saints (**Matthew 7; Jude; 2 Timothy 4**; etc.). There will be a multitude of deluded teachers who will want to set themselves up as authorities of the Word but who will not have even a basic understanding of the Scriptures (**1 Timothy 1:7**).

#### THE MISSING SYMBOL

Above, I pointed out that when a person tampers with the Word of God by adding to, or by taking away from, or by twisting the meaning in some way, then that tampering will become obvious during future study of the Bible. To be able to persist with their erroneous understanding, that person will now have to either ignore the new evidence that challenges their belief or else twist the meaning once again to accommodate the error. However, the Bible does not contradict itself. If there is a contradiction in the particular version of the Bible that you read, then rest assured, it will be because someone has tampered with the intended meaning which has been faithfully written down and preserved.


With regard to Jesus having to suffer spiritual death in Hell to redeem mankind, we have seen that the Bible clearly shows that it is a lot of nonsense and, under normal circumstances, it should not even be considered for debate. However, in these last, dark days we are not enjoying normal circumstances and *we do have to debate this issue*, because more and more lazy Christians are coming under the influence of this teaching simply because they listen to

# Lifting Up The STANDARD

"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE  
LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

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CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL



every new 'revelation' that comes out of the mouths of false teachers who continually boast that the Lord told them "this", or the Lord told them "that".

However, as we read above, Christ instituted the Lord's Supper and Paul taught the Corinthian church exactly what Jesus told his disciples when he said, "*...for as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he comes.*"

Also, 1 Corinthians 10:15-16 asks us, "*...is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?*"

If we believe that God is not a God of forgetfulness, and we also believe that He has covered every detail in His establishing of the Lord's Supper, and the symbols that represent the elements offered to Him in Christ's sacrifice, then there is something most horribly wrong with the theology that teaches of our redemption being accomplished, not only by Christ's physical death on a cross and the shedding of His blood, but also by His spiritual death in Hell. The lie becomes obvious and God, true to His Word, reproves and rebukes these false teachers and proves them as liars to all who would love His Word and seek after Truth.

How? Well, you see, each time we come together as the Body of Christ and partake of the Lord's Supper in

remembrance of what Christ has done, the implication, according to the 'Christ Died Spiritually' heretics, is that *there is a missing symbol.*

Scripture informs us that *there are only two symbols* that we give thanks for. Obviously, if we believe the theology of the false teachers, there should be three.

We take *the bread* and give thanks, and we eat. We then *take the cup* and give thanks, and we drink. But there is no symbol that we take and give thanks for, by which to commemorate the sacrifice of His Spirit at the hands of Satan and his demons in Hell.

Are we to suppose that God must have forgotten to mention the third symbol in His Word to us and, consequently, we are giving thanks for *only two thirds of our redemption*?

Of course God did not forget anything. The question is preposterous. Christ did not offer His Spirit as a sacrifice, nor was His Spirit forcefully dragged into Hell. His Spirit was not part of the price of our redemption. The Word clearly informs us that His Spirit was committed into the hands of The Father.

*"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." (1 Peter 3:18).*  
([Back to Table of Contents](#))

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## GOLD FROM OPHIR - by Missionary Jerry Wilhite

For many years Africans have been honoring and worshipping their dead ancestors. Animism is practiced in various ways, but one of the means for venerating the ancestors here in our locale is for a family to plant an aloe in the corner of the yard, have a yearly feast, invite their family, play the drums to call the ancestor spirits, chew tobacco, mutter some gibberish type prayers to the spirits and then spit the juice on the aloe. Ancestor worship literally prevails in this culture. Africans who truly get saved are swimming against the tide and must count the cost to follow Christ.

**Luke 14:25-33** reads, "*And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and*



*was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace.*

*So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."*

**1 Thessalonians 1:9** says of the Thessalonian church, "*ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.*"

Religions that blend Christianity and the worship of ancestors really thrive in Africa. The charismatic movement with its worship of the Holy Spirit flourishes because it is just another "spirit" to add to their long list of "spirits." Add to this a few drums, people "slain in the spirit," and a smattering of gibberish and you have a genuine syncretism of "Christianity" and ancestor worship. Like the Samaritans in 2 Kings 17, they think they can fear the Lord AND serve their own gods.

In Genesis 35:2, Jacob told his family "put away the strange gods that are among you" which they did.

How grateful we are for the witch doctor God saved in 2003. When my wife dealt with her, she asked the witch doctor, "Do you understand this means that you can no longer throw the bones?" Tossing small animal bones is

believed to be a way to determine someone's future or a sickness or whatever. This dear lady prayed to the Lord that day and was wonderfully saved and changed. Fear kept her from being baptized until 2006, but what a joy to see her even today worshipping the one true God through our Lord Jesus Christ! On a given day of the week she will have up to 40 neighborhood children come to her house for Bible stories. The parents will not let their children come to church because of distance and doctrine, but they do not seem to mind if our dear sister teaches them the Bible in her back yard.

How glad she is, and we are, and the angels are, and the Lord Jesus Christ is that she put away the gods that were amongst her. Would you please pray for her husband and other family members to turn from their false gods and trust the Savior too?

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

### THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -



"Pardon the interruption, kind sir, and I'm most awfully sorry to bother you, but would you mind terribly if I asked you - in the gentlest and friendliest terms, mind you - whether you might consent to considering yourself under arrest?"

- The manager of a factory heard that his boss's wife was away to see her mother so he invited him home for dinner. When he arrived he was given a cup of coffee and left in the living room with the manager's three year old boy.

"Does your cat eat lemons?" he asked the boss.

"No, why?" he asked.

"Oh, my dad says you have a sour puss."

- The pastor of the Baptist church received a phone call requesting him to make a home visit on a very sick man.

After he read some Bible verses and prayed he asked the couple, "I thought you folks were Methodists. Why didn't you call your own minister to come and pray with you?"

The old lady replied, "Oh, what John's got is really contagious and we didn't want our preacher to get it."

- "The difficult thing with quotes on the internet is verifying them" ~ *Abraham Lincoln*.

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



**QUESTION:**

*I sometimes hear godly people accused of being legalistic and likened to the Pharisees. Can you define legalism from the Bible?*

**ANSWER:**

Accusations that some Christians are “too legalistic” are frequently made when someone wants to have licence to do what is inconsistent with Christian testimony. Ecumenical Christianity has few boundaries to behaviour and any restrictions are an unbearable imposition.

An overseas speaker invited to address his denomination in Australia was recently interviewed on TV and asked if homosexuality was a sin that would keep people out of heaven. After talking around the subject he finally said that homosexuality would not prevent a person from going to heaven. He spent some time condemning those who were judgmental. In the context of the interview one could only conclude that he was referring to Christians who took a Biblical view on homosexuality.

Jesus denounced the selfrighteous Pharisees but not for breaking God’s law. He exposed their hypocrisy for being a “wicked and **adulterous** generation” while claiming to be devout followers of the law. However, the law that the Pharisees followed was not the law of God but the traditions of the elders which made “*the commandments of God of none effect*”.

John the Baptist lost his head because he said that Herod should not take his brother’s wife and Jesus said that of those born of women there was none greater than John

the Baptist. Today, John would be called judgmental.

In the sermon on the mount Jesus showed the high standard of God’s law and insisted that it must be “in the heart” and not just for show. The Bible teaches that Christians are to have “*no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather reprove them.** For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But **all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light:** for whatsoever doth make manifest is light*” (Eph.5:11-13).

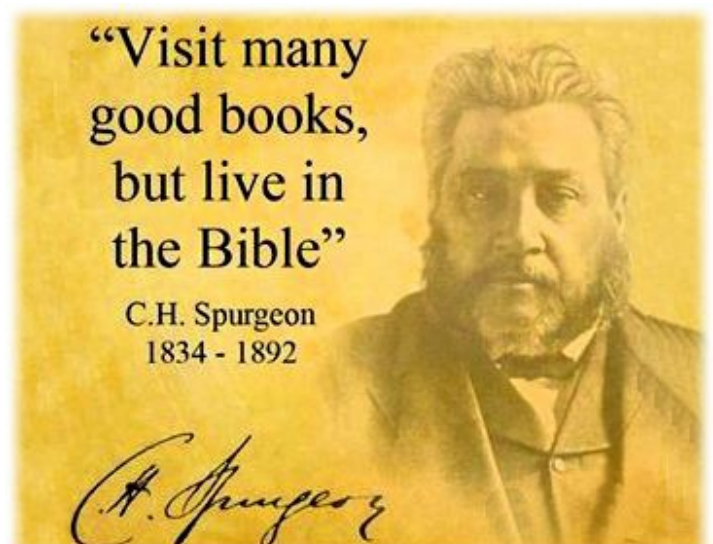
That’s not being legalistic. That is being salt.

If we look for a modern equivalent to the legalistic Pharisees we would have to identify those who profess to be Christians but adopt the behaviour of the world. The Catholic Church and modern Christendom are classic examples of this. While insisting the Pope is Christ’s Vicar on earth priests practice paedophilia, drunkenness, gambling etc. Permissive Protestants judge godly people but are comfortable with the world’s music and some condone homosexuality.

The Bible says: “*Let no man deceive you with vain words: **for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience***” (Eph.5:6).

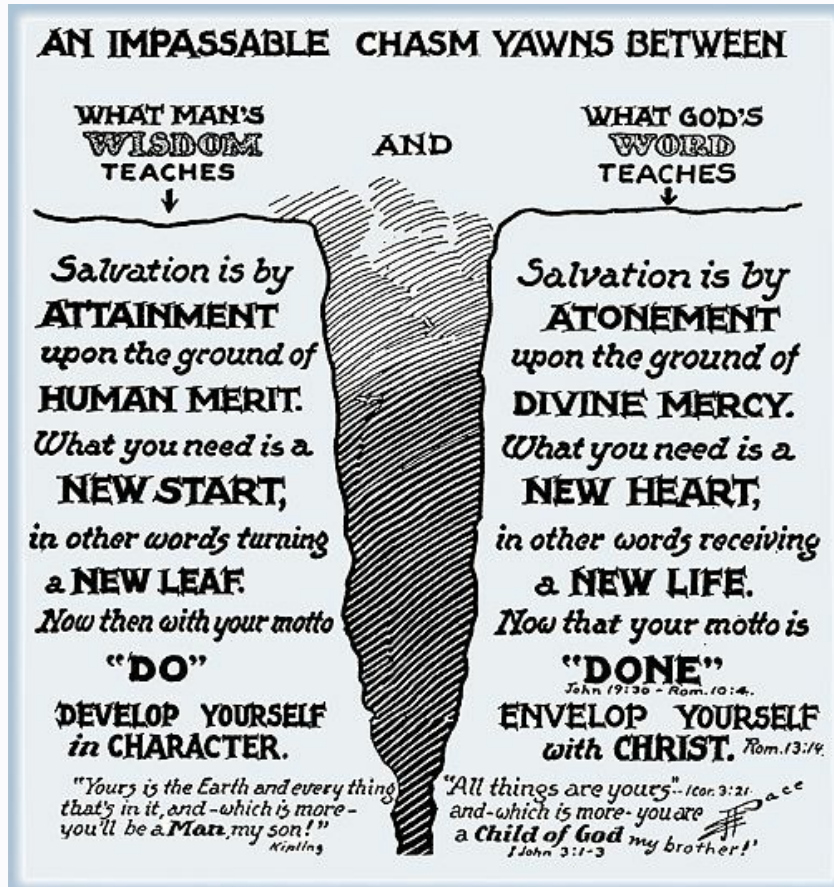
If we walk the path of separation from the world we can expect to be branded as legalistic by those who are reprovèd.

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



## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

"THE CHASM NO ECUMENIST CAN BRIDGE!"



They that are in the flesh "cannot please God" (Rom. 8:8). They may be very moral, very amiable, very religious, very benevolent; but they cannot please God. Their entire position is false.... They must have a new life, new motives, new objects—they must be a new creation. But on the other hand, mark the glorious privilege of all true believers. "Ye are not in the flesh" (Rom. 8:9). They have a new nature—a new life. Of this life, the Holy Ghost is the power, Christ the object, glory the goal, heaven the home. All is divine and, therefore, perfect. True, the believer is liable to err, prone in himself to wander, capable of sinning. In him (that is, in his flesh) "dwelleth no good thing" (Rom. 7:18). But his standing is based on the eternal stability of the grace of God, and his state is met by the divine provision which that grace has made for him in the precious atonement and the all-prevailing advocacy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, he is forever delivered from that terrible system in which the prominent figures are "flesh," "sin," "death"—a melancholy group, most surely!—and he is brought into that glorious scene in which the prominent figures are "life," "liberty," "grace," "Christ." ~ C. H. Mackintosh

- "As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron." ~ H. L. Mencken 1920
- "Whatever originates outside the Scriptures should for that very reason be suspect until it can be shown to be in accord with them....no experience can be proved to be genuine unless we can find chapter and verse authority for it in the Scriptures." ~ A. W. Tozer
- "Anything that is found contrary to the Word of God should not be accepted regardless of who is promoting it." ~ A. W. Tozer

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

## PSALM 2

1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,  
3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.



**DUNCAN CAMPBELL'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY:  
FROM THE TRENCHES TO THE PULPIT - (1898 -  
1972)**

Duncan Campbell is best known for the mighty work that God performed through him in the Revival on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland from 1949 - 1952. It was perhaps the last great revival that Britain has known.

However, Duncan Campbell's first profession after his conversion was as an infantry soldier in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders a unit of the British Army. This article, abridged and adapted from his own words, recounts how the revival preacher of the Isle of Lewis came to a personal knowledge of Christ, was preserved spiritually and physically through the horrors of the trenches of World War One and then called into Christian service.

**THE GREATEST DISCOVERY AND ENLISTMENT**

"I am here to tell you of three outstanding experiences in my life story; first of all the night that God in His mercy saved me. I was a piper, playing and dancing at a concert in 1913 when suddenly God spoke to me. I had a praying mother and a praying father and I believe that they were deeply burdened that night because I had gone to the dance. While I was playing a Scottish tune called The Green Hills of Tyrone, God spoke to me. My fingers were busy, but my soul was frightfully disturbed, and I found myself not dwelling on the Green Hills of Tyrone, but on the Green Hill of Calvary.

I was so disturbed that when I had finished playing the song, I stepped off the stage, went to the chairman and said that I would be leaving the concert. He looked at me and asked, 'are you well?' I said, 'Yes, very well in body, but fearfully disturbed in my mind. I have just made a discovery that I am on the way to hell.'

The chairman was a minister (I regret having to say that) and looked at me and said, 'You'll soon get over that.'



I am thankful to God that I have not 'got over it' to this day.

On my way home I passed a church and to my amazement I found it still lit at 11 o'clock at night. I could not understand it. Of course, I had been away from home on business and I did not know that two pilgrims from the Faith Mission were conducting a mission in the parish and here they were still in the church at 11 o'clock. I listened at the door and heard someone praying. Who should it be but my own father, pouring out his heart for the parish and for his own family? Oh, God bless such fathers!

Horses could not have dragged me past that meeting.

I went in, still dressed in my piper's regalia, carrying a set of bagpipes and two swords, which I had been using to demonstrate sword dancing. I left the bagpipes and the swords on the back seat of the church and walked up the aisle and sat down beside my father. He looked at me and said, 'I am glad to see you here boy. I am glad to see you here.'

After a few minutes one of the sisters who spoke our language (Gaelic) rose and read a text of Scripture.

*'God speaketh once, yea twice yet man perceiveth not.'* - **Job 33:14.**

I knew that God was speaking to me, but I was so afraid that I would disturb the meeting that I rose to

leave. However, as I walked out I fell on my knees not once, but half a dozen times. I was so distressed in my soul; I was afraid that the very ground would open and I would fall into hell as I came under conviction of the Holy Ghost.

When I did leave I remained deeply troubled and must have fallen on my knees and prayed six more times on my way home. I did not arrive home until after two o'clock in the morning and found my dear mother on her knees by the kitchen fire. She had not been able to attend the prayer meeting that night, as she had to look after some members of the family who had come to stay.

I told her what had happened to me and my distress. She looked at me and said, 'Your cousins are in your bedroom but I shall soon get a bed ready for you. But I would say this to you, my boy; (I was just in my teens) go out to the barn and tell God what you have just told me.'

I can still see the straw prepared for the horses in the morning and I fell on my knees on the straw. To this day I remember the prayer that I offered;

'God, I know not how to come, I know not what to do, but my God I am coming now. Oh, have mercy upon me.'

In less time than it takes me to recount the story, God had swept into my life and I was gloriously born again. A miracle had taken place. After all, is it not true that a born again Christian is a supernatural being; a supernatural being who has had a supernatural experience? Blessed be God! Since that day I have not had one occasion to doubt the work that God performed in my heart. It was real, it was definite and, blessed be God, it was supernatural. Shortly afterwards I enlisted into the Army at the outbreak of World War One.

## **BATTLES WITHIN AND WITHOUT**

I had not been in the Forces for very long when I discovered that there were dangers living within me which were more than a match for me. I am thankful to God that He kept me from open sin. Oh how I praise Him for that! I also had a sense of His gracious presence in the trenches and I knew Him there; but I was also troubled by indwelt sin. It was an enemy in

the garrison of my soul fighting against God. Again and again it brought me into bondage. I often fell on my knees in the trenches and asked God to forgive me for the thoughts of my heart, which sometimes were not too clean. I was terribly conscious of the truth that, *'The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.'* **Jeremiah 17:9.**

Then a remarkable thing happened; the second outstanding experience of my life. Somehow, someone in authority found out that I was a farmer's son and consequently I knew something about horses. I was immediately transferred out of the infantry into the Cavalry Corps. Oh, God's ways are wonderful! It was because I was transferred to the cavalry that God met with me for the second time.

While taking part in the last major charge of the British Cavalry at Amiens on 12 April 1918 I was severely wounded and was thrown onto the ground where I lay next to a dead horse. My own horse rolled onto me injuring my spine. I was bleeding heavily from other wounds. As I lay there the blood flowed out of me and I was convinced that I was dying. As these thoughts coursed through my mind suddenly a verse of Scripture came to me, *'...and holiness, without which no man can see God.'* **Hebrews 12:14.**

Even in the deep and glorious knowledge that I was born again, I felt very unworthy and unfit to meet God. Then in the providence of God another remarkable thing happened.

The Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians), known as the Canadian Horse, were ordered to continue the advance. As they charged over the bloody battlefield, covered with hundreds of wounded and dying men, a hoof struck me in the spine. I must have groaned in pain, and that groan registered in the mind of the rider. When the charge was over he was one of the few that came back; and I tell you that there were very few. It was a dreadful day. But he came right back to where I lay, dismounted, lifted me up and threw me across his horse's back and galloped to the nearest casualty clearing station. Now it was on that horse's back that the glorious miracle happened.

I remembered a prayer of Murray M'Cheyne's which my father used to pray, and I cried to God, 'God, oh

God, make me as holy as a saved sinner can be.' God did it! God swept into my life and I knew in a matter of minutes an experience that I did not think was possible this side of heaven. His waters flowed throughout my soul and inner being and I was healed - not physically, but spiritually. A sense of God flowed through me and at that moment I felt as pure as an angel. Do not misunderstand me; only God knows my true state, but that was how I felt.

At that time I could barely speak a word of English. I spoke Gaelic, the language of the Highlands of Scotland. I could not praise God in English; I could not pray in English; I read and sang in Gaelic. However, I was too weak through loss of blood to sing that afternoon, but I could repeat the Psalms.

As I lay in the station I repeated over and over in Gaelic the Scottish Psalm, 'O thou my soul, bless God the Lord and all that in me is, be stirred up His Holy Name to magnify and to bless.'

Not one person in that casualty clearing station could understand a single word of what I said. But God came in convicting power and within an hour seven Canadians had been saved. It was my first experience of Holy Ghost revival.

I had not been there for very long when I was evacuated back to Scotland for further treatment. I remained in hospital for a further eleven months and there experienced the gracious moving of God. There was nothing more wonderful than to see God working and to see men and women being saved. I could not preach much, but just a word about the Lord Jesus Christ did it! After a year and one month I was sent back home to the farm and demobilised

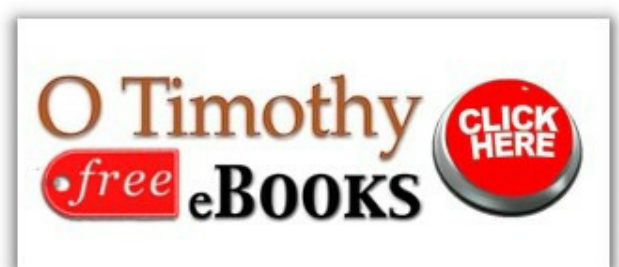
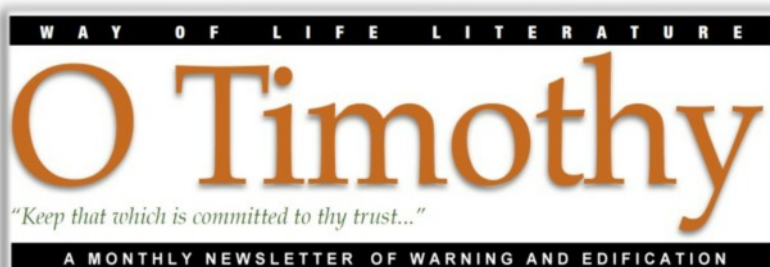
## FROM MILITARY TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE

I was now more or less fully recovered from my injuries and my parents were very keen for me to enter Christian ministry. However, what university or college would accept me with my very limited English? I immediately came to the conclusion that it was not necessary. Why should I spend 5 to 7 years in training when God in a matter of minutes could send revival? Therefore, with the permission of my parents, I just went out to the villages of Argyll in Scotland and preached. In a matter of days I saw what is commonly referred to as the Mid-Argyll Revival. The burden of my message was simple, 'He saved me and because He saved a sinner like me, He can save you.' For five years a young brother from Ireland and I saw the hand of God in revival. I think I could trace it back to that experience on the horse's back when God blessed me again."

## EPILOGUE

In 1949, shortly after the end of World War 2, Duncan Campbell was invited by a local minister to visit the Isle of Lewis to take part in a mission. Many of the young men who had served in the Second World War had returned to a spiritual vacuum, confused and troubled by what they had experienced. Most had turned away from their Christian upbringing. With his own experience of the trenches, and real experience of God, Campbell was an instrument prepared by God. He went for 10 days and remained for 3 years, leading a work that shook the whole of Lewis. - *by Philip Bray*

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



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Paul wrote the Epistle to the Colossians to encourage them in their faith and to combat false teaching. He warned:

*"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. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Col.2:8-9).*

It appears that false teaching was affecting the Church at Colossae and that there was an attack on the person of Christ. The Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) movement has also attacked the deity of Christ. In the *Fundamental Beliefs Section* of the SDA web site there are listed 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh Day Adventist Movement.

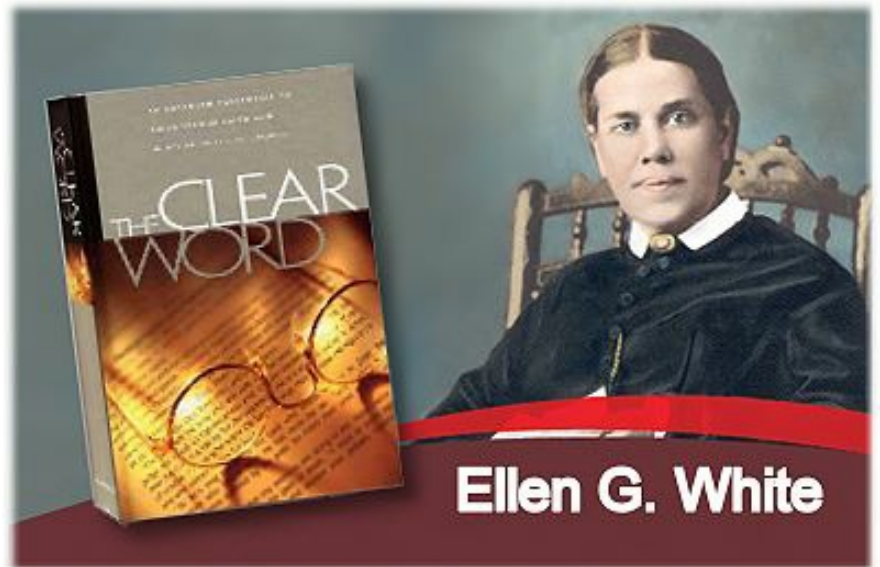
Item 18 on this list reads: "One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is prophecy. This gift is an identifying mark of the remnant church and was manifested in the ministry of Ellen. G. White. As the Lord's messenger, **her writings are a continuing and authoritative source of truth** which provide for the church comfort, guidance, instruction, and correction."

Ellen White died in 1915 but her teachings are still prominent in the Seventh Day Adventist Churches. Ellen White stated: "The man Christ Jesus was not The Lord Almighty" (Ellen G White 1903, SDA Commentary V, page 1129) But who do Mrs White and her SDA followers think Jesus Christ really is? Seventh-day Adventists share the belief with Jehovah's Witnesses that Jesus is Michael the Archangel. They take this position because it was taught by their prophetess, Ellen G. White. Strangely, they also believe that Jesus is God but God cannot be a created angel. The Jehovah' Witnesses believe Jesus was "a god."

The Bible clearly states that Jesus is not an angel. *"Being made so much **better than the angels**, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? ...And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let **all the angels of God worship him**" (Heb.1:3-6).*

It would be idolatry for angels to worship a created being so Christ must be the uncreated, eternal Son of God with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the Godhead.

**The SDA "Clear Word Bible"**



In 1996 Jack Blanco authored what is called the *Clear Word Bible* which is really a confusing paraphrase of the Bible. Jack Blanco is the former Dean of the School of Religion of Southern Adventist University, near Chattanooga, Tennessee and the following quotations from his *Clear Word Bible* will show that he has followed Mrs White in her teaching that Jesus is the archangel Michael.

- Jude 9 in the *Clear Word Bible* reads: "In contrast to these ungodly men is **the Lord Jesus, also called Michael the Archangel**, for He is over the entire angelic host..."
- 1 Thess 4.16 in the *Clear Word Bible* reads: "When Christ descends from heaven **as the Archangel**, He will give a shout like a trumpet, which is God's call to the dead, and those who died in Christ will rise first..."
- Rev 12:7 in the *Clear Word Bible* reads: "This controversy between God and the dragon began years ago in heaven. **God's Son Michael** and the loyal angels fought against the dragon and his angels..."

The SDA Publisher's comments on the *Koorong Bookshop* Website states: "This devotional paraphrase brings the thoughts expressed in the Bible into clear focus. The result is that you find not only more understanding in reading the Bible, but more joy. Perfect for devotional reading, this edition features an easier-to-use format."

The *Clear Word Bible* is published by *Review and Herald*, an Adventist Publishing House. Not only does this SDA Bible distort who Christ is, it also denies the doctrines of the immortality of soul and of eternal punishment in hell.

Jesus stated: *"Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul..."* (Matt 10:28)

The *Clear Word Bible* reads: "Don't fear that you might be killed. They may kill your body, but they cannot take away your eternal life..."

Again Jesus said: *"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal"* (Matt.25:46).

But the *Clear Word Bible* changes this to: "I have no choice but **to end your lives**, because in my kingdom everyone cares about everyone else."

The Bible states that those who worship the Beast (Antichrist) will be tormented for **ever and ever**. *"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name"* (Rev 14:11). The SDA Bible changes this to: "The fire of God's judgment will not rest until those who worship the sea beast and the animal and have the mark of its name **are totally destroyed**."

The words of the Lord Jesus to the repentant thief on the cross are distorted to deny the immortality of the soul and conscious existence after death. Jesus said to the thief: *"Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"* (Luke23:43).

The SDA Bible changes this to: "I promise you today, when I return with the glory of my Father, I will take you home with me to paradise." (i.e. **after the body is raised**).

SDA's believe that Christ's Atonement was not completed when He died on the cross and that, in 1844 Jesus

entered the sanctuary in heaven to finish the work. Their Fundamental Belief No. 24 states: "In 1844, at the end of the prophetic period of 2,300 days, He entered the second and **last phase of His atoning ministry**. It is a work of investigative judgment..."

However, after the three hours of darkness had passed on the cross, Jesus said: *"It is finished"* (John 19:30). The work of redemption was complete, the perfect sacrifice had been offered, Satan had been defeated and then Jesus yielded up His spirit.

The Bible states: *"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; for by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified"* (Heb.10:12-14).

The text of Scripture is changed elsewhere to accommodate the false doctrines of the SDA cult. Acts 20:7 changes *"the first day of the week"* to "Saturday night". After all, Mrs White taught that Sunday Worshipers are receiving the Mark of the Beast.

"The change of the Sabbath is the sign or mark of the authority of the Romish church." ... "The keeping of the counterfeit Sabbath **is the reception of the mark**." (Ellen G. White, *Great Controversy*, page 281).

What is clear about the *Clear Word Bible* is that it is neither clear nor a translation of the inspired text of Scripture but rather a SDA commentary. It illustrates how any translation by apostate translators can corrupt the Word of God. Once they depart from a word-for-word translation of the text they can inject their poison into the translation.

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

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## ACUPUNCTURE PROVEN TO BE PSEUDOSCIENCE - Friday Church News Notes, January 24, 2014



A new study has shown that acupuncture is no more effective at relieving pain than "sham acupuncture." A 2013 study published in the journal *Cancer* followed a group of 47 women being treated with aromatase

inhibitors, a breast cancer medication that can cause hot flashes, night sweats, joint and muscle pain. Half of the women received traditional acupuncture, while the other half received "sham acupuncture," referring to the placing of needles at random places and not actually inserted. There was no significant difference between the two groups, all of the patients reporting improvement of side effects ("New Study Exposes Acupuncture as Pseudoscience," *Business Insider*, Dec. 26, 2013).

(Friday Church News Notes, January 24, 2014  
[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org), [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org))

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



There is a wonderful word that every one of us as people of the Book should know. It is a word found in 1 Peter 3:15: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Consider the word ANSWER. The word ANSWER is the word APOLOGIA. We get the English term "apologetic" from this word. In fact, this is what is termed a "transliterated" word. A transliterated word is one that essentially transfers letters from one language into another. The word BAPTIZO is such a word (baptize).

Many who are lost have made much light of this word. The late Gnostic teacher, Paul Crouch said of the word for apologetic: "There are some who spend a lifetime - we call them apologist - they spend their whole lives apologizing for the scriptures" (sic). Not only was the man wrong about Jesus Christ, (denying His deity), but he showed his ignorance of a very simple English word and concept as well.

The verb form of the word is the word APOLOGEOMAI. Both words essentially mean "a defense." Technically, this is a compound word made up of the preposition APO and the noun LOGOS. APO usually means "away from," but in this case, it speaks of "the place from whence anything is taken." LOGOS means "word." It is a literal "taking from the word." This is a term that was used in the legal world. An APOLOGIA was a speech in defense of oneself. Simply, it was often used in light of one seeking to prove his innocence. There are several uses of APOLOGEOMAI by Paul in his defending himself against false charges that had been leveled against him by the Jews that so hated him and the gospel (Acts 24:10, 25:8, 26:1, 2, 24).

But the way that we want to consider the word is in the light of what all of us as God's people must be able to do before a world that does not know the Lord. Peter is

saying, "Never be unprepared, never be unwilling, never be timid to the one that questions you about the hope that is in you." You and I must be ready at all times to give an answer, an APOLOGIA, a defense of that hope. When the word of God is preached, it is a time of not only worship, but a time of preparing the saints for such a time as Peter speaks here.

In order to give a defense of that hope, which speaks of our faith, we have to know that faith which was once delivered unto the saints. We have the Book that tells us all about it. It is the entire Word of God. Can you give a defense of your faith? Can you tell others why baptism does not save a soul? Can you defend the truth of eternal security? Can you defend through the Scriptures the simple plan of salvation? Peter is saying that we are to be ever prepared and ready. The context of his words is in light of our suffering as believers. Yet, Peter says ALWAYS. That is the little adverb AEI, which means "perpetually, incessantly, at any and every time." That includes not only the times of suffering and threats, but any time.

Since we are people of the Book, we must understand what we believe and why we believe it. That is more important than many things that occupy a lot of our time. Why? I think that Paul answers that in his letter to the Ephesian brethren in [Ephesians 4:14](#), when he says, *"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."* Our enemy is vigilant at all times, seeking whom he may devour.

May we continually be ready for his onslaughts as God's servants by being able to give a defense of the hope of our faith.

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



**TO THOSE TRYING TO BRING CHILD RAISING UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE SOCIALIST STATE I SAY, "MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!"**

David was a lousy dad. He may have been a great king, warrior, statesman, leader, harpist and author, but he was very bad at parenting. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." Amnon was a rapist, Absalom a murderer, Adonijah was guilty of treason. David's family was a train wreck of monumental proportions. Why was this so?

*"And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? and he also was a very goodly man; and his mother bare him after Absalom." (1 Kings 1:6)*

It seems David never, ever corrected his sons, verbally or otherwise. (Notice also that Adonijah and Absalom both had the same mother, Haggith. This tells us a lot about the rebellious influence of the mother, but maybe we'll save this thought for another time.) The question remains, why do children need to be corrected? God has given us the answer, clearly and distinctly; they are born wicked and foolish.

*"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." (Proverbs 22:15)*

There has been some discussion over recent days about parents' rights to spank their own children. To those trying to bring child raising under the umbrella of the socialist state I say, "Mind Your Own Business." Rather, what does God say about child raising?

*"Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." (Proverbs 23:13,14)*

I think Solomon may have had his half brothers in mind when he penned the following:

*"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." (Proverbs 29:15)*

What is it with modern Australia? Parents have children, and at six weeks of age they are put into childcare for the entire working week, for someone else to raise!

What madness! Why have kids in the first place if you don't want to raise them? The great joy of parenthood is raising your children, seeing them grow day by day, nurturing their development, teaching them all about life. You can't enjoy this if someone else has taken your place.

Kids need security, and security comes through boundaries. Children are inherently foolish and cannot establish these boundaries themselves. Setting boundaries for life includes loving correction, usually verbally but sometimes with the rod. This job is the sole responsibility of father and mother, not the school, the church or the government.

Someone says, "What about child abuse?" Child abuse is a crime, and should be treated as such. Hitting a child anywhere on the face, or striking a child in anger, is child abuse. (Allowing children to drink alcohol is also child abuse, as is letting them watch degrading, perverted TV shows and movies, and giving them uncontrolled access to the internet. There are many forms of child abuse.)

Using the rod sparingly, is not child abuse. It is a God approved, common sense, time honoured and practically proven way of correcting your child.

To those politicians and "academics" trying to force their anti-God philosophies upon us; go away. Better still, read the Bible. It contains the truth you desperately need.

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



In early 2008 Mark Blitz, located in the United States, came up with the theory that a special sign was soon to appear in the heavens when the moon would turn bloodred twice in 2014 and twice in 2015. What was remarkable was that this phenomena would occur on Passover and on Yom Kippur and is called a Tetrad. I watched Mark being interviewed on a TV program with a man named Church, as he expounded his theory.

Since 2014/15 was 7 years ahead of 2008 and because Blitz claimed the moon would be turned to blood at the second coming of Christ, he therefore assumed that the Rapture could occur on the Feast of Trumpets 2008.

It didn't.

Blitz went on to suggest that Tetrads, which were eclipses of the moon, were rare and were always linked with some significant event in the history of Israel. He pointed out that one occurred in 1492 when the inquisition in Spain took place but he failed to tell us that the inquisitions began long before 1492.

There is nothing special about a bloodred moon occurring at passover. **Bloodred moons occur when there is a total lunar eclipse and when there is a full moon. They occur when earth blocks the sunlight normally reflected by the moon. The sun's rays are bent through earth's atmosphere, turning the moon red. Passover and Yom Kippur are on 14/15 of the first and seventh months of the Jewish lunar calendar which ALWAYS occurs at a full moon.**

Ever since God created the sun, moon, and stars it has happened that way. There is nothing special about **a full moon at Passover and Yom Kippur because it happens every year.** So whenever there is an eclipse in either the first or seventh month it must occur on Passover and/or Yom Kippur and the moon turns red every time.

Astronomers who calculate the circuit of the heavenly bodies can tell us exactly when the eclipses have taken

place in the past and when they will take place in the future. It's just a matter of mathematics.

So if we know when these eclipses are going to occur it is **no different to knowing what time the sun will rise tomorrow morning.** That is not a sign because signs are wonders or miracles that are not predictable.

But will the moon be bloodred when Christ returns? The Bible does NOT say so. The Bible says that the *"the sun shall be darkened and the moon shall not give her light"* (Matt.24:29). That means there will be a total blackout.

The moon simply can't be bloodred if the sun is darkened because it needs to have light from the sun to make it red! The moon will be bloodred during the 6th seal judgment when the world is devastated by a global earthquake, probably the same one that is described in Ezek.38:19.

We have observed that the sun turned red when there was a bush fire and the air was filled with smoke and there is little doubt that the earth's atmosphere will be filled with smoke and dust from fires caused by a global earthquake.

In recent times a number of prophecy preachers have sold DVDs which teach that the Tetrad of 2014/2015 has prophetic significance but we would warn the Lord's people that this is dangerous teaching. Mark Blitz was entirely wrong in his assertion that the Rapture would occur in 2008/2009 and the 2nd Advent in 2014/2015 and while it is an interesting phenomena it is totally lacking in Biblical support that is prophetically significant.

Such teaching may sell a lot of DVDs but it will do little more than bring dishonour on the *"more sure word of prophecy whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts."* (II Peter 1:19 ).

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

### CAN GOD RESTORE A RUINED ROSE? -

One of the saddest experiences ever is the destruction of a young Christian's life at the hand of a spiritual leader. When it happens most of the media's attention is focused on the pastor, the youth leader, or the missionary. We hear all the sordid details of their misconduct, all the media circus in the court system, all the mocking and jeering of a godless world, and all the gloating over the prison term meted out, but then silence descends and we never hear if the "ruined roses" are ever resurrected. Very little attention is given, and no compassion is shown toward the person(s) who suffered the abuse. Does anyone care what happens to them? Or are they just the ruined roses, downtrodden and discarded by the "professionals"? Name after name (both of offenders and offended) flood into my mind as I look back at fifty years in the church, and I wonder whatever happened to the rosebuds, crushed and abandoned? The Lord Jesus is spoken of in **Zechariah 13:6**, *"And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends."* It surprises us not at all that many of His followers bear the marks, and wear the wounds as well.

God cares for the wounded. He always has. Male and female. Old and young. No matter how the crushing, the bruising, the wounding came about, God cares for every one of them. **EVEN WHEN THE WOUNDS WERE SELF INFLICTED!** God cares!

In almost every case, the bruising is a mixed curse, partly the fault of an abuser, and partly the fault of the abused. No man is wise enough to untangle the myriads of Gordian Knots that surround us (or the ones that fill our churches, for that matter!) Only God knows all the truth of all the tangles. Only He knows the origin of each wound and the cause for every bruise.

Hagar and Ishmael are cast out and who is to blame? Abraham, for buying her as a slave in Egypt? Sarah, for persuading Abraham to take her as a second wife? Hagar for mocking Sarah in her barrenness? Ishmael, for taunting Isaac in his infancy? She cast her son under a shrub and lamented, wounded and bruised in her rejection. And God cared and promised and provided and protected them both.

Tamar and Rahab and Ruth were crushed under the Millstone of Circumstance, but God was the Miller and brought forth the finest of the wheat. Esther and



Mordecai faced the spectre of the extinction of the Jews, until God moved Mordecai to save the king's life, and placed Esther in the favoured place to appeal to the king. God cared for them so much he used them to turn the darkest page of history, and behold, "The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour."

I am thinking today of some whose lives were crushed beneath the heel of arrogance, wounded rosebuds, and to this date justice is not done. It will come, have no doubt, it will come. The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine. The wounded wait and cry, "How long, O Lord?" and Heaven is silent. Is there no justice? Fear not, dear brother, it is on its way. Even now, the heavenly messenger is mounting the swift steed and help is on its way.

In the meantime, what is done for them? Is there no solace? Is there no remedy? Does no one bind up their wounds?

Hezekiah led his people back to God. His father Ahaz had ruled poorly. The longer he led them the worse he became until he *"shut up the doors of the house of the LORD, and he made him altars in every corner of Jerusalem. And in every several city of Judah he made high places to burn incense unto other gods, and provoked to anger the LORD God of his fathers."* (**II Chron. 28:24b, 25**) The nation was a spiritual calamity when Hezekiah ascended the throne. So he opened the temple again and restored the priesthood and lit the lamps and purged the uncleanness out of the temple and offered sacrifices and rejoiced in the LORD. And then he observed the Passover.

And Sennacherib invaded the land. He threatened to conquer Jerusalem. He mocked God and ridiculed Hezekiah's faith. So God spoke to the nation through

Isaiah and comforted them, replying to Sennacherib, *"The virgin, the daughter of Zion hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee."*

A virgin? The daughter of Zion, a virgin? But before Hezekiah ruled she was filled with the whoredoms of idolatry, with all the abominations of the Gentiles. How could God ever call Judah a virgin? Her chastity, her purity is long ago defiled and lost. She is a crushed rosebud, trampled under the feet of the priests of Baal, smothered in the ashes of his altars, and ruined without remedy.

Or can God restore a ruined rose? Can He resurrect the wounded?

Hezekiah knew. He knew what God can do. He knew what God will do when His people cry out to him in brokenness and with a contrite heart. God can restore the virginity of His fallen people. When they cast away their idols. When

they begin again to worship and serve the God of their fathers. When the idols are shattered and cast on the scrap pile. When the Passover is renewed.

God gives beauty for ashes.

*"To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified."* **Isaiah 61:3**

God resurrects rosebuds!

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



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For the **LOVE** of the **FAMILY**

Godly advice for today's families • Helping people change their lives Biblically

DR. TERRY L. COOMER  
Founder & Director

A photograph of Dr. Terry L. Coomer, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit and a red tie, standing behind a wooden podium.



*On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia*

## Heads Up!

A fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith, [Grace Baptist Church](#), Malanda, QLD., 4885. Australia. To be included to receive copies, please contact us by one of the following methods:

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

**Phone:** 07 4096 6657

**Email:** [smiletex@bigpond.net.au](mailto:smiletex@bigpond.net.au)

**Website:** [www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au](http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au)

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