

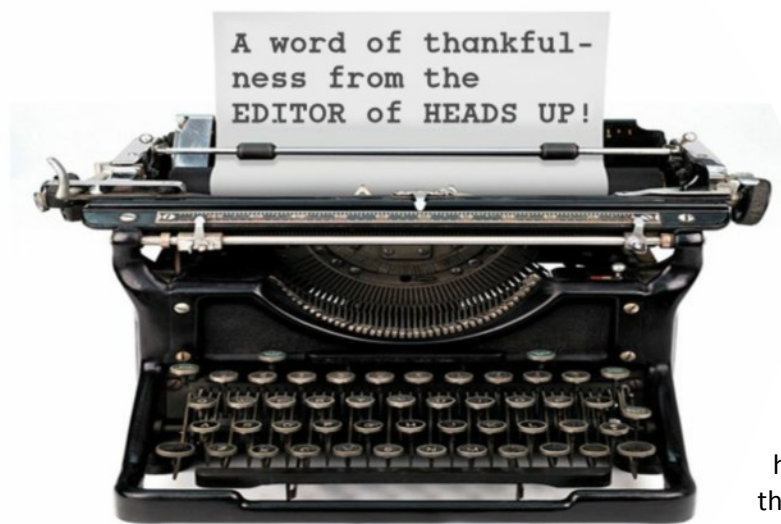


December 28, 2012

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This edition of Heads Up marks two years of publication, 77 issues in all. It was Christmas time 2010 when I decided to sit down and try to put together a little e-Magazine for Bible believing pastors and, initially, send it out once a week. I used the mailing list I had for Discerning Readers, and then added names as people passed on their copies. After about six months or so a brother in New Zealand asked if it was possible for Heads Up to be sent in a PDF format as his computer had some difficulties with the text format we were using. I asked Bro. Hughie Seaborn for help and he offered to format the magazine for us. I owe Bro. Hughie

a very large debt of gratitude for all his help and advice. He not only has excellent computer skills, but helps me with research and occasionally writes an article for us. Most people do not know that he also does the formatting for David Cloud's magazine O Timothy. So lots of people benefit from Bro. Hughie's volunteer work for the Lord. He really is a fellowhelper to the truth (III John 8). I also want to thank all those who have written articles for Heads Up. When you see Joye Binstead's name at the top of an article or Jillian Holmes' name at the bottom of a poem, you are reading materials by two of our daughters. Linet Binstead is one of our granddaughters. Bro. Cloud, Bro. Bob Kirkland, Bro. Randy Pike, Bro. Kevin Wyatt, evangelist

Warren Roy, and many others have been fellowhelpers to the truth by writing or passing on good articles for publication. Thank you, one and all.

I want to also thank everyone who has written to encourage what we are doing. Our generation has almost become an age of illiterates through the use of electronic media. TV, movies, the internet, mobile phones, and social media have allured almost the entire population of the world away from reading books. Sadly, we who know Christ have been snared as well, to the extent that we behave as though God had given us a picture book instead of a word book, the Bible. Anyone who publishes reading material has to come sooner or later to the realisation that most people will not read what he sends them, and will not even be bothered to ask to be dropped from the mailing list. It is much easier to just hit the delete button, not caring that the truths they needed for that day's battle were contained in the deleted publication. It is so much easier to get an amusement hit off YouTube or FaceBook. We are becoming Dopamine Dopes and illiterate at the same time.

One of the most useful responses to Heads Up has been the reproofs we receive from readers. I know, it is considered heresy among independent Baptist pastors, but reproofs are a key to growth in grace. I often laugh out loud when I receive reproofs from pastors for including reproofs in the articles in Heads Up. (I'm sure they don't realize they just offered support for the biblical truth of reproof by their condemnation of reproving error.) Nevertheless, your reproofs are appreciated and have helped to refine the work of editing Heads Up. I thank you and invite your reproofs in time to come.

We have some really important biblical themes to pursue in Heads Up in 2013. I asked pastors all over the world for assistance in understanding what kind of stones are the living stones the Lord uses to build His churches with, and will be sharing their answers with you soon. I asked for their insights on why movies are so dangerous (whether in a movie theatre, on DVD's, or TV, or off the Internet) and was surprised to read their answers. Those will be coming soon in a series on Hollywood. I want to write a series of articles on the embracing of the core principle of New Evangelicalism by fundamental Baptist churches and what it is doing to us. We want to write on the baggage of CCM music and what it brings into our churches, including why it is dangerous for our young people to get their music off YouTube. One of our dear friends is going to write an article for Heads Up on the importance of parents making wise decisions regarding their children's education and why it is often unwise for them to send their children to their alma mater for tertiary education.

I have two simple requests for our readers (both of you! ha). Please do feel free to comment on what you read in Heads Up, and please do pray for God to guide in what we publish.

Until the Lord returns,

Bro. Buddy Smith

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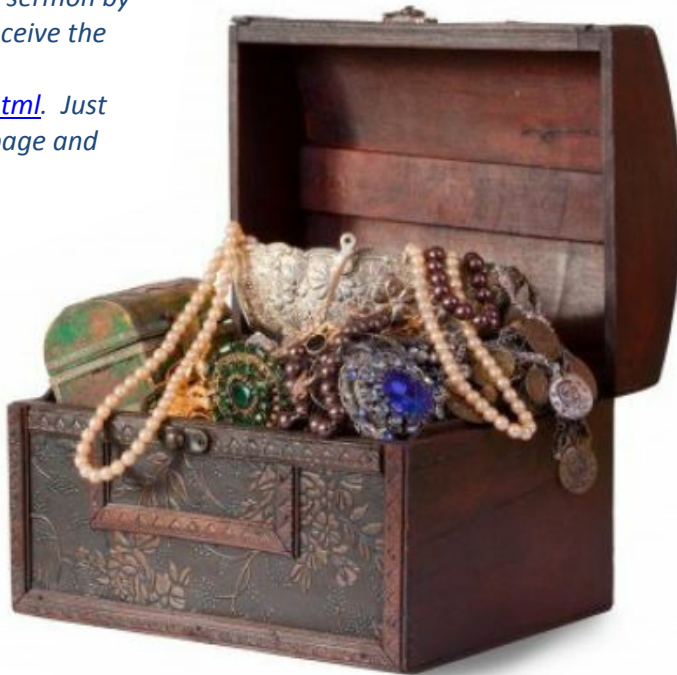
Back Issues of Heads Up!
Available at:

www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au/resources.html

Feature Article – Counting the Cost, Part 3

(Two issues ago we published the first part of this sermon by Charles Spurgeon on discipleship. If you did not receive the previous parts of this sermon, it can be read at <http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au/index.html>. Just look in Resources at the top of our church's web page and click on the previous two issues. - Ed.)

The last word shall be this, that **COST WHATEVER IT MAY, TRUE RELIGION IS WORTH THE COST.** We are like a man with the black pest upon him who knows that he is dying and yet yonder is a drug which will heal him. "Physician," says he, "you ask so great a price that each drop costs me a diamond! You are demanding more than its weight in choicest pearls, but it does not matter, I must have it! If I do not, I am a dead man—and then what will it profit me that I have kept my gold?" It is the case of every one of us here present—we must have Christ or perish forever— and it will be better for us to cut off our right arm and pluck out our right eye than that we should be cast into Hell fire!



Mark you, Brothers and Sisters, the present blessings of true religion are worth all the cost. What if I have to rend some fond connection? Jesus, You are better to me than husband, wife, or child. If it must be so that she who lies in my bosom shall count me for her enemy, You shall be in my heart, my Savior, better than a Rachel, or a Rebekah. Yes, if it must be so that my father shall say, "You shall never darken my doors again if you follow Christ," he must say it, for when father and mother forsake me the Lord will take me up. The immediate joy will recompense for the immediate loss.

Yes, doubtless you may count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus your Lord and yet remain a gainer. And again, what recompense comes for all cost in the consolation afforded by true godliness in the article of death? To lie a-dying—why it will give no pain to be able to say, then, "I was cast out of any family for Jesus." It will be no sorrow to remember, "I was ridiculed for Christ." It will cause us no pangs to say, "I was counted too precise and too much of a Puritan." No, my Brothers and Sisters, those are not the things which put thorns into death pillows. Oh, no! There we shall see how sweet it was to have borne any part of Jesus' Cross—a sliver of His Cross will be worth a king's ransom on a dying day! Moreover, at the Judgment, when the trumpet rings out and the dead are rising, we shall not say, "I suffered too much for Christ."

When to the right His chosen go, and we among them, we shall not look back with regret to the fact that we lost caste in society and position among the refined for Jesus' sake! We shall not lament that we attended a despised conventicle and worshipped among the poor of this world out of love to Jesus, and fidelity to His Gospel. Oh, no! I guarantee you in that day he shall shine brightest who was most beclouded for his Lord's sake! Midst the bright ones, doubly bright shall be the martyr band of whom the world was not worthy—who were accounted as the offscouring of all things! And while each one of the disciples shall receive a hundredfold for all he may have given up for his Lord's cause, these shall have the fairest portion.

Moreover, let me remind you, Beloved, that Christ asks you to give up nothing that will injure you. If you must hate father and mother it is only in this sense—that you will not yield to their wrong requests, nor will you leave Christ for them. If you must give up any pleasure it is because it is not a fitting pleasure for you—it is poisonous sugar of lead—and not true sweetness. Christ will give you greater enjoyments by far. I remember that our Redeemer does not ask any one of us to do what He has not done Himself. That thought pierces me to the quick—I wish it might affect you, also. Master, do You say, give up my father? Did You not leave Your Father? Do You bid me even leave my father's house if it must be for Your sake? Did You not leave the glorious mansions of Heaven? What if I am called to bear reproach? They called the Master of the house Beelzebub! What if I am cast out? They also cast You out. When we think of the scourging, the shame and the spitting which the Lord endured, what are our griefs?

And if, for His sake, we should even be condemned to death we know how He hung on the Cross, stripped of His all, that He might save us from the wrath to come! O Believer, can you follow your Lord where ever He goes? Soldiers of the Cross, can you follow Him? Is the path smooth enough for those dear feet and too rough for you? There He is in the center of the battle where the blows fall fastest—will you follow Him? Dare you follow Him, or do you pine for the tents of ease and the soft couches of the cowards, yonder, who are shrinking back and deserting to the enemy?

Oh, by everything that is good, if you are, indeed, His followers, I charge you, cry, “Where He is, there let His servant be! As He fares, so let His servant fare—in this world let His humiliation be ours so that in the world to come we may partakers of His Glory.” This is strong preaching, you tell me, but the Savior meant all that I have said. His was a testing discourse, but there are Truths of God to be remembered which may console us while hearing them. It is true that you cannot build the tower—Joshua said to the people in his time—“You cannot serve the Lord.” If you have counted the cost, you know, by this time, that you cannot wage the war. Ten thousand cannot stand against twenty thousand. But yet it must be done, inevitable necessity drives on behind—whatever may be in front—we dare not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. What, then, must we do? Hear the Lord's words, “With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Are you willing? Then the Spirit of God will help you! You shall give up the world and the flesh without a sigh! You shall fight against your lusts and you shall overcome them through the blood of the Lamb! The tower shall be built and the Lord shall inhabit it! Cast yourselves on Jesus by a simple faith—rest in His power—and from day to day believe in His strength, and He will bear you safely through! Do you notice the verse which follows this passage? I wonder whether anything like it will follow my sermon. It is astonishing that though Jesus thundered out as from the top of Sinai and His words seemed harsh, yet it is written, “Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him,” as if they said to themselves, “This man tells us the Truth of God, therefore we will hear Him.” And then He began to tell them the precious Truths of His Free Grace, acting just as the farmer does who puts in the plow and turns up the soil—when he sees the clods breaking in the furrow, then he scatters the golden seed—but not till then.

Listen, every one of you who would have Christ! Come, and have Him! You who would have salvation, accept it as the gift of His Sovereign Grace! But do not receive it under misapprehension—understand what is meant by it. Salvation is not deliverance from Hell, alone—it is deliverance from sin! It is not the rescue of men, merely from eternal pain—it is their redemption from this world's vain and wicked ways! It cannot be divided! It is a garment without seam, woven from the top throughout. If you would have justification, you must have sanctification! If you would have pardon, you must have holiness! If you would be one with Christ, you must be separate from sinners. If you would walk the streets of gold above, you must walk the road of holiness below! God grant you His Holy Spirit to enable you to do so and His shall be the praise forever! Amen.

by Charles Spurgeon

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Deacon True Sez –

I overheard old brother Jackson replying to a parishioner's question the other day. Bro. Jackson is pastor of the little negro church down in the poor folks' part of town. He's been there for over forty years and preaches some on the radio. One of his older ladies asked him what he thought about miniskirts coming back into style lately. He stood silent for a minute or two and then said, "I got two thoughts about that. First up, you gotta remember that 'Style is the subtle scheme of Satan to keep the sense of sight in a state of shock. And second, if a lady ain't got sump'n for sale she oughtn't to advertise it."

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Letter From Bro. Randy Pike

End of the year missionary news from Randy and Addien Pike, P.O. Box 25215, Greenville, SC, 29616 USA. Phone 864:244:5020. Dec. 2012.

Your Last Prayer!

"The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended" (Psalm 72:20)

Dear Fellow Workers,

Missionary Message: For years, the above verse has spoken to my heart. It warns of a time coming for all true Christians. What could be more horrible than not talking to God in holy prayer? Sharing with Him everything in life is one of the greatest solaces we know. Not being able to do so would be a living hell-on-earth. I had rather die than to be cut off from the Lord, unable to speak to Him, as I live out my life. Prayer is the breath and heartbeat of the saved soul.

Old age is a gradual surrender. Slowly, we discover this, that, or the other, must be turned loose; no longer is it usable. Things that were needed to help us along the way, are laid aside. I do not know what David's last prayer was. However, I have thought much about mine! Reader and listener, what will be your final words? Will they be complaints, gossip, doubt, regret, or what? I read years ago the final words of Britain's great leader during World War II, Winston Churchill. He mumbled, "What a fool I've been!" An old friend of ours, May Browning, lay dying at the age of 100. She called to her children, "Look at the beautiful angels; they've come to take me home!" Sir Newport a famed atheist screamed, "Help! My feet are in the fire!" Moody, whispered, "Ah! This is my coronation day!" What will be your final prayer and words? I want to die praying!!!!

Not to pray is not to live, Not to share everything with our heavenly Father is an unbearable thought. O, dear one, pray while you can. When your words seem to mock you, remember the Holy Spirit takes our feeble prayers to the throne, and tells God what we want to say but can't (Rom. 8:26-27). There will be no praying in heaven; it is confined to this world only.

Missionary News: We are pressed with calls for help from people across the land and overseas as well. A 75-year-old German from Stanton Island, N.Y., called begging for help to be saved. He had just read my book, *Suffering and Death, the Saint's Highest Calling*. The Church of Christ baptized him and told him he



was save! Without peace, he went to the Episcopal and Catholic Churches. Both gave him "communion," sprinkled water on his head, then told him the same lie! Lastly, he went to a Baptist Church, and the pastor was too busy to talk to him!!! I sent him names and addresses of pastors who are true men of God, (not busy dead-beats), and literature to help. James needs someone to sit down and guide him into understanding the gospel. We talked for an hour as I tried to explain why Jesus died on the cross..

My new book Selah! Harmony Commentary of the Four Gospels is now on iTunes for the Apple iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch users. Amazon, Barnes & Nobles, Word, Logos, and others also carry it. Some have phoned me about getting copies for friends and gifts. For this you must contact the publisher, Ambassador International at email sales@emeraldhouse.com, or call them at 1-800-209-8570. Mrs. Pike and I are so worn out that we cannot handle any of the orders. Several have expressed dismay at the size of this work. It was explained in my previous report that this is a massive book, over 1000 pages, with thousand of cross references and documentations. It took me 14 years to write it. I purposely requested it to be put in a good paper back format to lower the costs for consumers. If you mess around with prayer and Bible study, leave this book alone, for it will overwhelm you. You don't hunt bears with a water pistol!

This letter will arrive just before the Christmas madness hits. My brother, Dean, sent me a picture of a rugged and worn little manger setting in a dusty stable. The heading was, "The first King-size bed!" Lay over that holy scene the shadow of the cross before an empty tomb, and you have the true meaning of it all. Thank you for helping the Pikes through another year. Soon, many of us will make our last prayer, O. what will it be?

His happy slaves,

Randy and Addien Pike

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Blinded Minds –

(We are including the following article as it came to us. It is filled with errors. Please understand that we do not agree with the writer's perspective even one iota. - Ed)

New "Gay" Bible "Prevents "Homophobic Misinterpretation" of Key Verses"; Titled "The Queen James Bible"

PRWEB - San Francisco - December 12, 2012

The Queen James Bible [apparently] resolves long-standing interpretative ambiguity in key Bible passages regarding homosexuality, making it the world's first "Gay Bible." The assault on gay rights almost always comes from a "belief" that the Bible says homosexuality is a sin. Gay marriage is at the forefront of religious and political debate, and it all stems from people's "opinions" on Biblical translation.

The Queen James Bible is a new Bible that hopes to put an end to the debate, and arm Gay Christians and their supporters with a Bible of their own.

Homosexuality was first overtly mentioned in the Bible in 1946 [?] in the Revised Standard Version.

There is no mention of or reference to homosexuality in any Bible prior to this [??] – only interpretations have been made.

Anti-LGBT Bible references commonly cite only eight verses in the Bible that they interpret to mean homosexuality is a sin.

The Queen James Bible addresses those controversial verses by editing them "very" slightly for interpretative clarity.[Yeah, sure]

The edits all confirm that the Bible does not condemn homosexuality, and therefore renders such interpretations impossible.

Like most English translations, The Queen James Bible is based on The King James Version.

The KJV is the most popular Bible of all time, and arguably the most important English language document of all time. The brainchild [?] and namesake of King James I, who wanted an English language Bible that all could own and read, it has been in print for over 400 years and has brought more people to Christ than any other Bible translation.

Commonly known to biographers but often surprising to most Christians, King James I was a well-known bisexual. Though he did marry a woman, his many gay relationships were so well known that amongst some of his friends and court, he was known as "Queen James."

"The Queen James Bible was named in tribute to King James, for what he did for the Bible, and for living openly in gay relationships," says one of the editors.

The Queen James Bible is printed and bound in the United States on thick, high-quality paper in a beautiful, readable typeface. It is the perfect Bible for ceremony, study, sermon, gift giving, or simply to put on display in the home or Church. The Queen James Bible can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Euthanasia, Where Does It Lead?

http://www.france24.com/en/20121218-belgium-looks-euthanasia-minors-alzheimers-sufferers?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+delicious%2Fgqlf+%28Christian+Headlines+Top+Headlines%29

18 December 2012 - 23H09

Belgium looks at euthanasia for minors, Alzheimer's sufferers

AFP - Belgium is considering a significant change to its decade-old euthanasia law that would allow minors and Alzheimer's sufferers to seek permission to die. The proposed changes to the law were submitted to parliament Tuesday by the Socialist party and are likely to be approved by other parties, although no date has yet been put forward for a parliamentary debate. "The idea is to update the law to take better account of dramatic situations and extremely harrowing cases we must find a response to," party leader Thierry Giet said. The draft legislation calls for "the law to be extended to minors if they are capable of discernment or affected by an incurable illness or suffering that we cannot alleviate." Belgium was the second country in the world after the Netherlands to legalise euthanasia in 2002 but it applies only to people over the age of 18.

Socialist Senator Philippe Mahoux, who helped draft the proposed changes, said there had been cases of adolescents who "had the capacity to decide" their future. He said parliamentarians would also consider extended mercy-killing to people suffering from Alzheimer's-type illnesses.

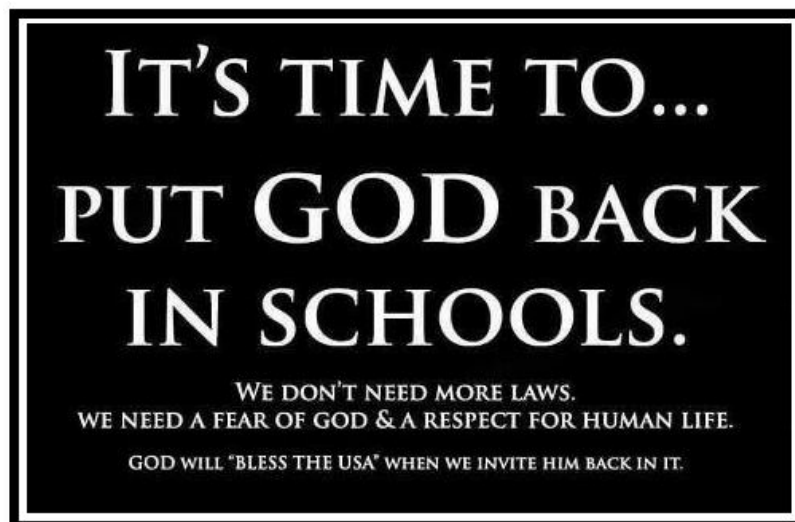
Euthanasia was allowed to an Alzheimer's patient for the first time in the Netherlands last year.

In Belgium, some 1,133 cases -- mostly for terminal cancer -- were recorded in 2011, about one percent of all deaths in the country, according to official figures.

A seriously ill prisoner serving a long jail sentence this year became the first inmate to die under Belgium's euthanasia laws.

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Would It Work To Put God Back In Schools?



We often hear people say that we must put God back into our schools (as the poster suggests). But I wonder if we have given any thought to what kind of religion the government would put into our schools? Which religion would it be? Modernism? Emergent? Muslim? Mormon? Paedophilic Catholicism? Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Drivel? Joel Osteen's Feel Good Church? And what Bible would Barrack and Nancy and Harry and John be happy with? And do you think they would permit anyone to really, truly preach the ten commandments to show students their sins? Or would they approve pastors calling students and teachers to repentance (if even one could be found that still preached repentance?) And do you think we could preach that Jesus Christ alone can save from sin? And what about preaching the cross? And the resurrection? And the Great White Throne Judgment? And Hell and the Lake of Fire? Oh, you say, "We can't include those things! They are too controversial! We might offend someone! We must respect the rights of others!

" So what kind of religion do you have in mind, if you want religion to be put back in our schools?

What we see promoted in the poster is the Fairy Tale Christianity that is so common in Independent Baptist Churches at present. Dreamy-eyed preachers and sleepy saints whisper their lullabies again and again, never caring that the religion they desire is not Christian.

What is needed is not simply for God to be put back into our schools. He must first be invited into our hearts, through repentant faith in Christ! And He must be invited back into our families. He must become the true Head of our men so they can become the real head of their wives (I Cor. 11). And He must be invited back into our churches. If there is any semblance of life left in our churches, it is Laodicean in nature, and if that is true, then the Lord of the churches is standing outside knocking and seeking fellowship with any man who will open to Him. Before He can be put back into the schools, we must see Him preached in public. He must be put back into the public forum by bold unashamed Christian witness, even if it means we do so from a prison cell.

What we are describing is called revival.

Revival is costly. It only comes to those who desire it so desperately that they will lose their lives to obtain it.

That's how we got (Bible based) religion into our schools to start with.

Of course, America could decide to let godless men choose which religion becomes the faith of generations to come.

It's been done before.

Buddy Smith

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What is Your Worldview?

(Our church has a Bible study for the men who are either ministering in the church or who are working toward doing so. We are presently working our way through David Cloud's book Sowing and Reaping. In the chapter on Dealing With Sceptics, we discussed the importance of having a biblical worldview. I asked the students to write out their worldview and was impressed with their answers. Here is one example:)

My world view based on the Bible

God created everything for his glory and it was good, but sin entered the world through Eve when she was tempted by a serpent who was the devil.

For years many years man had to make sacrifices as an atonement for sin, until God sent his only son Jesus to die on the cross so we could go and live with him forever some day soon, it was the last sacrifice that ever had to be made for sin, as Jesus was a perfect sacrifice. We all have a choice now whether to accept Gods gift of eternal life and go to be with him in heaven when we die, or we can refuse God and live selfishly for ourselves in this world, and when we die we will spend eternity with the devil in hell.

Written by Elijah Dunstan

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Ye Men of Plymouth, Why Stand Ye Here Gazing Upward?

(Charles Spurgeon once offered a reproof to preachers of his day who had gone overboard on prophecy. He penned the question above, and challenged them not to spend their lives gazing into Heaven, waiting for Jesus to come, and reminded them that we still have a world of lost men to win to Christ. When I first read Bro. Cloud's article (below) I thought of the distractions of misused prophetic texts. - Ed.)



HOW WE SHOULD REACT TO THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES

(Friday Church News Notes, November 30, 2012,
www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

The signs of the end times are everywhere. Our upcoming book *The Bible According to the Future* contains a large chapter on these. The strange thing is that believers often react to the signs the very opposite of how God intends for us to react. As we witness such things as the spread of globalism, the building of a one-world church, the increase of wickedness, the breakdown of the traditional family, the destruction of that priceless bastion of liberty called America, the normalization of homosexuality, the callous murder of babies, the filthy pop culture, the breathtaking increase in governmental surveillance, we become fearful, uncertain, frustrated, angry, and discouraged, but this is because our minds and hearts are too focused on things of this world rather than things above. Too often we have the same short view that “conservative” unbelievers have rather than the long view that comes from the light of Bible prophecy. Doubtless there will be frustration and discouragement, because we aren’t spiritual robots who are unaffected by our environment, but our response should be tempered by the truths of God’s Word. We should respond to the times in a dramatically different way than our unsaved friends and neighbors. When we consider what is happening in the world, we should respond in at least the following ways.

First, we should rejoice greatly in our salvation. “But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ’s sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy” (1 Pet. 4:13).

Second, we should be comforted that Christ’s return is drawing near. “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Lk. 21:28).

Third, we should be encouraged that God is in control. “For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way” (2 Th. 2:7).

Fourth, we should stand in the confidence that the present evil is exceedingly temporary and will soon be cut down. “Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace” (Psa. 37:7-11).

Fifth, we must do more praying. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1 Tim. 2:1-6). Desperate times call for more praying, but we are witnessing a dearth of prayer in the typical Bible-believing church. There is lots of partying and lots of activities and fun but not a lot of praying. 1 Timothy 2 ties prayer together with living a quiet and peaceable life and the liberty to preach the gospel, the very things that we want.

Finally, we should be busy in the harvest fields. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:8-9). The Bible plainly says that Christ is waiting because He wants to save souls. Instead of fretting at the signs of the times, we need to rededicate ourselves to proclaiming the gospel to every person in every nation and building sound Bible-believing churches where God's people can be protected, edified, trained, disciplined, and where godly Christian homes can be built and children can be prepared as arrows in the hand of the Lord to go out and do battle against the forces of evil.

by David Cloud

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Manna In The Wilderness –

(In every issue of Heads Up we include a link to good sermons for those who find themselves in the wilderness (geographical or spiritual) and desire good biblical preaching. On the link below you will find access to sermons by Pastor Bob Kirkland at Fairhavens Baptist Church. - Ed.)

http://www.sermonaudio.com/source_detail.asp?sourceid=fhbc

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God's Rosebud

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals.

The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry.

But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do.

Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

*"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine."*

*"The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die."*

*"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?"*

*"So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step along the way."*

*"The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord and Savior knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose."*

contributed by Pastor Tom Hill

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Therapy For The Funny Bone –

A man waiting for a bus watched as a couple of men worked along the roadside. One man would dig a hole two or three feet deep and then move on. The other man came along behind him and filled in the hole. While one was digging a new hole, the other was 25 feet behind filling in the hole.

The men worked right past the man and on down the road. "I can't stand this," and headed down the road toward the men.

"Hold it, hold it," he said to the men. "Can you tell me what's going on here with all this digging and refilling?"

"Well, we work for the federal government and we're just doing our job," one of the men said.

"But one of you is digging a hole and the other fills it up. You're not accomplishing anything. Aren't you just wasting the taxpayers' money?"

"You don't understand, mister," one of the men said, leaning on his shovel and wiping his brow. "Normally there's three of us: me, Elmer and Leroy. I dig the hole, Elmer sticks in the tree, and Leroy here puts the dirt back. The government cut our funding so Elmer's job is finished... and now it's just me an' Leroy."

Mabel and Elvira were old friends, but Mabel had moved out of state so they hadn't seen each other for years. When she came back to visit her daughter she bumped into Elvira down the street. She exclaimed, "Oh, Elvira! It's been ages since I saw you. so much has happened! I've had all my teeth out and a new stove and fridge put in!"

A new mom took her little baby daughter to the supermarket for the first time. She dressed her in pink from head to toe. At the store, she placed her in the shopping cart and put her purchases around her.

At the checkout line, a little boy and his mother were ahead of them. The child was crying and begging for some special treat.

"He wants some candy or gum and his mother won't let him have any," the new mother thought.

Then she heard his mother's reply. "No!" she said, looking in her direction. "You may not have a new baby sister today. That lady got the last one!"

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Matthew 6:24

"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other."

The New Flexible Measuring Stick for Global Warming Enthusiasts

(I read recently that it is not how many people vote for a particular candidate that determines who wins an election, but WHO COUNTS THE VOTES! Watching the outcomes of elections all over the world, I am inclined to largely agree. Anyone who believes that democracy is still intact and that a citizen's vote is going to count for the candidate he voted for (virtually) needs his head read. Sorry to offend all of you trusting people who voted for Obama or for Julia (in Australia), but facts is facts! The other day I stumbled across the following article that explains how the IPCC and its supporters (in the news media and out!) can keep up the pretence that the earth is warming, in spite of clear records that show that it stopped 16 years ago. All they had to do was to quietly move the goalposts, um, er, I mean adjust the thermometer. We ought to have known that the same people who use a flexible measuring stick to prove evolution would do the same thing to support global warming. - Ed)



Fourteen Is the New Fifteen!

By Arvind Kumar AMERICAN THINKER

According to the leaders of the global warming doomsday cult, the average surface temperature of Earth is 14 degrees Celsius (57.2 degrees Fahrenheit), but this is a new value which has quietly replaced the original average of 15 degrees Celsius (59 degrees Fahrenheit).

In March 1988, a few months before NASA's James Hansen asserted before the Congress that global warming was in progress, the New York Times quoted him

as saying that he used 59 degrees Fahrenheit as the average global temperature to calculate the temperature variations.

One of the scientists, Dr. James E. Hansen of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Institute for Space Studies in Manhattan, said he used the 30-year period 1950-1980, when the average global temperature was 59 degrees Fahrenheit, as a base to determine temperature variations.

In July of the same year, a report in the Connecticut-based newspaper The Day was consistent with this claim. According to the Day's report on Hansen's congressional testimony: Dr. Hansen informed the lawmakers that the first five months of 1988 were the hottest five-month period on record, averaging four-tenths of a degree above a 30-year (1950-1980) norm of 59 degrees Fahrenheit. Although Hansen's recent publications provide his version of the differences from the base temperature for various years, he is careful enough not to provide either the observed temperatures or the value of the baseline temperature. However, Hansen at one time revealed his base value in an academic publication. That paper, "Climate Impact of Increasing Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide," appeared in Science in August 1981 and states:

The mean surface temperature is $T_s \sim 288$ K. Two hundred and eighty-eight K, or 288 Kelvin, is the same as 15 degrees Celsius. A report in the Schenectady-based Daily Gazette indicates that Hansen and his colleague Helene Wilson used this value at least as late as 1992. Thus, Hansen consistently used 15 degrees Celsius as the baseline average for several years.

James Hansen was not the only person to use this value. When the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was set up soon after Hansen's 1988 testimony before the Congress, came out with its First Assessment Report in 1990, a table on page xxxvii of the report listed the "Observed Surface Temperature" of Earth as 15 degrees Celsius. Yet another person who used 15 degrees Celsius as the global average temperature was Anthony J. McMichael, an activist professor whose e-mail promising to pull strings in the Australian government figured in the Climategate scandal. According to McMichael's 1993 book, *Planetary Overload: Global Environmental Change and the Health of the Human Species*:

Average temperature over past 10,000 years = 15°C

As it turned out, the average temperature of 15 degrees Celsius was an inconvenient value that did not support the allegations of global warming. In 1996, Michael Mann (who shot to fame during the Climategate scandal as the creator of "Mike's Nature trick" to "hide the decline") co-authored a paper titled "Greenhouse Warming and changes in the seasonal cycle of temperature: Model versus observations." The paper pointed out that the predictions made by climate models were not consistent with observed data and the variability in temperature likely resulted from natural phenomena. ... the signature of greenhouse warming is scarcely evident in the observational data[.] ... It is possible that observed trends in phase, largely influenced by mid-latitude continental interiors, do not arise from greenhouse warming, but rather from natural variability. Such a notion is reinforced by the fact that marginally-significant trends are found in the control GFDL annual cycle, presumably due to organized century-scale internal variability.

If, on the other hand, the observed variation in the seasonal cycle truly represents a "fingerprint" of greenhouse warming, the GFDL and CCM1 models do not appear capable of capturing the detailed responses of the seasonal cycle to greenhouse forcing.

Discrepancies between the observed and model-predicted trends must be resolved before a compelling connection can be drawn between 20th century changes in the behavior of the annual cycle in temperature, and anthropogenic forcing of the climate.

Significantly, Mann used 15 degrees Celsius as the baseline temperature while calculating the parameters of the annual temperature cycle (see Figure 2 in his paper). Although he could have picked any value in the cycle, he picked 15 degrees Celsius, and it is reasonable to assume that he did so because it was the accepted long-term global average temperature.

Not long after Mann's paper was published, the Worldwatch Institute, an organization based in Washington, D.C., came out with the 1997 edition of *Vital Signs*, its annual publication. The publication had a chapter with the title "Global Temperature Down Slightly."

In literature published after the 1997 report by Worldwatch Institute, the leaders of the global warming movement seem to have started using 14 degrees Celsius for the global average temperature. In 2002, the *Sydney Morning Herald* quoted James Hansen, who mentioned this new average. This year the Earth's average temperature was 14.64C, compared with the long-term average of 14C, said James Hansen, of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, who analyses the data collected from thousands of weather stations around the world.

The IPCC too now uses 14 degrees Celsius as its base temperature, as can be seen from a graph that is part of its 2007 document. (As an aside, it was in 2007 that IPCC won the Nobel Peace Prize. IPCC certainly deserved a Nobel Prize, but it should have been for literature, as the organization had excelled in writing fantasy.) More recently, a 2011 report by the Government Accountability Office attributes an estimated average surface air temperature of 287 K, or 14 degrees Celsius, to James Hansen and his colleagues.

But Hansen and colleagues have estimated that Earth's actual average surface air temperature between 1951 and 1980 was approximately 287 K (14 degrees Celsius) (Hansen et al. 2010).

It is hard to pinpoint the exact date when the change from 15 degrees to 14 degrees was introduced. It most likely happened sometime in 1997, and definitely no later than January of 1998. The 1998 edition of the annual publication of Worldwatch Institute uses 14 degrees Celsius as the global average temperature and provides details of how it was informed of the change from 15 degrees Celsius. On page 69 of the report, a footnote below the table listing the global average temperatures for several years states: Base number is 1 degree Celsius lower than in earlier Vital Signs.

On page 174 of the same report, we see the explanation for the change. In earlier versions of Vital Signs, Worldwatch added the temperature change reported by the Goddard Institute to an estimated global temperature of 15 degrees Celsius, but the institute has since informed Worldwatch that a better base number would be 14 degrees Celsius. James Hansen, Goddard Institute for Space Studies, New York, email to author, 18 January 1998.

In other words, James Hansen sent word that 14 is the new 15.

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes –

- **Situation Wanted**

Will keep your children occupied for you. I guarantee they will learn what I can teach them. I will teach them how to drink alcohol, smoke pot, shoot up drugs, dance, murder, rob and commit adultery. I will even keep them up late on Saturday nights so they won't feel like going to Sunday School or church on Sunday mornings. And at no extra cost I will offer them exciting things to entertain them on Sunday night to keep them home.

Yes, I desire to babysit your child...you don't know me...but I already live with you...

MR. TV

- "The Savior is not looking for men and women who will give their spare evenings to Him - or their years of retirement. Rather, He seeks those who will give Him first place in their lives." - *William MacDonald*
- "There was a day when I died; died to self, my opinions, preferences, tastes and will; died to the world, its approval or censure; died to the approval or blame even of my brethren or friends; and since then I have studied only to show myself approved unto God." --*George Mueller*
- Christmas is just plain weird. What other time of year do you sit in your living room in front of a dead tree and eat candy out of your socks? - (from a cartoon)

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A Lamb Slain

*In the glory of eternity past
The triune, self-existent LORD
Dwelt outside of time and space
In fellowship and sweet accord.*

*A plan then formed in the mind of God,
His greatness henceforth to share.
He would create a place of beauty,
A masterpiece beyond compare.*

*His creation would be of great expanse
With wonders of assorted size.
It would also be full of light and loveliness;
To bring pleasure to the eyes.*

*What diversity He would create!
However the pinnacle of His plan,
Was to bring Him most pleasure –
A creation that He would call “man”.*

*“Let us create man in our own image.
In our own likeness he will be.
We will make him a living soul
That will dwell for all eternity.”*

*This human being would be unique;
With incredible intellect and free choice.
He would have fellowship with God
And communicate with a voice.*

*Thus as creation’s plan did unfold
A note of sadness filled the air.
God knew where man’s choice would lead
And the heartache He would bear.*

*The Father looked upon His Son
And saw the Lamb to be slain.
The cost of man’s redemption
Would require sacrifice and pain.*

*“My own dear Son are you willing
To leave the beauty of our abode?
To be veiled in human flesh
And walk a mortal’s road?*

*“From these glorious ivory palaces
You will be placed in a virgin’s womb.
Then to be born in a humble stable
Because elsewhere will be found no room.*

*“Your birth will be poorly attended
Only a few will heed the good news.
Although the angels will declare it
Their message most will refuse.*

*“Few will see you as Immanuel.
Most will mock, scorn and jeer.
Although you will preach the truth
The majority will shut their ear.*

*“And then, my Son, you will die,
Condemned by Your own creation.
You will bear the sin of all mankind
To bring to them Salvation.”*

*Thus in silent contemplation
God the Son paused to decide.
The immensity of such a decision
By none could be denied.*

*Although one fails to comprehend
The decision Christ then made,
We now come with praise and thankfulness
That for all man’s sin He paid.*

Judith Searle 2012

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Eddy-Torial – The Baggage We Bring With Us – Part 1



I have always been interested in those ten camels of Abraham's eldest servant. You know the ones I mean. Their portrait is penned by the Spirit in Gen. 24:10. One camel for the servant, maybe two for his helpers, if such there were, one camel (by faith) for Isaac's bride, Maybe another to carry the servants' baggage and basic foodstuffs, and five camels' loads of treasure? All right, if you don't agree with my estimates, you add them up as you like. The simple fact is that Eliezer (was that his name?) carried baggage with him on his pilgrimage.

And so do I.

F. W. Boreham's first book was called the *Luggage of Life* (1912, Epworth press). In the chapter by that title he wrote, "Life is largely a matter of luggage. So soon as a child can toddle he displays an insatiable passion for carrying things. He is never so happy as when he is loaded. His face beams with delight when his back is burdened to the point of breaking. A few months later he cries for a wooden horse and cart, that he may further gratify his inordinate longing for luggage. And, if these appetites be not humoured, he will exhaust his unconsecrated energies in pushing the chairs, tugging at tables, and carrying the cat. The instinct is there. You can no more deny him his load than you can deny him his lunch. The craving for both is born in him. In his autobiography, Thomas Guthrie tells how the blood of Scottish lads was stirred as the echoes of Waterloo reached that remote hamlet. 'Many a time,' he says, 'did we boys tramp a mile or two out of town to meet troops marching to the war, and proud we were to be allowed to carry a soldier's musket, which the poor fellows, burdened with all the heavy accoutrements of those days, and wearied with a twelve-hour march on a hot summer's day, were glad enough to resign to us.' Here is the same subtle law in operation. Man often loves without knowing that he loves; and little as he suspects it, he is deeply in love with his load."

Oh I know, neither you nor I are tortoises with our houses on our backs, but we do, WE DO have our baggage. You carry yours and I carry mine. We gather it up from earliest days, bit by bit, piece by piece, adding to and subtracting from our load all the way to the grave. And there we leave most of it behind. Well, we leave behind the visible clutter of our packrat pilgrimage. But God says, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Revelation 14:13 He tells us elsewhere that our works are written down, and at least in that respect, my works are following me all the way to Heaven. Even there the law of baggage holds true.

I am greatly impressed with this servant of Abraham's. You see, as great a treasure as the camels carried to Haran for Rebekah and her family (see Gen. 24:22, 35, 36 and 53), he also carried the secret Luggage of Life. It was in his heart. Did you see it when you read the chapter? Don't tell me you missed seeing the Greater Baggage? How could we have missed it? (yes, I admit, I missed it for years.)

We would not know what Eliezer carried in the saddlebags of his heart if he had not unpacked so much of it in this chapter. He looses the straps of his inner man when he unpacks the camels and we see:

1. His stewardship. v. 10 (What an example he is to us! His master's interests at heart, his master's words in his mouth, and his master's goods in his hand!
2. His faith, in verse 27 where he says, "I being in the way, tthe LORD led me..."
3. His prayer life, in verses 12-14, and 42-45.
4. His worship and praise of God, in vv. 26, 27 and 48, 52.
5. And his sincerity and honesty, in v. 49.

Oh, Eliezer, I look forward to sitting down with you in Heaven and telling you how much I love what you carried in your luggage!

You have challenged me to pack in private the luggage of my life and to do so with great care.

Because of you, I am learning that I must daily unpack my luggage in public, and that others will be blest or cursed by what is in my baggage.

Every day.

"A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." **Matthew 12:35**

Buddy Smith

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



On the Atherton Tablelands in Tropical North Queensland - Australia

Heads Up! is a fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith,
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