

# The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

## GRACE THROUGH FAITH

*Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

*Hebrews 10:39-11:3. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (See also Gen 15:6)*

The purpose of Hebrews was to keep the new Hebrew Christians who had professed faith in the mediation work of the true High Priest, Christ Jesus, from going back to the Hebrew temple's Levitical priesthood at Jerusalem.

Hebrews 10:39 tells us that the faith of 11:1 was and is the supernatural gift from God which results in the salvation of souls, and the perseverance of the Saints. This supernatural grace through faith of 11:1 is not a result of man's will, determination, wisdom, insight, emotion, reason nor observation. Rather, "it is the gift of God". It is God's grace at work in human history to advance His Kingdom world wide, bring his enemies under his footstool, and to bring glory to Himself through His new Creation, the New Israel of God, or the Gospel Church. Paul tells us that the new Israel of God is made up of those who were former enemies of God, but have been made a new creation in Christ.

*Php 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

Faith is God's supernatural gift that places in a Particular people both the desire and the power to come to Him, and then to please Him.

Grace brings salvation to the elect of God.

Grace gives the strength to endure

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Grace enables His people to do their God assigned duty

Grace enables men to remove mountains of difficulties.

Grace enables the redeemed to look ahead and live for the future, as did their father Abraham. They seek a city whose builder and maker is God.

Man can work up a certain amount of humanistic faith in himself and even a faith in God, but that is not the faith of Hebrews 11:1.

I have seen bumper stickers that say, "The Power of Pride", hoping to promote self-confidence in school. "Faith in Yourself" is the major theme of humanistic religion, education and entertainment.

A few years ago, James Dobson preached the gospel of "Self-Esteem". His answer to man's problems was more "Self-Esteem". Obviously, that faith did not work any better than The Power of Pride, for it was just another way to promote the religion of humanism, faith in man, particularly in one's self.

When faith is seen as coming from man, it becomes powerless "easy-believeism". This man-made faith may have amazing confidence in the Lord even to enduring the worst torture and death, but it has no soul saving nor world changing power for the Kingdom of God.

Man-made faith says in the midst of trouble, "Hang in there. Just have faith, and everything will turn out fine." (The most popular movies are those that promote

an imaginary land where man-made faith “works out”.)

God’s grace through faith results in a new creation, a new man with new values and a new outlook on life. The vast majority of “faith” we see today is a man-made faith which is presented by supposed Christian leaders; however, it leaves their followers with a powerless confidence. Is it any wonder that though multitudes claim the Christian faith, their faith does not translate into changing the individual nor changing society as commanded by Our Lord?

Both His grace and His faith are given as one gift that cannot be lost, because it is His supernatural grace that causes his people to persevere. It was His faith that enabled the Saints from the time of Abel to the end of all things to fulfill their callings.

Regardless of the sincerity of one’s confession, all who are without God’s converting “grace through faith” and the good works that follow are fools. They are unable to think and reason logically and rationally. Reality is beyond the grasp of the unconverted, regardless of how loud and firm their profession:

*Psalms 36:9 For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.*

Logical thinking is impossible apart from the “fountain of life”. The natural man is blind to God’s world of reality; he cannot comprehend what he sees around him. (Joh 12:40, 2 Cor 4:4, 1 Joh 2:11) It is only God’s gift of grace through faith that he gives to His people that unlocks the door to reality. We look at people, even professed Christians, with amazement because they cannot see what is so obvious to us. They cannot see light because they have no light.

The faith revealed in Hebrews 11 can only be understood in the context 10:39-11:3. That is, faith, both saving, living and preserving faith, is a supernatural gift from God. It is not the result of any human works, no matter how sincere those works might be. Apostate Christianity offers faith as simply an intellectual agreement with the historical fact of Christ, easy-believeism. The contrast is “Decisional Regeneration” vs. “Divine Regeneration”.

Charles Finney

In the early 1800s, Charles Finney used every legitimate means available to work up man’s emotions to a state where he would “chose Christ.” Fundamentalism is the heir to Finney’s revivalism, for their entertainments are designed to draw a crowd. Arminianism is “Decisional Regeneration”, for it places the “salvation”

decision in man’s hands, i.e., work up his emotions, so he will make the proper decision to follow Christ. I did an article some years ago, “Free beer and pizza”; that is, using the world’s means with good intentions.

Finney is the father of the modern “worship service”, particularly contemporary “worship services” and “worship teams”, as well as other abominable practices in the name of Christ.

*See “Finney” in this issue.*

We heard a “spiritual minute” on the radio. The preacher quoted Romans 3:23, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”. He followed that with “For whosoever shall call upon the Lord shall be saved”. Then he said that all one had to do was decide to follow Jesus, call upon the Lord, and he would be saved.

Converting faith is not a human attribute that can be worked up. It is a supernatural gift. It is the first act of God that leads to salvation. We see that the first out-working of faith is belief in creationism: God’s fiat word spoke all things into existence.

V. 3, it is through His faith that we understand the biblical account of creation. It is His faith that allows us to understand that everything in the heavens above and in the earth beneath “were framed by the word of God” out of nothing.

Calvin comments:

“Through, or by, faith we understand, &c. This is a most striking proof of the last verse; for we differ nothing from the brute creation, if we understand not that the world has been created by God. To what end have men been endued with understanding and reason, except that they might acknowledge their Creator? But it is by faith alone we know that it was God who created the world. No wonder then that faith shone forth in the fathers above all other virtues.

“... though there has been an opinion of this kind among heathens, that the world was made by God, it was yet very evanescent, (soon gone as the foam on soda water, ed.), for as soon as they formed a notion of some God, they became instantly vain in their imaginations, so that they groped in the dark, having in their thoughts a mere shadow of some uncertain deity, and not the knowledge of the true God. Besides, as it was only a transient opinion that flitted in their minds, it was far from being anything like knowledge. We may further add, that they assigned to fortune or chance the supremacy in the government of the world, and they made no mention of God’s providence which alone rules everything. Men’s minds therefore are wholly blind, so that they see not the light of nature which shines forth in created things, until being irradiated by God’s Spirit, they begin to understand

by faith what otherwise they cannot comprehend. Hence most correctly does the Apostle ascribe such an understanding to faith; for they who have faith do not entertain a slight opinion as to God being the Creator of the world, but they have a deep conviction fixed in their minds and behold the true God. And further, they understand the power of his word, not only as manifested instantaneously in creating the world, but also as put forth continually in its preservation; nor is it his power only that they understand, but also his goodness, and wisdom, and justice. And hence they are led to worship, love, and honour him.

“Not made of things which do appear. ... we have in this visible world, a conspicuous image of God; and thus the same truth is taught here, as in Ro 1:20, where it is said, that the invisible things of God are made known to us by the creation of the world, they being seen in his works. God has given us, throughout the whole framework of this world, clear evidences of his eternal wisdom, goodness, and power; and though he is in himself invisible, he in a manner becomes visible to us in his works.

“Correctly then is this world called the mirror of divinity; not that there is sufficient clearness for man to gain a full knowledge of God, by looking at the world, but that he has thus so far revealed himself, that the ignorance of the ungodly is without excuse. Now the faithful, to whom he has given eyes, see sparks of his glory, as it were, glittering in every created thing. The world was no doubt made, that it might be the theatre of the divine glory.” (As my wife and I watch the beautifully colored birds around our bird feeders, I am reminded that we are looking at the mind of God.)

Adding to, taking away from or doubting the biblical account of creation is the first mark of apostasy, whether they are professed Christians or openly pagan, “if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa 8:20)

The centuries have seen many imaginative and fanciful “theories” developed, e.g., Darwin. Those “theories” are popular, prevalent and sought after by those without His faith, for they must deny the very existence of God and accountability to an all-powerful Creator. It is part of man’s vain attempt to de-throne God, and bring Him down to man’s level.

Scripture tells us that it is those without His faith who deny that all creation developed out of nothing. Because of our God-given faith, we think logically, and we cannot even begin to understand their convoluted thinking which tries to make something out of nothing.

Netflix has a movie named “The Genesis Code”. Thinking it might be worth watching, we ordered the DVD. It was about a pastor’s daughter in college who continually challenged her professor with the biblical

account of creation. Through a series of circumstances that included her brother, who was an atheist with superior math aptitude, they met in a school lecture hall and proceeded to use human wisdom to undermine the biblical creation account. His explanation was so convoluted that it was impossible to follow. Its clear purpose, however, was to place doubts and undermine the Christians’ confidence in the Genesis account of creation. The movie ended with a non-ending. That is, it did not follow through as to whether the girl kept the faith or not.

The goal of the anti-creationists is to have a god without God; they desire to have a supreme mind behind the universe that makes no claim on man nor on creation. One theory that has been applied to this “anti-creationist mind” is the “Absentee Landlord” theory. The “Landlord” set creation in motion, and then went on about his business. Any idea that undermines Genesis creation and the flood is anti-Christ.

Hebrews 10 defines apostasy as any departure from the true faith as revealed in His Word of Truth. Faith empowers and advances the truth. Faith is Christ centered because God’s eternal purpose in history focuses in Him. Humanistic faith is man centered because it focuses on man and his purpose in history i.e. what is best for me and my kingdom during my time here on earth. On the other hand, divine, God-given faith’s looks to the future in Christ, and what is best for His kingdom.

Hebrews 11 shows us that faith may be reduced to one man at times, then it grows to encompass whole nations. Obviously, faith has waned in much of Protestantism today, but there are multiplied millions who are standing fast in their God-given gift of faith. Divine grace through faith will keep one true to their profession in spite of all the actions against them by the world, flesh and the devil:

*1 John 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.*

Hebrews 11 clearly shows us the true meaning of faith: It is God working in a particular people to accomplish His divine and sovereign purpose in history, regardless of any obstacles.

God’s faith lives in the reality of time with the view of eternity. We see in Hebrews 11 that such a view of eternity gives boldness in the face of the world, flesh and the devil.

*Pr 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.*

*Mt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Luke 12:4)*

*Ac 5:29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. (There are many similar verses on boldness.)*

God's faith enables His people to say with confidence that all things work together for his glory.

Faith is the gift of God's grace, and it gives a forward look to its recipients. Time and eternity now are part of their lives, and that grace enables them to do their duty in the face of all discouragement and even "persecution". Only God knows why He gives different measures of grace to different people, and with that grace comes differing measures of responsibility and accountability. (See Rom 12:3, &c.)

This supernatural gift of "grace through faith" from God gives a clear and confident view of the future. It is concerned with the things hoped for, and things not seen. These are future things that have been decreed from eternity past. It is His faith that enables His people to build their lives on the future, unseen hope. His faith assures us that God is accomplishing His all-wise, pre-determined plan and purpose. (Acts 4:28, Eph 1, &c.) His faith links the reality of things around us to the eternal hope given us by His sovereign grace.

Observe: The unsaved may have a worldly hope, but it is a confidence in things that can be seen now or in the future. Sadly, many who have loudly proclaimed Christ and have lived for the "things not seen" are deceived, and will not know the truth until it is too late. (Mat 7:21ff.)

We are told that the saints of old did not follow the Lord in their own strength and determination. They followed Him, some even to the death, because His grace through faith working in them gave them a better hope. Chapter 11 is known as "The Roll Call of Faith". It was by God's supernatural gift of grace through faith that the saints were able to live in the reality of time based on the truth of God's future promises.

While watching our son-in-laws cabin business while they were out West for a family vacation with their 10 children, we attended a typical "fundamentalist" Baptist Church. The preacher's message was how Paul turned the world upside down by his good life that influenced others. There was no mention that Paul turned the world upside down because he preached against the

many gods of this world, and when people were converted, they forsook those gods. Genuine conversion destroys the power of false religions, and destroys the power of the rich and powerful who keep the people in bondage. (Destroys the power of the banks who hold nations in debt-bondage. Rom 13:8) The church we attended certainly would not speak against any worldly power, for they were supporting a local public school. The message was that we should walk by faith, but he not define faith. He left the idea that faith was some kind of a mystical feeling.

Observe: Neither Christ, Paul nor the apostles, preached against the political evils of the day as they lived under Nero and his Roman empire. It was their preaching against the gods of the day that turned the world up side down. They preached against the apostate religions of their day that were operating in the name of God.

*Acts 19:26 Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: 27 So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.*

See what will happen today if one would boldly preach against modern apostate religions, non-biblical theology (including the various translations of Scripture that have greatly compromised the Word of God) and the gods of the people, e.g., sports, public education, love of money and "bigger and better" things, hatred of children, fornication and adultery, &c., and see what will happen.

At times, I get mailings raising money in order to "preach" against political corruption in high places. Scripture teaches that the answer to the world's problems is preaching and teaching against religions and theological corruption, and corruptions of the heart. It is teaching that is pointed sword creating a new man in Christ Jesus.

Something was brought to my attention that I have overlooked; that is, Acts 8:37 (And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.) is left out of the text in many of the modern versions, and replaced with a footnote: "Some versions have added "And Philip...". They make it sound like the other versions with that passage are corrupted. The

justification for taking away from this part of scripture may be that some of the more recent manuscripts do not have this verse. A convenient “discovery” for those who want to practice infant baptism. (Modern “translations” are no more than a paraphrase of the Geneva or King James.)

• **FAITH:**

*Isaiah 30:21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

Faith: Moves in “the way” as revealed in his word, and depends on his grace to see one through whatever the future might hold. Faith is confident that He will accomplish His will through us.

*Hebrews 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

Those in Christ have obtained that city which the saints of old sought, and where they are even now as they are seated with Christ in the heavens.

Starting with Abel, the Old Testament saints all died in faith, not having received the promises. Rather, by God’s grace through faith, they saw the fulfillment of those promises in the far distant future. Their faith was their reality, causing them to confess that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. The living reality of their faith is what caused them to be listed in this chapter of Hebrews.

This chapter also shows that we must face the reality of the price of faith, for it puts us in conflict with the fallen world. Certainly, faith is a blessing from God for it places us in His presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. On the other hand, Faith is also a burden, for it puts us at odds with the fallen world, and separates us from friends and family.

The anti-creationists “assign to fortune or chance the supremacy in the government of the world, and they made no mention of God’s providence which alone rules everything.” (Calvin)

Because man is fallen and his mind darkened by his

revolt against God, he will accept any kind of nonsense in order to deny creationism and avoid acknowledging the God of creation.

We see here in this passage that faith is not a trust nor a firm belief in the unknown. Rather it is a firm knowledge that God is God, His Word is true, and His promises will come to pass. By His supernatural “grace through faith”, we understand those things that are beyond human understanding.

*Deuteronomy 29:29 The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Those who have His faith do not draw back unto perdition, but they believe to the saving of the soul. By the power of His grace through faith His people hold fast to the unseen in spite of the world’s allusions and temptations.

Hebrews shows us that biblical faith is not from below as a human response to God. It is a gift from above; it is a gift from God.

This chapter shows us how His gift of grace through faith works out in one’s life. It empowers men and women to do remarkable things. Hebrews presents Christ as the all-powerful Mediator who shall accomplish great things through His Elect in the face of a hostile world. Hebrews 11 is not about how much men can do, but about how much God has done, can and will do through His faith as given to His people.

We must not depend on men, for they shall fail. Our hope is God’s working by His grace through faith in those He redeemed by His own blood to subdue the world under the feet of His Dear Son, which is a task that no human faith can hope to accomplish.

*Bro Need*

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## **SOW IN TEARS**

By Ron Rumburg

“Who sow in tears shall reap in joy:  
Nought shall the precious seed destroy;  
Not long the weeping exiles roam,  
But bring their sheaves rejoicing home.”  
— The Church Psalmist

*“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him,”*

### Sowing in Tears—Reaping in Joy!

What was David promising in this Psalm, which was written through the Holy Spirit's guidance? He was promising that tearful sowing would culminate in joyful reaping? "Sowing" demonstrates proper preparation: genuine seed, broken land and the planting process; these are all involved before God gives the increase. "Sowing in tears" indicates a great need, a long-ing prospect or an intense commitment to the task. The prevention of starvation and famine is a great incentive in agriculture. By way of application, the greatest kind of famine is the absence of God speaking through His Word. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD" (Amos 8:11). The famine of the Word of God results in wandering, seeking and not finding that Word (Amos 8:12).

To "reap in joy" indicates a successful harvest, a prevention of hunger and future prospects. Thus we are reminded of the preaching of the gospel and future harvesting in joy. The Puritan Thomas Watson reminded, "Gospel tears are not lost; they are seeds of comfort: while the penitent doth pour out tears, God pours in joy."

Psalm 126:6 seems to be a parallelism that expands on verse 5. "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." This is what a servant of the Lord who preaches the unsearchable riches of Christ does. Yes, the minister sowing precious seed and weeping in compassion and for its success in the souls of the hearers shall "doubtless" return in the harvest with rejoicing and bearing fruit.

George Whitefield, so greatly used of the Lord in the Great Awakening, wept over those to whom he preached because they would not weep for themselves. His explanation was—"You blame me for weeping, but how can I help it when you will not weep for yourselves, though your immortal souls are on the verge of destruction?"

A. J. Potter, who had been a Confederate chaplain and a frontier preacher in Texas for most of his life said, "Be not ashamed, young preacher, of such tears; they are the visible baptism of an inward anointing. A tearless, heartless ministry is a fruitless one." And then he noted: "Tarry at Jerusalem, said Jesus, till endued with power from above—that was heart-power. Love drives your

chariot wheels; love carries with it a bountiful supply of tears, and baptizes earth's graves and altars of sorrow with its pathetic dews. It is the weeping evangelist who is to return in the light of victorious joy, bringing his harvest sheaves with him. The learned, the great Apostle Paul ceased not to warn night and day with tears. If, dear neophyte brother, you have not a good supply of tears on hand, you had better not set out on your ministerial pilgrimage through earth's 'vale of tears' without replenishing your stock, for you may need them, as the oilless five virgins, when no substitute can be had."

Oh, Lord our God, we carry precious seed to be sowed today, give us the compassion in the sowing that when Your harvest time comes we shall be able to rejoice. Lord, your Word gives comfort when it says that when we bear "precious seed (we) doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing ... sheaves."

"Tears of earnestness beget tears of repentance." C. H. Spurgeon

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## CHARLES FINNEY ON THEOLOGY AND WORSHIP

*By Lawrence R. Rast, Jr.*

"Without new measures it is impossible that the Church should succeed in gaining the attention of the world to religion. There are so many exciting subjects constantly brought before the public mind, such a running to and fro, so many that cry 'Lo here!' and 'Lo there!' that the Church cannot maintain her ground without sufficient novelty in measures, to get the public ear."<sup>1</sup>

If one knew no better, one might conclude that this quote dates from 1998. Everywhere we turn it seems that we hear one call after another for the church to "get up to date," "get in line with the times," or to "go contemporary." Actually, though, the quote dates from the 1830s when Charles Finney first published his noted Revival Lectures. It is not too much to say that Finney has been the single most influential theologian in America - not because he was the most profound, not because he was the most subtle and careful, but because he understood the crucial link between democratic individualism and market capitalism, and then wedded those two with Arminian theology. The results for worship practice and doctrine? The classic American revival and its theological counterpart, "decision theology" - the precursors of today's "contemporary worship."

Who was Finney, and why are we beginning to hear so

much about him in our circles? Briefly, Charles Finney was born in Connecticut in 1792, but his family moved to upstate New York two years later. It was there that he received his education in frontier schools. As a young man, he studied law and set up practice at Adams, New York, in the northern reaches of the state. While reading Blackstone's Commentaries on Law, he noted continuous references to the Holy Scriptures, which Blackstone viewed as the highest authority. This, along with repeated urging from a clergyman friend, moved Finney to buy a Bible, and he soon was reading it more than law. The circumstances of his conversion are telling. On October 10, 1821, out in the woods by himself, far away from the Church gathered by God around Word and Sacrament, he made his decision to give his heart to Jesus.

He soon began conducting revival meetings. Finney's reputation grew from his use of the "New Measures" - worship devices that were designed to inflame the passions of people and to put them into the right emotional state so that they would make a decision for Christ. Most notorious among these was the "anxious" or "mourner's" bench, where those who were disturbed over their sin, would be driven into making the leap toward God and salvation. He held revivals all over the eastern seaboard, including Rome, Utica, Auburn, and Troy, New York, as well as Wilmington, Philadelphia, Boston, and New York City. Later, he systematized his theology during his long tenure as a professor at Oberlin College.<sup>2</sup> He died in 1875.

What was the content of Finney's Christianity? Very simply, he disagreed with Scripture on some fundamental points. First, he denied original sin. In spite of the clear words of Psalm 51:5, he claimed that man does not come into this world at war with God and with a disposition to sin. Rather, his will is intact and he can choose to do good spiritual works apart from God's Spirit working in his lives. "Let him [the preacher] go right over against them, urge upon them their ability to obey God, show them their obligation and duty, and press them with that until he brings them to submit and be saved."<sup>3</sup>

This leads to the second and much more grievous error. If man can turn himself to God, then why does he need a Savior? The answer for Finney is, basically, man does not need a Savior - at least not in the scriptural sense! He is his own Savior. Finney does not view Jesus' death as payment for the sins of human beings who cannot save themselves. Rather, Jesus' death demonstrates

God's anger over sin and his great love for humankind. Jesus becomes merely an example of what we should do for God if we really love him - give ourselves totally up to him. This notion, the so-called "moral government" theory of the atonement, compromises the biblical doctrine of salvation, where Jesus came to offer his life as a ransom for imprisoned and helpless sinners (Matthew 20:28).

And that really brings us to the heart of the matter. We are not saved by grace, according to Finney, we are saved by our own works. "Sinners ought to be made to feel that they have something to do, and that is, to repent that it is something which no other being can do for them, neither God nor man; and something which they can do, and do now. Religion is something to do, not something to wait for. And they must do it now, or they are in danger of eternal death."<sup>4</sup>

Now, what does all this mean for worship practice? Finney's own words clearly show us that there can be no false dichotomy raised between "style and substance," content and form. The two are inextricably linked. The way one believes forms the way one worships and the way one worships forms the way one believes. To Finney's credit, he admitted as much.

All ministers should be revival ministers, and all preaching should be revival preaching; that is, it should be calculated to promote holiness. People say: "It is very well to have some men in the Church, who are revival preachers, and who can go about and promote revivals; but then you must have others to indoctrinate the Church." Strange! Do they know that a revival indoctrinates the Church faster than anything else? And a minister will never produce a revival if he does not indoctrinate his hearers. The preaching I have described is full of doctrine, but it is doctrine to be practised.<sup>5</sup>

What was the form of preaching and worship that Finney saw bound up inseparably together? Theater, drama, and high emotion! Those are the things of true religion for Finney.

Now, what is the design of the actor in theatrical representation? It is so to throw himself into the spirit and meaning of the writer, as to adopt his sentiments, and make them his own: to feel them, embody them, throw them out upon the audience as a living reality. Now, what is the objection to all this in preaching? The actor suits the action to the word, and the word to the action. His looks, his hands, his attitudes, and everything, are designed to express the full meaning of the writer. Now, this should be the aim of the preacher. And if by "theat-

rical” be meant the strongest possible representation of the sentiments expressed, then the more theatrical the sermon is, the better.<sup>6</sup>

Hopefully, applications to the present situation of American Lutheranism should be clear by now. The greatest advocate of revivals and decision theology clearly tells us that there is no division to be made between substance and style. He is absolutely right! What is troublesome is the setting in the LCMS today, which argues that if we keep the substance of the message - salvation by grace through faith - then we can use any “style” of worship that appeals to us or to our hearers. Finney will have nothing of the sort. His “style” of worship is inextricably linked to a specific theology, and vice versa. To adopt one for Finney, means to adopt the other. But while Finney is right on the relationship of theology and worship practice, he is dead wrong theologically. His theology is at odds with the scriptural doctrine of justification by grace through faith. It is a theology that confuses the Law and the Gospel. It is a theology that minimizes the work of Christ to save sinners. It is a theology that puts the responsibility for salvation squarely on the shoulders of human beings. “Religion is the work of man It is something for man to do. It consists in obeying God. It is man’s duty.”<sup>7</sup> Therefore his practice is wrong, too. Still, those in our midst clamoring incessantly for “contemporary worship” would do well to note the words of their teacher.

Finney’s words cited at the opening of this little paper show a man who believes that God is not ultimately in control of his church - that human beings are the ones running the show - and that unless they start meeting the world on its own terms, the church is doomed. There is only one word that can summarize such a theology: faithless - without faith in God’s promises, but full of faith in the works of men. Consider again his words with a bit of emphasis added: “Without new measures it is impossible that the Church should succeed in gaining the attention of the world to religion. There are so many exciting subjects constantly brought before the public mind, such a running to and fro, so many that cry ‘Lo here!’ and ‘Lo there!’ that the Church cannot maintain her ground without sufficient novelty in measures, to get the public ear.”<sup>8</sup> And then consider the words of Christ, again with a little emphasis added: “Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not over-

come it” (Matthew 16:17-18).

*Lawrence R. Rast Jr.*

1.) Charles Grandison Finney, *Revival Lectures* (Grand Rapids: Flemming H. Revell, n.d.), 309. 2.) Charles G. Finney, *Lectures on Systematic Theology*, volumes two and three (Oberlin, Ohio: James M. Fitch, 1846, 1847). Volume one never appeared. 3.) *Reviva/ Lectures*, 224-225. Not surprisingly, Finney denied that Baptism worked regeneration and forgiveness of sins. 4.) *Revival Lectures*, 232. 5.) *Revival Lectures*, 246. 6.) *Revival Lectures*, 247. 7.) *Revival Lectures*, 1. 8.) *Revival Lectures*, 309.

<http://www.mtio.com/articles/bissar52.htm#1>

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## A NOTE FROM A READER IN IDAHO:

“Thank you. Appreciate much the Hebrews studies. I print out & read, so as not to have on computer screen.”

The lessons are in Dropbox, and I send them out as I finish them upon request.

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## SUGAR

Scientists were paid to downplay link between sugar and heart disease, told to blame saturated fats instead (NaturalNews) The sugar industry launched a campaign in the 1960s to downplay evidence linking sugar consumption to America’s rising cardiovascular disease rates, and blame saturated fats instead, according to a new report released earlier this month.... Around the 1960s, some studies had begun pointing to a relationship between high-sugar diets and heart disease, while other scientists blamed saturated fat and dietary cholesterol for posing the biggest risk. That’s when the SFR came up with the idea to shift public opinion through their own sugar research, information, and legislative programs....

The emerged documents show that SRF paid three Harvard scientists the equivalent of about \$50,000 in today’s dollars to write a review based on studies handpicked by the sugar industry. The scientists were asked to write a paper in favor of the sugar industry.... By doing so, the sugar industry was able to shift the negative attention away from sugar while putting fat and cholesterol in the spotlight. By the 1980s most scientists were convinced that added sugars didn’t play a role in heart disease. Therefore, the first Dietary Guidelines for Americans mainly focused on reducing total fat, saturated fat, and dietary cholesterol for heart disease prevention.

... Last year The New York Times revealed how coca cola had spent millions of dollars in funding research to

downplay the link between sugary drinks and obesity. ... the Associated Press reported that candy makers were financing studies that claimed that kids who eat candy tend to weigh less than children who do not eat candy. [http://www.naturalnews.com/z055352\\_sugar\\_industry\\_corrupt\\_science\\_heart\\_disease.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/z055352_sugar_industry_corrupt_science_heart_disease.html)

Note: We are caught up in a low-fat, nonfat and tasteless world of food. Look on the labels of nonfat and low fat products. You will find all kinds of “weird” ingredients plus loads of sugar in order to make the product taste good. Look for products that still retain the fat. Example: “Daisy” makes a 4% fat cottage cheese. Compare that cottage cheese with all other brands, particularly the low-fat types. The same goes for yogurt and all other dairy products. I mentioned previously that the Chillothe VA doctors decided that cholesterol-lowering drugs were dangerous and a waste of money.

## JESUS IS LORD

While doing a study in the book of John, I encountered this comment by A.W. Pink concerning John 13:13:

‘Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.’ (#Joh 13:13) Beautifully does this bring out the fact that the Lord Jesus is ‘full of grace and truth.’ Though He had just fulfilled for His disciples the most menial office of a slave, yet He had not abandoned the place of authority and supremacy. He reminds them that He is still their ‘Master and Lord,’ and that, by their own confession, for the word ‘call’ here signifies address — ‘Ye address Me as Master and Lord.’ In thus owning the incarnate Son of God they ‘did well.’ Alas! that so many of His professing followers now treat Him with so much less respect than that which He here commended in the Twelve. Alas! that so many who owe their all for time and eternity to that peerless One who was ‘God manifest in flesh,’ speak of Him simply as ‘Jesus.’

Jesus is the Lord of glory, and surely it is due the dignity and majesty of His person that this should be recognized and owned, even in our very references to Him. We do not expect that those who despise and reject Him should speak of Him in any more exalting terms than ‘The Nazarene,’ or ‘Jesus’; but those who have been, by amazing grace, given ‘an understanding, that we may know him that is true’ (#1Jo 5:20) ought gladly to confess Him as ‘The Lord Jesus Christ’!

Though he had fulfilled the office of a servant, or even a bond slave, he reminds them that he is still their Master and Lord.

In general, Christianity has become far too familiar with the Lord. They sing about and speak of him as though he were still “washing their feet” in humility. The Church has forgotten that he is Master and Lord, and due

all the reverence and honor human kind can give to him. The pop-Christian songs of our day treat him as a servant, which he clearly is not. He is God in the Flesh, the Everlasting Father, and we should come into his presence with the best we have.

I am sure that the angels in heaven and the saints around the throne today are not praising him with fluffy, 7-11 songs. They are praising him with songs that reflect his majesty and glory. Ezekiel and John both fell at his feet when they saw him, and I am sure they did not praise him with the likes of modern fluff. Modern fluff is like “Dream Whip.” It is all empty chemicals with no nutrition. But it tastes good. (Check out the “Trinity Song Book)

The fluffy stuff of our day which center around man has reduced the Lord God to a “first name” basis; they do not honor nor glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Most actually do despite to his Glorious Name, for Jesus is the Lord of Glory; He is due all the majesty and dignity that can come from a human being.

*Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Pink again:

‘Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.’ Surely this is sufficient for any humble-minded Christian. If our blessed Redeemer says we ‘say well’ when we address Him as ‘Master and Lord,’ how can we afford to speak of Him in terms upon which His approval is not stamped? Never once do we find the apostles addressing Him as ‘Jesus’ while He was with them on earth. When He exhorted them to make request of Him for an increase of laborers He bade them, ‘Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest.’ (Mt 9:38) When He sent forth the disciples to secure the ass on which He was to ride into Jerusalem, He ordered them to say, ‘The Lord hath need of him.’ (Lu 19:31) When He required the use of the upper room, it was ‘The Lord saith, My time is at hand; I will therefore keep the passover at thy house.’ (Mt 26:18) (Pink is on the online-bible, available from us.)

The apostles never addressed the Lord as simply Christ

or Jesus. They always addressed him as “Lord.”

... What would be thought of one of the subjects of king George referring to the reigning monarch of Great Britain and saying, ‘I saw George pass through the city this morning?’ If, then, it would be utterly incongruous for one of his subjects to speak thus of the king of England, how much more so is it to refer to the King of kings simply as Jesus! But now, king George’s wife might refer to and speak of her husband as ‘George’ with perfect propriety. Thus it is that the Holy Spirit refers to our Lord by His personal name in the Gospel narratives.

Our modern hymns are largely responsible for the dishonor that is now so generally cast upon that ‘worthy name’, (#Jas 2:7) and we cannot but raise our voice in indignant protest against much of the trash (for such it is) that masquerades under the name of ‘hymns’ and religious ‘songs.’ It is sad and shocking to hear Christians sing ‘There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus.’ There is no ‘lowly Jesus’ to-day. The One who once passed through unparalleled humiliation has been ‘made both Lord and Christ’, (#Ac 2:36) and is now seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high. If the earnest student will turn to the four Gospels and note how different ones addressed the Son of God he will be well repaid. The enemies of Christ constantly referred to Him as Jesus, (#Mt 26:71, etc.) and so did the demons. (#Mr 1:23,24) Let us pray God to deliver us from this flippant, careless, and irreverent manner of speaking of His Blessed Son. Let us gladly own our Savior as ‘Lord’ during the time of His rejection by the world. Let us remember His own words: ‘All should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.’ (#Joh 5:23) This is no trivial or trifling matter, for it stands written, ‘By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.’ (#Mt 12:37) (Ibid.)

Should we lower the Lord of Glory to a first name basis when he told the 12 that they should call him Master and Lord? Moreover, I do not understand how people can call their pastor by his first name. Where is the honor due to the exalted office in which the Lord placed him? Certainly, the pastor is a man like all men, sinner and all. But the office is to be honored, and he should be addressed with honor. Not as to honor a man, but honor to the Lord who placed the man there. (“If everyone is special, no one is special”. From “The Incredibles.”)

Some years ago, I heard this account somewhere: an officer and an enlisted man met on the street, and both were in uniform. The enlisted man failed to salute the officer. The officer stopped the enlisted man, and asked him the problem. The enlisted man said that he could not respect the person of the officer. So the officer took

off his hat, and told the enlisted men that if he could not salute him, then salute the hat, for the hat represented those who established the honor upon him. (The Holy garments made the Old Testament priest holy, though he was an unholy man.)

In my few years of experience, I have learned that calling someone in places of authority by their first name normally is a mark of disrespect for that person.

*Mal 1:6 A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name...*

Why do we show more honor and respect to those who hold important positions than we show to the One Who created and exalted those who are important in man’s eyes?

*Ps 24:10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.*

Finally, note this question from our Lord:

*Lu 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

*Bro Need*

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## WHEN EGYPTIANS FIGHT EGYPTIANS

*By Thomas Williamson*

“And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour: city against city, and kingdom against kingdom.” Isaiah 19:2

What does this verse mean? Is it a prediction of a civil war in modern 21st Century Egypt? To properly interpret this verse, we must consider the historical context of these prophecies of Isaiah.

This section of Isaiah contains prophecies of judgment directed against peoples of ancient times – prophecies which have long since been fulfilled

The prophecy against “whole Palestina” in Isaiah 14:28-32 is not a prediction that modern-day Palestinians will soon be expelled from their land by the Israelis. It is a prophecy of judgment against the Philistines of Isaiah’s day, and the fulfillment is found in 2 Kings 18:8.

The prophecies against Moab, Isaiah 15-16, were to be fulfilled within 3 years (Isaiah 16:14).

Isaiah 17, prophesying judgment against Damascus, is not a prediction that modern Israel will soon defeat modern Damascus and Syria in war. Rather, it predicts that the confederacy of Syria and Israel against Judah

(mentioned in Isaiah 7:1-9, 8:12) would soon be overthrown by the Assyrians. For this reason, Matthew Henry, commenting on Isaiah 17:4, states that “the burden of Damascus, which was the head city of Syria, reads the doom of Israel too.” The fulfillment of this prophecy against Damascus is found in 2 Kings 16:7-9. (8th Century B.C.)

Isaiah 18 is not a reference to the United States in prophecy, as some have thought. Commentators agree that it refers to the threat posed to Ethiopia by the Assyrian army under Sennacherib, and to the deliverance from that threat when Sennacherib’s army was wiped out by plague outside of Jerusalem.

So when we come to chapter 19, we see that the prophecy does not deal with modern Egypt. In this passage God is warning His people in the kingdom of Judah not to rely on Egypt for help against the Assyrians. To help the people to put their trust in God rather than in Egypt, Isaiah tells them in advance that the Egyptians will end up fussing and fighting among themselves, and thus weaken themselves so much that they will not be of any assistance to their Jewish allies.

This is the interpretation of Isaiah 19:2, but what is the application for us today?

The application is that whenever any organization devotes itself to infighting and internal strife, its effectiveness to carry out its mission is severely hampered.

Jesus warned of this in Matthew 12:25, saying, “Every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.”

As we consider the institution of the Lord’s Church, we must beware that our effectiveness in carrying out the Great Commission [is] not be jeopardized by fighting within the congregation. “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work . . . . From whence come wars and fightings among you?” James 3:16, 4:1.

Some fights, based on doctrinal principle, cannot be avoided. Paul told Timothy, “I have fought a good fight,” 2 Timothy 4:7. In Galatians 2 Paul gives an example of a battle he had to fight within a local church context, pitting him against such good men as Peter and Barnabas, over the false notion that Jewish Christians were to be considered in some way superior to Gentiles. [There are those in the church today who still believe that somehow “Jewish Christians” are superior to Gentile Christians. However, “Jewish” is simply a religion, having nothing to do with a supposed blood line to Judah. Scofieldism’s heretical teachings are generally accepted

today as gospel. Ed.]

Most fighting in the churches today cannot be considered good in any sense of the word. It is mostly based on pride, greed and envy nothing more than “Egyptians fighting Egyptians.” Let’s look at some typical scenarios.

**YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?** In some churches there are strong-willed members who come to the conclusion that if everything is not being done exactly their way, then it is being done all wrong. .

They vociferously complain about everything: church doctrine and practice, inadequate facilities, length of services, musical styles, the pastors’ appearance and lifestyles, etc.

Invitation-only business meetings are called so that the ringleaders can inform carefully selected members that their leaders are dragging the church down to disaster, and that they must be stopped

Pastors who fail to give in to every demand of the rebels are branded as “dictators,” and sometimes lies are spread about their sexual proclivities.

The troublemakers always insist, with a lugubrious, sanctimonious frown, that they are doing what they do out of grim necessity, in a “spirit of love,” to save the church from utter ruin.

Regardless of the motivation, the result of such tactics is always turmoil and commotion - Egyptians fighting Egyptians. The Devil just loves it.

**THE PASTOR AS DRILL SERGEANT.** Some strong-willed pastors get it into their heads that their followers are not competent to conduct their own affairs, and that the preacher must take control and tell them what to do.

They approach their members with an offer they cannot refuse: “From now on your pastor will tell you what to do, and you will obey or else be branded a rebel against the Lord”

Most mature, well-adjusted adults will not bow to such demands. As the pastor applies more pressure, the accusations and recriminations fly. Many long-time members leave the church, while others contemplate whether to try to remove the pastor — Egyptians fighting Egyptians.

**SHOW ME THE MONEY.** Some poorer members of the church will decide that a more wealthy member ought to share the wealth with them. In some cases, psychological pressure and guilt tactics are used to pry the money loose. In other cases, the extortioners will lodge false charges of moral turpitude against their targets, with the understanding that when they pony up

the money, the false accusations will be conveniently withdrawn.

The pastors are sometimes too timid to intervene against the false accusers, for fear that they and all their relatives will leave the church. Instead, the falsely accused members leave the church, and are promptly denounced for their lack of loyalty to the church — Egyptians fighting Egyptians.

**I'M OKAY, YOU'RE ALL WRONG.** Some domineering pastors will come to the conclusion that since they are right on all doctrinal matters, it is their duty to straighten out all the other pastors and churches around them. Their contacts with other pastors consist mainly of "search and destroy missions" in which areas of doctrinal disagreement are identified.

Instead of fellowshiping with other preachers on the basis of those points in which they are in agreement, they ferret out the few points of disagreement, and then demand total conformity to their point of view. They are not content to just share their convictions and let the other guy decide - they have already decided for everyone else.

Those who do not agree with them on all points are marked as enemies, with whom there can be no fellowship or cooperation, and sometimes no mercy. Hard feelings and disunity are the result - Egyptians fighting Egyptians.

**DON'T WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN.** Is there anything we can do to control the proliferation of Egyptians fighting Egyptians in our churches and fellowships? Yes, there is.

First, we can make up our minds that if we should ever find ourselves in the position of provoking such needless contention and strife, we will immediately back down in a spirit of humility, and apologize to those we have offended

Second, we can stop making excuses for those who provoke such troubles in our churches, and start applying some negative sanctions against them. Too often, we excuse the troublemakers and look the other way, while blaming the victims for a less-than-perfect response to a provocation they should never have had to deal with in the first place.

Let us be on our guard against the syndrome of Egyptians fighting Egyptians in our churches. Let's fight the world, the flesh and the devil - not each other.

*"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve*

*one another."* Galatians 5:13.

Editor's note: Mr Williamson makes a very good point—that is, a great amount of Bible prophecy that is read for modern times has clearly been fulfilled. Yet the prophetic pundits continue to insist that those things are yet to be fulfilled. They try to understand prophecy from the time it is read rather than from the time it is written. And thus they mislead multitudes of people down the road to false hopes, as they separate the simple from his money.

Mr. Williamson is a layman from Chicago who offers material to the Examiner on a regular basis. He can be reached: Thomas Williamson, 3131 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60608

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## DIVINE JUDGMENTS UPON TYRANTS

### AND COMPASSION ON THE OPPRESSED

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold! your God will come with vengeance, even with a recompense he will come and save you," Isaiah 35:4.

The following is a brief extract of a sermon preached on April 20th, 1778 by Jacob Cushing (1730-1809). This was preached during the founding era of America.

"Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people," Deuteronomy 32:43.

We are assured, in the oracles of truth, that "Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin," i.e. abounding vice and wickedness, "is a reproach to any people." And with regard to mankind in all ages, may it not be said, that when a people have been remarkable for justice, temperance, industry, and zeal for the public good, they have prospered in all their affairs, and been high in reputation? And, perhaps, no instance can be produced of a nation's being given up to exterminating judgments and calamities, so long as virtue, probity [integrity], and Christianity flourished among them. But when falsehood and perfidy [treachery], injustice and general corruption, with a contempt of Christianity, have generally prevailed among them, they have fallen into many calamities, and been deprived of those advantages they so much abused.

Thus GOD, in a variety of ways, may correct and punish his degenerate people; and, among others, permit enemies to oppress them, shed blood in their land, and lay them waste.

The enemies of GOD's church and people are GOD's adversaries. "The Lord's portion is his people ... he keeps them as the apple of his eye" (Deut. 32:9, 10). Whoever grieves or afflicts them, provokes GOD, for they are "his peculiar treasure." And having a singular concern for them, he will be their shield and their defense; however they may be persecuted by their enemies. "For the Lord shall judge his people;" (v. 36) i.e. plead their cause, and deliver them from the oppression of their enemies; as this phrase is frequently used in the book of Psalms. He will have mercy upon his servants, and turn his hand, which punishes them, upon their adversaries.

SBSS

H. R. Rumburg

## VARIOUS

\*\* London's Muslim Mayor: Terrorism 'Part and Parcel of Living in a Great Global City'

[http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/muslim-terror-attacks-London/2016/09/21/id/749462/?ns\\_mail\\_uid=81002676&ns\\_mail\\_job=1689101\\_09222016&s=al&dkn\\_nbr=ajehr5lh](http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/muslim-terror-attacks-London/2016/09/21/id/749462/?ns_mail_uid=81002676&ns_mail_job=1689101_09222016&s=al&dkn_nbr=ajehr5lh)

\*\* Charlotte-Mecklenburg Fraternal Order of Police Spox: 70% of Arrested Rioters Have Out of State IDs

<http://www.breitbart.com/video/2016/09/23/charlotte-mecklenburg-fraternal-order-police-spox-70-arrested-rioters-state-ids/>

\*\* CHARLOTTE LEADERS DIFFUSE SOROS-FUNDED PROTESTS

70% of protestors not even from Charlotte

<http://www.infowars.com/charlotte-leaders-diffuse-soros-funded-protests/>

\*\* FBI's Comey: A 'Terrorist Diaspora' Coming 'Like We've Never Seen Before'

<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/fbis-comey-terrorist-diaspora-coming-weve-never-seen>

Comment: Internal chaos in order to implement Martial Law, leaving Obama in office? Martial Law was made available to the president many years ago.

\*\* Out with hunks: fashion breaks codes for male models

New York (AFP) - Muscular, classically chiseled male models are a dying breed as men are ever more chosen for thinness, even androgyny, in a fashion world playing with the notion of gender...

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hunks-fashion-breaks-codes-male-models-025107757.html>

\*\* Inside the world of men who've sworn never to sleep with women again

Men Going Their Own Way (MGTOW) believe men are always victims in relationships

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/reddit-mgtow-men-sex-sleep-women-manosphere-meninist-a7330276.html>

\*\* More Campus Lunacy: Gorilla Image Banned as Too Masculine

And just so all bases are covered, probably racist, too.  
<http://www.truthrevolt.org/news/more-campus-lunacy-gorilla-image-banned-too-masculine>

\*\* Lawyer: After School Satan Club must be allowed to proceed

"I think that if the school district denied that application, you would face costly litigation that would be distracting from your mission," said Duncan Fobes of the Seattle-based law firm Patterson, Buchanan, Fobes and Leitch during a Wednesday meeting of the Mount Vernon School Board. "And would ultimately be unsuccessful?..."

The Mount Vernon district is one of nine throughout the country that has been chosen by the Satanic Temple to host a pilot After School Satan Club program because the districts also host a Good News Bible Club, which is run by the Child Evangelism Fellowship...

[http://www.goskagit.com/news/education/lawyer-after-school-satan-club-must-be-allowed-to-proceed/article\\_cccb1716-8e92-5f80-9e8c-13d1f5041677.html](http://www.goskagit.com/news/education/lawyer-after-school-satan-club-must-be-allowed-to-proceed/article_cccb1716-8e92-5f80-9e8c-13d1f5041677.html)

\*\* 'Hangover-free alcohol' could replace all regular alcohol by 2050, says David Nutt (Sin without results.)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/hangover-free-alcohol-david-nutt-alcosynth-nhs-positive-effects-benzodiazepine-guy-bentley-a7324076.html>

\*\* Good news: Could Coffee Help Protect Your Liver From Alcohol?

Though I have no concerns about alcohol damage, the article continues:

"Coffee comprises over a thousand compounds, many of which are biologically active and may affect human health. These include caffeine, chlorogenic acid, melatonin and the pentacyclic diterpenes, kahweol and cafestol... The biological effects of coffee include stimulation of the central nervous system, primarily by caffeine, the attenuation of oxidative stress and inflammation, and anti-carcinogenesis... In the context of liver disease, coffee appears to confer a number of protective effects."  
<http://thenutritionwatchdog.com/could-coffee-help-protect-your-liver-from-alcohol/> You knew maybe some of the below, but all?

\*\* India's organic rice success story proves that GMOs are unnecessary

(NaturalNews) One of the biggest – but most easily debunked – lies we've been told about GM agriculture is that the technology is necessary to feed a steadily increasing world population.

[http://www.naturalnews.com/055468\\_GM\\_agriculture\\_organic\\_rice\\_India.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/055468_GM_agriculture_organic_rice_India.html)

(I will look for rice grown in India.)

\*\* Vaccines containing aluminum shown to cause neurological damage

[http://www.naturalnews.com/055474\\_vaccines\\_aluminum\\_content\\_neurological\\_damage.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/055474_vaccines_aluminum_content_neurological_damage.html)

\*\* Health Ranger issues international financial alert as Deutsche Bank approaches catastrophic collapse... Trillions in debt exposure will burn through European banks like a raging firestorm

[http://www.naturalnews.com/055462\\_Deutsche\\_Bank\\_debt\\_collapse\\_financial\\_catastrophe.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/055462_Deutsche_Bank_debt_collapse_financial_catastrophe.html)

\*\* Deutsche Bank Refuses Clients' Demand for Physical Gold. Troubles delivering even small gold amounts to retail clients by Deutsche Bank may indicate a global physical gold shortage is only growing

<http://www.infowars.com/deutsche-bank-refuses-clients-demand-for-physical-gold/>

\*\* Totally muslim cities in the US: One is Dearborn, Michigan. Their last election resulted in all the councilmen being Muslim. Muslims need no longer keep their intent a secret; their "Good Book" requires them to kill you. Can you defend yourself?

Get your cc. However, 13 states now permit open carry.

\*\* Hotel removes Bibles from rooms after atheist complaint

'Paying guests seek a vacation from proselytizing when we're on vacation'

(Deseret News) An atheist organization that has asked private hotels and publicly funded university-owned hotels to remove Bibles from their guest rooms has reportedly convinced the Thunderbird Executive Inn in Glendale, Arizona, to do just that. ...

[http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/hotel-removes-bibles-from-rooms-after-atheist-complaint/?cat\\_orig=money](http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/hotel-removes-bibles-from-rooms-after-atheist-complaint/?cat_orig=money)

\*\* Child, 4, world's youngest-ever 'sex change' patient

Activists push agenda to lower transgender age despite dangers

[http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/child-4-worlds-youngest-ever-sex-change-patient/?cat\\_orig=health](http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/child-4-worlds-youngest-ever-sex-change-patient/?cat_orig=health)

\*\* 21,995,000 to 12,329,000: Government Employees Outnumber Manufacturing Employees 1.8 to 1

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/terence-jeffrey/21955000-12329000-government-employees-outnumber-manufacturing>

\*\* Tick bites that trigger severe meat allergy on rise around the world

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/07/tick-bites-that-trigger-severe-meat-allergy-on-rise-around-the-world>

[trigger-severe-meat-allergy-on-rise-around-the-world](https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/oct/07/tick-bites-that-trigger-severe-meat-allergy-on-rise-around-the-world)

\*\* Worth reading: "Refugees or an Occupation Army?" by Maria Polizoidou, October 11, 2016 at 5:00 am

<https://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/9071/greece-refugees-migrants>

## FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

This pastor was "trained" up among Baptists who equated the "filling of the Holy Spirit" with some radical, emotional experience, e.g., "If you want to serve God and have God do great things through you, you must have a life-changing, emotional experience." The experience promoted was not a "conversion" experience, but a second experience. The great things God would do as the result of being "filled with the Spirit" were restricted to only those things that had direct "soul-saving" results. The experience did not include "tongues," nor "faith healing." (Though not holding to "faith-healing," James 5 must be believed — our God is a God of miracles far beyond any human explanation. Moreover, though the previous might sound "anti-soul-saving," we work at evangelizing our area, door-to-door, new move-in follow up, mail, phones, &c., not to mention the little salvation booklet we publish. The "spiritual experience" promoted fits in well with what was promoted by D.L. Moody at Northfield by the popular Keswick speakers, e.g., Andrew Murry, Watchman Nee, R.A. Torrey, E.M. Bounds, &c., none of whom were Baptists.)

### • ILLUSTRATION

I well remember a young man who sincerely wanted God's power on his life, but his training caused him to restrict God's power to preaching/teaching ministries. His dream was to be "filled with the Spirit," so that when he would preach, thousands would respond to the invitation. His gifts were obviously not as a preacher/teacher, yet he had been convinced that the "filling of the Spirit" was only available in "soul-winning" and evangelistic areas of life.

How many sincere people — "laymen" not involved directly with "soul-winning" — have agonized before God many days and nights for the "filling of the Spirit?" Then when they do not see people "flood" into Christianity as people did under Moody or Finney, they become very discouraged. How many pastors and Christian workers have read about men like Müller, and assumed that he established the standard of being "filled with the Spirit?" They then become discouraged because what they are doing does not compare with

what men like Müller did.

The above illustrations wrongly restrict the “filling of the Spirit” to evangelistic, “soul-winning” efforts, and have discouraged many good people from their life’s calling. A serious side-effect of the wrong understanding of the “filling of the Spirit” is that many sincere men enter into “full-time, soul-winning” areas, e.g., preaching/teaching, because they have been convinced that the “filling of the Spirit” only operates in those areas. They are totally unqualified for such ministries, and publishers who offer prepared sermons flourish.

Until Exodus 31:2-5 and 35:30-35 were brought to my attention, this pastor labored under the above delusion that God could only use one greatly after that “emotional experience” took place, and even then, the “filling of the Spirit” was limited to things that led directly to the conversion of sinners. Believing what God said in Exodus, I had to lay aside what I had been led to believe, and change my whole outlook on what it meant to be “filled with the Spirit.” From statements others have made to me, my misconception of the “filling of the Spirit” was not at all uncommon.

Moreover, it is not uncommon to hear of folks, including pastors, being involved in immorality of all kinds while claiming to be “filled with the Spirit.” No doubt, many of the things we see taking place are a result of a false doctrine or belief in the area of “filled with the Spirit.”

The history of the church has never lacked for an abundance of heresies concerning God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The heresies abound despite the clear, plain instructions of the Word of God in the areas of the Tri-une God. Though heresies concerning the Spirit of God cover many areas and many volumes, for time’s sake, we will briefly consider only two areas: the personality of and the work of the Holy Spirit.

#### • PERSONALITY

The point that should be the most obvious is His personality. There are a great many scriptures that speak of the individual personality of the Holy Spirit, yet in spite of these passages, some folks who claim to believe God’s Word deny His individual, distinct personality. (John 14:16-27; 15:26; 16:7-13; Rom. 8:26; I Cor. 2:10; 12:11, &c.) The Holy Spirit is a distinct person in the Tri-une Godhead, just as much as God the Son is a distinct personality. (1 John 5:7.)

#### • WORK

Though people might not deny the individual personality of the Holy Spirit, the second area of our examination is probably the most deceptive as well as destructive, for it involves the area of the Spirit’s workings. Ideas abound in this area of the Spirit. What are the true workings of the Spirit of God? Is His work seen primarily in the emotions or is it seen in the works of Believers? It has been this pastor’s experience that the vast majority of Christians equate the workings of the Spirit with ecstatic, emotional experiences, thanks to the writings of men such as E.M. Bounds, R.A. Torrey and Andrew Murray.

Ecstatic and mystic experiences that are identified with close contact with the gods find their roots in paganism, and are as old as paganism itself. Tongues were used in these pagan worship experiences long before Christ came into history and sent back the Holy Spirit when He departed. The ecstatic, pagan experiences infiltrated the church in Paul’s time, causing him to write many instructions in that area.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, Paul’s instructions did not prevent a later infiltration of tongues under a man named Montanis.<sup>2</sup>

#### • MISCONCEPTIONS

Creating man, God gave him emotions and feelings through which God works at times. But to equate the workings of God the Holy Spirit primarily with feelings and emotions is to follow the old pagan religions.

We hear about the good feelings people have as they attend a particular church. They say such things as, “I can feel the Spirit of God there,” or “I can feel His Spirit of love.” Then, among many other things, they pass judgment upon an assembly based upon their emotional experiences, not upon the Biblical soundness of what is preached and/or taught. Such judgment is totally contrary to God’s Word, for all things can only be judged in the light of God’s total revealed Word, not by how it makes one feel. (John 7:24.) In fact, the good emotions experienced many times may be so over-powering that the listeners will not even hear what is said. Or if they do hear, it really does not matter because they feel so good.

Almost without exception, people are attracted and held in such places by a feeling of warmth rather than by doctrinal soundness. In these places,

1) the doctrine, many times, is man centered — it is humanism to the core. The doctrine seeks to fulfill the individual as a person. There is no emphasis upon God,

His Law-Word, nor upon man's responsibility to Him.

2) far too many times, they have the good, loving feeling, yet have leaders who are involved in immorality and/or covetousness (love of money) though claiming to be filled with the Spirit of God.

3) there may be even the open false doctrines of salvation preached from the pulpit and practiced by the hearers.

4) their practices may be as heretical as can be. There may be uncontrolled emotions and even ecstatic utterances. Someone told me, "I know that what they do isn't scriptural, and I don't agree with it, but there is such a warm feeling of love there." Obviously, if what is taught and/or practiced is not according to the total of the law and the prophets, then the "warm feeling of love" cannot be from the Spirit of the Christian God. (Lk. 24:44.) People sit in such places, and say, "I sure feel the spirit of God here," while paying no attention to the doctrine that is being taught. They gauge the proper place of public assembly in the Lord's name by how it makes them feel, not by the doctrine presented.

God the Holy Spirit never operates in an unscriptural manner. The warm, fuzzy feelings experienced under humanistic teaching are not from the Christian God. Far too many judge events according to emotions and feelings over God's Word — they have departed from the Christian faith.

We understand from Scripture that God the Holy Spirit is a distinct, fully conscious individual. He is not found in mindlessness of any kind. Anything that causes an irrational response and/or overlooking of the teachings of God's total Word cannot be the workings of God's Spirit.

#### • TRUTH

What is the working of God the Spirit? With what does Scripture equate the Spirit's working?

The first mention we have of the working of God's Spirit is in Exodus 31:2-5. It is also in Exodus 35:30-35, which we will examine. While laboring under the false delusion mentioned above, every time I read these two passages, I had questions. I continually heard of the Holy Spirit causing people to feel things, have good emotions and do great "spiritual works," yet these passages would not confirm what I heard. Here in these two identical passages, we have the true working of God the Holy Spirit:

And Moses said unto the children of Israel, See, the

LORD hath called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; And he hath filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship; And to devise curious works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in the cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of wood, to make any manner of cunning work. And he hath put in his heart that he may teach, both he, and Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart, to work all manner of work, of the engraver, and of the cunning workman, and of the embroiderer, in blue, and in purple, in scarlet, and in fine linen, and of the weaver, even of them that do any work, and of those that devise cunning work. (Exo. 35:30-35.)

*Exodus 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may... work effectively at their assigned task.*

Hence, we are clearly told that the Holy Spirit gives practical knowledge and skillful workmanship. There is nothing mystical about this "filling of the Holy Spirit" — it is simply the ability to work hard at a given task with sweat and perseverance until the task is completed for the glory of God. The Spirit causes His people to stick to the task He gives them, and not give up in the face of every kind of unpleasant tasks and discouragement (bad emotions).

#### • UNIQUE

We must also understand that God deals with each person individually — that is, though each person will be involved in different areas of endeavor, each person should be just as much "filled with the Holy Spirit." I am afraid that we feel that if another is not as committed to our cause nor as talented in an area where God has us, they are not as "filled with the Spirit" as we are.

The Holy Spirit is revealed to us as the One Who gave the wisdom, understanding and knowledge so Bezaleel could work. Thus when we first meet God's Spirit in Scripture, He is engaged in HARD WORK. He gives His people ability, power, strength and patience to glorify God as they use their God-given skills to fulfill their life calling as a wife and mother: e.g., keep house, wash dishes, have babies, or as a husband and father: e.g., lay bricks, cut stone, carve wood, sweep streets, empty septic tanks and/or teach the Word of God. He gives wisdom in the work He gives them to do; He gives understanding of God's laws of life and how to apply those laws; He gives knowledge of how to best work to ad-

vance the kingdom of God in one's particular area of endeavor. Bezaleel's filling of the spirit of God had nothing to do with any mystical experience of ecstasy. (V. 31.)

God is not interested in one's ecstatic experiences nor in his emotions, other than they be subjected to His revealed Word at all times. God is not interested in one's station in life where he has placed them. What God is interested in is that we have His Word and we obey what is freely give to us (Deut. 5:31, 29:29, Ecc. 12:13, 1 Cor. 2:12, 10:31); He is concerned that we seek after His righteousness and that we seek first His kingdom, regardless of how we feel. In fact, there is no doubt that when one allows feelings to influence his obedience to sound doctrine, he will indeed have feelings contrary to sound doctrine.

• **CHRIST**

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. (Isa. 11:1-5.)

According to Isaiah 11:1-5, when the fullness of the Spirit rested upon our Lord, it did not cause Him to have an ecstatic experience. Rather, it caused Him to go out preaching the kingdom of God and God's righteousness. Nor did the fullness of the Spirit upon Christ cause huge crowds to follow Him to the death, for when His hour came, everyone fled from Him. The spirit empowered Christ to fulfill the Father's will and purpose for Himself.

The "fullness of the Spirit" means power and ability to keep His commandments, as found in places like Matthew 28:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 10:31; John 14:15; 15:10 (see also, Exo. 20:6; Lev. 22:31; 26:3, &c.), and do those things that are pleasing in His sight; it means obedience to His purpose for us according to His individual call-

ing, whether that calling is in preaching/teaching His Word or driving a truck. In other words, the Christian wife and truck driver is under the same command and responsibility to be filled with the Spirit as is the teacher of God's Word. (Eph. 5:18.)

In Isaiah 11:1-5, the "fullness of the Spirit" meant

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RELIGION IS DEFINED AS "MAN'S ULTIMATE CONCERN". CHRISTIANITY—MAN'S "ULTIMATE CONCERN" IS OBEYING GOD'S WORD, AND DOING ALL THINGS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD. HUMANISM IS DOING ALL THINGS FOR MAN'S GLORY AND WELLBEING. IF THE ULTIMATE CONCERN IS THE LATEST SPORTS SCORE, MAKING MONEY, HAVING A GOOD HOME, NEW CAR, MAKING SURE OTHERS LIKE YOU, &C., THEN THOSE THINGS ARE ONE'S RELIGION NO MATTER HOW LOUDLY HE PROFESSES CHRIST. FOR A PASTOR, IF HIS ULTIMATE CONCERN IS KEEPING A GOOD NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS, KEEPING A GOOD INCOME, OR MANY OTHER MOTIVATIONS, THAT IS HIS HUMANISTIC RELIGION.

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for Christ the fullness of wisdom and understanding, counsel and holy might, knowledge and fear of the Lord (departs from evil), quick understanding and not judging after sight, but examining all things in the light of God's Word. Examination of things according to feeling rather than according to soundness of doctrine is not a work from above, but a work from beneath. "Fullness of the Spirit" causes one to look past emotions to see the soundness of Biblical doctrine. We also see that it means righteousness and justice; it means standing against evil of all kinds, around us and in our lives.

In short, the "fullness of the spirit" means fullness of obedience to the Lord as revealed in His Word. The work of the Spirit is always in perfect harmony with the Father, the Son and the written revelation of God.

We see in Bezaleel that it meant skill and craftsmanship as he went about the hard work which he had to do. Bezaleel could not look around him and say, "They do not have the love for working with wood and metal, nor the skill and craftsmanship I have, so they are not 'filled with the Spirit' " — for He works uniquely in each individual. We see in Christ that it meant the total dedication to God's revealed Word in His preaching as well as in His life's work. "Fullness of the Spirit" in a preacher will allow him to lay aside doctrine that is not Scripturally sound and follow God's Word regardless of the price involved. "Fullness of the Spirit" empowers the "layman" to work hard and use his God-given skills effectively in his day to day activity. And all of the above despite one's emotional experience.

• **SCRIPTURE**

Paul gives us the working of the Spirit of God in the Church today, Colossians 1:9-12.

1.) Knowledge of His will in all wisdom and understanding.

2.) Walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in all things.

3.) Being fruitful in every good work.

4.) Increasing in our knowledge of Him — that is, of His word.

5.) Strengthened with all might, resulting in patience and long-suffering, and all with joyfulness, e.g., genuine love for one another.

The power of the Spirit is joyfulness, which has nothing to do with circumstances and emotions; it is joyfulness in the hard work at the task assigned by God to each one of His people, despite the difficult circumstance.

Paul instructed Titus (2:1-10) to encourage his new converts in sound, sober living.

Paul sums up the doctrine of God the Holy Spirit in 2 Timothy 1:6, 7 (*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*) His job is empowering us to do what God wants us to do according to His revealed Word. Love for our neighbor is not based in our emotion; rather, it is based in our dedication to God's total Word toward that person. The Good Samaritan is a good example of the love required toward others: Love is doing toward others what God's Word requires, apart from one's emotions toward that person. (Cf., Ex. 23:4.) We can rest assured that our emotions will war against fulfilling our responsibility toward our neighbor. Sound mind..., rational behavior in accord with the Word of God. (Love will fulfill the law of God both to the righteous and to the unrighteous. Serious retribution to the sinner, and praise to the godly. Rom 13:1-5)

In every instance, the Spirit of God is presented as empowering godly living and holiness, all for the advancement of God's kingdom on earth. What we see being passed off many times today as the "filling of the Spirit" is rooted in paganism, not in God's word.

Finally, we read in Numbers 11:16, 17, 24, 25, of the Spirit of the Lord resting upon the elders. His work was to equip them, so they could help Moses. In the cross reference for this verse we have Nehemiah 9:20, where we see that the purpose of the Spirit of God resting on the men was to instruct them in the law of the Lord, so

they could judge the people. God chose these men, then His Spirit came upon them. His purpose was to give them wisdom and understanding of His Law-Word, so they could judge according to His will, which had nothing to do with the emotional experiences that we hear so much about today. (Eph. 1:16, 17, tells us that He is the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God's revelation to man, His Word.)

Of course, the Spirit has many other functions that we do not have time to pursue, e.g., teaching, counseling, comforting, convicting of sin.

The supernatural manifestation of the Spirit as was known in Scripture is gone. But His wisdom, instruction and power to live for Christ and love (even tolerate) one another is still here, giving the same wisdom, power and ability as He did to Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. God filled Bezaleel with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, so he could work hard in all manners of cunning work. The filling of God's Spirit enabled Bezaleel to not only use his God-given skills effectively, but to instruct others in the skills he had.

**"Fullness of the Spirit"** is for the power to dig a ditch for the glory of God, if digging a ditch is the calling of God upon an individual; it enables one to instruct others in the proper use of their God-given natural abilities. The "filling of the Spirit" is for every person in every walk of life, and it is certainly not restricted to the "soul-winning," evangelistic area of Christian endeavor.

We need to pray as Paul did, that He will lead us, and empower us to accomplish God's purpose and glorify him in each of our lives.

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1 See Tongues, a Biblical View. It is posted on our web site. The hard copies need to be reprinted.

2 Montanis can be researched in Schaff's History of the Christian Church, and in Eerdmans' Church Fathers set. Montanis was considered a heretic by the church, and was dealt with as such. It took several generations for his ecstatic experiences (tongues and mystic experiences) to die out. The participants felt that their mindless, ecstatic, erratic, emotional behavior meant close contact with their pagan gods — this pagan influence has been very strong and destructive in the church down through the centuries.

*Bro Need*

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## CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION

October 31st is upon us, and with it Halloween, or Hollow evening. In the liturgical year of the Roman Church, it is a day to remember the dead.

According to many scholars, All Hallows' Eve is a Christianized feast initially influenced by Celtic harvest festivals, with possible pagan roots, particularly the Gaelic Samhain.

Christians should know enough about the demonic roots of Halloween that we should not need to go into detail here about the gross demonic pagan festival associated with those pagan roots. If just the "Christians" would separate from the pagan practices of our day, they would cease to exist.

After Christmas, it is the second most profitable "holiday" in their calendar, so retailers have promoted this "holiday" in every way possible. Halloween profit is the reason for extending "fast time" to the first Sunday in November. The sugar industry lobbied heavily to have the "fall back" time moved to the weekend after Halloween so the children would have an extra hour of daylight to beg for candy.

"Fall Festival" (Halloween) parades are held, special times are set aside for children to go door-to-door, and retailers rub their hands with glee at the prospect of the bottom line. Churches hold costume parties to compete with the world, as the world celebrates the "Day of the Dead". As with other things, if only the "Christians" would fail to support the evils of this world, most would cease to exist.

Halloween is much more pleasing to the world that has gone lusting after supernatural powers from below. Movies and TV shows are abundant which promote evil and the powers of darkness as found in witchcraft. This month, the world celebrates those powers of darkness, evil and death, particularly to the children, and those powers are very real.

*Pr 8:36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.*

But the 31st should be very important to us, because it marks the end of a thousand year reign of great darkness, superstition and fear. Sadly, we are entering again into that worship of death and evil. The 31st marks the changed in world history. It ushered in the modern Western civilization, as well as the industrial revolution.

We should be celebrating the shining of the light into the darkness of Roman superstition. We should remember and celebrate the Reformation which started on Oc-

tober 31st, for that day in 1517 ushered in the Protestant Reformation.

**October 31st. Martin Luther (1483-1517-1546)** was the Roman Catholic Priest who changed the course of history. In 1517, he wrote 95 points of discussion with Rome. On All Saints Day, (modern Hallowe'en) 31 October 1517, he nailed his points for discussion on the door of the All Saint's Church at the university at Wittenburg Germany, also known as "Castle Church". In those days, the church door was the public bulletin board. His points are known as the 95 Theses.

According to church Historian, Phillip Schaff:

After serious deliberation, without consulting any of his colleagues or friends, but following an irresistible impulse, Luther resolved upon a public act of unforeseen consequences. It may be compared to the stroke of the axe with which St. Boniface, seven hundred years before, had cut down the sacred oak, and decided the downfall of German heathenism. He wished to elicit the truth about the burning question of indulgences, which he himself professed not fully to understand at the time, and which yet was closely connected with the peace of conscience and eternal salvation. He chose the orderly and usual way of a learned academic disputation.

Accordingly, on the memorable thirty-first day of October, 1517, which has ever since been celebrated in Protestant Germany as the birthday of the Reformation, at twelve o'clock he affixed (either himself or through another) to the doors of the castle-church at Wittenberg, ninety-five Latin Theses on the subject of indulgences, and invited a public discussion. At the same time he sent notice of the fact to Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz, and to Bishop Hieronymus Scultetus, to whose diocese Wittenberg belonged. He chose the eve of All Saints' Day (Nov. 1), because this was one of the most frequented feasts, and attracted professors, students, and people from all directions to the church, which was filled with precious relics.

God is sending His Syrian army against Germany, and against the rest of the Western nations, as he judges that nation for its forsaking the God of the reformation.

Church doors functioned very much as bulletin boards function on a twenty-first century college campus. The 95 Theses were quickly translated into German, widely copied and printed. Within two weeks they had spread throughout Germany, and within two months throughout Europe. This was one of the first events in history that was profoundly affected by the printing press, which made the distribution of documents and ideas easier and more wide-spread.

In God's providence, Gutenberg invented the printing

press, 1439. In the years from 1439 to 1517, the printing press spread all over the Holy Roman Empire. This allowed Luther's 1517 theses to spread over Europe on "angel's wings." (His providence also provided the Roman Roads over the known world.)

The old 1956 B&W film "Martin Luther" is an excellent film to watch during this month. It is reasonably accurate.

We identify ourselves as "Reformed Baptist." By that term, we mean that we identify with what is called the Five Solas---five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged in the 1500s after Luther's challenge to Rome. Those phrases summarize the Reformers' basic theological beliefs as against the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church of the day. The five points are similar to the five points of Calvinism which were established 50 years after Calvin to counter the teachings of Arminianism.

Luther's challenge was in 1517, John Calvin's time was 1509-1564. God used Calvin to take what Luther started and run with it. Calvin's first major work was "Institutes of Christian Religion", 1536, 21 years after Luther's challenge to Rome. The history of Calvin's "Institutes" is interesting, but we will not go into it.

I certainly do not identify myself with the unbiblical points that many of the reformers brought from Rome, such as Paedobaptism.

People rail bitterly against the five points of Calvinism, but we hear little railing against these Solas though the two go hand in hand. I suppose that though they are enjoying the benefits of the Reformation, few have even heard of the 5 Solas.

I did meet a seemingly sound Church of Christ pastor. I questioned him on the 5 Solas, and he openly denied the "Christ alone" point.

The Reformation has been called the "rediscovery of grace." It was the rediscovery of God as He has revealed Himself in His word. In the Reformation, God is the center of "whatsoever we do".

The Latin word sola means "alone" or "only" in English. The five solas define five very basic beliefs of the Protestant Reformation. They are the five pillars which the Reformers believed to be essentials of the Christian life and practice.

They are:

- 1 Sola scriptura ("Scripture alone")
- 2 Sola fide ("Faith alone")
- 3 Sola gratia ("Grace alone")
- 4 Solus Christus ("Christ alone")

5 Soli Deo gloria ("Glory to God alone")

1 Peter 2:5, 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God *and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

Moreover, the Reformers rejected 5 of Rome's 7 sacraments, retaining only Christian Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### • GOD'S HAND AT WORK

King Henry VIII (1491-1547) King of England, 1509-1547. He brutally suppressed the influence of the Protestant Reformation in England, but he is more properly remembered for his separation of the Church of England from Rome. He separated over the issue of divorce. He had 6 wives, two of whom he beheaded. It was his heirs who supported the English Reformation, the devout Edward VI and the renowned Elizabeth I.

The Church of England's formal history started in 597, and it was under Papal authority until 1534. Luther's date was 1517. A key event was King Henry VIII's lust for women and the desire for a son that led him separate the Church of England from Rome over the divorce and remarriage issue.

I find King Henry VIII one of the more evident examples of God's hand in the reformation. God uses even the unbridled lust of men to praise himself.

*Psalms 76:10 Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

A movie, "Anne of a Thousand Days," depicts Henry VIII and his lust for women. The movie shows how his lust was used to draw the English church out of Rome. The result was the Protestant settlement of North America rather than a Roman Catholic settlement. American Protestantism was a result of Henry's lusts, Luther's stand, and Calvin's theology. Though he beheaded Anns, it was her posterity that assumed the throne, and ushered in the Victorian era.

Though we have no recorded history from Christ to the present in Scripture, "secular" history clearly reveals God's sovereign workings in history to accomplish his purpose in conquering the world for Christ with the Gospel. The Maccabees prepared the land for God's own Son, and God, with the Roman Roads and the various men in their proper time, made it possible to fulfill the Great Commission:

*Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all*

*things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

What became known as Reformed Theology came out of the Reformation. However, the theology that came out of the reformation was not new. It is traced back to Augustine (345-430). John Calvin applied Augustine's theology for his day. It was further developed by the Puritans. Though the Puritan movement can be traced back to King Edward VI (reign, 1547-1553, during Calvin's time), the term "Puritan" did not come into use until the 1560s.

The Puritans felt that the English reformation did not go far enough, and that the Church of England was tolerant of practices associated with the Church of Rome.

Reformed Theology was formulated by the Puritans, especially in the Westminster confession of faith, 1646. The Confession was formulated by a group of 100 leading Puritan divines who convened at Westminster Abby in London from July 1, 1643 through Feb 1649. Other reformed confessions were the Belgic (1580), Baptist (1689), and the 39 Articles of the Church of England – Anglican and Episcopal (1571, 1662, 1801).

We take the five solas for granted, but many people faced horrendous torture and even death to establish these solas for the Protestant church. There are many Christians who have never heard of them, let alone understand them.

Can there be salvation apart from believing the doctrines contained in the 5 Solas?

*Bro Need*

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## PERSONAL

\*\* I have been unusually tired for some time now. Checking with my blood pressure cuff, my heart rate has been down around the high 40s low 50s. I complained about this to my doctor, and he found that my heart was so slow that it was placing some additional beats between the regular beats. He said I am probably a candidate for a pacemaker. He had me wear a heart monitor for three days. He sent the results to the cardiologist who misread the results. The next time I went in, my heart was beating around 52. The doctor then asked the cardiologist to reread the results of the heart monitor.

The cardiologist reread the results and had me come in. He also said I am probably a candidate for a pacemaker, and he put me on a heart monitor again, (which I am wearing now) only this time for two weeks. Tech-

nology is amazing: this heart monitor tapes to my chest and is only about an inch in diameter and maybe a half-inch high. The pacemaker is now about the size of a silver dollar and will last about 10 years. The cardiologist is an Indian, and is checking the details many times over before he goes for a pacemaker.

\*\* Reports are continually being published about the benefits of black coffee: cream and sugar destroy the benefits. The cardiologist who placed my first stents (1999) told me to avoid coffee. My current cardiologist told me to drink two cups of fresh black coffee a day because of my abnormally low heart rate, 48-52 and maybe up to 70. The next step will be a pacemaker, which he wants to put off as long as possible.

\*\* A few months ago we went to the "Noah" conference where we met the man who did the homeschool testing for our daughter's 6 year old. He told us of a man from the Hillsboro area who had visited their church in Columbus. He put us in contact with him, and we found that they live only about 10 minutes from us. They had 11 children all homeschooled, of course. They have serious family devotions on Sunday mornings after breakfast. When we are in town, we go over at 8 AM, and join them for breakfast and their family devotions which last about an hour. Every other Sunday evening they meet with several other homeschool families who have become quite discouraged over the "fluffy", empty and non-Biblical "Christianity" as presented in the various churches where they attend, or have attended. At the two meetings we have been able to attend, they were showing some lectures by R.C. Sproul sr.

\*\* We have traveled a lot: We watched our daughter's cabin rental business for two weeks (including weekends) while they took their 10 children out West for a family vacation. Then we watched the business another weekend while they went to meet another home school family in northern Indiana. Then one Sunday I was able to speak at a Reformed Baptist Church (1689 confessional church) in Canton OH, Pastor Mike Waters. It is made up primarily of young home schooling families. Maybe 30 families attend.

There we met a young man there who was totally covered with tattoos, and had the large holes in his ears where he had removed the big "earrings". I mentioned to the pastor that it looked like the young man had been saved out of a very rough life. The pastor told me that he had actually been the youth pastor of a large church in the community. The church wanted him to go into the inner city of Canton as a "missionary". The church

urged him to get tattoos (“religious” of course) all over his upper torso up onto his neck, and the big holes in his ears so he could identify with those to whom he was trying to minister. After he had worked with the inner-city ministry for a while, he saw the foolishness. He contacted Pastor Waters, and asked if he would be welcome there. Of course, he was welcomed with open arms, and an abundance of love. He has a very nice wife and two children. I get “sick of heart” every time I think of his situation and the utter evil of a professed group of “Christians” who would urge any young man to do such a sick and ungodly thing. He is trying to get the tattoos removed, and wears high collared shirts to cover as many of the tattoos as possible.

We did a serious article on tattoos some time ago, showing its ungodly and demonic roots. Let me know, and I will send the article to you.

\*\* I continue to be on two eye drops in my left eye 4 times a day, trying to remove the swelling behind the retina in my left eye. The right eye healed fine after the cataract surgery, but the left one has not. The left eye surgery from years ago may have prevented proper healing.

I have had to have some serious dental work, but things are looking up.

Our daughter and their three children are still living with us. However, they did get a house and are getting it ready to move into.

Bettie had a serious bout with vertigo. She is scheduled to go to see a doctor about a serious “pain in the neck”, which she claims is not me.

Other than the above, things have been quiet and dull here.

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## WHISTLING PAST YOUR GRAVEYARD

*by Karl Denninger*

C'mon folks.

Deutsche Bank is on the verge of collapse. Let me remind you that back at the time of the financial crisis in 2007/08 I wrote specifically about them, calling the firm repeatedly DoucheBank as they had an utterly ridiculous derivative exposure compared against their capital. In fact they made US bank exposure in this regard look like the work of pikers.

Not only has nobody done a thing about that in our markets, Germany, I remind you, urged them to expand their exposure -- and they have. In addition total credit market debt has expanded by \$57 trillion

since 2007, a close to 40% increase! GDP, on the other hand, has gone up nowhere near as much. Indeed, global government debt has roughly doubled since 2008 -- to \$59 trillion.

One of the largest increases has been in college student loans, which are up a staggering 130% since 2007 in the United States alone.

The problem is that economic expansion -- that is, the common output of the economy, has not matched debt expansion. Not even close. This is an unsustainable practice since without output expanding at a rate that exceeds expansion of debt you must eventually stop or the economy will contract even though debt is expanding, and once that begins to occur it is a black-hole event horizon from which you cannot escape until virtually everyone who is in debt has been liquidated and those who hold that debt will take monstrous losses -- in many cases 100% losses!

When Donald Trump said in the debate that we were in a huge bubble he was exactly correct -- we are. We are in a bubble where market prices for stocks have risen dramatically, housing has gone up to a material (and unsustainable) degree, and the embedded but not measured in inflation statistical data cost of living (e.g. medical) has risen at a ridiculous rate as well. Trump has repeatedly charged that policy from The Fed, which is largely responsible for this bubble, is political in nature; whether that's the case or it has simply resulted from Fed hubris (which Greenspan and Bernanke both displayed in abundance and only Greenspan has admitted to) is immaterial to the outcome.

This deterioration has been reflected in labor productivity, which has now gone negative. But that's just one small place that we can measure; the other places are not measured but have far more impact. Nonetheless, that the impact has managed to filter into unit labor productivity and costs is especially troubling.

Remember that bank leverage in the form of derivative exposure is what made the crash in 2008 happen. Lehman, alone, blowing up was no big deal -- companies fail all the time and Lehman, in terms of size, employee count and economic impact was a literal non-event.

It was the threat of cross-default on derivatives that took down the markets and the economy, and we now have it happening again but nobody is talking about it.

If you think Germany can bail out Deutsche Bank you're delusional. Their total derivative exposure gross-

ly exceeds the entire net value of everything in Germany! Not just the government's resources, all private resources as well! In other words even if the government wanted to bail them out, even if they'd survive bailing them out politically they can't, even if they attempted to confiscate everything of value within the nation.

Beware.

*The Market Ticker, Commentary on The Capital Markets*

**Comment: Get your funds out of paper. Sacrifice, and pay off debt.**

While in Canton, we met a sweet young lady about 22 years old, I believe. She has a deep desire to be married and have a family. However, she went to college and has a very large student loan debt, and cannot find a job that pays enough to pay off the debt. The debt comes due in a few months. So now whoever marries her will have to marry her huge debt. Young people have been falsely persuaded that they must have a college education in order to obtain anything in this world. Where are the messages from the pulpits against "Debt Slavery"? A debt slave (to the banks) cannot serve God with all his heart, soul, might and mind.

Those doing the persuading are those who profit from the false promises of the failed education system. There are an astounding number of opportunities for good occupations that do not require a college education. Hard work, dependability, consistency and persistence, which will catch the attention of any employer. There is always a "niche" where one can prosper with consistent and dependable hard work. "Help Wanted" signs are very common along the road where we live in OH, but men will need to get their hands dirty.

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## SALVIN, THE PRESBYTER (439 A.D.)

Two interesting points by Salvin on 2 Tim 2:

(2) You are presenting the case why we Christians who believe in God are more wretched than all others. The words of the Apostle to the Churches could supply me with the proper answer in this instance: 'no man should be moved in these tribulations; for you yourselves know that we are appointed thereto.'<sup>2</sup> Since the Apostle says that we are placed by God in this world to bear hardships, miseries and sorrows, what is strange about it if we who fight for the sake of sustaining all adversities should suffer all manner of evil? Many do not understand this and think that Christian men should receive these things from God as tribute, as it were, for their faith. They think that, since Christians are more religious than all other peoples, they should also be stronger. Let us agree with

their opinion and their way of expressing it.

Let us see what it is to believe in God with faith. We who wish our reward for belief and faith to be so great in this world should consider what the quality of that belief or faith must be. What is belief or faith? I think a man has faith who believes faithfully in Christ, that is to say, he is faithful to God who observes faithfully the commandments of God. As the slaves of the rich or as the administrative agents of government, to whom expensive furnishings or well-stocked warehouses are entrusted, doubtless cannot be styled faithful if they have wasted the things entrusted to them, in the same way, indeed, Christians also are unfaithful if they have abused the goods granted them by God. 2 1 Thess. 3.3. (Salvian, *The Governance of God*, pp. 69, 70. C. 439 AD.)

**First**, Salvian points out that Christians feel they should receive good "things from God as tribute, as it were, for their faith." When all the time, Christians know what to do, as apposed to the pagans, yet fail to do it. And then we wonder why Christians "suffer" more than do the pagans.

**Second**, note he defines faith as "he is faithful to God who observes faithfully the commandments of God." And unfaithfulness as abusing "the goods granted them by God."

### • CHANGE

Finally, whether man believes God's word or not is totally irrelevant: God said it, and he will remain faithful to his word:

*Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?*

Apostates reduce God to their level, making a god after their own image, a god that will change as they do. And they think that because they change and because society changes, God changes also. (JFB) Apostates also attempt to change his word with many "versions" of "Scripture." With these many new versions, they hope to remake God more to their liking. However, he will be faithful to his promised threats and to his promised blessings:

*Psalms 50:21 These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. 22 Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.*

Note that God remains faithful to his word, not to people, societies nor to nations. (Mal. 3:6.) Those who forsake his word must be judged accordingly. Does God have any choice but to judge our modern Western

“Christian” culture, or any culture for that matter, that has worked so hard to create a god more to its liking?

• **SECRET THINGS OF GOD**

Salvan, the presbyter, asks “Why,” and then answers (c. 400AD):

Why does the whole world come under the sway of authorities, for the greater part unjust? I could answer with reason and with sufficient constancy: ‘I do not know,’ because I do not know the secret councils of God. The oracle of the heavenly Word is sufficient proof for me in this case. God says, as I have proved in the previous books, that He regards all things, rules all things and judges all things. If you wish to know what you must believe, you have Holy Scripture. The perfect explanation is to hold with what you read.

I do not want you to ask me why God does as He does in the instances of which I have been speaking. I am a man. I do not understand the secrets of God. I do not dare to investigate them. I am also afraid to pry into them, because, if you desire to know more than you are allowed to know, that in itself is a kind of sacrilegious rashness. Let it suffice for you that God testifies that He Himself performs and ordains all things. Do you ask me why one man is greater and another less, one man is wretched and another happy, one man strong and another weak? Why God does these things I do not know, but my demonstration that this is done by Him should suffice for a full explanation. Just as God is greater than all human reason, in like manner it should mean more to me than reason that I recognize that all things are done by God. There is no need to listen to anything new on this point. Let God alone, the Creator, be sufficient over the reasoning of all men. It is not proper to say of the actions of the divine judgment this is right and this is wrong, because whatever you see and are convinced is the work of God, that you must confess is more than right.

*(The Writings of Salvin, the Presbyter; [The Governance of God] Translated by Jeremiah F. O’Sullivan, Ph.D. New York, CIMA Publishing Co., Inc. © 1947. Fathers of the Church, III.68.)*

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## ASHDOD

Below is an interesting note:

[Keil-Delitzsch on 1 Samuel] Chap. v. THE ARK IN THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES.— Vers. 1-6. The Philistines carried the ark from Ebenezer, where they had captured it, into their capital, *Ashdod* (*Esdud*; see at Josh. xiii. 3), and placed it there in the temple of Dagon, by the side of the idol Dagon, evidently as a dedicatory offering to this god of theirs, by whose help they imagined that they had obtained the victory over both the Israelites and their God. With regard to the image of *Dagon*, compounded of man and fish, i.e. of a human body, with head and hands, and a fish’s tail, see, in addition to Judg.

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xvi. 23, Stark’s *Gaza*, pp. 248 sqq., 308 sqq., and Layard’s *Nineveh and its Remains*, pp. 466-7, where there is a bas-relief from Khorsabad, in which “a figure is seen swimming in the sea, with the upper part of the body resembling a bearded man, wearing the ordinary conical tiara of royalty, adorned with elephants’ tusks, and the lower part resembling the body of a fish. It has the hand lifted up, as if in astonishment or fear, and is surrounded by fishes, crabs, and other marine animals” (Stark, p. 308). As this bas-relief represents, according to Layard, the war of an Assyrian king with the inhabitants of the coast of Syria’ most probably of Sargon, who had to carry on a long conflict with the Philistian towns, more especially with Ashdod’ there can hardly be any doubt that we have a representation of the Philistian Dagon here. This deity was a personification of of the generative and vivifying principle of nature’ for which the fish with its innumeral, multiplication was specially adapted, and set forth the idea of the giver of all earthly good.

Those who have seen Disney’s, “The Little Mermaid” will recognize “Ariel’s” father. He fits, almost perfectly, the above description of Dagon of Ashdod. He also fits in well with Disney’s promotion of nature worship, e.g., Pockhonitus.

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