



September 28, 2012

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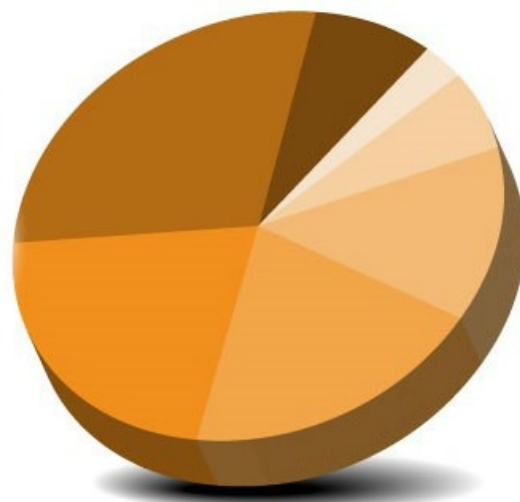
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## Feature Article - All For Jesus!

By Bobby Mitchell

**Matthew 10:34-39** *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."*



If you want to follow Jesus then He made it very clear that He demands first place. Jesus and His will comes before self, family, peace, and life.

**Matthew 16:21-28** *"From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in*

*exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom."*

A disciple of Jesus will deny his own thinking, reasoning, and ideas. He will embrace God's. He will take up his cross and follow his Lord.

**Luke 9:23** *"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."*

A follower of Jesus must deny himself daily.

How do we follow this instruction to have Jesus in first place? Is it a matter of mysticism or asceticism? Do we walk away from all responsibility to family and other relationships and simply pray, read the Scriptures, meditate, fast, evangelize, etc.? We certainly don't see that in Scripture. Think of the clear teaching concerning family and work relationships in Scripture. Ephesians 5 and 6 come to mind. The answer is that we yield to the LORD JESUS CHRIST, submitting to Him as PREEMINENT and LORD OVER ALL by learning His will for us and doing it. How do we know His will or good pleasure for us? Scripture! He reveals His will in the Scriptures. He has first place in our lives as we acknowledge Him in all our ways. We consider His will concerning every thought, every desire, every decision, every relationship, — EVERYTHING!

And we obey it. If that turns people against us (including loved ones) then we OBEY HIM ANYWAY. JESUS FIRST. That is what He demanded. WE PLEASE HIM.

#### THE LORD GETS THE WHOLE PIE!

There are some common misconceptions among believers about these matters. Many Christians see their lives with their various responsibilities like a pie chart. They think like this: "Well the Lord has to be first, then family, or is it church? Well, family or church, and then work, and then . . ."

SEE THEIR PIE CHART? There is the Lord slice, the family slice, the church slice, the job slice, the sleep slice, the eating slice, the recreation slice, the reading slice, . . . "How do I divide up the pie? I've only got 24 hours in a day. The same as kings and homeless people! I've got a job, a wife, kids, neighbors . . . How do I do this?"

#### ERASE THE PIE CHART AND GIVE THE LORD THE WHOLE PIE!

**Proverbs 3:6:** *"In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths."*

**I Corinthians 10:31:** *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

I am not teaching that you should just do whatever you want to do and then dedicate it to God! NO! Some things we are plainly commanded not to do. Some things are not "unlawful" but they are not expedient (1 Corinthians 10:23). Another word for "expedient" is "profitable."

Somebody said "Don't let the good become the enemy of the best." Moses wrote, "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." Paul wrote in Ephesians "Redeeming the time because the days are evil."

Scripture is clear about what we MUST DO. We do have enough time to do all that we must do to the glory of God. Solomon wrote that there is a "time for every purpose under heaven."

But, we get this wrong idea of “This is for the Lord, this is for family, this is for the boss, this is for neighbor, this is for me.” There’s that sliced up pie again!

The simple duty of the disciple of Jesus is to DO ALL THE LORD WANTS YOU TO DO AND DO IT ALL FOR HIM. Do it HIS WAY, from THE HEART, for HIS GLORY. MOTIVATED BY HIS GRACE, and STRENGTHENED BY HIS SPIRIT AND GRACE.

If this “offends” others, if they demand you stop this, DO IT ANYWAY. HE MUST BE OBEYED. HE IS LORD OVER ALL.

**“HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS.”**

You might be wondering "How do I know when to do certain things or where or with whom or how? What about marriage, a career, buying a house, etc.?"

Simple: Pray for wisdom. Seek wisdom by submitting to His Word and Will.

YOU FOCUS ON “IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM” and He will do His part.

- Be REGULATED by His WORD and He will keep you in His will!
- Be MOTIVATED by the GOSPEL.
- BE STRENGTHENED by His Grace and Spirit.
- BE INSTRUCTED BY THE BIBLE.

Biblical instruction is gained by obeying Bible Preaching and reading and by memorizing, and meditating on the Scriptures.

#### OBEY THE BIBLE

DO IT! DO IT! That is “living by faith.”

In the Bible God reveals His will concerning Thinking, Working, Giving, Spending, Saving, Praying, Singing, Speaking, Hearing, Loving, Reading, Looking, Evangelizing, Child-rearing, Attitude, Attire, Sleep, and everything else you need to know about.

LEARN IT. OBEY!

DO ALL FOR JESUS.

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### **Proverbs 3:5-6**

**“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.  
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”**

## Deacon True Sez -

Preacher Dave said, "It is hard to have a dancing foot on Saturday night and a praying knee on Sunday morning."

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## Manna In The Wilderness - Sermons for the Hungry

We often hear from Christians who live and work in areas where there is no church with a clear witness for Christ. It is sad that Australia, for instance, has literally thousands of square miles with no gospel witness at all. Surely this is true all over the world. I decided this week that we will try to offer in each issue of Heads Up a link to good sermons that are available on the Internet. It may be that the Lord's people can listen to good preaching and be helped by what they hear.

Bro. Bob Kirkland is a dear pastor in Canada who is making sermons available to folks outside his church. Here are some good ones. You might even want to download them to a USB or burn them on a CD so you can listen to them while you drive. - Ed

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=914121145383>

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## Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- The late *Gordon Sears* warned: "When the standard of music is lowered, then the standard of dress is also lowered. When the standard of dress is lowered, then the standard of conduct is also lowered. When the standard of conduct is lowered, then the sense of value in God's truth is lowered."
- *Frank Garlock* said: "If a church starts using CCM it will eventually lose all other standards."
- "Opera is where a guy gets stabbed in the back, and instead of dying, he sings." - *Robbie Burns*
- Abstract Art: A product of the untalented; sold by the unprincipled; to the utterly bewildered." - *Al Capp*

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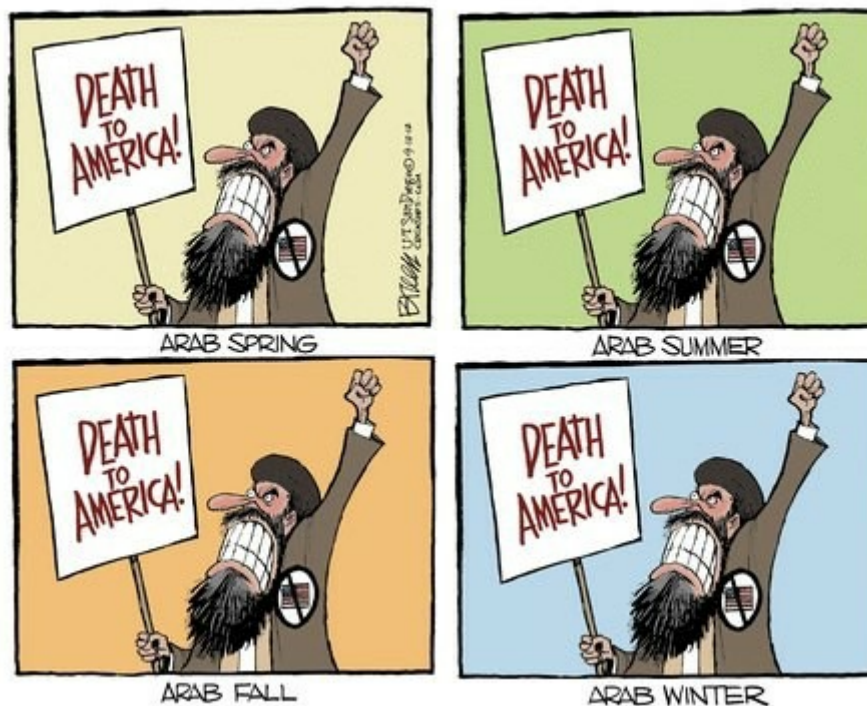


### Back Issues of Heads Up!

**Available at:**

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

## Cartoons For the Wise -



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## Dino Sightings in Papua New Guinea? -

<http://creation.com/more-dino-sightings-png>

*by Brian Irwin*

Published: 23 August 2012 (GMT+10).

Following on from his 2008 article *Theropod and sauropod dinosaurs sighted in PNG?*, in January 2012 the author Brian Irwin along with Russell Cook (both Australians) travelled to West New Britain in Papua New Guinea to investigate further reports of animals presumed to be extinct. Here is an account of their conversations with eyewitnesses—local people who claimed to have recently seen dinosaur-like creatures.

**Pictured Above:** The author, Brian Irwin (left), with Russell Cook (right) at Gasmata, West New Britain, Papua New Guinea, with locals Fabian Amon (second from left), and Matthew—local politician and interpreter (second from right).

## Sauropod sightings in the south and north of West New Britain

### 1. Ambungi Island Sightings

The inhabitants of Ambungi Island and the surrounding region have observed unusual animals that resemble sauropod dinosaurs since the mid-1990s. Ambungi Island is located about two kilometres south



of the south coast of West New Britain, approximately midway between Kandrian and Gasmata. It is only since the 1920s that Ambungi Island has been populated.

### Swimming with a sauropod?

A local man named Alphones Likky (interviewed on 15th January 2012) claimed to have seen a sauropod-like creature in 1995 while he was spearfishing on the reef on the south side (unpopulated) of Ambungi Island.

Alphones was facing south at the bottom of the reef stalking fish when, he says, he heard the sound of something crashing into the coral behind him. When Alphones turned around he was startled to see a large animal at close range, a distance of approximately five metres (c. 15 feet), fully submersed in the water. He says it moved slowly past from left to right and entered the left of two underwater caves located on the south side of Ambungi Island.



**Left: An artist's reconstruction of the animal seen entering an underwater cave on the south side of Ambungi Island.**

Seeing the creature at such close range and being in the water with it, Alphones was terrified. Alphones described the animal as having a long neck and tail and four legs, with the hind legs being longer than the front legs and the feet resembling those of a duck. The length of the animal was estimated to be four metres from the front legs to the end of the tail, with a height of two to three metres. The animal's skin was stated to be dark brown, the texture of the skin

could not be determined. The head of the creature was described as being small and similar to a snake's head; no teeth were observed and the eye was described as being similar to the eyes of other animals. Dermal frills were observed on the animal's back and tail, but not on the neck. The creature's movement was described as being slow, with the tail moving noticeably. The neck of the creature was horizontal for the duration of the sighting, which lasted about 10 seconds. Seeing the creature at such close range and being in the water with it, Alphones was terrified. Wanting to escape with his life from this ordeal, Alphones promptly surfaced to reach his canoe and left the area quickly. He certainly didn't hang around in hope of getting a glimpse of the creature's body above the water!



**Above: At the foot of the cliff on the south side of Ambungi Island near the two underwater caves referred to in the main text. Part of the entrance to the left cave (the one the creature was seen entering) can be seen at right.**

The two underwater caves on the south side of Ambungi Island are separated by a distance of approximately 20 metres. The left cave has a circular entrance and has a height of about 2.5 metres. The

right cave has a triangular entrance and also has a height of about 2.5 metres and appears from the outside to be considerably larger than the left cave. Neither cave has been explored because of the unavailability of sophisticated diving and lighting equipment.

### A dinosaur in the garden?

In 1999 the second good sighting of one of these creatures occurred, however on this occasion the animal was observed on the land. Alice Pasington (interviewed on 14th January 2012) was working alone in the garden on the south side of the island when she claims to have had an unusual encounter. From a distance of about 40 metres, Alice observed one of the creatures and estimated the total length to be about three metres.



**Above: An artist's reconstruction of the three-metre animal that Alice Pasington says she saw while working in the garden about 40 metres away.**

The colour of the animal's skin was reddish-brown and white around the breast area. The texture of the skin appeared smooth and dermal frills were seen only on the tail. The animal moved slowly with its neck nearly vertical and Alice saw it feeding on a plant with a rough-textured leaf.

Alice then observed the animal turn around and walk to a small cliff, where it dived into the sea. During this time, the creature was followed at a distance and did not seem aware of Alice's presence. After the animal had left the garden, Alice observed the five-toed footprints in the ground and later showed these footprints to other residents of Ambungi Island. The animal may have entered the garden from the beach on the western side of the island during the night. From the above description, it is possible that it may have been a juvenile specimen of the same type of creature as the other sightings, based on its size, colour, footprint and smooth skin texture.

### Sleeping on a rock

Once the animal heard the sound of people, it moved from the rock back into the sea. In 2007, Jasinta Pitim, another resident of Ambungi Island, observed the profile of a large animal sleeping on a rock on a reef on the south side of Ambungi Island. The animal was described as having a long neck that was curved back near its body, which was dark-brown, with skin described as being like a crocodile, and with dermal frills. Jasinta hurried home and told her husband Joe (interviewed on 14th January 2012), who travelled to the location, where he saw it too. Once the animal heard the sound of people, it moved from the rock back into the sea.

Back in 1997 Joe and Jasinta observed a similar animal while travelling from Ambungi Island to Malengo Island in a canoe. From a distance of approximately eight metres the head and neck of the creature were visible for a short period of time. Similar animals have also been observed on islands close to Ambungi Island.

Right: Joe and Jasinta Pitim observed a large aquatic animal sunning itself on a rock on a reef off Ambungi Island in 2007. They had seen the head and neck of a similar creature protruding above the sea while travelling by canoe ten years earlier.



## 2. Gasmata sighting

A creature similar to the one(s) observed around Ambungi Island has also been seen once near Gasmata. One afternoon in August 2004, three adults—Fabian Amon, Simon Patolkit, and Margaret Patolkit—along with some children observed a sauropod-like creature on the south side of Dililo Island, an unpopulated island used mainly for farming by the local people from Gasmata.

Simon was interviewed on 13th January 2012 at the location of the sighting and Fabian was interviewed on 18th January 2012. Both of their accounts of the sighting were very similar. Simon, Margaret and Fabian were diving for fish on the reef on the south side of Dililo Island when they heard an unusual sound in the water and noticed that the fish were scattering. They became somewhat frightened by this incident and left the water for the safety of the land. A short time later, while sitting on some rocks, they observed part of an unknown animal above the water about 40–50 metres away and travelling in an east-west direction parallel to the coast. The creature had a large body and a neck estimated to be three metres long that was horizontal and close to the water. No tail or legs were visible and the total length of the visible portion of the animal was about eight metres. The head was like a crocodile or lizard and the eye was described as being 'big'. The colour of the animal was uniform brown and the skin had a rough texture. The animal was described as having a 'saw' in the middle of its back, which consisted of 4 or 5 dermal frills. Observation time lasted about one minute during which time the creature moved slowly until it submersed itself fully in the water.

It held its head and neck (about 3 metres long) just above the water and was described as having a 'saw' in the middle of its back. The visible part of the creature was estimated to be about 8 metres (26 feet) in length—but its total body length was likely considerably greater, given its tail was submerged and out of view.

## 3. Possible theropod sighting in the north of West New Britain

A small theropod-like creature that local people have dubbed 'Doren' has been repeatedly observed around Benaule Village<sup>3</sup>, which is located approximately 25 km east of Kimbe on the north coast of West New Britain. The creature has been seen quite frequently for many years, with a close encounter reported in November 2010.

Pastor Ken-John was sitting on an 'outhouse' toilet at the Tabernacle Of Worship church during the day when he observed the profile of the head and upper torso of the 'Doren' appear only one metre away, just outside. The head was described as being like that of an aircraft (presumably like the profile of the nose of a jet, such as a 747) and the colour was medium brown. The animal has also been seen on the seashore near the church grounds by local people, where it comes ashore during high tide and travels back to the sea during low tide.

The 'Doren' has been observed eating crabs and digging up vegetables from a garden. A distinctive footprint of the 'Doren', which is described as being about 25cm long, is often seen in the sand by the sea. The left foot of the creature was drawn in the sand by a local person. During the wet season, the 'Doren' travels inland along a creek to a mountain. The 'Doren' has been observed eating crabs and digging up



vegetables from a garden near the church—apparently looking for worms and other invertebrates to eat, as it doesn't normally eat the vegetables it unearths.



Above: The footprint of the 'Doren'—as drawn in the sand by Ben.

When walking, the 'Doren' uses four legs. However, when running the creature is reported as using rear legs only and as being able to outrun a human. It seems from the descriptions that the 'Doren' might be best identified as a *Herrerasaurus*.

### Concluding remarks

Reports alone are ultimately not enough to conclusively establish the fact that some dinosaurs are still alive today. However, if these are eventually backed up by hard evidence, the finding of living dinosaurs should not be such a surprise to people, considering that some animals and plants that were believed to be extinct for millions of years have been discovered alive. These discoveries include the Coelacanth fish (discovered in 1938) and the Wollemi Pine tree (discovered in 1994).

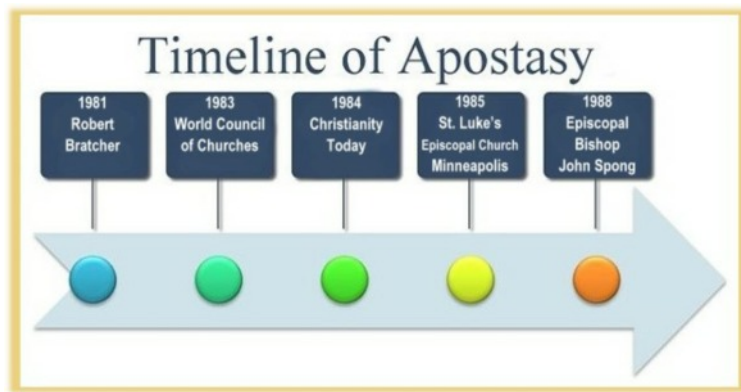
For Christians it should be less surprising still, as the authority of the Bible is a solid basis for believing that humans have lived at the same time as dinosaurs (whether or not some dinosaurs still survive); because Genesis teaches that the heavens, the earth, and everything in them was created in that six-day period about 6000 years ago.

The remains of dinosaurs (some of which are still 'soft and squishy', with identifiable proteins) would be no older than the Genesis Flood, which occurred about 4,500 years ago.

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### **Job 40:15-18**

**"Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron."**



## Decades of Decadence - A Timeline of Apostasy

Updated ----- September 30, 2009  
 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org))

1981--Robert Bratcher, translator of the Today's English Version, said, "Only willful ignorance or intellectual dishonesty can account for the claim that the Bible is inerrant and infallible. ... No truth-loving, God-respecting, Christ-honoring believer should be guilty of such heresy. To invest the Bible with the qualities of inerrancy and infallibility is to idolatry it, to transform it into a false god" (The Baptist Courier, Greenville, SC, April 2, 1981). Bratcher was speaking at a national seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas.

----- Popular Christian author Malcolm Muggeridge wrote, "The story of Jesus as recounted in the Gospels is true to the degree that it can be, and is believed; its truth must be looked for in the hearts of believers rather than in history" (Muggeridge, Jesus: The Man Who Lives).

1982--Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, when asked at Easter by a newspaper reporter about the meaning of the cross, replied, "As to that, I am an agnostic" (Sunday Times Weekly Review, April 11, 1982). Six years later Runcie said, "The Church must give a firm lead against rigid thinking."

----- For the first time in history a Catholic Pope visited England and held a joint service with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

----- Robert Schuller published Self-Esteem: The New Reformation, redefining Christianity in terms of his self-esteem theology, stating, for example, that sin is the lack of self-esteem and "to be born again means that we must be changed from a negative to a positive self-image" (Schuller, Self-Esteem, p. 68).

----- By this year, only about 15 percent of the student body at Fuller Theological Seminary held to the conviction of the seminary's founders that the Scripture is inerrant (George Marsden, Reforming Fundamentalism, p. 268).

----- A Gallup survey in 1982 revealed that 34% of Methodists believed that community service is more important than proclaiming the gospel.

1983--The World Council of Churches' General Assembly featured a pagan dance by a Hindu woman from South India. It was a "classical Bharathanatyam dance" that is performed for the Hindu "earth mother goddess."

----- The new National Council of Churches' lectionary featured prayers to God as "Father and Mother." The strongly pro-feminist lectionary committee, headed by a Lutheran, complained that the old Bible language about God the Father "has been used to support the excessive authority of earthly fathers" (Richard Ostling, "O God Our Mother and Father," Time magazine, October 24, 1983).

1984--The editors of Christianity Today examined Robert Schuller's theology and revealed their own apostasy by concluding that he is not a heretic.

----- The United Methodist Church approved a report which called upon all its churches to refer to God and Jesus Christ only in terms of inclusive language--in other words, not to address God as "He" or as "Father."

----- Charles Keysor testified that a pastor who supports the United Methodist Church system "can be anything from quietly conservative to universalist, agnostic, or even farther Left" and that "the United Methodist climate is alien and inhospitable to forthright evangelical faith" (Christianity Today, Nov. 9, 1984).

----- Just before his death, well-known evangelical leader Francis Schaeffer published *The Great Evangelical Disaster*, warning, "Within evangelicalism there are a growing number who are modifying their views on the inerrancy of the Bible so that the full authority of Scripture is completely undercut."

----- The World Council of Churches published *No Longer Strangers*, which instructed women to pray to God by the following names: Lady of peace, Lady of wisdom, Lady of love, Lady of birth, Lord of stars, Lord of planets, Mother, Bakerwoman, Presence, Power, Essence, Simplicity.

----- Former fundamentalist Jack Van Impe made a 180-degree turn from fundamentalism to ecumenism with the publication of *Heart Disease in the Body of Christ*, in which he called for the unity of all professing Christians. Soon thereafter he mis-defined biblical love in a typically ecumenical fashion by saying: "Let's forget our labels and come together in love, and the pope has called for that. ... Till I die I will proclaim nothing but love for all my brothers and sisters in Christ, my Catholic brothers and sisters, Protestant brothers and sisters, Christian Reformed, Lutherans, I don't care what label you are."

----- Sister Ann, with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Kathmandu, Nepal, was asked what the nuns do to prepare Hindus to die. In the tape-recorded interview with David and Linda Cloud she replied that they taught them to pray to their gods. When asked, "Do you believe if they die believing in the [Hindu gods] Shiva or in Ram they will go to Heaven?" she replied, "... if they have believed in their god very strongly, if they have faith, surely they will be saved."

----- David Cline, vice-chairman of the Billy Graham Crusade in Vancouver, British Columbia, said, "If Catholics step forward there will be no attempt to convert them and their names will be given to the Catholic church nearest their homes" (Vancouver Sun, Oct. 5, 1984).

----- The Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City displayed a four-foot bronze statue of the crucifixion featuring a naked female Christ ("Vexing Christa," Time magazine, May 7, 1984).

----- David Jenkins, consecrated Bishop of Durham in July, described the doctrine of the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ as a "conjuring trick with bones" (on BBC's religious affairs radio program "Poles Apart"). Jenkins said Christ's body might have been stolen by the disciples or it might still be in the tomb. In typical liberal doublespeak, he claimed that though biblical miracles such as the resurrection are not literal events, they are "real." Speaking before the Church of England's General Synod on July 6, 1986, Jenkins received a standing ovation when he warned "against associating miracles with God and asserted that no church can settle decisively exactly what God is and what he wants" (Associated Press, St. Louis Post Dispatch, July 7, 1986).

----- Lutheran theologian Dorothee Soelle wrote: "In my own theological reflection, my affirmation of God as female seems appropriate, especially when I want to emphatically differentiate my language from that of patriarchal God-talk. ... It makes no sense to postulate God's absoluteness ... who needs such a God?" (To Work and to Love: A Theology of Creation, Fortress Press, pp. 6, 14).

----- M. Scott Peck established the Foundation for Community Encouragement to "forge a new planetary culture." Peck claims to be a Christian and his books are popular both in Christian and New Age bookstores.

In his 1978 book *The Road Less Traveled*, he said, "God wants us to become Himself (or Herself or Itself). We are growing toward godhood. God is the goal of evolution." A New York Times book reviewer said, "The book's main audience is in the vast Bible Belt."

1985--St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Minneapolis ran an advertising campaign with the slogan, "The Episcopal Church welcomes you, regardless of race, creed, color or the number of times you've been born."

----- Thomas Howard, a professor at Gordon College and a member of an influential evangelical family (his father Philip was editor of the *Sunday School Times*; his brother David was head of the World Evangelical Fellowship; and his sister Elizabeth was married to missionary Jim Elliott, who was martyred by Auca Indians), converted to the Roman Catholic Church. Thomas' friend and co-author J.I. Packer observed: "I don't think becoming a Catholic is anything like the tragedy of a person becoming a liberal ... Catholics are among the most loyal and virile brothers evangelicals can find these days" (*Christianity Today*, May 17, 1985). Elizabeth Elliott agreed, saying, "We can have unity in diversity; my brother is a Catholic and a Christian" (spoken Sept. 6, 1997, at the Wisconsin Expo Center during a conference sponsored by WVCY of Milwaukee, Wisconsin).

----- Some 200,000 people attended the first 21 Healing Explosion meetings conducted by Charles and Francis Hunter. The Hunters claim that "every Spirit-filled Christian can and should heal the sick on a daily basis." At least twice Mrs. Hunter has returned home sick from healing crusades.

----- Nick Cavar, editor of *New Covenant* magazine, said, "Catholic Charismatics are rediscovering the meaning of traditional catholic beliefs and practices, including the sacraments, the Rosary, the Virgin Mary and the saints" ("Why Are Catholic Charismatics Getting So Catholic?" *Charisma*, April 1985).

----- Herman Hanko, professor at Protestant Reformed Seminary in Grandville, Michigan, observed: "It is almost impossible to find an evangelical professor in the theological schools of our land and abroad who still holds uncompromisingly to the doctrine of the infallible inspiration of the Scriptures. The insidious danger is that higher criticism is promoted by those who claim to believe in infallible inspiration" (Hanko, *The Battle for the Bible*, pp. 2, 3).

----- On May 13, a televised interfaith service in the Church of England's Newcastle Cathedral featured Hindus chanting, dancing, and offering flowers to an idol, Muslims reading the Koran, and a Sikh guru honoring his deity. The Hindu god Rama was proclaimed as lord and king. The service featured only one specific reference to Jesus Christ, being a Trinitarian line in the final hymn ("Conservative Evangelicals claim there are serious errors in the Church of England," *The Christian News*, April 15, 1985).

----- Twenty Episcopalian churches in Memphis, Tennessee, ran an advertisement stating: "In an atmosphere of absolute right and wrong, here's a little room to breathe. ... the Episcopal Church is totally committed to the preservation of open dialogue and undogmatic faith. We exist to tell the world about a God who loves us regardless of what we've done or what we believe. Even if we do not believe in Him, He believes in us. We do not suffocate with absolutes" (*Christian News*, Oct. 14, 1985).

----- William Schultz, national president of the Unitarian Universalism Association, said: "Unitarian Universalists are open to religious truths from all the great religious traditions, as well as from science and from human experience. God is too great to be limited by one dogma. We believe that the focus of religion ought to be on this life, rather than on preparation for or a perspective of life after death" (*St. Petersburg Times*, Nov. 16, 1985, Religious Section, pp. 6, 7).

----- The Jesus Seminar began its meetings. Throughout the 1980s, its participants cast ballots on the authenticity of Christ's sayings in the four Gospels using pegs or balls. After discussing a passage, the modernistic "scholars" would cast their votes. Red indicated a strong probability of authenticity; pink, a



good probability; gray, a weak possibility; and black, little or no possibility. They concluded that Jesus spoke only 18% of the words attributed to him in the Bible.

1986--The opening service of the Sixth Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Vancouver, British Columbia, featured North American pagan Indians who built an altar and a "sacred flame," into which they tossed offerings of fish and tobacco to appease their nature gods, and around which they danced. Three Hindus, four Buddhists, two Jews, four Muslims, and a Sikh were official guests of the Assembly, and there were readings from Hindu, Buddhist, and Muslim scriptures. In the General Secretary's report to the Assembly, Philip Potter said that it is God's will "to unite all nations in their diversity into one house."

----- By 1986, there were 20,730 women ordained to full-time ministry in U.S. denominations, representing 7.9% of all U.S. "clergy" (National & International Religion Report, March 13, 1989).

----- The Day of Prayer for World Peace was held in Assisi, Italy, in October, led by Pope John Paul II. Joining the Pope were representatives of 32 Christian denominations and organizations (including YWCA, Quaker, Mennonite, Reformed, Baptist World Alliance, Disciples of Christ, Lutheran World Federation, Anglican, Orthodox, and Roman Catholic) and several non-Christian religions (Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Judaism, Islam, African and North American animists, Shinto, Zoroastrian, Baha'i). Of the combined prayers of this mixed multitude, the Pope said: "It is urgent that an invocation rise in chorus, and with insistence, from the earth toward Heaven, to ask the Omnipotent One, in whose hands lies the destiny of the world, for the great gift of peace" (The Tidings, April 11, 1986). The event was repeated in 1993 and 2002.

----- The House of Bishops in the Church of England published The Nature of Christian Belief, which said pertaining to Christ's resurrection that a word such as "bodily" is "an inadequate or even misleading term, which does not do justice to Scripture."

----- Carl Henry lamented: "Many evangelicals now measure growth mainly in terms of numbers; distinctions of doctrine and practice are subordinated in a broad welcome for charismatic, Catholic, traditional and other varieties of evangelicals. ... Numerical bigness has become an infectious epidemic" (Confessions of a Theologian, p. 387).

----- David Jenkins, Anglican Bishop of Durham, said God could be a woman. "Clearly God is not exclusively male. He (she?) must reflect all that is female. And he-she must go beyond all that" (Australian Beacon, October 1986).

----- The Bible Society of Australia published a book featuring Jesus Christ as a cartoon "ACTION MAN."

----- Jesus Seminar scholar Ron Cameron stated, "The death of Jesus was like a car wreck; it's an accident of history" (Christian News, April 7, 1986).

1987--The North American Congress on the Holy Spirit & World Evangelization brought together 40,000 attendees representing 40 denominations. Roughly one-half of the participants were Roman Catholic, and Catholic priest Tom Forrest brought the concluding message, urging unity for the sake of evangelism. He brought the mixed multitude to its feet in pandemonious clapping and shouting when he cried out, "We must reach the world, and we must do it the only way we can do it; we must do it TOGETHER!" One night roughly half of the crowd stood during an invitation indicating uncertainty about their personal salvation. In a press conference the next day, Pentecostal Vinson Synan, conference chairman, was asked by Dennis Costella of Foundation magazine why the conference leaders did not "speak definitively as to what the gospel message is so that there isn't this confusion?" Synan replied that it takes decades to come to a proper understanding of the gospel and furthermore, "WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DO THAT." I was present at the press conference and heard this amazing statement myself.

----- Michael Saward in England described the shallowness of evangelical Christianity in his day as “a generation brought up on guitars, choruses, and home group discussions; educated, as one of them put it to me, not to use words with precision because the image is dominant, not the word; equipped not to handle doctrine but rather to ‘share’ ... suspicious of definition and labels” (Evangelicals on the Move, p. 92).

1988--Congress '88, held August 4-7 at O'Hare Expo Center in Chicago, Illinois, united Roman Catholics, liberal and evangelical Protestants, and Baptists in the cause of “evangelism” without agreeing even on the definition of the gospel.

----- After worshiping in a Buddhist temple, Episcopal Bishop John Spong said: “As the smell of incense filled the air, I knelt before three images of the Buddha, feeling that the smoke could carry my prayers heavenward. ... My conviction is that the true God ... is within and beyond all of these ancient worship traditions. ... when I visit a Buddhist temple it is not for me a pagan place ... I will not make any further attempt to convert the Buddhist, the Jew, the Hindu or the Moslem. I am content to learn from them and to walk with them side by side toward the God who lives, I believe, beyond the images that bind and blind us all” (Spong, “A dialogue in a Buddhist temple,” The Voice, Jan. 1989; this is the official publication of the Diocese of Newark, New Jersey, of the Episcopal Church USA).

1989--An extensive survey of pastors and laity by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) found that only 5% of pastors believed the Bible should be taken literally, while 75% believed that those who have not heard of Christ will not be damned (National & International Religion Report, Mar. 13, 1989).

1990--Thomas Nelson published Evangelical Catholics: A Call for Christian Cooperation to Penetrate the Darkness with the Light of the Gospel by Keith Fournier, a Roman Catholic apologist; the foreword was written by Protestant Charles Colson.

----- When questioned about his healing ministry in Australia in March 1990, John Wimber of the Association of Vineyard Churches testified that not all diseases are equally responsive to his healing ministry, that while he had a high success rate for headaches and backaches, of the 200 Down Syndrome children he had prayed over none had been healed (Phillip D. Jensen, “John Wimber Changes His Mind!” The Protestant Review, July 1990).

----- The World Council of Churches Seventh Assembly in Canberra, Australia, opened with pagan worship by Aboriginal men, who “girded in loincloths and feathers, their bodies painted in tribal decoration, danced around an altar and beat drums in a traditional purification ceremony”(Christian News, Feb. 18, 1991, p. 1). In her speech before the Assembly, South Korean Presbyterian feminist theologian Chung Hyun-Kyung summoned the spirits of the dead and “the spirit of Earth, Air, and Water” and said, “I no longer believe in an omnipotent, macho, warrior God who rescues all good guys and punishes all bad guys.”

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## Critter Sermons - Even Critters Can Change

We left our Critter spinning his Cremasta preparing for the great change. We will find it hard to believe what happens.

With a series of photos I will try to explain.



## The CHANGE Begins.

### Its Progress.

After attaching the tail end and spinning the cremaster, this caterpillar hangs almost dormant for up to a week.

During this time a great change is happening, for inside the caterpillar is forming what we call the Chrysalis.

Now the interesting thing is that for this caterpillar to ever be a butterfly he must change from the old life. Old things must pass away, old habits must change, and so we see in our first picture the last of the caterpillar disappearing. Note the skin which surrounded the caterpillar, how it has split open and something new is emerging. How this all happens is one of those invisible things, and we can only assume what has been happening inside this ugly Critter.

But it all started when our Critter gave himself over to a higher power and decided to stop living for self. No longer would he be a destroyer, no longer would he think only of himself. There has been a tremendous change in this life, and more to come.

This word CHANGE is the word metamorphosis or metamorphose. It is an invisible change on the inside and yet we see the evidence of it on the outside.

What am I trying to say? 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 says, "Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be CHANGED. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be CHANGED." This too is the word "metamorphose". Like the black caterpillar, sin has turned man into a very ugly creature, a destroyer of much, a thinker of self only, and there is going to have to be a great change if he should ever get to heaven.



John. 3:18 Says that, left in his present state man is condemned already. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already." The caterpillar has no chance of ever being a Butterfly except the change takes place. In fact he will die and never achieve what his maker designed for him. Back to our butterfly egg. It could never stay in its innocence, it had to hatch and gain the knowledge that would take it through its destructive stage.

Man had the opportunity to live and serve God as he was created to do, but disobeyed God and was cast out of the garden, condemned forever except he change. As God has provided for that caterpillar, so God has provided for sinful man. Verse 18 starts with, "He that believeth is NOT condemned." Yes God so loved us. (John 3:16) that He sent His beloved Son that if we would believe, we would not be condemned. You say, "How do we change"? Well, by submitting ourselves to the higher power, (God) believing that He sent His sinless Son to die for us. You see God required the shedding of innocent blood to pay for mans awful



sin, and Jesus His only begotten Son, the only sinless One ever, was sent to shed His blood for me. Could you give your son for someone else? God could and He did. Have you believed that in your heart? Have you changed from being CONDEMNED to NOT CONDEMNED?

Well what about the butterfly? Where did we leave him? He's changed. He has cast off the last of the old skin and now is a new shape, a new creature or creation. What happens to this new creature? I can't tell you, but in the next "Heads Up", we will see some of the glorious changes that happen.

Have you taken a microscope yet and looked at the dust from the butterfly wings? Before next issue might be the time to do so. Isn't our God wonderful? I trust you are rejoicing with us in the One who has given all that we might be CHANGED to be like Him.

The Last of the Old Skin CHANGED, What's Next?

*Kev and Pat Milson*

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## The Emerging Church Loves to Drink -

Having read about 80 books by emergent church writers over the last several months, I have been impressed with the fact that they love to drink.

The book *Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches: Five Perspectives*, for example, contains probably a dozen references to the joys of drinking. The contributors are Karen Ward, Mark

Driscoll, John Burke, Dan Kimball, and Doug Pagitt. They meet in bars and taverns for theological discussions. They exchange beer-making techniques.

Some members of Spirit Garage meet in an Irish bar in downtown Minneapolis on Wednesday for a weekly Theology Pub, a mix of biblical discussion and beer ("Hip New Churches Pray to a Different Drummer," New York Times, Feb. 18, 2004).

Mars Hill Church in Seattle sets up a "champagne bar" at their New Year's Eve parties and attendees are reminded to bring their IDs so they can enjoy the bubbly. Mars Hill also has "beer-brewing lessons" for men.

Riverview Community Church in Holt, Michigan, has a RiverBrew night featuring homebrewed beer and religious discussion. Ministry leader Brett Maxwell says: "It's intimidating for someone to walk into a church



having never been there. But if a friend invites them to go hang out, have a brew or two, and hang out with some of the guys from church, that's a much less intimidating environment" ("Holt Ministry Celebrates Its Love of God and Beer," Lansing State Journal, Feb. 29, 2008). When asked what Jesus would drink, Maxwell replies, "I believe he would sit down with people in the bar, and he would drink what they were drinking, and he would be happy to do that."



The Journey in St. Louis, Missouri (pictured at left) hosts a "Theology at the Bottleworks" where participants "grab a beer and discuss political or spiritual topics, such as the role of women in society, the legal system, or animal rights" ("Brewing Battle Missouri Baptists frown on beer as evangelistic hook," Christianity Today, June 29, 2007).

Jim West has written "Drinking with Calvin and Luther" to promote the idea that alcoholic beverages are a gift from God, something not

only to be allowed but celebrated. He says, "They reveled in it as a gift of God."

Phyllis Tickle leads a regular Beer and Bible gathering at Kudzu's in Memphis, Tennessee. Tickle says this type of thing is "exactly where religion is going right now" ("Seeking Spirituality Outside of Churches," Memphis Online, Sept. 8, 2008). Participant Doug Hardin said that he was raised Baptist but left it 30 years ago and that he "wouldn't be comfortable joining a church Bible study." Another participant says that he likes the pub approach, because "we don't have to do religion the way we've always done it."

Worship at the Water meets on Sundays at the Flora-Bama Lounge, Package and Oyster Bar in Perdido Key, Florida, a bar infamous for its bikini contests and bar brawls. The people come in their swimsuits and enjoy the Bible study with a Bloody Mary or whiskey. Jack de Jarnette, a pastor of Perdido Bay United Methodist Church, says that if Jesus returned to earth, he'd probably kick back at the Flora-Bama ("Florida Church Mixes Bibles and Booze," The Blaze, Aug. 15, 2012).

## What Does the Bible Say?

It is true that some of the Protestant Reformers drank alcoholic beverages, but they are not our authority. They also "baptized" babies and drowned Baptists!

It is true that there are instances in the Old Testament in which God allowed His people Israel to drink alcoholic wine, but there are many things in the O.T. that we do not practice today.

I believe that Christians today should not drink alcoholic beverages for the following three reasons, among others, and I am convinced that these are universally applicable:

**1. THE BIBLE WARNS THAT WINE AND STRONG DRINK IS A MOCKER AND DECEIVES MEN.** "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise" (Prov. 20:1).

To say that alcoholic beverages can be consumed in moderation sounds reasonable, but very few drunks have ever set out to become a drunk. It is an irrefutable fact that a man that does not drink at all will never get drunk and will never become a drunkard.

All of the emerging church drinkers admit that the Bible forbids drunkenness, but all of their talk about the delights of drinking and beer making, of "a Guinness" and "a round of imperial pints," makes me wonder if

they don't sometimes get a bit tipsy at their drinking confabs, not to say drunk! How inebriated does one have to be to be drunk? Do emerging churches ever need to appoint "designated drivers"?

I doubt Noah planned to get drunk and to cause so much trouble for his grandson, trouble that has abiding consequences to this day -- but wine is a mocker. My maternal grandfather drank before he got saved and when my godly grandmother married him she made him promise that he would never touch a drop of liquor, and that is a promise which he made. But one day he and another carpenter were working on a house and the other carpenter talked my grandfather into having just a sip "to cool the tongue." They both got roaring drunk and ended up in jail, and my granddad was a deacon in a Baptist church! He was deeply repentant and was restored and never drank another drop as far as anyone knows, but it was a powerful reminder to him that wine is a mocker.

Alcohol has the ability to deceive and corrupt. One can never know if he will control it or it will control him. The instruction in the book of Proverbs 20:1 tells me that the wise man leaves it entirely alone.

The following is a wise statement from John G. Paton: Missionary to the New Hebrides, 1891:

"From observation, at an early age I became convinced that mere Temperance Societies were a failure, and that Total Abstinence, by the grace of God, was the only sure preventive as well as remedy. What was temperance in one man was drunkenness in another; and all the drunkards came, not from those who practised total abstinence, but from those who practised or tried to practise temperance. I had seen temperance men drinking wine in the presence of others who drank to excess, and never could see how they felt themselves clear of blame; and I had known Ministers and others, once strong temperance advocates, fall through this so-called moderation, and become drunkards. Therefore it has all my life appeared to me beyond dispute, in reference to intoxicants of every kind, that the only rational temperance is Total Abstinence from them as beverages, and the use of them exclusively as drugs, and then only with extreme caution, as they are deceptive and deleterious poisons of the most debasing and demoralizing kind."

Consider, too, the following testimony that a reader sent to me on this subject:

"Brothers and sisters in Christ, I have firsthand knowledge of what drinking just one drink can do to a family. My dad at age 15 was put on a horse behind a neighbor man, rode into the nearby town and took his first drink. From that day forth he was hooked and became an almost lifelong alcoholic. The suffering that our family went/is going through is unspeakable. Dad accepted Christ at age 62, and became a teetotaler. He could not stand for his alcoholic friends to stop by and offer him a drink as they always had in the past. Because of his alcoholism and verbal abuse of my little sister, she will never recover. It has affected our family in a terribly adverse way all of the years. My sincere recommendation is NEVER TOUCH IT, for you know not what the first drink of it will do. It is sort of like the first temptation to take the first bite out of the apple in the garden. Millions of homes are broken and destroyed, souls in hell, and in torment here on earth, as a result of alcohol."

Can the emergents guarantee that they and their drinking buddies will never get even a little drunk? Can they guarantee that they will not tempt someone to become an alcoholic? No, they cannot, because "wine is a mocker."

**2. THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS THE BELIEVER NOT TO GIVE OFFENSE IN ANYTHING.** "Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be save" (1 Cor. 10:32-33).

I personally quit smoking a few months after I was saved and it was not because I thought it was wrong at that time or because I was concerned about my health; it was because I knew that it could offend others. I

wanted my testimony to be pure of offence so that God would use me and I would have eternal fruit for my service for the Lord. I didn't want to be witnessing to someone and have them possibly ignore me or be distracted because they saw a pack of cigarettes in my pocket.

If that is true for smoking, and it is, then it is even truer for drinking alcoholic beverages. It is a fact that many unbelievers think that a believer should not drink. They have higher standards for Christians than some Christians have for themselves. Consider Utah, where even unregenerate Mormons believe it is wrong to drink alcoholic beverages! How would Mormons look upon non-Mormon Christians who drink?

Even the possibility that someone would be offended because of my drinking should be sufficient for the believer to put it out of his life, and that possibility is very great in modern society. Paul was willing to stop eating meat entirely in this present world if he thought someone would be offended and his testimony hurt (1 Cor. 8:13), and eating meat is a perfectly legitimate activity. How much more should a believer be willing to give up alcoholic beverages, which are highly questionable at best and have the potential in themselves to cause harm (which meat does not)!

### 3. THE BIBLE COMMANDS THE BELIEVER TO ABSTAIN FROM ALL APPEARANCE OF EVIL (1 Thess. 5:22).

That is a far reaching exhortation. Alcoholic beverages are a great evil and curse in modern society. Consider the automobile wrecks, the disease, the adulteries, the lewdness, the divorces, the neglected children, the abused wives, the waste of money, the gambling, the blasphemy, the pure foolishness. Look at the beer and liquor ads, how they always flaunt sensuality and irresponsibility. In January 2005 the Royal College of Physicians in England warned that Britain is suffering from an epidemic of alcohol-related problems that is fuelling violence and illness throughout the country (The Telegraph, Jan. 3, 2005). The same epidemic is raging throughout the world.

If anything has the appearance of evil today, it is alcoholic beverages, and the Bible does not merely suggest that we abstain from all appearance of evil; it commands us to do so!

It is also important to understand that there is a dramatic difference between the alcoholic content of wine today and that of Bible times. The following quotes by Norman Geisler and Robert Stein are from Focus in Missions, September 1986:

"Many wine-drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, today's wine is by biblical definition strong drink, and hence is forbidden in the Bible. ... Even ancient pagans did not drink what some Christians drink today" (Geisler).

"To consume the amount of alcohol that is in two martinis today, by drinking wine containing three parts water to one part wine (the biblical ratio) a person would have to drink over twenty-two glasses" (Stein).

As for the idea that Jesus made and drank alcoholic wine, I would point the reader to the following article by the late Bruce Lackey -- <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/didjesus.htm>.

The previous is excerpted from our new book What Is the Emerging Church? This is available from Way of Life Literature. If it is not yet available through the online catalog, it can be ordered by phone or e-mail with a credit card.

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## The Parable of the Bolt -

(I remember hearing the ABC news report about the crash of Flight 191 more than thirty years ago. A few months later I received the Missionary Crusader magazine, which contained this little parable. It sounded so much like the careless oversight that happens in churches that cause them to crash and burn with tragic loss of life. - Ed.)

"I am a Bolt. I am only three inches long, and I'm tired. Six of us have the job of holding this enormous jet engine. Nobody pays much attention to us. The engine gets all the pampering. It makes a big noise about its job. I resent that engine. If it were not for me, it could roar all it wanted, but it wouldn't get anywhere. One time, long ago, a mechanic took the plate off and looked right past me. He paid me no mind! I have held this thing together for millions of miles, and that's enough. I don't care what happens to this plane, its skilled crew, its happy passengers. I care nothing for all 273 of them. I'm tired. I quit."

Published April 1980 Missionary Crusader magazine

### The crash of American Airlines Flight 191 near O'Hare airport

The worst air disaster in American history claims 273 lives.



**American Airlines Flight 191, above left, goes into a roll after losing its left engine following takeoff from O'Hare International Airport. Moments later, above right, a cloud of black smoke billows from the site of the crash. This photo was obtained by the Tribune from a student pilot on a layover at O'Hare. (Tribune photo by Michael Laughlin)**

*By David Young*  
Chicago Tribune

As an American Airlines DC-10 jet roared into the sky over O'Hare International Airport on this Friday afternoon, its left engine fell off. Flight 191, bound for Los Angeles at the beginning of the Memorial Day weekend, rolled over in the air and plunged to the earth less than a mile from the runway. The plane "burst into a pillar of flame and smoke that could be seen up to eight miles away," the Tribune reported. Nearby resident Abe Marmel, who was working in his vegetable garden, heard the explosion: "By the time I looked up, there was a rain of fire falling down on me."

All 271 people on board and two people on the ground were killed. It remains America's worst aviation disaster. In the investigation following the Flight 191 disaster, the National Transportation Safety Board found that mechanics in Tulsa had taken a shortcut in removing the engines from the plane's wing pylons for maintenance. That mistake two months before the crash had cracked an aluminium component in the pylon. Wear and tear widened the crack until the piece broke, and as the engine tore loose, it damaged



electrical and hydraulic systems, a combination that left the plane unable to fly. When the DC-10 was certified for service 11 years earlier, engineers calculated the odds of such a simultaneous failure at 10 billion to 1.

*Excerpted from the Chicago Tribune article, August, 1980*

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## Good evangelistic video -

Pastor Nabeel Zaydan and his wife showed me this video in Sydney recently and I was impressed. If you want to send a clear gospel witness to a friend, send them this one:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eo8QN3F8QUU>

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## Therapy For the Funny Bone -

### The Importance of Walking -

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where he is.

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A Tennessee State trooper pulled over a pickup on I-65. The trooper asked, "Got any ID?"

The driver replied, "Bout whut?"

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An Australian Navy Patrol Boat stops two Muslims in a row boat, rowing towards Darwin. "The captain gets on the loudhailer and shouts "Ahoy, small craft, where are you heading?"

One of the Muslims stands up and shouts, "We are invading Australia !"

The crew of the Destroyer all start laughing and when the captain finally stops laughing, he gets back on the loudhailer and says "Just the two of you then?"

The Muslim stands up again and shouts, "No, we're just the last two. The rest are already there!"

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## Do You Know Where the Fish You Eat Comes From? -

In Australia we see a fish called Basa for sale in the supermarkets. It doesn't taste very good, but it is cheap.

Have a look at what kind of fish it is and where it is farmed. You may want to go back to tuna. - Ed

<http://vimeo.com/11817894>

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## Contemporary Christian Music and Homosexuality -

**AUGUST 23, 2012** (first published May 6, 2010)

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Homosexuality is a rapidly growing trend within the CCM movement. It is not a new thing, but formerly it was fairly hidden.



In the 1997 edition of *The Gospel Sound*, which first appeared in 1971, Anthony Heilbut said, "The gospel church has long been a refuge for gays and lesbians, some of whom grew up to be among the greatest singers and musicians."

In 1998 gospel star Kirk Franklin said that "homosexuality ... is a problem today in gospel music--a major concern--and everybody knows it" (*Church Boy*, pp. 49, 50).

More recently Douglas Harrison, a homosexual who grew up Southern Baptist, said, "... you can't swing a Dove Award without hitting upon evidence of the longstanding, deep-set presence of queer experience in, and its influence on, Christian music culture at all levels" ("Come Out from among Them," *Religion Dispatches*, April 30, 2010).

James Cleveland's (the "King of Gospel") homosexuality was an "open secret" and he died of AIDS.

Marsha Stevens, who wrote the popular song "For Those Tears I Died" and has been called "the mother of Contemporary Christian Music," was one of the first to come out of the closet. In 1979 she divorced her husband of seven years by whom she had two children, because she had "fallen in love" with a woman. Stevens and her lesbian partner formed Balm Ministries (Born Again Lesbian Music) through which they produce praise and worship albums and conduct training seminars. *Christian Century* called her "a Jesus-loving, Bible-believing, God-fearing lesbian Christian."

Stevens' ministry is recommended by Mark Powell, Professor of New Testament, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and the author of *An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music*. He states: "The Mother of Contemporary Christian Music continues to capture hearts for Jesus. Argue interpretations of Scripture and debate the ethics and origins of homosexuality all you want--no one with sensitivity to things of the Spirit can deny God is using Marsha Stevens to bring the love and mercy of Christ to people whom God apparently has not forgotten."

This is a description of the "spirituality" that is paving the way for the antichrist. It is the spirituality of the emerging church. It is a spirituality that is non-dogmatic and non-judgmental. It is not based on the absolute literal teaching of Scripture but on the ephemeral feeling of the fallen human heart.

Stevens claims to have been saved in 1969 when she was a teenager. This is how her salvation is described at her web site:

"In 1969, Marsha Stevens was a troubled adolescent when she had her first conscious encounter with Christ while participating in a Bible study group. In the vision this encounter evoked, she saw herself walking with Jesus near a deep blue river and this experience both changed and saved her life. Following it, she composed the folk hymn, 'For Those Tears I Died (or Come To the Water).'"

This is not a biblical salvation testimony, and it is no wonder that she has become apostate. To see oneself walking with Jesus near a deep blue river and thinking that Jesus died for our tears is not the same as confessing oneself a wicked sinner deserving of hell, repenting of one's sin, and trusting the blood of Christ for forgiveness.

In light of the shallow evangelism that is prevalent both within evangelicalism and fundamentalism and the lack of caution about accepting church members (the Bible standard is a clear new birth testimony), it is no wonder that homosexuality is a growing problem.



In 2004, Southern Gospel favorite Kirk Talley's homosexuality was made public after someone tried to blackmail him with photos he had posted at a homosexual chat site. Talley has sung with big-name groups such as The Hoppers and The Cathedrals and has won a string of awards. He wrote the Southern Gospel favorites "Step into the Water," "He Is Here," "Serenaded By Angels," and "If He Hung the Moon." His homosexual outing didn't end his Southern Gospel career. Between May and November 2010, he has 17 engagements listed on his schedule, including those at four Nazarene, one Baptist, and five Methodist churches.

In 2008, Clay Aiken, a Southern Baptist who was a runner-up on the American Idol contest in 2003 and has gone on to become a multi-platinum recording artist, admitted publicly that he is homosexual. He appeared on the cover of People magazine under the headline, "Yes, I'm Gay." A Baptist Press article about him in May 14, 2003, was entitled, "A Baptist Lauded for Work with Youth," and the Biblical Recorder, the North Carolina Baptist Association's paper, reported that Aiken's church, Leesville Baptist in Raleigh, gathered together to watch the very worldly American Idol after their Wednesday night Bible studies. (We wonder how much attention they gave in those studies to passages such as Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:11; James 4:4, and 1 John 2:15-17?)

In People magazine, Aiken, referring to his baby boy that was conceived through in-vitro fertilization, said, "I cannot raise a child to lie or to hide things." What is commendable about rejecting one sin (lying) for another (sodomy)?

That same year popular contemporary Christian musician Ray Boltz revealed that he is homosexual. Boltz told the homosexual magazine The Washington Blade that he has been a homosexual since he was a kid (though he was married for 33 years before his divorce and has four children). He said: "If this is the way God made me, then this is the way I'm going to live. It's not like God made me this way and he'll send me to hell if I am who he created me to be" ("Ray Boltz Comes Out," Christianity Today, Sept. 12, 2008). This is a great deception. The only sure word from God is found in the Bible, and the Bible calls the male to male sexual relationship ("men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another") "vile affections," "against nature," "unseemly," "error," and "reprobate" (Romans 1:26-28). It is obvious, then, that God did not make Ray Boltz a homosexual and that he could renounce it if he really wanted to.

Jennifer Knapp, a hard rocking Contemporary Christian musician, came "out of the closet" with her lesbianism 2010, but she had been in a lesbian relationship for years before that. On Larry King Live, April 23, 2010, she said the Bible's teaching against homosexuality is based on faulty translation and interpretation. When asked if she thinks the Bible speaks against homosexuality, she replied, "Well, I think there is plenty of evidence in my exploration of my faith through the sacred text of the Holy Bible that I have definitely recognized that we are somewhat at the handicap of our own interpretation against homosexuality. In the long run I don't have the greatest deal of problems with it because I'm not the only person in the universe that has ever looked at a different interpretation."

Let's see if this works. Leviticus 20:13 says, "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination..." There is certainly no problem with the translation, and the interpretation looks straightforward to me.

Let's try another passage, this time in the New Testament. "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet" (Romans 1:26-27).

Again, the problem for the homosexual is neither with the translation or the interpretation.

As the famous agnostic Mark Twain reputedly said, 'It is not the things that in the Bible that I don't understand that trouble me; it's the things that I do understand.'

Elsewhere Knapp complained that the verses against homosexuality are "clobber verses." Indeed, the Bible is full of verses that clobber our sin, not just the homosexual's sin but everyone's sin, and the reason for this is that God wants us to repent and be saved!

The fact is that every individual is born a sinner, but God is not the author of sin, and He offers redemption through repentance and faith in Jesus' atonement. "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ... But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference" (Romans 3:19, 21, 22).

In light of Kirk Franklin's statement in 1998 that homosexuality is a major problem today in Gospel music (Church Boy, p. 49) and in light of the rapid growth of homosexuality in society at large, it is obvious that we have seen only the tip of the iceberg of this problem so far.

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## Is This the Last Straw?

by Joye Binstead

I remember with a smile a dinner time when one of my sons was digging around in the pantry, looking for that all important device necessary when you don't want the ice in your glass to become the ice on your nose. He burst out of the pantry, as much as one can, and with a crazed look on his face, and a dramatic flourish, hissed out, "This... is the last straw!" And so it was.

Amusing as that is, we often reach the place where we make a dramatic flourish and hiss, "This....is the last straw!" Judas did. In Matthew 26, Judas is

privileged to witness Mary anointing Jesus' feet. But for him, it is not an act of beauty and worship; it is the last straw. Like we all do, he had been counting the infractions (as he perceived them) that had been committed by the Lord Jesus, and this one was all he could take. Verses 14 and 15 tell us that straight after this event, Judas goes out and asks the chief priests, "What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?"

When we look back at Judas, we see him as someone who got on board thinking that Jesus was going to be an earthly King. He was hitching his wagon to a star, so to speak; he was planning a meteoric rise in fame and fortune as a financial wheeler and dealer, the keeper of the Treasury....his mind went on in leaps and bounds. Imagine his shock when Jesus kept giving everything away! Blow after blow...[Matthew 10:9, 10 says, "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses. Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat."](#) Judas wanted all of this material wealth, he felt it defined him; why should they be stripped of all the enjoyments in life? So, in his thinking, the Lord of glory just made mistake after mistake.

What is it in us that counts the infractions of others? Why do we run through scenarios in our minds, where we win and they lose? What is wrong with us?

I guess, if we take Judas as our prime example, it is because we believe it is all about us. We start to feel that certain people are interfering with our idea of how our life should be; and because of that, we begin counting, waiting for the moment when we can cry out, "This is the last straw!", and we are free to stomp out of their lives. [Philippians 2:21 says, "For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."](#)

This doesn't really sound very spiritual, in fact, it sounds completely carnal. So here we all are in the same boat, well, some of you may be on the shore but I am sure I have a pretty full crew on board, and maybe even a stowaway or two tucked below deck.

If we look back on what Jesus was trying to do in the disciples lives, and forward to the present to what He is trying to do in our lives, we see it is still the same thing. He is trying to teach us to be Christlike. It isn't all about us. It is all about Him. He is trying to teach us to put others first. To forgive. To show mercy. To accept kindness as well as to give it. He is trying to teach us how to be patient with difficult people. How to practice longsuffering, practice being the operative word. How to love our enemies and bless them that curse us. To go the extra mile. As you read through the gospels, Jesus gives instruction again and again for Christlikeness; which is why, when we start counting straws, we are trying to undo the work God is trying to do in us. [1 Corinthians 10:24 gives this instruction, "Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth."](#)

We see that Judas had his eyes on the wrong thing, his perception was off. Because of that, he made choices that led to his own suicide. He had his eyes firmly fixed on what he wanted, what he expected and how he planned his life to be. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We cannot afford for our perception to be off. When we are not seeing clearly, with our spiritual eyes, we make foolish and long lasting decisions. They are the choices that will lead us into deep sorrow. This life isn't about what I want, what I expect or how I plan my life to be. It is about what God wants, what God expects and how God plans for my life to be.

In pursuit of these goals, God brings into our lives....people. God places people in our lives. He chooses the people in my life, and yours. He knows our weak areas, He knows we don't enjoy being forbearing or longsuffering. He knows who will build us up, and strengthen us; who will encourage us and who will bring us sorrow. All of these experiences are part of God's plan.

If we respond in a godly manner, it will bring us to [Matthew 22:36-40](#), "*Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.*" We will learn to draw close to God, we will learn to love Him and honour Him in all the areas of our lives. We will begin to have a true passion for His presence. This will cause a flow on effect because we cannot draw close to God and still hate others. If we are counting straws in someone else's life, we are not walking close to the Lord. When we spend our days truly loving God, we will begin to love others.

So, when the same old scenario starts playing in your head, or you find yourself thinking you have had enough - just remember God knows exactly who you are dealing with. He has the grace available for you to do right. Will you accept it? It means putting down all those straws you've been saving up, but the alternative is a deeper walk with Christ. I think it's worth it, don't you?

PS – Just remember someone else may be counting straws on us. We might be the ones causing stress and sorrow. Don't ever think this only goes one way. We need to check out our walk with God, and make sure we are not living in the flesh.

[Psalm 130:3, 4](#) "*If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.*"

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### **Matthew 6:31-34**

**"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."**



## Eddy-Torial - Whatever Happened to the Gospel? - Part 1

*"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts." I Thessalonians 2:4*

### Something strange has happened to our churches!

We recently had a family begin attending our church who had previously attended a reformed church. I know the pastor there and have sat down and talked with him several times. He is a nice chap, and ministers in a denomination that stepped away from modernism and the ecumenical movement about thirty five years ago. Several of their pastors are friendly toward us and some of them visit our services from time to time and seem to get some benefit from attending. But the dad of the new family told me he noticed that the gospel was not being preached there. He went to the pastor and asked why they have no evangelistic sermons, why the gospel is simply not preached? And he received no answer to his question.

Any time a pastor doesn't answer an honest and sincere question like this, it ought to set off a fire alarm in my church, a very loud fire alarm! Oh, I know we mustn't pry into the affairs of other churches, and we weren't there when the question was asked. BUT, as much as I feel that the reformed doctrines I reject will ultimately have that effect on pastors, I do need to search my own heart and browse my own sermon files and examine my own preaching, "Preacher, are you preaching the gospel? Do your people hear how to be saved when you preach? Do they hear YOU expounding the finished work of Christ on the cross? Do they know that you glory in the cross? Do you preach on the blood sacrifice of the Lamb of God? Do they feel that your church is a place where their friends will hear how to be saved if they bring them along? Do they hear you preach that every truth in Scripture either supports the gospel or flows out from it as a result?"

### The Primacy of the Gospel in the Apostles' Preaching -

A simple survey of the word "gospel" in the New Testament reveals that the apostles saw it to be the taproot of their theology. Peter's defence of the Spirit filled church in Acts 2 had one objective, to preach the gospel to the Jews. More than a hundred times in Acts and the epistles, Paul speaks of preaching the gospel. Most of his statements about the gospel have fallen off a cliff (or off the pulpit?) in our churches. How long has it been since you heard a sermon on one of these texts?

- "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." Romans 1:16
- "Separated unto the gospel of God." Romans 1:1
- "I am set for the defence of the gospel." Phil. 1:17
- "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel." I Cor. 9:16
- "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." Gal. 6:14
- "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Cor. 1:18
- "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ and him crucified."
- "For we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness." I Cor. 1:23

Preachers need to re-read the Acts of the Apostles and mark all the examples of faithful men preaching the gospel. Whether it was Peter in Jerusalem and Samaria, and Caesarea, or Stephen before the council, or

Philip in Samaria and Gaza, or Barnabas and Paul and Silas in Gentile lands, in every case they preached the gospel. They knew nothing of Greek philosophy or Roman politics. They expounded the gospel to all and sundry!

I love to read the Spirit's descriptions of their gospel sermons. Their texts were all Old Testament texts. Someone has described, for example, Isaiah 53 as being "the gospel according to Isaiah." What an apt passage of Scripture for faithful pastors to preach in these days! Why not take a verse a Sunday and encamp around this mountain for as long as it takes to open God's treasure house of the gospel in Isa. 53?

I recently stumbled across a comment on Isa. 53, "It has probably been the means of the conversion of more Jews from the errors of their system, than any other portion of their Scriptures. We know that, as it was explained and applied by Philip, it was the means of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:27-40). And so Jo. Isaac Levita, a learned Jew, says it was the means of first leading him to the Christian religion. 'I frankly confess,' says he, 'that this chapter first conducted me to the Christian faith. For more than a thousand times I read this chapter, and accurately compared it with many translations, I found that it contained a hundred more mysteries respecting Christ, than are found in any version.'"

Isn't it about time that preachers ignored what everybody else is preaching and went back to boldly preaching the gospel?

Isn't that our mandate in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." ?

*Bro. Buddy Smith*

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Welcome to the Website of Grace Baptist Church - Malanda, North Queensland, Australia



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